



USAGE OF WEB-BASED LEARNING IN HIGHER EDUCATION OF GUJARAT STATE

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Abstract: Today teachers in higher learning institutions are provided with a broad range of new teaching experience through web based approaches to teaching and learning which is not possible before through the traditional approach to the classroom. Now higher education students' wants web based learning online studies. The present study is an attempt in this direction to study on Usage of the web-based learning by undergraduate students of The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda. The survey method was used to collect the data. The prepared questionnaires were distributed to undergraduate students who were studying in The Maharaja Sayajirao university of Baroda, Vadodara. From the findings of the feasibility study, it was understood that undergraduate students using the computer and internet for their educational purpose. Findings of the study revealed that the main reasons for using the internet were educational. A wide variety of usage of computer and internet was found among undergraduate students from being on paying fees, to collect study material, Use of plagiarism checker to reduce and so on.

Index Terms - Higher Education, Web based Learning, Undergraduate Students

I. INTRODUCTION

The education system is seeing huge changes in different dimensions i.e. social dimension, psychological dimension, physical dimension, technical dimension etc. More Technological advancement occurs during last twenty years. Therefore, need to have design suitable technological needed according to the societal demand. Main reason behind it is Web based learning is useful for higher education, it is time saving, which we can spent our own time. Unlimited information access online for students. Multiple way of Communication of teachers, students can collaboration with some educational institute and organizations. Get Flexibility in Learning, eco-friendly paper less and comfortable environment for study, Cost effective study, improve Technical Skill as well as Soft skills among learners. e-learning is proving to be the proving to be the fastest and cheapest connectivity with the provision

of interactive media through chat sessions, newsgroups, social networking, e-mails etc. So, all of these advances also carry open and distance education to the scene as an alternative to traditional face-to face learning and thus try to break the barriers between formal and distance learning. Many virtual universities are already in the process of becoming founded and running along side formal universities. According to the present paper, web-based learning were online learning, e-learning, video conferencing, discussing via email, live lecture, online content reading, power point presentation, PDF users, all reading material available on electronic source.

II. Raval and Gohel (2014) conducted a study on "Construction and Effectiveness of E-Content for Educational Psychology." The study was conducted to construct an E-Content for Educational Psychology, to try-out the E-Content programme of Educational Psychology and to measure the effectiveness of E-Content with reference to gender. The sample of the study consisted of 58 (18 girls and 20 boys) trainees studying in B.Ed. Colleges of (Gujarati medium) Surendranagar City using the Random Sampling method. The study followed only post-test experimental design. IQ test and achievement test were used as tools for data collection. Findings of the study revealed E-content programme

was effective in comparison with traditional teaching method. It means students got higher achievement taught through Econtent. E-content programme had equal effect on gender.

Ahmad (2011) "Internet use by the college students across disciplines: A study" Conducted study on to assess the in internet use of college students across disciplines; and the problems they encounter in using and searching the internet. 191 students were selected from general sciences, 288 form social sciences and humanities, 107 from business and commerce and 90 from computer sciences the students were selected from both urban and rural colleges of Kashmir valley based on the population of students. Questionnaire survey method was used for collection. The stratified random sampling was used for on the spot selection of students. The questionnaire was administered personally to ensure the excellent response rate as well as to avoid any misunderstanding while providing responses. The results reveal that majority of the students especially in the faculties of general science, social sciences, humanities, business and commerce do not use internet due to lack of facility or access or awareness, fear and anxiety or techno stress. These problems need to be solved in order to promote the internet use among the students. Lack of facility is the major obstacle in internet access which needs immediate attention. The need is to take steps to establish browsing centres in institutions/colleges with full internet connectivity. The adequate facilities in terms of space, staff and technology (number of computer, etc.) should be available for maximum utilization of internet sources and services. Lack of access to the internet is another major problem hindering internet use. Majority of the colleges who have internet facility provide internet access to the computer science students only and restrict students of other faculties in exploiting its services and sources. This indifferent attitude should immediately be stopped as internet is the most essential educational tool for students of all faculties. The students irrespective of subject tastes face various technical problems while using the internet like slow speed of internet, network problems (connectivity failure) and high cost of surfing charges. The governments should take steps to develop infrastructural facilities and communication technologies to overcome the network related problems. In order to know the feasibility of studying, usage of the web-based learning by undergraduate students of the Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Vadodara, a feasibility study was carried out between January 2018- May 2018 at Vadodara city.

