A STUDY OF INTERNET USAGE AND POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

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INTRODUCTION:

The National Policy on Youth considers Youth as people aged between 15-20 years (National Youth Policy 2014).According to Census of India 2011 there are 229.0 million Youth in India. The National Policy of India provides a holistic vision which is to empower Youth of the country to achieve their full potential and through them enable Youth to find its right place in the community. Youth is best understood as a period from the dependence of childhood to adulthood's independence and awareness of our interdependence as members of a community (Youth-Definition-United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.htm). Youth Development refers to intentional efforts of other Youth, adults, communities, government agencies and schools to provide opportunities for Youth to enhance their interests, skills, and abilities. The concept and the practice of Youth Development grew from the dissatisfaction with a predominant view that underestimated the true capacities of young (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Positive-Youth-Development). People were focusing on their deficit rather than their development potential. Encouraging the Positive Development of adolescents can help to lessen the likelihood of problems like social exploitation, Pornography, cyber bullying etc, by easing a healthy transition into adulthood. Youth Development is used in scientific literature and by practitioners who work with youth to refer to programs designed to optimize developmental progress. Positive Youth Development is a policy perspective that emphasizes providing services and opportunities to support all young people indeveloping a sense of a competence, usefulness, belonging and empowerment. Youth development has been theorized as having the following dimensions-i.e. Competence, Connection, Character, Confidence, Caring -(Lerner, Fisher, and Weinberg, 2000).

Internet, the ever expanding technology, serves as one –stop point for fulfilling the needs of individuals, and is becoming a part of life. In today's scenario internet can be accessed from a variety of locations-home, office, library, institutes etc.According to Internet Worlds Statistics, the population of internet users world wide is 1,733,993,741, almost covering 25.6% of the total World Population (http://www.internetworldstats.com/stats) and the number of internet users in India will reach 500 million internet users by 2017 (techcrunch.com). Among Youth the communication of the Internet such as instant

messaging, blogs, social networking sites are especially popular. Internet has become pervasive in the lives of young people, their online activities and interactions .The highest (75%) percentage of internet users in India belongs to younger generation who opened their eyes in full light of internet age (http://www.internetworldsstat.com).In Jammu too studies have shown majority of the adolescents use internet for online activities, social interaction, downloading (Sharma (2011), katoch (2014)

In the present research attempt has been made to understand to find out how technology is being used by Youth aged 20-25 years. With the focus on Skill Development, Make in India, Digital India, it is important for the progress of Nation that the goals determined in policy and those determined by the Youth match. It is important to know what young people are using technology for? Their positive and negative experiences on internet and how they are developing as youth in context of competence, character, Care, Confidence and Connection? The research will also help to explore the relationship of Youth Development with Internet Usage It will be helpful for parents, academicians ,researchers and educationists to gain better insight into the activities of Youth on Internet, that will help them to encourage the youth towards positive development of self and society .

OBJECTIVES

1. To assess Youth Development among Youth in the context of following factors:

  (a) Competence

  (b) Confidence

  (c) Connection

  (d) Character

  (e) Caring

2. To analyse relationship between Internet Usage and Positive Youth Development.

RESEARCHMETHODOLOGY

SAMPLE

*Size:*The sample for the study comprises of 60 youth, 30 females and 30 males, in the age group of 20-25 years.
Criteria for selection:
* Only those who were in the age group of 20 -25 years were selected.

- Only those youth were selected who were studying, currently, in any of the academic courses.

- Only those youth were selected who were using internet for 2-4 hours, after applying the screening tool.

- Youth who were drop outs were not included as sample.

- Only youth who were permanent residents of two Tehsils of Jammu District i.e. Nagrota and Bhalwal, were selected

SAMPLING TECHNIQUE: Multistage sampling technique was used to systematically select the sample. From Jammu District, out of 17 Tehsils, 2 Tehsils (Nagrota and Bhalwal) were selected randomly. From each of these Tehsil, 30 males and 30 females, fulfilling the criterion, were selected. Initially screening of Youth was done, using Screening Device. A list of internet users was prepared and from this list the sample was selected randomly using lottery method

TOOLS USED FOR THE DATA COLLECTION:

The following tools were used for data collection:

a. **Screening Device:** A self devised Questionnaire was used for screening the internet users. Questions included information regarding background variables and preferences regarding usage of internet, time spent on these devices used by youth for accessing internet etc

b. **Internet Usage Questionnaire:** A Self Devised Questionnaire regarding usage of internet was used. It included items such as time spent on internet sites, devices used by Youth, search engines etc.

c. **Positive Youth Development Questionnaire:** It has been developed by Joorabchi et al (2013), and is designed to measure the 5 dimensions (Confidence, Competence, Character, Caring and Connection) of Positive Youth Development on a likert type questionnaire.

