

# INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF RESEARCH IN COMPUTER APPLICATION & MANAGEMENT

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**INTERNET SURFING AMONG THE STUDENTS OF ASSAM UNIVERSITY, SILCHAR**

**DR. CHONGTHAM BEDA DEVI**  
**LECTURER**  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
**NORTH-EASTERN HILL UNIVERSITY**  
**TURA CAMPUS**  
**MEGHALAYA**

**ABSTRACT**

*The present study is undertaken with a view to know the frequency of internet use, preference of place, time and purpose of using internet and attitude towards internet among the Assam University students. The sample of the present study is drawn from PG students, M. Phil and Ph.D. scholars. The sample consisted of 100 students of different subjects in Assam University, Silchar. Out of 100 students 50 each belong to male and female category. For selection of sample purposive sampling technique has been adopted. In order to assess for surfing internet self designed questionnaire comprising of 18 items relating to internet access and attitude towards internet scale were used. On the basis of filled up questionnaire received from the respondents, the data has been analysed and tabulated using SPSS (17.0 Version) Software. For data analysis and interpretation, percentage analysis and pie chart and 't' test has been adopted. The present work was carried out during May 2012 to July 2012. Therefore the present investigation is delimited to the students of Assam University, Silchar.*

**KEYWORDS**

Internet surfing, Assam University.

**INTRODUCTION**

Internet is a multipurpose tool with numerous potentials. It enables students to communicate with other students abroad and thus share each other's ideas, knowledge, experiences, and cultures. It enhances skills and capabilities of students, which assist them in studies and in professional life.

The academic landscape in education sector has been comprehensively transformed by the recent advances in Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs). Consequently, the teaching and learning processes along with educational programmes and pedagogy of instruction are being restructured, reformed to meet the expectations of a whole new breed of students entering the Universities. ICT applications in education sector can greatly enhance the quality of education. The learners, through multifaceted ICT applications, can control the content, time and pace of learning. It is also one of the greatest recent advancement in the world of information technology and has become a useful instrument that has fostered the process of making the world a global village. This is a universal fact that the use of internet has a great impact on the student's academic carrier. The use of Internet has become a very popular in many areas as well as in education in recent years. Accordingly, Internet access in schools has increased greatly over the last 20 years (Berson, 2000). As this study has shown, more students are relying on the Internet for their academic needs than any other areas.

Nowadays internet is very effective and popular tool used by the students for education as well as variety of other purposes including entertainment. Internet provides an interactive environment for sharing as well as seeing of information on a wide, diverge and variety of subjects. Consequently, it has become very popular among the student community; and it is also used by them to supplement their studies.

Many people and students are educated through using internet and media. It is the most obvious and inevitable element to experience this relation in the routine life too. It is clear that internet has a key role in human life. So we need to obtain a lot of important information about internet about relations with other variables especially in educational contexts that are important for young generations. So the present study is an attempt to study the Internet use among Assam university students.

**REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE**

Hong, K. S., Ridzuan and Kuek (2003) studied students' attitudes toward the use of the Internet for learning at the University of Malaysia Sarawak. The study revealed that in general, students there had positive attitudes towards learning through the Internet. The students had the basic skills in using the Internet and perceived the learning environment in the university conducive to the use of the Internet as a learning tool.

Rajeev Kumar and Amritpal Kaur (2004) studied the use of internet by teachers and students in Shaheed Bhagat Singh College of Engineering & Technology, Ferozepur (Panjab). They found that 46.7% teachers and 36.7% student's daily use the internet. About 90% respondents use internet at their college. Yahoo is found as the favorite search engine. Only 31.7% respondents were fully satisfied, whereas 36.7% were partially satisfied with internet facilities.

Luambano and Nawe (2004) investigated the Internet use by students of the University of Dar es Salaam. Their findings revealed that the majority of the students were not using the Internet due to the inadequacy of computers with Internet access, lack of skills in Internet use and slow speed of computers. It was also revealed that most students who used the Internet did not use it for academic purposes. It was suggested that more computers connected to the Internet should be provided and that training should be given to the students on the use of Internet.

Ruzgar (2005) studied the purpose of the Internet use and learning via Internet. It was concluded that the Internet has become an integral part of college life and its usage is approaching 100 percent among students. It was found that 36 percent of the students spent 1-10 hours per week on the Internet. In terms of activities online, sending/receiving e-mail topped the list, followed by reading news and finding sports information, research for school-related work, chat, research for products and services, and downloading images. Because of their online activities, students watched less television.

Biradar and others (2006) conducted a study on internet usage by the Student and faculties in Kuvempu University. The results indicated that 42.1 % students use internet twice a week and 31.25% faculties use it every day. The majority of students as well as faculties use Internet for study/ teaching purpose. The favourite place for using Internet is library followed by commercial places. A thumping majority of respondents are satisfied with Internet sources and services.

