



Use and Awareness of Internet among Women Gram Panchayat Members: A Study of Rabakavi-Bannatti

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Abstract:

This paper explains about awareness and use of internet among Women Gram Panchayat Members of Rabakavi-Bannatti. Author discusses about level of awareness and use of Internet among the respondents. Article explains about Use of Internet by different age groups, Educational Qualification, Various Categories and also studies about positive impacts of use of internet and what are the problems are facing using the internet. Also discusses opinion of use of Internet and literacy level of Internet.

Key words: Internet, Awareness, Women Members, Rabakavi-Bannatti, Panchayat, Use

Introduction:

A Gram Panchayat is a local self-government body at the village level in Karnataka as well as in India. Gram Panchayat Women Members are elected from Gram panchayat constituencies by the villagers and they become the important part of Gram Panchayat. Gram Panchayat and Gram panchayat Members are the both side of a coin, without this coin rural development can't possible. These autonomous institutions and its members are now playing an important role in the development, planning and implementation from village to district level.

Internet provides a wide range of information which helps in increasing the knowledge of the people. It is also used most commonly for easy communication. People are well familiar to access easily on the internet for social contact, online education, G-government information, and Entertainment and Online Guidelines purposes. The present generation is well updated in the use of internet.

Review Literature:

1. **William, B. (2009)** describes the three developing actions rising from the person's participation with technology. These activities which are increasing towards meeting consist of media literacy, information and communication technology and information literacy. It is distinguished that meeting is being measured for operation in educational organizations. According to the author, meeting must be made under the information literacy umbrella as its kind of information within a high-tech situation.
2. **Samal, L.et al. (2009)** Describe the occurrence of internet, cellular phone, and text message use among women presence an urban Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) hospital, the suitability of health guidance by each mode of Information and Communication Technology (ICT), demographic features related with ICT use. This study is a cross-sectional survey of 200 English-speaking women offering to a Baltimore City STI clinic with STI criticisms. Overall rate of internet use was high, but there was an educational inequality in internet use.
3. **Shade, L. R., and Shepherd, T. (2013)** Found Digital policy literacy is a grave component of digital literacy that highlights a considerable of communication policy developments, the political economy of media, and technological organizations. Initial findings display that while our underwrites were aware of a variety of privacy pressures in mobile communication, they were not expected to join in policy methods that strength keep their secrecy rights.
4. **Jose, J., and Abraham, B. (2017)** Attempts the rural population of Piravom Gram Panchayat to regulate the computer literacy and usage in August 2009. This panchayat was select as it is one of the rural panchayats with backward economy and education. The outcomes exposed that majority of the houses are not having computers and people who have access to internet is low. Among the people using internet, most of them falls under the age group 15-30. The many cause for not using computers were lack of computer education, money and occupational reasons.
5. **Nedungadi, P.et al. (2018)** Investigated to show a presence Digital Literacy Outline for susceptible populations in rural areas under the Digital India program. Key tests comprise addressing multiple literacies such as health literacy, economic literacy and eSafety for low-literate beginners in low-resource surroundings with low internet bandwidth, lack of services and alternating electricity. This research applied an educational model based on the planned outline to train over 1000 indigenous people using a united curriculum for digital literacies at distant clearances. The model uses mobile technology implemented for remote areas, context permitted curriculum, along with flexible learning schedules.

Objectives of the study:

- To study the Demographic Information of Women Gram Panchayat Members.
- To know the awareness and use of Internet of Women Gram Panchayat Members.
- To study the Awareness and use of Social Media of Women Gram Panchayat Members.
- To identify positive impacts of Internet of Women Gram Panchayat Members.
- To know the problems facing in using Internet of Women Gram Panchayat Members.

Methodology:

For the present study follows the **Survey Method** of Research and **Structured Questionnaire** were used for data collection tool for collecting primary data from the target population, **Structured Questionnaire** and **Interview method** has been followed. Questionnaire was designed according to objectives of the study and identified facets and major facets. The data collected was analyzed, tabulated and interpreted in the following:

Sampling Design:

Study population selected from the all Gram Panchayat Women Members of Rabakavi-Bannatti. 150 questionnaire were distributed of this 102 received from the respondents with the response rate of 68%. In this study Random Sampling is used to select the Sample.

