

**INTERNET ACCESS AND USAGE BY HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL
STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO KHOWANG
DEVELOPMENT BLOCK, DIBRUGARH DISTRICT, ASSAM**

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ABSTRAC:

Higher secondary level is a stage of education where the students prepare themselves for college-level and a new competitive world. In this stage, students started using various technologies for various purposes and one of them is the internet. In the present study, the researcher attempts to study about the internet usage and access by higher secondary school students with particular reference to Khowang developmental block, Dibrugarh district, Assam. It also attempts to explore about challenges faced by students for usages and access the internet. For the purpose, the researcher selected two governmental higher secondary schools of Khowang developmental block and then collected the data from 60 students (30 from each higher secondary school) by using purposive sampling techniques. During the data collection, researcher used a self constructed questionnaire. The result shows that most of the students use the internet for entertainment; the least number of students use the internet for educational purposes.

KEYWORDS: *Internet usage, Internet access and higher secondary school students*

1.0 INTRODUCTION:

The internet is a technology that has become a large part of people's daily lives. In the present era, the majority of people use the internet for various reasons such as to collect information, communication, entertainment, work, online education, self-expression etc. Globally the internet has opened countless new opportunities for students. It has given a very modern approach to learning where students are no longer dependent on their teacher or textbooks as their only source of information. Notably, the age of 15 to age 18 the majority of students started to use the internet for various purposes; such as for learning, playing games, searching for new places, communicate with others and work etc. But sometimes lower accessibility effects on internet connectivity.

2.0 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY:

The internet plays a significant role in people's life. Globally, the internet has opened countless new opportunities for students. Notably, the higher secondary level is a stage of education where the students prepare themselves for college life and a new competitive world. In this stage, students started using various technologies for various purposes. In an international level as well as other states of India, the researchers had been already conducting the number of studies on internet access and usage. But in Assam, especially Dibrugarh district there is limited study on the topic.

Moreover, the findings of the present study will help in the following ways:

- a. The study contributes to knowing the purposes of accessing and using the internet by higher secondary school students.

- b. It helps to establish the level of access and usage of the internet by higher secondary school students
- c. It also helps to identify the hurdles facing by students in accessing and using the internet service.

3.0 RESEARCH QUESTIONS:

- 3.1 What kind of purposes internet access and usage by Higher Secondary school students' at Khowang development block of Dibrugarh district?
- 3.2 What are the hurdles facing by the Higher Secondary school students at Khowang developmental block of Dibrugarh district in accessing and using internet service?

4.0 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

- 4.1 To determine the usage of the internet by higher secondary school students at Khowang development block of Dibrugarh district.
- 4.2 To establish the level of access and usage of the internet by higher secondary school students at Khowang development block of Dibrugarh district.
- 4.3 To identify the hurdles facing by higher secondary school at Khowang development block of Dibrugarh district in accessing and using internet services.

5.0 METHODOLOGY: The methodology part of the present study has been systematically divided into the following points:

5.1 Method of the present study: The method is a science of studying how research is done scientifically. It is a way to solve the research problem by logically adopts various steps systematically.

In the present study, the researcher used a descriptive method.

5.2 Populations of the present study: In the first phase, the population covers all the Government higher secondary schools of Khowang developmental block of Dibrugarh district. In the second phase, all students studying in class 12th are also considered as the population of the study.

5.3 Sample and sampling technique of the present study: In the current study researcher selected two Government higher secondary schools by using purposive sampling technique and then decided 60 students (*30 students from each Government senior secondary school*) by using incidental sampling.

5.4 Tools used in the present study:

In the current study, the researcher used a self-constructed questionnaire to collect the information. To finalise the draft of the questionnaire, the research investigators selected and wrote the items related to the objectives and show it to five experts of the Assam Women's University, Jorhat. There are a total of 21 both closed and open-ended questions are included.

5.5 Techniques used in the present study:

In the present study, the researcher used both quantitative and qualitative techniques for the analysis and interpretation of the data. The researcher systematised the results by using tables.

6.0 ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA:

This part of the present study deals with the analysis and interpretation of data. Based on the collected data research investigator decided to analyse the result based on the sequence of the objectives.

6.1 USAGE OF INTERNET BY HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS OF KHOWANG DEVELOPMENT BLOCK OF DIBRUGARH DISTRICT:

***OBJECTIVE:** To determine the usage of the internet by higher secondary school students of Khowang development block of Dibrugarh District.*

Table No: 01
Information about the internet user

Total Respondent	No. of Internet User (Frequency)	Percentage
40 (Girls)	40	66.67%
20 (Boys)	20	33.33%

Table No. 1 shows that 100% of respondents (boys and girls) are using the internet by Higher Secondary school at Khowang Development Block of Dibrugarh district.

