Electronic Information Use Pattern of Yercaud Tribal Students in Salem District, Tamil Nadu

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Abstract

Information is playing a vital role in the society by taking decision, to assist in reducing the degree of uncertainty etc. It is a fifth basic need of every human being in addition to air, water, food and shelter. It becomes an important ingredient in every walk of life. Now-a-days, the technology has led to the proliferation of electronically available information source. Internet is the most prominent of all electronic resources. A huge investments made by government to modernize the society in one side and on the other side, there has been very little and sporadic knowledge about the usage of electronic information in the society, especially among the students of tribal area. The author tries to study the electronic information use pattern of Yercaud tribal students in Salem district Tamil Nadu. This paper describes the background of the Yercaud tribal area, ICT facilities available in Yercaud, the awareness of school and college students about electronic resources

Keywords

Electronic Information, Tribal Students, Use Pattern, Information and Communication technology

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INTRODUCTION

Development of electronic resources and the information and communication technology facilitates human development as agrarian society to industrial society to information society. Wealth of a nation is depended upon the development of the information technology.

ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

An "electronic resource" is defined as any work encoded and made available for access through the use of a computer. It includes electronic data available by (1) remote access and (2) direct access (fixed media). In other words: Remote access (electronic resources) refers to the use of electronic resources via computer networks. (AACR2, 2002 edition; glossary). Direct Access (electronic resources) refers to the use of electronic resources via carriers (e.g., discs/disks, cassettes, cartridges) designed to be inserted into a computerized device or its auxiliary equipment."

Electronic resources form one of many formats viz. CD / DVD, online, offline eic., that the Library collects to support its universal collections. The increased production of electronic resources demands sustained effort to identify and acquire them. It is the Library's policy with electronic resources, as with all others, to obtain them through copyright deposit . The Library is committed to preserving its electronic resources just as it is to ensuring permanent access to its collections in other formats. When the Library collects both electronic and analog versions of a resource, both versions are retained as permanent holdings of the Library. For both direct and remote access resources, the Library will endeavor to archive these resources following standard practices, guidelines and legal requirements. The digital information environment has dramatically changed the way of academic and research environment.

OBJECTIVES

1. To identify the problems faced by the students of Tribal area
2. To identify the Infrastructure facilities available in their area
3. To study the availability of electronic information sources in their area
4. To offer suggestions to improve the infrastructure facilities in the Tribal area

5. To train the students in using electronic information resources

METHODOLOGY

A structured 120 questionnaires were distributed directly to the students of Government Higher Secondary Schools and Arts and Science College in Yercaud and students of Yercaud those who are studied in other places . Out of 120 Questionnaires only 98 duly filled questionnaires were received. The response rate is 81.67 %.

LIMITATIONS

The sample was taken from Yercaud tribal area. Majority of the tribal students are studying in the Government Higher Secondary School and in the college in Yercaud.. Few students are studying in colleges outside the Yercaud . The management of others schools are not willing to permit to study like this.

YERCAUD TRIBAL AREA

Yercaud is a hill station in Salem district in Tamil Nadu, India. It is located in the Shevaroys range of hills in the Eastern Gates. Yercaud hill is called the Shevaroy Hills. It is situated at an altitude of 1515 metres above from sea level and the highest point in Yercaud is the Servarayan temple at 1623 metres. Yercaud is also called as Jewel of the South. The temperature never rises above 29 degree Celsius or goes below 13 degree Celsius. It has population approximately 40,000 people during the 2001 census period. The majority of the population in Yercaud is Tribal people The people of Tribal population is 24,449 in Yercaud.

Yercaud has Two Colleges and Ten Schools. Out of them, one is Government Higher Secondary school. All other schools run by the private and missionaries. Sample has been taken for study from College students and Government Higher Secondary school and the Yercaud tribal students studying in colleges outside.

ANALYSIS OF THE DATA

The purpose of collecting data is to derive results by analyzing and providing suggestions to the authorities. Hence, in this way the collected data has been taken for analysis and statistical tools like mean, standard deviation, correlation and regression have been used in this study.

Table 1: Community Wise Distribution of Respondents

S. No.	Community	Frequency	Percent
1	SC	36	36.7
2	ST	62	63.3
Total		**98**	**100.0**

It is seen from Table 1 that out of a total of 98 respondents, taken for this study, 62 (63.3%) respondents belong to ST Community and 36 (36.7%) respondents belong to SC Community. It is understood that, ST population is more in Yercaud tribal area than ST Community.