Ani (2010) investigated the extent and level of Internet access as well as the use of electronic resources by undergraduate students in three Nigerian Universities. Ani's findings revealed that undergraduate students use the Internet extensively. However, access to the Internet in the university libraries, departments/faculties and university computer/ICT centres was grossly poor due to the infrastructure. The majority of the respondents relied on private, commercial Internet services, and cybercafés. It was also found that Internet education for the respondents is needed for the use of electronic resources and databases.

Ozad (2010) explored the use of the Internet in tertiary media education. It was suggested that in addition to using the Internet as a source of information, students majored in communication and media should also use it as a tool of communication.

Dominika Sokol and Vit Sislér (2010) conducted a Study on Internet Use among University Students in the United Arab Emirates The study aims to analyzes socializing on the Internet and attitudes towards the Internet as a medium of social interaction among university students in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The result reveals that the Internet can largely act as a vehicle for resisting social exclusion and gender segregation; it can also simultaneously serve as a mechanism for reinforcing pre-existing norms within newly-networked traditional communities.

Sakina Bashir (2011) conducted a study on Internet Use among University Students: A Survey in University of the Punjab, Lahore. The objective of the study was to explore the Internet use behaviour of students. The results show that most of the students use this technology for course related reading and research needs.

They are new users of the Internet. They use it at the University Library’s Digital Lab Unit as well as their departments and homes. A large number of them have learnt to use the Internet tools by themselves, or relying on assistance from friends without attending any formal training programs. Ease of work and time saving are the reasons of Internet use among university students.

**OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

The objectives of the study are:

1. To find out the frequency of Internet use among University students.
2. To find out the preference of place and time for accessing internet.
3. To find out the purpose of using internet among Assam university students.
4. To study the attitude towards internet among Assam university students

**RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

**SAMPLE**

The sample of the present study is drawn from PG students, M. Phil and Ph.D. scholars. The sample consisted of 100 students of different subjects in Assam University, Silchar. Out of 100 students 50 each belong to male and female category. For selection of sample purposive sampling technique has been adopted.

**PROCEDURES OF DATA COLLECTION**

To collect the requisite data related to various aspects of assessing internet self designed questionnaire was used. The researcher established a rapport with them. Initially the researcher was distributed the questionnaire and requisite directions and instructions were given. One can spend as much as time as required. But in general it consumes maximum 15 to 20 minutes.

**TOOLS USED**

The self designed questionnaire comprising of 18 items relating to internet access and attitude towards internet scale has been used.

**STATISTICAL TECHNIQUES USED**

Percentages analysis, pie chart and ‘t’ test were used to analyse and interpret the data.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

**TABLE -1: QUALIFICATION WISE DISTRIBUTION OF THE RESPONDENTS**

Student Ednl. Qualification	Male	Female	Grand Total
M.A	27	33	60
M.Sc	7	8	15
M. phil	0	6	6
Ph.D.	16	3	19
Total	50	50	100