Statistical Design:

Collected data has been classified, tabulated and analyzed with the help of Excel and SPSS Software.

Scope of the Study:

The study is focuses on Awareness and Use of Internet among Women Gram Panchayat Members of Rabakavi-Bannatti, Bagalkot District, Karnataka.

Limitations of the Study:

This study covers all Women Gram Panchayat Members of Rabakavi-Bannatti Taluka in Bagalkot District, Karnataka.

Data Analysis and Interpretation:

Table-1 Age of the Respondents

SI.NO	Age	Frequency	Percent
1	Less than 30	22	21.6
2	31 To 40	33	32.4
3	41 To 50	23	22.6
4	50 and above	24	23.4
	Total	102	100.0

The respondents under study are from different age groups. Table-1 shows maximum number of respondents are from the age group of 31 to 40 years that is 32.4%(N=33), Nearly one fourth of the respondents are from age group of 50 and above 23.4%(N=24), More than twenty two percentage of respondents are from the age group of 41 to 50 while 21.6%(N=22) belongs to less than thirty years of age.

Table-2 Educational Qualification by the Respondents

SI.NO	Educational Qualification	Frequency	Percent
1	Illiterate	36	35.3
2	Primary Education	40	39.2
3	SSLC	14	13.7
4	PUC and above	12	11.8
	Total	102	100.0

Table-2 describes the education level of respondents. It is found that Greater majority of study population have primary education i.e. 39.2% (N=40), and 35.3% (N=36) of them are illiterate. Another 13.7% (N=14) of them have completed SSLC and 11.8% (N=12) had studied up to PUC and above. The majority of the Women Gram Panchayat Members have Primary Education. The very less number of respondents are completed PUC and above education.

Table-3 Category wise Distribution of the Respondents

SI.NO	Category	Frequency	Percent
1	GM	33	32.4
2	OBC	38	37.3
3	SC	22	21.6
4	ST	9	8.8
	Total	102	100.0

Table-3 shows that category wise distribution of respondents. More than thirty seven percent (37.3%, N=38) of the respondents belongs to Other Backward Class, while more than one- third (32.4%, N=33) belong to GM category, (21.6%, N=22) of the respondents belongs to SC and more than eight percent (8.8%, N=9) of the respondents to ST category.

Table-4 Aware of Internet by the Respondents

SI. No	Aware of Internet	Frequency	Percent
1	Yes	69	67.6
2	No	33	32.4
	Total	102	100.00

Table-4 depicts the aware of Internet by the Respondents. Greater majority of the Respondent i.e., (67.6%, N=69) are aware about Internet and (32.4%, N=33) of respondents are not aware about Internet.

Table-5 Time spent on Internet by the Respondents

SI. No	Extent of Use	Frequency	Percent
1	Highly Used	8	11.6
2	Moderate	36	52.2
3	Sometime	11	15.9
4	Very Poor Use	9	13.1
5	Poor Used	4	5.8
6	Never	1	1.4
	Total	69	100.0

Table-5 explains the time spent on internet by the respondents. More than 52 percent (52.2%, N=36) of respondents are moderate time spent on internet, while (15.9%, N=11) Sometime, (13.1%, N=9) Very poor use, (11.6%, N=8) highly used, (5.8%, N=4) Poor used and very less percent (1.4%, N=1) of respondents are never spent time on Internet.

Table-6 Aware of Social Media by the Respondents

SI. No	Aware of Social Media	Frequency	Percent
1	Yes	69	67.6
2	No	33	32.4
	Total	102	100.0

Table-6 shows the awareness of Social media by the respondents. Greater majority of the respondents i.e., (67.6%, N=69) aware about social media and (32.4%, N=33) of respondents are not aware of social media.

