



## INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF RESEARCH IN COMPUTER APPLICATION AND MANAGEMENT

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**Contributions to books**

- Sharma T., Kwatra, G. (2008) Effectiveness of Social Advertising: A Study of Selected Campaigns, Corporate Social Responsibility, Edited by David Crowther & Nicholas Capaldi, Ashgate Research Companion to Corporate Social Responsibility, Chapter 15, pp 287-303.

**Journal and other articles**

- Schemenner, R.W., Huber, J.C. and Cook, R.L. (1987), "Geographic Differences and the Location of New Manufacturing Facilities," Journal of Urban Economics, Vol. 21, No. 1, pp. 83-104.

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## STATISTICAL ANALYSIS OF ASSESSING AWARENESS OF COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY AMONG ECONOMICS RESEARCH STUDENTS

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### ABSTRACT

This paper aims to study the online information seeking and using computer behavior of the researchers in Tuticorin District of Tamilnadu. The study reveals the consciousness regarding the online information resources among the research students who use the Internet in Tuticorin District of Tamilnadu. The present study was carried out with the objective to understand the purposes of using the Internet by the researchers, to find out the frequency of using the Internet by the researchers, to determine how ICT has impacted research work and to find out the problems faced by the users while using ICTs. This study used questionnaire to collect the data from economics research students in Tuticorin District of Tamilnadu. The questionnaire contains various questions pertaining to the awareness of online information resources. The study is conducted with the help of both primary and secondary data. The major sources of data are primary, where a structured questionnaire is designed and administered to the select respondents. The sampling is random. Sample size is 400 respondents. The secondary data is collected mainly through published articles, books, research studies, various documents and the Internet. The data relates to the month of September 2010. Percentage analysis, averages, t tests, standard deviation, chi-square tests, Cramer's V and probability analysis were used owing to the constraints imposed by the nature of data.

### KEYWORDS

Online information, use of ICT products, chi-square tests, Cramer's V and probability analysis.

### INTRODUCTION

Despite evidence of increased usage of information and communication technology (ICT) in educational programming, extant evaluations on the impact of ICT on educational child outcomes are sparse and often lack the methodological rigor necessary to guide policymakers towards sound, evidence-based practices. There are many benefits for students in terms of increased flexibility in registering for courses/classes online, accessing course outlines and content online, interacting with students and instructors online through chats or online discussions, submitting assignments and writing examinations.

An important dimension of ICTs in research is the use of online full text databases and online research libraries/virtual libraries which are the direct outcome of the growth in telecommunications networks and technology. These databases and libraries provide researchers with online access to the contents of hundreds of thousands of books from major publishing houses, research reports, and peer-reviewed articles in electric journals. Use of these online databases and libraries by academic staff has grown rapidly in the higher education systems of many countries. With support from UNESCO, the Hewlett Foundation and other development partners some countries have established their own national virtual libraries. Apart from making the most current publications available to researchers, they also provide opportunities for the dissemination of research, particularly through on-line electronic journals. The American Institutes for Research (AIR) has conducted a global analysis of research undertaken to date on the deployment of ICT solutions to support education goals in developing countries. This paper aims to study the online information seeking and using computer behavior of the researchers in Tuticorin District of Tamilnadu. The study reveals the consciousness regarding the online information resources among the research students who use the Internet in Tuticorin District of Tamilnadu.

### OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To understand the purposes of using the Internet by the researchers.
2. To find out the frequency of using the Internet by the researchers.
3. To determine how ICT has impacted research work.
4. To find out the problems faced by the users while using ICTs.

### METHODOLOGY

This study used questionnaire to collect the data from economics research students in Tuticorin District of Tamilnadu. The questionnaire contains various questions pertaining to the awareness of online information resources. For this purpose a total of 90 questionnaires were distributed among economics researchers. The study is conducted with the help of both primary and secondary data. The major sources of data are primary, where a structured questionnaire is designed and administered to the select respondents. The sampling is random. Sample size is 400 respondents. The secondary data is collected mainly through published articles, books, research studies, various documents and the Internet. The data relates to the month of September 2010. Percentage analysis, averages, t tests, standard deviation, chi-square tests, Cramer's V and probability analysis were used owing to the constraints imposed by the nature of data.

Results and Discussion

TABLE NO: 1 RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SEX AND USE OF ICT PRODUCTS

Use of ICT Products	Male	Female	Total
Computer	47 (50)	47 (50)	94 (23.5)
Laptop	72 (55.4)	58(44.6)	130 (32.5)
Internet	68(58.1)	49(41.9)	117 (29.3)
DVD/CD/Pen Drive	33 (55.9)	26 (44.1)	59 (14.7)
Total respondents	220 (100)	180 (100)	400 (100)

Source: Primary Data

( $\chi^2=1.44$ ,  $P=0.6962$ ,  $df=3$ , Cramer's  $V=0.06$ ), Significant at 5% probability level

The table shows that 50 per cent male and 50 per cent female researchers used computer for their research work in Tuticorin District. A majority of male (58 per cent) and female researchers (42 per cent) used Internet. The result of chi-square analysis ( $\chi^2=1.44$ ,  $P=0.6962$ ) revealed that there is no significant relationship between sex and use of ICT products in Tuticorin District of Tamilnadu at 5% level.