Table 2: Distribution Respondents by Educational Qualification

S. No.	Educational Qualification	Frequency	Percent
1	H.Sc.,	21	21.4
2	U.G	54	55.1
3	P.G	9	9.2
4	M.Phil.,	14	14.3
Total		**98**	**100.0**

Table 2 depicts the educational qualifications of the students. Thus, it is inferred that 54 (55.1%) of the students are Undergraduate. It is noteworthy that 23 (23.5%) of the students (comprising PG and M.Phil.,) are pursuing Postgraduate and only 21 students are doing H.Sc.,

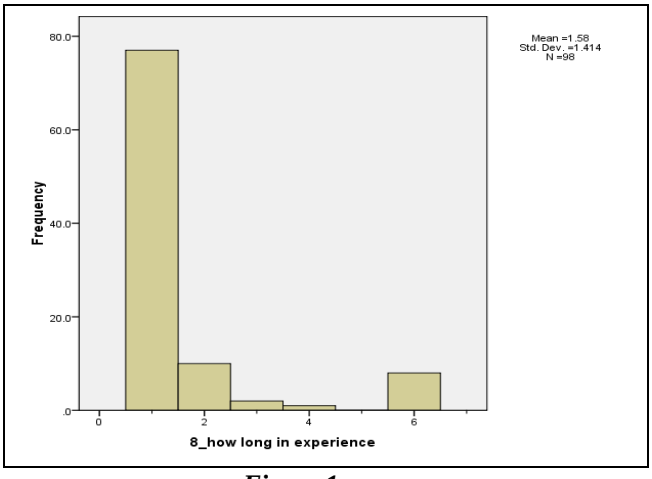

Figure 1

In Figure1, it is inferred that 78 (79.59%) respondents are using internet for the past one year and only 20 (20.41%) of them have more than 2 years of experience in using internet.

Table 3: Internet Provider Institution

S.No.	Internet Provider	Frequency	Percent
1	BSNL	45	45.9
2	Airtel	12	12.2
3	Aircell	7	7.1
4	Reliance	12	12.2
5	Vodafone	14	14.3
6	No idea	2	2.0
7	Others	6	6.1
Total		**98**	**100.0**

Table 3 shows the internet provider stated by the respondents. Among the 98, 45(45.9%) respondets are using BSNL connections and 2(2%) are having no idea.

Table 4: Internet availability in Institution

S.No.	Internet Available	Frequency	Percent
1	Yes	71	72.4
2	No	27	27.6
Total		**98**	**100.0**

Table 5: Allowed to use internet in Institution

S. No.	Allowed	Frequency	Percent
1	Yes	44	44.9
2	No	54	55.1
Total		**98**	**100.0**

From Table 4 and Table 5 it is seen that though 71 respondents are having internet facility in their institutions, 54 (55.1%) respondents are not allowed to use internet in their institutions. But, it is appreciable that 44 (44.9 %) respondents are allowed to use internet.

Table 6 reveal that out of a maximum of 45 (45.9%) respondents have no idea about their favourite social networking, where as 15 respondents use face book. Also, 'Linkedin' is the favourate for 7 respondents, 'Youtube' for 3 and 'Twitter' for 2.

Table 6: Favorite social networking

S.No.	Social networking	Frequency	Percent
1	Linkedin	7	7.1
2	Twitter	7	7.1
3	You tube	4	4.1
4	Facebook	46	46.9
5	No idea	34	34.7
Total		**98**	**100.0**

Table 7: Community Wise Distribution

S. No.	Community	Frequency	Percent
1	SC	36	36.7
2	ST	62	63.3
Total		**98**	**100.0**

It is seen from Table 7 that out of the total number of 98 respondents, considered for this study, 62 (63.3%) respondents belong to ST category and 36 (36.7%) respondents belong to SC category.

Table 8 : Experience in Using Computers

S.No.	Experience	Frequency	Percent
1	Yes	89	90.8
2	No	9	9.2
Total		**98**	**100.0**

Table 9 : Years of experience in using computers

S.No.	Years of experience	Frequency	Percent
1	Less than 2 Years	70	71.5
2	2-4 Years	15	15.3
3	5-7 Years	2	2.0
4	8-10 Years	1	1.0
5	More than 10 Years	1	1.0
6	Nil	9	9.2
Total		**98**	**100.0**

Table 8 and Table 9reveal that out of 89 (90.8%) respondents has experience in using computers, whereas 70 respondents have less than 2 years of experience in using computers. 15 of them have 2 to 4 years of experience.

Table 10:Favorite Search Engine

Search Engine	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Google	89	90.8	90.8
Yahoo	3	3.1	93.9
Rediff	1	1.0	94.9
No Idea	5	5.1	100.0
Total	98	100.0	

Table 10 shows that 89 (90.8%) respondents use 'Google' search engine. The other search engines like Yahoo, Rediff are not as much used as Google.

Table 11: Purpose of Browsing Internet

S.No.	Purpose of Browsing Internet	Number of respondents
1	Email	53
2	Entertainment	14
3	Chatting	12
4	Educational Purpose	39
5	Assignment	8
6	Travel	--
7	Speak with others	1
8	Update knowledge	50
9	Websites	8
10	Various information	12
11	Geographical information	1
12	Advertisements	1
13	Other purposes	--

From Table 11 it is very interesting to note that 53 respondents are browsing internet for checking email. Almost equal to that (50 respondents) browse internet to update their knowledge and 39 for educational purpose. Hence, it is concluded that the respondents browse internet for good purpose.