Dimensions	Scores
Confidence	Low-0-14 Moderate-15-29 High-30-45
Competence	Low-0-14 Moderate-15-29 High-30-45
Character	Low-0-30 Moderate-31-61 High-62-92
Connection	Low-0-30 Moderate-31-61 High-62-92
Caring	Low- 0-25 Moderate- 26-51 High 52-75
Overall Positive Youth Development	Low- 0-100 Moderate- 101-201 High 202-302

d. DATA COLLECTION:

The data was collected in two phases:

a. **Screening:** First of all screening was done to gather information regarding background variables and the use of internet among Youth. This screening was helpful in identifying the internet users as only those youth were selected who were studying, currently in any of the academic course and using internet for 2-4 hours.With the help of screening tool the list of internet users was prepared for final selection of sample.

b. **Data collection:** Sample was drawn from the two Tehsils of Jammu District i.e. Nagrota and Bhalwal. From each Tehsil, 30 females and 30 males were selected by using lottery method. Finally the data was collected by visiting the homes of the selected Youth of Jammu Tehsils.

c. **Data Analysis:** Data was analyzed by both quantitative and qualitative procedures. Frequency and percentages, chi-square and correlation were calculated.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ABOUT THE USERS

Table no. 1 Age distribution of the Respondents

Age (in years)	Females(n=30)		Males (n=30)		Total(n=60)	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
20	2	6.6	7	23.3	9	15
21	4	13.3	5	16.6	9	15
22	5	16.6	**9**	**30**	14	23.3
23	5	16.6	3	10	8	13.3
24	**10**	**33.3**	2	6.6	12	20
25	4	13.3	4	13.3	8	13.3
Mean±S.D	22.9±1.4		21.9±1.7		22.5±1.64	

Table No.1shows that the mean age of the respondents was 22.5±1.64 (females-22.9±1.4, males 21.9±1.7). Majority of the females (33.3%) were 24 years of age, 16.6% were 22 and 23 years of age, respectively, 13.3% were 25 years of age and 6.6% of the females were 20 years of age. Majority of the Males (30%) were 22 years of age, 23.3% were 20 years of age, 16.6% were 21 years of age and 13.3% of the males were 25 years of age.

Table No.2 Type of family of the Respondents

Type of family	Females(n=30)		Males (n=30)		Total(n=60)	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Joint	14	46.6	20	66.6	34	56.6
Nuclear	16	53.3	10	33.3	26	43.3
χ^2	2.443NS					

NS=Non Significant

Table No.2 show that majority of the respondents 56.6% (46.6% females and 66.6% males) live in Joint families. Forty three percent of the respondents live in nuclear families, and among these 53.3% were females and 33.3% were males. Non-Significant sex differences were observed on the Type of family.

Table No.3 Duration and average hours spent by youth while using internet

Internet Usage	Females(n=30)		Males (n=30)		Total(n=60)	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Years since using internet						
1 year	8	26.6	1	3.3	9	15
2year	3	10	2	6.6	5	8.3
3-4year	6	20	10	33.3	16	26.6
4-5year	13	43.3	16	53.3	29	48.8
χ^2	6.94NS					
Hours of using internet						
2-4hours						
4-5hours	6	20	9	30	15	25
5-6hours	15	50	9	30	24	40
More than 6hours	9	30	13	43.33	22	36.66
χ^2	2.81NS					

NS=Non Significant

Table No.3 reveals that 48.8% of the respondents (43.3% females and 53.3% males) have been using internet since 4-5 years , followed by 26.6% of the respondents (20%females and 33.3%males) who have been using internet for last 3-4years ,15% (26.6% females and 1% males) have been using internet since last 1 year ,whereas only 8.3% of the respondents (10% females and 2% males) have been using internet since 2years.Non significant sex differences were observed in Years since using Internet.