Nachimuthu (2010) conducted a study titled "Identifying the usability of e-learning resources in teacher education of India". The objective of the study was to identify the usability of e-learning resources in teacher education of India. The sample of the study consisted of 17 College of Education 115 B.Ed. Students in Salem District of Tamilnadu. Convenience sampling method was used as sampling pattern. The research designed used was Survey. Tool used for data collection was Questionnaire. Major Findings of the study were that all the institutions were having at least five computer peripherals with 70 per cent Air conditioned facilities in their ICT laboratories. Majority of B.Ed. college Trainees and their colloquies were already taking actions regarding some of the accepted ways of use of computers in their regular classrooms (32.0), however they were not prepared to sacrifice their personal comfort for using e-books (in total 45%), they have strong reasons for that. The College of Education trainees were using the physical books handling (86.2) rather than the e-books were also evidenced that, they were either not having enough time to use e-books or entry in the computer labs.

III. OBJECTIVES OF THE PILOT STUDY

To study the **Profile of the Undergraduate Students** of The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda.

To study the **usage of web-based learning** amongst Undergraduate students of The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda with respect to their -

- ❖ Age
- ❖ Gender
- ❖ Discipline
- ❖ Year of study
- ❖ Monthly Family Income

IV. METHODOLOGY

Sample of the pilot Study

A preliminary study was conducted in the year 2018 in The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Vadodara.

The sample for the pilot study was selected from the following groups of faculties:

- ❖ Arts
- ❖ Commerce
- ❖ Science

The sample of 30 was selected from group of the faculties. Both boys and girls were selected from the first year, second year and third year purposively. 10 students was selected from each group. The distribution of sample can be seen in the table below:

Table: 1 Distribution of Sample

N= 30

| Faculty | Total |
|--------------|-----------|
| Arts | 10 |
| Commerce | 10 |
| Science | 10 |
| Total | 30 |

Description of the Tool for Preliminary Study

A structured questionnaire was constructed. The questionnaire of the pilot study consisted of following sections:

Section I: Profile of the respondents

Section II: Usage of the web-based learning by undergraduate students of The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda.

Procedure of data collection

The survey method was used to collect the data. The prepared questionnaires were distributed to undergraduate students who were studying in The Maharaja Sayajirao university of Baroda, Vadodara

The collected data were analyzed by calculating mean scores and percentages.

MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE FEASIBILITY STUDY

Background information of the respondents

There were equal numbers of respondents (10) from each group of faculty making a total of 30 respondents.

- Equal number of respondents were male and female, Third year students were respondents (63.3%). Less than half of the respondents were from first year (45.8%). Sum belonged to higher family income i.e is (63.3%).

Usage of Computer and Internet

- Daily use of Computer by the respondents (98%)

Devices that is use to access internet

- Respondents used device to access internet Personal Computer (20%) Laptop (55%) and Smart Phone (25%)

Type of usage of Internet connection

- Respondents used Free wifi zone of university (22%) Paid wifi (23%) and Mobile network with 4G Mobile (55%)

Time spent on the internet per day

- Respondents spent One – two Hours during weekdays (22%) Less than one hour (2%),
- 1-2 hours (15%), more than 2 – 3 hours (26%) and More than 3 hours (35%) on weekend.

Reason for using web-based learning

- Respondents gave reason for using Web-based learning to download materials from University website (69%) Use video as learning Materials (78%), Use plagiarism checker (25%) Use software to check spelling and grammar (49%), Use website to pay fees (88%) Use internet to make plagiarism free document (55%).

From the findings of the feasibility study, it was understood that undergraduate students using the computer and internet for their educational purpose. Findings of the study revealed that the main reasons for using the internet were educational. A wide variety of usage of computer and internet was found among undergraduate students from being on paying fees, to collect study material, Use of plagiarism checker to reduce and so on.

This era of pervasive technology has significant implications for the use of web-based learning for higher education not only for making education interesting but provide access to education to students from any part of the country. Web-based learning can improve the learning process, increase their productivity and can accomplish more effectively than traditional Approach.

The study has revealed areas on which basis e-learning system can be introduced as well as areas of improvement which need to be addressed while implementing e-learning.

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