**FIGURE – 1: DISTRIBUTION OF THE RESPONDENTS QUALIFICATION**

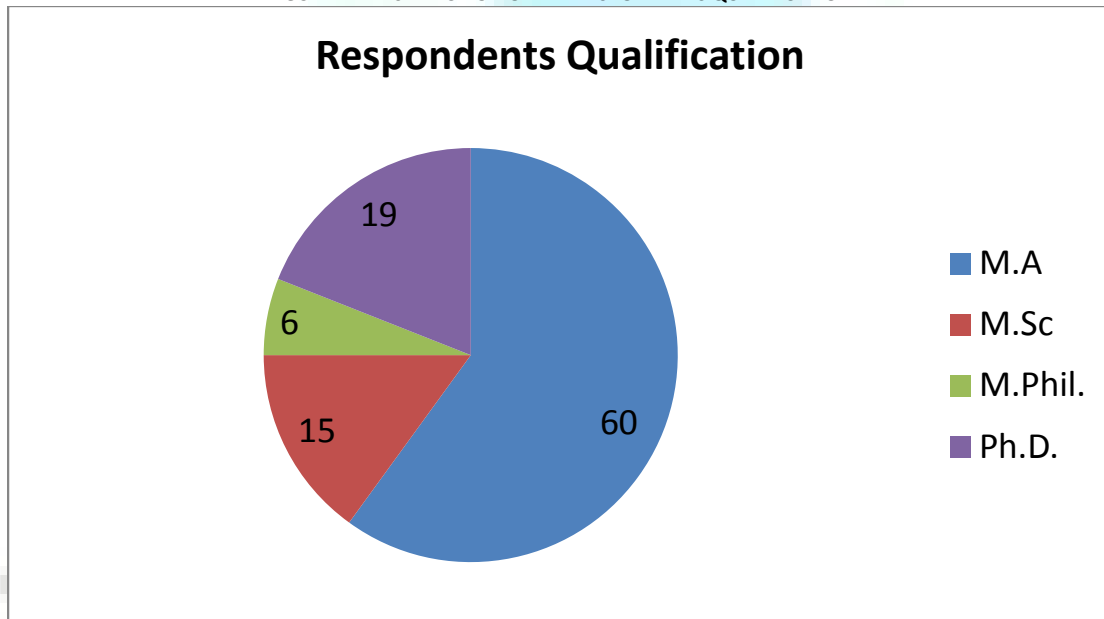


Table -1 and figure – 1 clearly shows the qualification wise distribution of the respondents. Out of 100 respondents, about 60 respondents are M.A, 19 Ph.D. Scholars, 15 M. Sc and 6 M.Phil. Scholars.

**TABLE – 2: FREQUENCY OF USING INTERNET**

Frequency of using	Male		Female		Grand Total
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	
Daily	27	54	22	44	49
Twice a Week	9	18	10	20	19
Weekly	9	18	11	22	20
Monthly	1	2	2	4	3
Rarely	4	8	5	10	9
Total	50	100	50	100	100



FIGURE – 2: FREQUENCY OF USING INTERNET

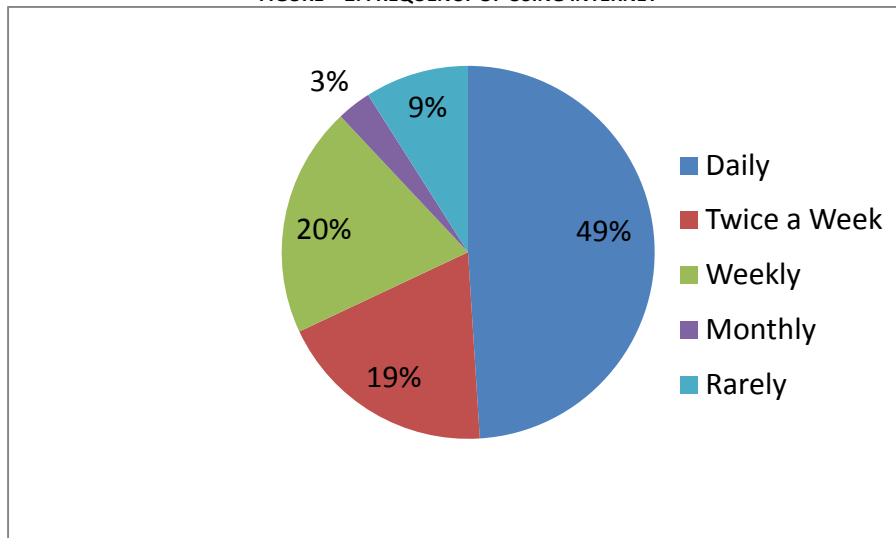


Table – 2 and figure – 2 shows that the frequency of using internet by Assam University students. It has been observed that 49% are used daily, 19% are used twice a week, 20% are used weekly, 9% are used rarely, and only 3% are used monthly. Among 50 male respondents majority 54% respondents are used daily, 18% are used twice in a week, another 18% are used weekly, 8% are used rarely and very less number i.e. 2% are used monthly. Among 50 female respondents 44% are used daily, 20% are used twice a week, 22% are used weekly 10% are used rarely 4% are used monthly. Internet is one of the most important and powerful means for information retrieval and dissemination. It helps students/researchers in collecting the right information at a right time easily and also updates their knowledge. So they use internet daily.

TABLE -3: FREQUENCY OF INTERNET USE IN A DAY

Internet Usage in a day	Male		Female		Grand Total
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	
Less than 1 hour	13	26	11	22	24
1 hour	5	10	12	24	17
2 hour	14	28	20	40	34
3 hour	8	16	6	12	14
4 hour +	10	20	1	2	11
Total	50	100	50	100	100