The Table further reveals that 40% of the respondents (50% females and 30% males) were using internet 5-6 hours daily,followed by 25% of the respondents (20% females and 30% males) who were using internet for 4-5hours, whereas only 36.66% of the respondents (30% females and 43.33% males) used internet for more than 6 hours daily .Non Significant sex differences were observed in hours using internet.

DIMENSIONS OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Table No.4 Distribution of respondents on Dimensions of Confidence

CONFIDENCE	Females(n=30)		Males(n=30)		Total(n=60)	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Low	-	-	-	-	-	-
Moderate	13	43.3	15	50	28	46.6
High	17	56.6	15	50	32	53.3
χ^2	0.2679NS					

NS= Non Significant

Table No 4 describes that the Confidence dimension of Positive Youth Development shows that 53.3% of the youth (56.6% females and 50% males) show High level of Confidence i.e. Youth were highly optimistic regarding their future, followed by 46.6% youth (43.3% females and 50 males) show Moderate level of confidence. The chi-square value shows non significant sex differences.

Table No.5 Distribution of respondents on Dimensions of Competence

COMPETENCE	Females(n=30)		Males(n=30)		Total(n=60)	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Low	-	-	-	-	-	-
Moderate	22	73.3	19	63.3	41	68.3
High	8	26.6	11	36.6	19	31.6
χ^2	0.6932NS					

NS=Non Significant

Table No.5 describes that the Competence dimension of Positive Youth Development shows that 68.3% of the youth (73.3% females and 63.3% males) show Moderate level of Competence i.e. Youth were moderately pay importance to their course, they were moderately popular, followed by 31.6 % youth (26.6% females and 36.6%males) show High level of competence.

Table No.6 Distribution of respondents on Dimensions of Character

CHARACTER	Females(n=30)		Males(n=30)		Total(n=60)	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Low	-	-	-	-	-	-
Moderate	15	50	16	53.3	31	51.6
High	15	50	14	46.6	29	48.3
χ^2		0.066NS				

NS=Non Significant

Table No.6 describes that the Character dimension of Positive Youth Development shows that 51.6% of the youth (50% females and 53.3% males) show Moderate level of Character i.e. Youth were moderately accept the responsibility of their actions when they made a mistake or get into trouble, they moderately spoke for equality, followed by 48.3% youth (50% females and 46.6%males) show High level of character.

Table No.7 Distribution of respondents on Dimensions of Caring

CARING	Females(n=30)		Males(n=30)		Total(N=60)	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Low	-	-	-	-	-	-
Moderate	22	73.3	19	63.3	41	68.3
High	8	26.6	11	36.6	19	31.6
χ^2	0.6932NS					

NS=Non Significant

Table No. 7describes the Caring dimensions of Positive Youth Developmentshows that 68.3% respondents (73.3% females and 63.3% males) show Moderate Level of Caring dimension i.e. respondents moderately feel sorry when they see another person upset or hurt, they moderately bother when bad things happen with good persons; followed by 31.6% (73.3% females and 63.3% males) respondents who show high level of Caring. None falls in the low level. Chi-Square value shows Non-significant sex differences.

Table No.8 Distribution of respondents on Dimensions of Connection

CONNECTCTION	Females(n=30)		Males(n=30)		Total(n=60)	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Low	-	-	-	-	-	-
Moderate	8	26.6	15	50	23	38.3
High	22	73.3	15	50	37	61.6
χ^2	3.4548NS					

NS=Non Significant

Table No. 8 describes the Connection dimensions of Positive Youth Developmentshows that 61.6% respondents (73.3% females and 50% males) show High Level of Connection i.e. Youth feel themselves as useful and importance in their family, they had good connection with their peer and community ; followed by 38.3% (26.6% females and 50% males) respondents who show Moderate level of Caring.

Table No. 9 Overall Scores on Youth Development

Youth Development	Females(n=30)		Males (n=30)		Total(n=60)	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Low	-	-	-	-	-	-
Moderate	10	33.3	16	53.3	28	46.6
High	20	66.6	14	46.6	32	53.3
χ^2	2.44NS					

NS=Non Significant

Table No. 9 shows that Overall 53.3% respondents (60% females and 46.6% males) show high level of Overall Youth Development followed by 46% (40% females and53.3%males) of respondents who show Moderate Level of Overall Youth Development. Chi-Square value shows Non-significant sex differences.