**TABLE NO: 2 RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SEX AND PURPOSE OF USING INTERNET**

Purpose	Male	Female	Total
For the project	104 (47)	91 (51)	195 (49)
For the presentation	53 (24)	45 (25)	98 (25)
For the knowledge	27 (12)	22 (12)	49 (12)
For the learning	17(8)	9 (5)	26 (7)
For the leisure	19 (9)	13 (7)	32 (8)
Total respondents	220 (100)	180 (100)	400 (100)

Source: Primary Data

Figure in parentheses are percentages to the total of the respective columns. ( $\chi^2=1.63$ ,  $P=0.8034$ ,  $df=4$ , Cramer's  $V=0.0638$ ), Significant at 1% probability level

The table shows the purpose of using Internet is for the project results yielded 195(49%). Similarly for the presentation purpose is about 98(25%) users are using internet and followed by the knowledge purpose is about 49(12%) users are utilizing the internet facility and the difference is statistically not significant ( $\chi^2=1.63$ ,  $P=0.8034$ ).

**TABLE NO: 3 RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SEX AND PLACE OF USE OF ICTS**

Place of Use	Male	Female	Total
Department	3 (1.4)	8 (4.4)	11 (2.8)
Library	22 (10.0)	21 (11.7)	43 (10.8)
Computer Centre	131 (59.5)	107 (59.4)	238 (59.5)
Home/Hostel	64 (29.1)	44 (24.4)	108 (27.0)
Total respondents	220 (100)	180 (100)	400 (100)

Source: Primary data

( $\chi^2= 4.46$ ,  $P= 0.2159$ ,  $df=3$ , Cramer's  $V= 0.105$ ), Significant at 1% probability level

The table indicates that 60 per cent male and 59 per cent female of researcher's access internet at computer centre. While 10 per cent male and 12 per cent female researchers use it at library. The chi-square analysis result ( $\chi^2=4.46$ ,  $P= 0.2159$ ) shows no significant relationship of male and female respondents and place of use of ICTs.

**TABLE NO: 4 RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SEX AND FREQUENCY OF USING INTERNET**

Duration per week	Male	Female	Total
Less than 5 hours	120 (54)	105 (58)	225 (56)
5 to 10 hours	61 (28)	14 (8)	75 (19)
Greater than 10 hours	39 (18)	61 (34)	100 (25)
Total respondents	220 (100)	180 (100)	400 (100)

Source: Primary data

( $\chi^2=31.61$ ,  $P=<.0001$ ,  $df=2$ , Cramer's  $V=0.2811$ ), Significant at 1% probability level

From the table, it is clear that most of respondents that are 225(56%) are using internet for less than 5 hours. It is followed by 100(25%) are using the internet for more than 10 hours and only 75(19%) of the researcher are making use of internet for 5 - 10 hours. The result of chi-square- test ( $\chi^2=31.61$ ,  $P=<.0001$ ), revealed that there is significant difference between male and female respondents and frequency of using internet in Tuticorin area.

**TABLE NO: 5 RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SEX AND PROBLEMS FACED WHILE USING ICTS**

Problems	Male	Female	Total
Lack of awareness	13 (5.9)	28 (15.6)	41 (10.3)
Lack of software	4 (1.8)	15 (8.3)	19 (4.8)
Lack of time	22 (10.0)	17 (9.4)	39 (9.8)
Limited number of computers	81 (36.8)	26 (14.4)	107 (26.8)
Lack of training	32 (14.5)	63 (35.0)	95 (23.8)
Lack of technical knowledge	68(30.9)	31 (17.2)	99 (24.8)
Total	220 (100)	180 (100)	400 (100)

Source: Primary Data

$t=0.4595$ ,  $d.f=10$ ,  $P=0.6557$ , Standard error of difference = 14.509

Mean: 36.67 30.00: SD 31.02 17.34: SEM 12.66 7.08

The study revealed that major hindrances faced by the male researchers are limited number of computers (37 per cent), lack of technical knowledge (31 per cent) and lack of training (15 per cent). Female researchers indicated that they also faced same problems in terms of lack of training (35 per cent), lack of technical knowledge (17 per cent) and limited number of computers (14 per cent), showed no significant difference ( $t=0.4595$ ,  $d.f=10$ ,  $P=0.6557$ , Standard error of difference = 14.509).

TABLE NO 6: RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SEX AND IMPACT OF ICTS ON RESEARCH WORK

Impact	Male	Female	Total
Access to current information	189 (86)	103 (57)	292 (73)
Quick access of information	92 (42)	85 (47)	177 (44)
Expedite research process	29 (13)	27(15)	56 (14)
Access to wider range of information	69 (31)	59 (33)	128 (32)
Total	220 (100)	180(100)	400 (100)

Source: Primary Data

Figure in parentheses are percentages to the total of the respective columns.

 $(\chi^2=9.83, P=0.0201, df=3, \text{Cramer's } V=0.1227)$ , Significant at 1% probability level

Majority of male as well as female researchers were of the view that ICTs have enhanced the access to current information (73 per cent), quick access of information (44 per cent), access to wider range of information (32 per cent) and expedite research process (14). The researchers feel that the emergence of ICT has a great impact on every work of research and has improved the quality of research. The result of chi-square- test ( $\chi^2=9.83, P=0.0201$ ) revealed that there is no significant difference between sex and impact of ICTs on research work.

## CONCLUSION

The study investigated the use of ICT by the research scholars at the faculty of economics researchers in Tuticorin District of Tamilnadu. Study found that respondents used a variety of ICT products and services for their research work as it is helpful in finding information quickly and also helps the researchers to access, manage, integrate, evaluate, create, and communicate information more easily. The study reveals that 55 per cent male and 45 per cent female researchers use computer for their research work. The study identified that researchers are not getting proper training/guidance and assistance from the staff, which is very necessary for the effective use of ICT products and services. Educational institutions should arrange and organize training programmes related to ICT.

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