FIGURE – 3: FREQUENCY OF INTERNET USE IN A DAY

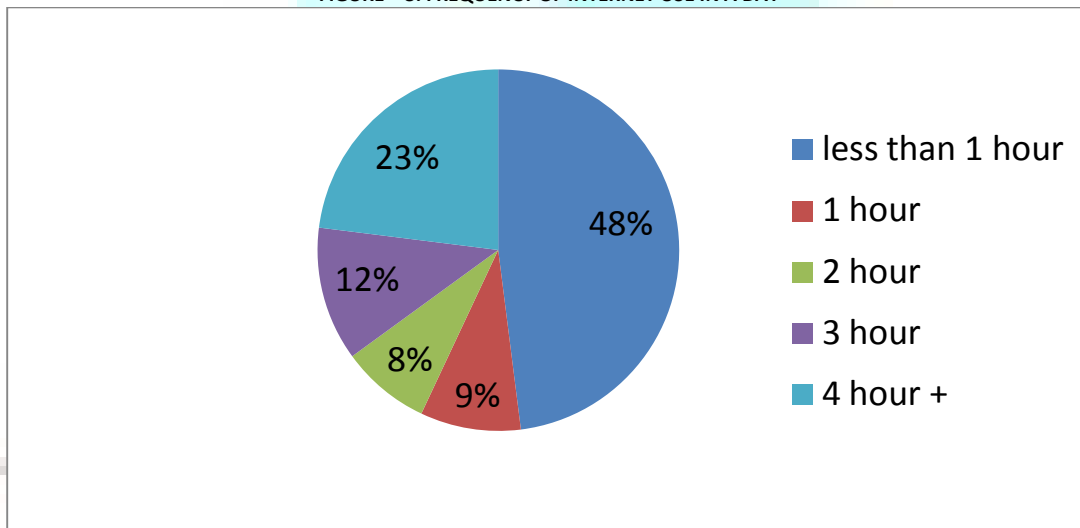


Table – 3 and figure – 3 shows that the frequency of internet used in a day. It also reveals that out of a total 100 respondents, 24% are used less than 1 hour in a day, 17% are used 1 hour, 34% i.e., majority of the respondents are used 2 hour, 14% are used 3 hour and 11% are used 4 hour and above. Among 50 male respondents, 28% are used 2 hour in a day followed by 26% less than 1 hour, 20% 4 hour and above 16% 3 hour and only 10% are used 1 hour. Among 50 female respondents 40% are used 2 hour in a day, 24% are used 1 hour, 22% less than 1 hour, 12% are used 3 hour and only 2% are used 4 hour and above. An observation of above data reveals that both male and female respondents majority of them are used 2 hour in a day.

TABLE – 4: PREFERENCE OF TIME TO ACCESS INTERNET

Preference	Male		Female		Grand Total
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	
Morning	5	10	3	6	8
Afternoon	5	10	6	12	11
Evening	12	24	11	22	23
Night	24	48	25	50	49
Late night	4	8	5	10	9
Total	50	100	50	100	100

FIGURE – 4: PREFERENCE OF TIME TO ACCESS INTERNET

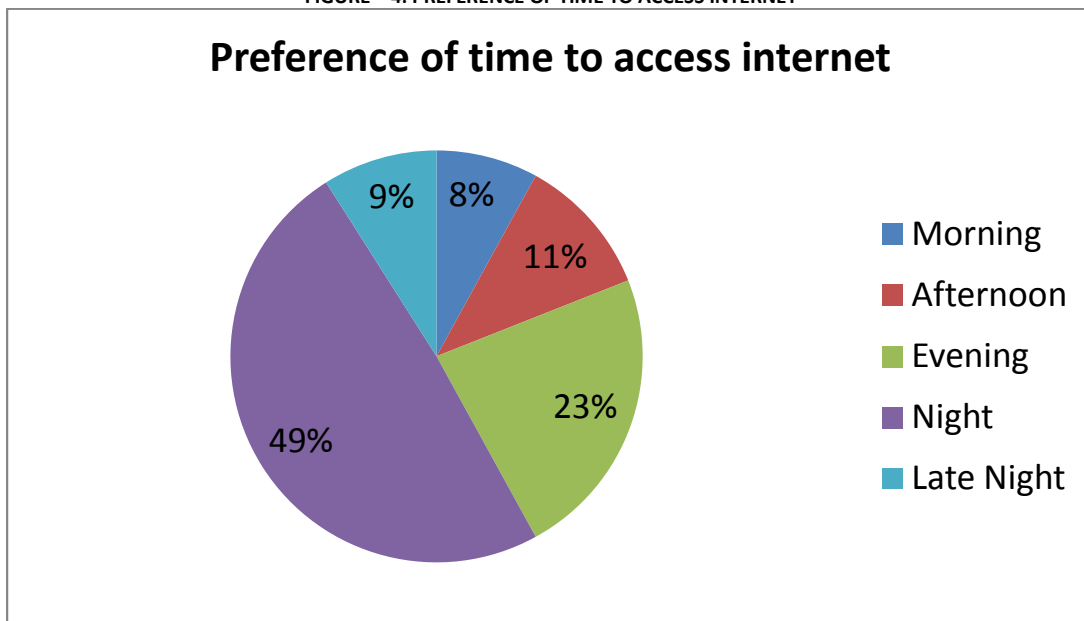


Table – 4 and figure – 4 presents the preferences of time to access internet. It reveals that out of 100 respondents 49% maximum number of respondents prefers to access at night time which is followed by evening 23%, afternoon 11% prefer at late night and 8% prefer in morning. Table – 4 further shows that among 50 male respondents 24% prefer night time to access internet which is followed by 12% evening, 10 prefer morning and another 10 % access in afternoon and only 8% late night to access internet. A close observation of above table reveals that maximum number of respondents prefers to access at night time. Because in morning they are busy for learning in their respective discipline. Afternoon and evening they spend their spare time in department. So they prefer at night time.