Table-7 Use of Social Media by the Respondents

SI. NO	Social Media	Extent of Use					Total Score	Mean	Rank
		Very Often	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never			
1	What's App	24 34.8	28 40.6	9 13.1	5 7.2	3 4.3	272	3.942	1
2	Face book	7 10.2	3 4.3	8 11.6	15 21.7	36 52.2	137	1.985	2
3	Twitter	3 4.3	4 5.8	4 5.8	1 1.5	57 82.6	102	1.478	4
4	Instagram	6 8.6	3 4.4	1 1.5	3 4.4	56 81.1	107	1.550	3
5	Telegram	5 7.3	3 4.3	1 1.5	1 1.5	59 85.4	101	1.463	5

A question was asked to the women panchayat members about use of social media. There are five social Medias were listed and women members were asked to indicate the extent of use of social media. It can be found in the table-7. In the above table shows First Rank is for WhatsApp (Mean=3.94202). Face book is occupying Second Rank (Mean=1.98550), Instagram occupying the Third Rank, and Fourth and Fifth Rank taking Twitter (Mean=1.47826) and Telegram (Mean=1.46376). The calculated mean value ranges between 3.94 to 1.46 it indicating a total poor picture of the extent of use of the social medias i.e. rarely to never.

Table-8 Opinion of E-mail ID by the Respondent

SI. No	Opinion	Frequency	Percent
1	Yes	69	67.6
2	No	33	32.4
	Total	102	100.0

Table-8 explains opinion of the E-mail ID by the respondents. It is observed that the major (67.6%, N=69) percentage of the respondents are know the E-mail ID and while, (32.4%, N=33) of respondents are don't know about E-mail ID.

Table-9 Use of E-mail ID by the Respondent

SI. No	Type of e-Mail	Frequency	Percent
1	Gmail	69	100.0
2	Yahoo Mail	0	0.0
3	Hot Mail	0	0.0
4	Rediff Mail	0	0.0
	Total	69	100.0

Table-9 depicts that the use of type of E-mail ID by the respondents. Out of 69 respondents (100.0%, N=69) are use Gmail. Nobody can use the different type of e-mail ID.

Table-10 Use of Net-Banking by the Respondents

SI. No	Opinion	Frequency	Percent
1	Yes	31	30.4
2	No	71	69.6
	Total	102	100.00

Above table-10 shows opinion about use of Net-banking/e-Banking by the respondents. Majority of the respondents are saying negative opinion for use the Net-Banking (69.6%, N=71) and remaining respondents are saying positive opinion for use the Net-Banking (30.4%, N=31).

Table-11 Use Mobile App's for Money Transfer by the Respondents

SI. No	Mobile App	Frequency	Percent
1	Phone Pay	9	29.0
2	Google Pay	13	41.9
3	Pay tm	6	19.4
4	Amazon Pay	3	9.7
	Total	31	100.00

Another question asked to the women panchayat members by the researcher which Mobile App you are using for money transfer. Respondents indicated answers are shows in table-11. Highest number of the respondents are indicate the Google Pay i.e., (41.9%, N=13), another respondents are use (29.0%, N=9) Phone Pay, and some respondents (19.4%, N=6) are use Pay tm and only (9.7%, N=3) respondents are use Amazon Pay.

Table-12 Positive Impacts of the Internet by the Respondents

SI. No	Positive Impacts of the Internet	Frequency	Percent
1	Family/Social Contact	53	19.2
2	Online Guidelines	18	6.5
3	Online Education	56	20.3
4	Entertainment	51	18.5
5	E-Govt Information	40	14.5
6	Easier to get organized	11	3.9
7	Groups for co-curricular activities	47	17.1
	Total	276	100.00

Above table-12 describes the positive impacts of Internet by the respondents. Highest majority of the women members are indicate the positive impact of internet is Online Education i.e. (20.3%, N=56) while more than (19.2%, N=53) of the respondents are indicates family/ social contact, (18.5%, N=51) of the respondents indicates Entertainment, (17.1%, N=47) are respondents indicates Groups for co-curricular activities, (14.5%, N=40) E-Govt Information , and (6.5%, N=18) are respondents are indicates Online guidelines. Very less number of respondents are indicates (3.9%, N=11) Easier to get organized.