Table No. 10 Correlation of Internet Usage with Positive Youth Development

Variables	Age	Type of family	Years of using internet	Hours of using internet	Confidence	Competence	Character	Caring	Connection
Age	1								
Type of family	.170	1							
Years of using internet	-.191	.066	1						
Hours of using internet	-.248	-.196	.311*	1					
Confidence	-.023	.076	.400**	.161	1				
Competence	-.075	-.017	.155	.272*	.421**	1			
Character	-.070	-.038	.007	.022	.370**	.345**	1		
Caring	-.257*	-.027	.167	.185	.217	.129	.280*	1.	
Connection	-.011	.136	.127	-.060	.293*	.095	.351**	.115	1

*Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).
** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Table No. 10 Age was negatively significantly correlated with caring (r=-.257*, p<0.05) dimension of Positive Youth Development that shows that as Age increases their caring towards others decreases.

Years of Using Internet was positively significantly correlated to Hours of Using Internet (r=-.311*, p<0.05). and Confidence dimension (r=.-.400*, p<0.01) of Positive Youth Development that show as years of using internet increases their more urge towards using internet also increases and they become more confident in searching new things on internet too.

Hours of using internet was significantly correlated to Competence (r=.-.272*, p<0.05).

The dimension PYD i.e. Confidence was positively correlated to Competence (r=.421**, p<0.01), Character (r=.370**, p<0.01) and character (r=.-.293*, p<0.05).

The dimension PYD i.e. Competence was positively correlated to character (r=.-.345**, p<0.01).

The dimension PYD i.e. Character was positively correlated to Caring (r=.-.280*, p<0.05) and connection (r=.-.351**, p<0.01).

CONCLUSION

As we are approaching a new millennium, the Internet has revolutionized our society, economy, education as well as technological system. Lack of information creates a negative impact on the educated layer of society. The new media is one of the most important mass media in the world and it has changed the world in many aspects. Youth are the most important group because they would be building the future society .Youth who use the new technology tends to be more open minded than those who don't use this technology. According to Trish women who use the internet tend to be more open minded than those who don't is this technology. Technology fosters positivity in the youth. Now a days there is a great need of involving the youth with the latest technology. Keeping this idea in mind the Present study was undertaken to assess the Internet usage and Positive Youth Development.

Results show that the mean age of the respondents was 22years. Majority of the females were 24 years of age and majority of males were 22 years of age. Results reveal that majority of the respondent's lives in Joint families. Majority of the respondents have been using internet since 4-5 years. Majority of the respondents were using internet 5-6 hours daily. Non Significant sex differences were observed in hours using internet.

On PYD, respondents show High level of Confidence and Connection. The research done Yusof , Hahim, Vengadasmy and Sivapunniam (2009) shows that students that have Blogs, mentioned that their Self-Confidence increased when their friends and families visited home page to read their creative work. On the contrary according to Youth Sports Trust (2015) result show that 45% of the youth show Low Level of Confidence because of the pressure of exams, relationships etc can have impact on their Confidence level. Similar results were observed on Stiglits, Sen, and Fittoussi's (2010) study shows people who have diverse social connections have higher live evaluations which most of the pleasurable personal activities involve socialization. On Competence, Character, and Caring dimension respondents show Moderate level of development. According to Galindo and Fuller's (2010) study reveal that students with social competence often do better academically and have more positive personal relationships. On Overall Positive Youth Development respondents show Moderate Level Development. According to Learner (2004) Young people whose lives have higher amounts of C5s (Competence, Character, Caring, Confidence and Connection) would be at lower risk for a developmental path that integratesPersonal, Social, Behavioral problems and risks. Chi-Square value shows Non-significant sex differences.

Age was negatively significantly correlated with Caring dimension of Positive Youth Development .Years of Using Internet Was positively significantly correlated to Hours of Using Internet and Confidence dimension of Positive Youth Development that show as years of using internet increases their more urge towards using internet also increases and they become more confident in searching new things on internet too. Hours of using internet is significantly correlated to competence The dimension PYD i.e. Confidence is

positively correlated to Competence, Character and Character that shows that youth were well equipped with capability, having healthy relationships, good character, they accept the responsibilities in such a diverse nation where accepting responsibilities, developing healthy relationships is quiet difficult .it was their healthy connection with family and family that permits tem to do so. Competence is positively correlated to character. Character is positively correlated to caring and connection.

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