TABLE- 5: DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS ACCORDING TO PLACE OF INTERNET ACCESS

Place of Internet Access	Male		Female		Grand Total
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	
At Home	15	30	26	42	48
Cyber Cafe	10	20	6	12	9
Library	6	12	2	4	8
Dept.	10	20	2	4	12
University	9	18	14	28	23
Total	50	100	50	100	100

FIGURE – 5: INTERNET ACCESS OF THE RESPONDENTS

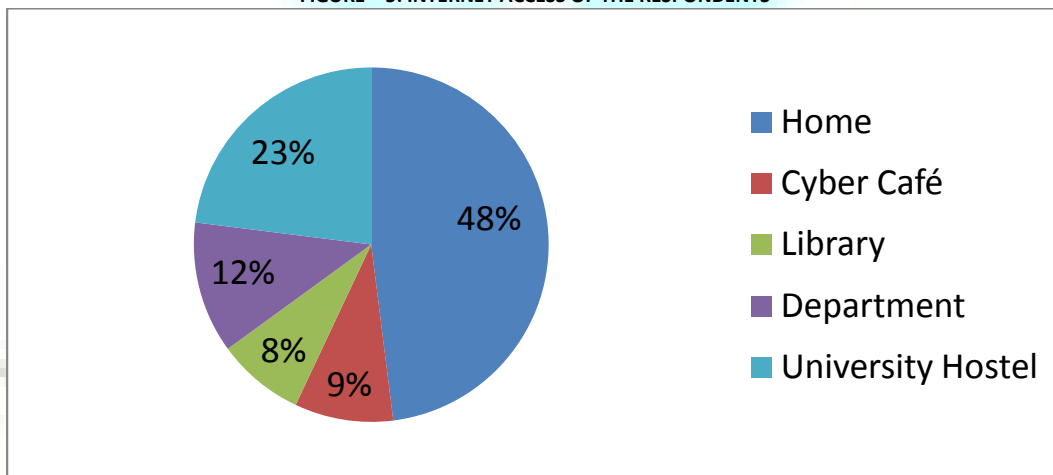


Table -5 and figure -5 shows the internet access of the respondents. It reveals that the majority of the respondents 48% are accessed to internet at home, 23% at the University hostel, 12% from the departmental computer lab, 9% at cyber cafe and 8% from the library. This indicates that girl’s students experience difficulty in accessing internet at Cyber Cafes which is due to lack of adequate number of cyber cafes in the campus.

TABLE – 6: PURPOSE OF USING INTERNET

Purpose	Male		Female		Grand Total
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	
Study	28	76	26	52	54
Chatting	8	16	6	12	14
E-mailing	4	8	5	10	9
Download	6	12	10	20	16
Any Others	4	8	3	6	7
Total	50	100	50	100	100

FIGURE – 6: PURPOSE OF USING INTERNET

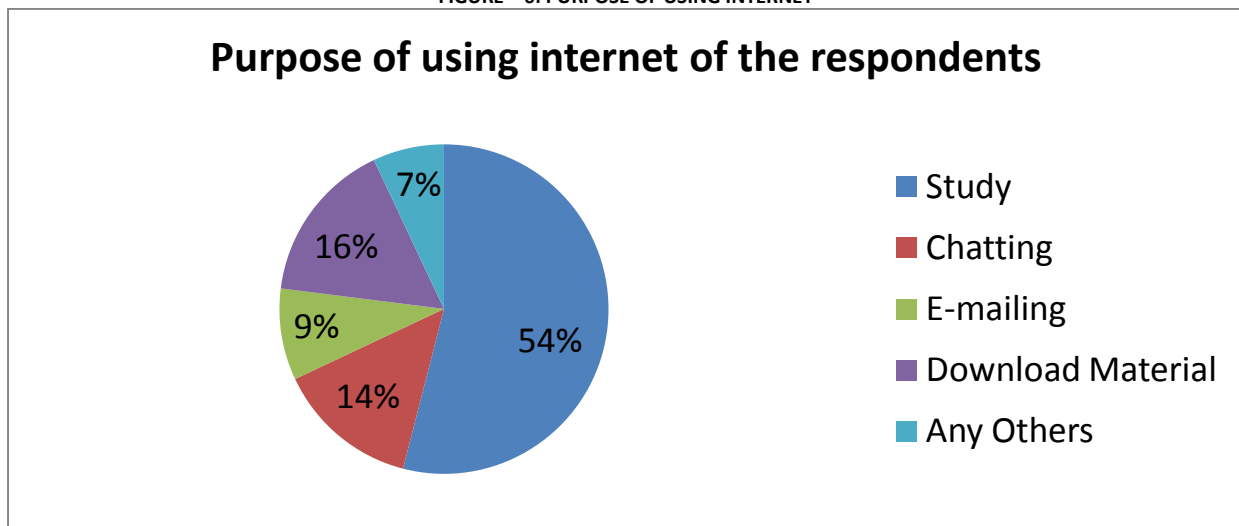


Table – 6 and figure – 6 shows that maximum numbers of respondents (54%) are use internet for their study, which is followed by 16% download material, 14% for chatting with friends, 9% to send e-mail, and 7% used for any others.