SUGGESTIONS

1. Those who are not able to access internet may be provided with such facilities in the institutions itself.

Table 12: Problems faced while using internet

S.No	Problems	No. of Respondents
1	Slow speed of Internet	58
2	Difficult to find out the relevant information	15
3	High cost for Internet using charge	32
4	Sufficient systems are not available	13
5	Inconvenient place of Internet	3
6	Related databases / Information not available	95
7	Lack of Knowledge about e-resources	27
8	Lack of training for using internet	24
9	Unfamiliar with the available resources	7
10	Others	1

Table 12 shows that 95 respondents faced the problem of unavailability of related databases / information while using the internet.

Table 13: Reasons for not using internet

S.No	Reasons	No. of Respondents
1	No Knowledge about Internet	20
2	There is no systems with me	50
3	Not interested	2
4	Not necessary to me	6
5	No authentic information available	1
6	Information overload	6
7	Not able to find correct information	6
8	Others	6

From Table 13, it is inferred that the two important reasons for not using the internet are ranked as

1. There are no computers with the respondents
2. They have no knowledge about internet

Table 14: Methods of Learning

S. No.	Methods of Learning	No. of Respondents
1	Self study	62
2	Assistants from Friends / Collogues	39
3	Courses offered by the institutions	3
4	By attending formal courses	8
5	Guidance from Library staff	10
6	By attending conferences / workshops etc	1
7	Others	2
8	Teachers help	28

Table 12 shows that 'self study' method helps the respondents in learning to use electronic information sources. Next to self study method, they learn by getting assistance from their friends. Also teachers help plays an important role in making them to learn.

Table 13: Correlations: Education

	Education	frequency of internet use
Pearson Correlation	1	0.134
Sig. (2-tailed)		0.189
N	98	98

Table 13 reveals that the correlation between 'education' of the respondents and 'frequency of using internet' is 0.134. This means that they are positively correlated, the educational qualification has no impact on frequency of using internet.

Table 14 : Correlation: Years of Experience in Using Computers

	Years of Experience in Using Computers	education
Pearson Correlation	1	-.028
Sig. (2-tailed)		0.786
N	98	98

From Table 14, it is to be noticed that the educational qualification of the respondents and their experience in using computers are negatively correlated.

Table 15: Correlations: Education

	Education	attending conferences
Pearson Correlation	1	-.056
Sig. (2-tailed)		0.581
N	98	98

From Table 15, it is noteworthy that the methods of learning through attending conferences is negatively correlated with the educational qualification of the respondents.

Dependent Variable: update knowledge (Y)

	Model Summary					Parameter Estimates	
Equation	**R Square**	**F**	**df1**	**df2**	**Sig.**	**Constant**	**b1**
Linear	0.024	2.410	1	96	0.124	1.281	0.144

The independent variable is education. (X)

The regression of Y on X is Y = aX + b where a =1.281 and b = 0.144

The line of best fit is shown in Figure 5.

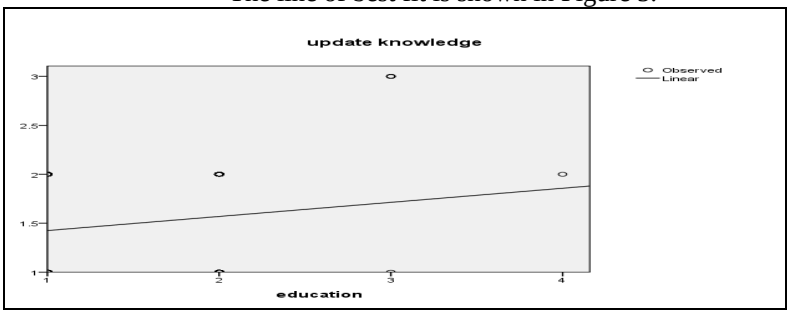

Figure 2

Dependent Variable: education (Y)

Equation	Model Summary					Parameter Estimates	
	R Square	F	df1	df2	Sig.	Constant	b1
Linear	0.160	18.246	1	96	0	1.224	0.131

The independent variable is which browser. (X)

The equation of the line of best fit of Y on X is given by

Y = 1.224 X + 0.131. Figure 6 depicts the line of best fit of Y on X.

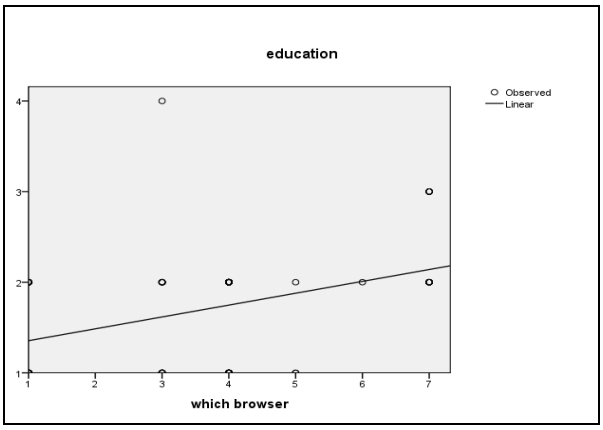

Figure 3

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