Table-13 Problems are facing in using Internet by the respondents

SI. No	Problems	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total Score	Mean	Rank
1	Lack of Skills	40 57.9	16 23.2	7 10.5	2 2.9	4 5.8	293	4.246	3
2	Infrastructure	39 56.5	18 26.1	6 8.7	4 5.8	2 2.9	295	4.275	2
3	Software	46 66.7	13 18.8	6 8.7	3 4.3	1 1.5	307	4.449	1
4	Problems with Speed	1 1.5	51 73.9	13 18.8	3 4.3	1 1.5	255	3.695	7
5	Lack of Cooperation	45 65.2	8 11.6	6 8.7	4 5.8	6 8.7	289	4.188	4
6	Lack of Training	5 7.2	54 78.3	4 5.8	2 2.9	4 5.8	261	3.782	6
7	Problem over Searching	34 49.3	15 21.7	13 18.8	6 8.7	1 1.5	282	4.086	5

Table-13 shows that problems are facing in using Internet/Computer by the respondents. The mean value ranges between 3.69 to 4.44, indicating agree to strongly agree. Software problem is ranked better among all with a mean of 4.44, infrastructure have a mean value of 4.27, lack of skills have a mean value of 4.24, lack of cooperation have a mean value of 4.18, problem over searching a mean of 4.08, lack of training mean is 3.78 and problems with speed have a mean value of 3.69.

Table-14 Opinion of Use of Internet by the Respondents

SI. No	Opinion	Frequency	Percent
1	Yes Definitely	8	11.6
2	Yes Mostly	52	75.4
3	Sometimes	6	8.7
4	No, it is a concern for me	3	4.3
	Total	69	100.00

A question was asked to you feel safe when you are using Internet by the researcher to the women panchayat members. Above table-14 shows the respondents opinion. More than 75 percent (75.4%, N=52) of respondents are saying yes mostly, while more than 11 percent (11.6%, N=8) of women members saying yes definitely, (8.7%, N=6) of respondents are saying sometimes and (4.3%, N=3) of respondents are saying No, it is concern for me.

Table-15 Opinion of Internet Literacy by the Respondents

SI. No	Opinion	Frequency	Percent
1	Excellent	4	5.8
2	Good	25	36.2
3	Fair	31	44.9
4	Poor	6	8.7
5	Very Poor	3	4.4
	Total	69	100.00

Another question asked to the respondents rate your own internet literacy. The above table-15 shows the opinion of women members on internet literacy it is on a point scale from Excellent to Very poor. Highest number of women members are indicates fair i.e. (44.9%, N=31), and (36.2%, N=25) of the women members indicates Good. (8.7%, N=6) of respondents are indicates Poor, (5.8%, N=4) of respondents are indicates Excellent and remaining (4.4%, N=3) respondents are indicates very poor.

Major Findings:

- Greater majority of the respondents are from the age group of 31 to 40 Years and have Primary Education 39.2% (N=40).
- More number of respondents are belongs to OBC category.
- Large majority of the respondents 67.6% (N=69) respondents are aware about Internet.
- Most of the Women Gram Panchayat Members are moderately used the Internet i.e. 52.2% (N=36).
- More number of respondents aware of social media i.e. 67.6% (N=69) and highly used the What's App i.e. Mean=3.942
- Most of the Women Gram Panchayat Members are used E-Mail ID i.e.67.9% (N=69) and all are use the Gmail ID.
- Less number of respondents are using Net-Banking and for money transfer use Google Pay Mobile App i.e. 41.9% (N=13).
- Grater majority of the respondents are positive impact of internet is Online Education i.e. 20.3% (N=56) and problems are facing using internet is Software problem i.e. Mean=4.449.
- Large majority of the respondents 75.4% (N=52) opinion of use of Internet is 'Yes Mostly' safe.
- Very less number of the respondents opinion about Internet Literacy is Excellent.

Suggestions:

- Awareness should be creating about various types of Social Medias.
- Awareness should be creating among women Gram Panchayat Members about type of Mail ID.
- Required proper training about use of Digital Skills.
- To create awareness about Net-Banking for Women Gram Panchayat Members.
- Workshop and training programs should be organize to improve the Internet Literacy.

CONCLUSION:

Based on the majority of the findings Women Gram Panchayat Members are aware and use internet and Social Medias. Very Less numbers of respondents are using the Net-Banking and they are facing so many problems in using internet. A Woman Gram Panchayat Members Opinion about using internet is yes mostly internet is safe and less number of respondents are internet literacy is Excellent. Women Gram Panchayat Members Internet literacy level is very low so, need the awareness and trainings about use of internet.

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