The use of Internet has become a very popular in education in recent years. The above results reveal that use of internet is quite high among the students for educational purpose. Internet access in schools has increased greatly over the last 20 years (Berson, 2000). As this study has shown, more students are relying on the Internet for their academic needs than any other areas.

TABLE - 7 SEARCH ENGINES FOR ACCESSING TO INTERNET

Search Engines	Male		Female		Grand Total
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	
Google	40	80	45	90	85
Altavista	2	4	-	-	2
Google Chrome	7	14	5	10	12
Any Others	1	2	-	-	1
Total	50	100	50	100	100

FIGURE – 7: SEARCH ENGINES FOR ACCESSING TO INTERNET

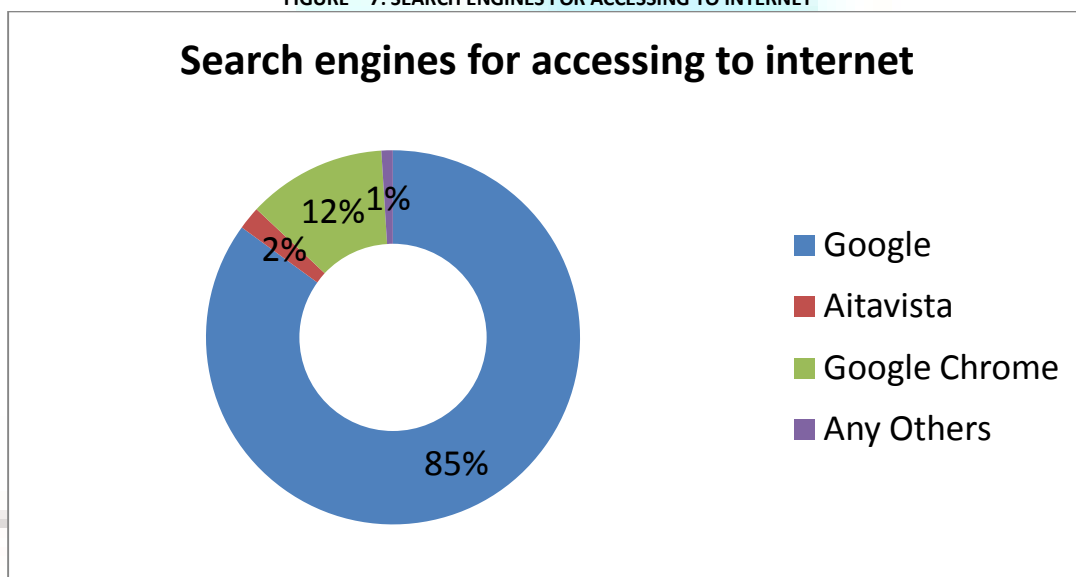


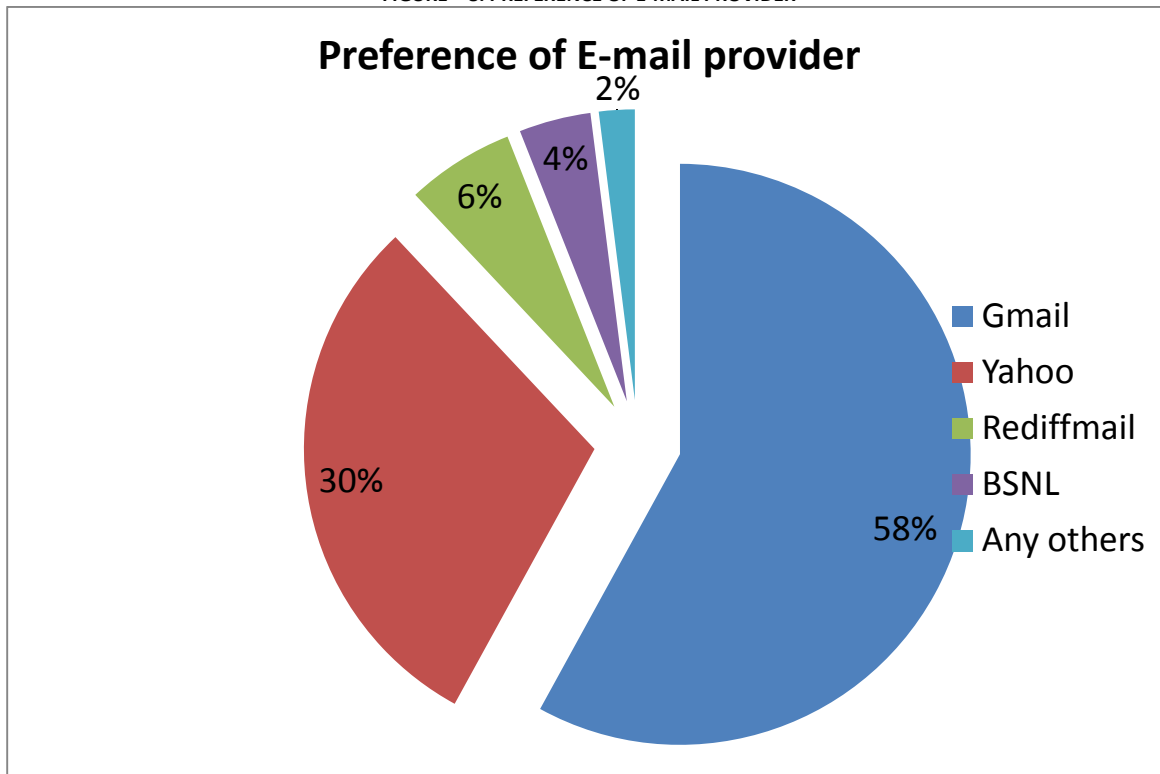
Table - 7 and figure – 7 represents the search engines for accessing t search. Almost all the search engines provide information to the users at no cost. Table 25 gives the details about the most commonly used search engines by the users. The result reveals that the majority of the respondents 85% are access to google search followed by google chrome 12%, 2% altavista and any other 1%.

Among 50 male respondents 80% access to google, 4% google chrome 4%, altavista and any other 2%. The result reveals that the Google Search Engines is the most popular Used by the Assam University Students.

TABLE- 8: PREFERENCE OF E-MAIL PROVIDER

E-mail Provider	Male		Female		Grand Total
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	
Gmail.com	29	58	35	70	64
Yahoo.com	15	30	10	20	25
Rediffmail.com	3	6	8	8	7
BSNL	2	4	2	2	3
Any others	1	2	-	-	1
Total	50	100	50	100	100

FIGURE – 8: PREFERENCE OF E-MAIL PROVIDER



E – mail is provided by many internet service providers like BSNL there are many commercial service like Google mail, Yahoo mail, Indiatimes etc. which provide for e-mail services. Table – 8 and figure – 8 shows that out of 100 respondents, Gmail is used most of the respondents 64% followed by 25% Yahoo mail, 7% rediffmails, 3% BSNL and only 1% used with any other mail services.