Table No: 02
Purposes of internet access and usage by students

Purposes of internet access and usage	No of respondents (Frequency)	Percentage
Entertainment	35	58.33%
Education	25	41.67%

Table no. 02 shows the percentages of purposes of internet access and usage by higher secondary school students. Out of 60 respondents' 35 (58.33%) respondents' access and usage of the internet for entertainment and rest 25 (41.67%) respondents use the internet for educational purposes. It was showing that the respondents were using internet services chiefly for their education as the majority indicated they used for entertainment issues.

6.2 LEVEL OF ACCESS AND USAGE OF INTERNET BY HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS AT KHOWANG DEVELOPMENT BLOCK OF DIBRUGARH DISTRICT.

***OBJECTIVE:** To establish the level of access and usage of the internet by higher secondary school students at Khowang development block of Dibrugarh district.*

Table No: 03

Respondents of regular internet access

Do you have certain websites that you visit regularly?	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	21	35%
No	39	65%

Table no 03 shows that out of 60 respondents, 21(35%) respondents regularly visit different websites and 39 (65%) respondents don't usually visit or using particular sites.

Table no: 04

Average time spent on internet access and usage in a day

Average time spent on internet access and usage in a day	No of respondents	Percentage
Less than 30 minutes	42	70%
1-2 Hours	12	20%
More than 2 Hours	6	10%

Table no 04 shows that out of 60 respondents 42(i.e.70%) respondents use the internet for average less than30 minutes, 12(i.e. 20%) respondents use the internet for an average 1-2 hours,6 (i.e. 10%) respondents use the internet for more than 2 hours.

6.3 HURDLES FACING BY HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS AT KHOWANG DEVELOPMENT BLOCK OF DIBRUGARH DISTRICT IN ACCESSING AND USING INTERNET SERVICES:

OBJECTIVE: *To identify the hurdles facing by Higher Secondary school students at Khowang developmental block of Dibrugarh District in accessing and using internet services.*

Table No: 05**Respondents having proper knowledge of internet access and usage**

Do you know accurately how to access the internet?	No of respondents (Frequency)	Percentage
Yes	42	70%
No	18	30

Table no 05 shows that out of 60 respondents 42 (i.e. 70%) know how to access and use the internet and rest 18 (i.e. 30%) respondents responded that they don't know how to use the internet.

Table No: 06**Devices used to access the internet**

Devices	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Mobile	100	100%
Laptop	0	0
Tablets	0	0

Table no 06 shows the percentage of using different technological devices by students to access the internet. It explains that all the students use the mobile to access the internet. It means 100% of respondents use the mobile to access the internet.

Table no: 07**Places where the students use the internet**

Responses of places where the students access and use the internet	No of respondents	Percentage
Home	60	100%
School	0	0

Table no 07 shows that out of 60 respondents all 60(i.e. 100%) respondents use the internet at their home because school authorities don't allow bring any type of technological devices at the school premises.

Table no: 08**Responded of Favorable internet connection at home**

Responses of getting/not getting a favourable internet connection at home	No of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	30	50%
No	30	50%

Table no. 08 shows that out of a total of 60 respondents,30(i.e.50%) respondents' responses that they have favourable internet connectivity at home and rest 30 (i.e. 50%) respondents responded that they don't have desirable internet connectivity at home.

6.3 SUGGESTIONS FOR SOLUTIONS HURDLES THAT ARE FACING BY HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS AT KHOWANG DEVELOPMENT BLOCK OF DIBRUGARH DISTRICT IN ACCESSING AND USING INTERNET SERVICES:

Following are suggestions for solution of hurdles that are facing by higher secondary school students at Khowang development block of Dibrugarh district for accessing and using internet services:

- a. The government should provide better funds to the Higher Secondary schools to provide quality education at this level. Better funding will also lead to better facilities in schools including the internet. This will increase access and the use of the internet in the school.
- b. The Higher Secondary schools must allow the students to use the internet in the classroom for educational purposes under the guidance of the instructor.
- c. The teacher should encourage the students to use the internet for learning purposes. The School teachers should refer students to websites for additional information that will help to improve them academically. They should also encourage the students to visit specific websites in preparation for the topics that will be taught later in class.
- d. The government should provide funds for the establishment of internet cafes in different places of a district so that the students can visit.

- e. If it is found that students merely want to use internet facilities for communication and entertainment purpose only, teachers in their respective schools should promote meaningful internet use by referring them to search for information on the subject's topics and present written details of what they have learned.

7.0 CONCLUSION:

The present study shows that the majority of students use the internet for both educational and entertainment purposes. **Olotokun(2008)** also revealed that the majority of students use the internet for leisure rather than for educational purposes. **Tarimo and Kavishe(2017)** research study also revealed that the Secondary school students are mainly using the internet for entertainment rather than learning goal. The present study shows that the majority of students use the internet for playing games, watching movies, serials, other programs. **Almasi, Machumu and Zhu(2017)** also revealed that most of the students use the internet as a social media for chatting, watching movies, listening to music.

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