The result also reveals that out of 50 male respondents maximum numbers of respondents 58% prefer Gmail which is followed by 30% yahoo mail, 3% BSNL and only 1% is used with any other mail services.

The result further shows that among 50 female respondents maximum numbers of respondent prefer Gmail (70%), Yahoo 20%, Rediffmail 8% and 2% BSNL.

**COMPARISON OF ATTITUDE TOWARDS INTERNET OF MALE AND FEMALE RESPONDENTS**

To fulfil the fourth objective, the significance of difference between male and female respondents of attitude towards internet the means, standard deviations and ‘t’ test were applied. The mean value of attitude toward internet of male respondents is 46.84 and standard deviation is 5.74, whereas the female respondents’ the attitude towards internet, mean value and standard deviation are 46.94 and 5.31 respectively.

TABLE - 9: COMPARISON OF MEANS AND SDS OF ATTITUDE TOWARDS INTERNET OF MALE AND FEMALE RESPONDENTS

Attitude Towards Internet	Male		Female		‘t’ Value	Degrees of freedom	Level of significance
	N= 50		N=50				
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD			
	46.84	5.74	46.94	5.31	0.90	98	Not Sig.

The obtained ‘t’ value is 0.90 which is not significant at any level. It means both male and female respondents do not differ in their attitude towards internet. Importance of internet is gender neutral and similar attitude of both male and female respondents.

TABLE – 10: COMPARISON OF ATTITUDE TOWARDS INTERNET OF M.A AND M.Sc. RESPONDENTS

Attitude Towards Internet	M.A		M.Sc		‘t’ Value	Degrees of freedom	Level of significance
	N= 60		N=15				
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD			
	46.70	6.02	46.52	5.57	0.13	73	Not Sig.

Table – 10 shows the significance of difference between MA and M.Sc. respondents of attitude towards internet the means, standard deviations and ‘t’ test were applied. The mean value of attitude toward internet of MA students is 46.70 and standard deviation is 6.02, whereas M.Sc. students, the attitude towards internet, mean value and standard deviation are 46.52 and 5.57 respectively. The obtained ‘t’ value is 0.13 which is not significant at any level. It means MA and M.Sc. students do not differ in their attitude towards internet.

Perhaps it may be due to similar attitude towards internet in both the discipline. In different disciplines students’ access internet to serve their purpose in different ways. So the attitude of accessing internet is on an average similar.

TABLE- 11: COMPARISON OF ATTITUDE TOWARDS INTERNET OF MA. MALE AND MA. FEMALE RESPONDENTS

Attitude Towards Internet	MA. Male		MA. Female		‘t’ Value	Degrees of freedom	Level of significance
	N= 27		N=33				
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD			
	46.60	5.77	47.75	4.59	0.83	58	Not Sig.

TABLE- 12: COMPARISON OF ATTITUDE TOWARDS INTERNET OF M.Sc. MALE AND M.Sc. FEMALE RESPONDENTS

Attitude Towards Internet	M.Sc. Male		M.Sc. Female		‘t’ Value	Degrees of freedom	Level of significance
	N= 7		N=8				
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD			
	47.14	4.52	47.47	4.40	0.22	13	Not Sig.

Table -11 and 12 clearly shows that the attitude towards internet of MA and M.Sc. Male and female respondents. The obtained ‘t’ value is not significant at any level. It means that the attitude towards accessing internet do not differ significantly an MA and M.Sc. Male and female students of Assam University.

**TABLE- 13: COMPARISON OF ATTITUDE TOWARDS INTERNET OF MA. STUDENTS AND Ph.D. SCHOLARS.**

Attitude Towards Internet	MA. students		Ph. D. Scholars		't' Value	Degrees of freedom	Level of significance
	N= 60		N=19				
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD			
	46.60	5.77	45.85	4.74	0.77	77	Not Sig.

**TABLE- 14: COMPARISON OF ATTITUDE TOWARDS INTERNET OF M. Sc. STUDENTS AND Ph.D. SCHOLARS**

Attitude Towards Internet	M.Sc. Students		Ph.D. Scholars		't' Value	Degrees of freedom	Level of significance
	N= 15		N=19				
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD			
	47.75	4.59	45.85	4.74	0.77	31	Not Sig.

**TABLE- 15: COMPARISON OF ATTITUDE TOWARDS INTERNET OF M.PHIL SCHOLARS AND PH.D. SCHOLARS**

Attitude Towards Internet	M.Phil. Scholars		Ph.D. Scholars		't' Value	Degrees of freedom	Level of significance
	N= 6		N=19				
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD			
	47.83	2.92	45.85	4.74	1.16	23	Not Sig.

The above Table No 12,14 and 15 shows that none of the 't' value are significant at any level . It indicates that the attitude towards internet of MA. students and Ph.D. Scholars, of M.Sc. students and Ph.D. Scholars and M. Phil scholars and Ph.D. Scholars did not differ significantly.

## CONCLUSION

The present study has highlighted the existing scenario regarding student's access, purpose and the pattern of internet use in Assam University, Silchar. The picture regarding the ICT infrastructure and its usage is not quite satisfactory. There is an urgent need to put –in place, an appropriate ICT infrastructure which will motivate the students as well as teachers to make use for educational purpose also. Teachers also need to be trained in the use of ICTs. This needs to be given priority to realize the true potential of ICTs and meet the increasing demand for educational services.

The study showed that the use of the Internet has created a great impact upon the students of Assam University in their research and academic works. It is clear from the study that the younger generation has accepted the Internet as a means for accessing to the relevant information for academic and research work. The present study also found that internet plays a key role in day today life.

The findings of the study listed above have important implications in our university. Some implications are mentioned below:

1. Internet has immense potential for the information society. It enables the students to get instant information for their varied purposes. In order to make more beneficial and effective, awareness programme for maximum use of Internet should be undertaken by the Information Technology Institutions, Libraries and Information Centres of Universities.
2. The present study most of the respondents are getting knowledge of accessing internet from their institutions. Proper vigilance in the computer laboratory should be ensured and also provide on-line facilities for students their departments and take some steps to increase the number of systems with higher configuration and speed of access internet. To prevent misuse of Internet facilities, proper monitoring of services should be ensured as restricted sites should be blocked.
3. Approximately 80% the main purpose of using internet is mainly for study. But frequently power failure is one of the major problems. So the users are facing lots of problem in accessing internet in academic purpose or collecting other information. To maintain their interest towards these the University must ensure adequate and continuous uninterrupted power supply.
4. Some steps to increase the number of systems with higher configuration and speed of access internet and the library service hours should be increased. So that prolonged stay and study, in the library is possible. Proper training is imparted to the faculty members, research scholars and students. The performance of the post-graduate students, research scholars and teachers of the academic community of universities will be increased to make the Assam University Campus in particular for effectively accessing to Internet for their academic and research work.

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