PURPOSE OF INTERNET USE AMONG KARNATAKA STATE OPEN UNIVERSITY (KSOU) PG STUDENTS: A STUDY

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Abstract: The aim of this paper is to study the purposes of Internet use among Karnataka State Open University (KSOU) PG students. A survey method was conducted and a well-structured questionnaire was used to collect data from a sample of 1350 students. A total of 1200 duly filled in questionnaire were received back. The collected data was analysed using SPSS software. The present study is made effort to determine the various factors regarding the use of Internet by distance learners of various disciplines of KSOU. The results obtained from the study have been discussed and evaluated. The results obtained provide information about the extent of Internet use for academic purposes, general purposes and purposes of visiting KSOU website. Various resources available on the internet.

Keywords: Purpose of Internet use, PG students, Karnataka State Open University.

1.0 Introduction

The rapid development of Internet in recent years influenced human life in many ways. Internet also increasingly boost the use of technology lies in education and it brings a new breath in the world information based education and communication. With the rapid growth of technology information can be obtained easily with just one click of a mouse. The Internet serves as a useful tool in support of the various educational activities that ranged from research to teaching. Undoubtedly, the use of internet has grown rapidly in the country's education system. Internet use has become a way of life in higher education sector around the world. Internet is very useful to Open University students because it enables them to have access to timely, accurate and relevant information.

Karnataka State Open University was established in the year 1996; earlier it was a part of University of Mysore as ICC & CE. The motto of this university is to provide "higher education to everyone everywhere" and KSOU is the only university of its kind in Karnataka, it offers courses for those who are unable to get higher education in formal universities or those who discontinued with their studies. There are 22 regional centres at different district of the state.

2.0 Literature Review

Thanuskodi (2011) presented a study on internet use among distance learners in the changing higher education environment at the Bharathiar University, The findings indicated that 79.80 % of the post graduate students were aware about the availability of internet whereas only 73.75 % of under graduate students. The study revealed that most of the respondents 61.36% use internet for studying course work. 48.48% of respondents use internet for writing papers, 36.36% respondents use for updating subject knowledge, 32.95% of respondents use internet for entertainment and 14.39% of users using internet for research work. The paper highlighted the various problems, and issues involved in handling internet and gave suggestions to improve the library services to meet the demands of the users.

Margaret & Eric (2010) explored the patterns and relationships between reading and Internet use activities of students. The students appreciated the importance of reading to their academic achievement, and were also

highly aware of the importance of the Internet for the timely acquisition of new information and knowledge. 61.5% of the students preferred Internet browsing to reading of printed books, journals and newspapers, 36.8% of them agreed that Internet use encouraged laziness in reading. The study recommended adequate library and Internet access facilities and programmes in Nigerian universities to promote balanced reading and Internet use activities among students.

Nazim (2008) reported the results of a survey conducted at Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) to determine the extent to which Internet users were aware and make use of the Internet resources and services. The study examined the information searching behavior of Internet users. A questionnaire and follow-up interviews with the postgraduate students, research scholars and academic staff were conducted to collect data. The data were analyzed according to the background of Internet users, Internet information searching behavior, use of Internet resources and services, quality of Internet information, problems of the Internet access and need for Internet literacy. The study found that the majority of respondents had a 5 year history of Internet access. Although Internet search engines were the preferred information searching tool, other methods such as databases, gateways and World Wide Web (WWW) were also used. Online journals and databases were the preferred information sources among the Internet users. Respondents chose e-mail, WWW and search engines as important Internet services. About 60% of respondents believed that the good quality of information on the Internet made it a useful tool for education and research. Slow speed, lack of training and information overload was indicated as some of the factors affecting Internet usage. Further, recommendations are made to improve the use of Internet, including a well-planned Internet literacy program and preparation of subject gateways.

Manish Kumar (2009) aim was to evaluate the use of the Internet at the University of Maiduguri, Nigeria. The Internet was very important for 60.77 percent of the participants in this study, with 74.62 percent using the Internet for research. Yahoo was the favourite e-mail provider for 79.23 percent of the respondents. Google was the favourite search engine for 71.54 percent of the participants in the survey. The study concluded that necessary facilities should be provided for faculty and students to use information resources available on the Internet.

Williams, Janet & Olayiwola (2009) examined the factors influencing use of the internet by students of the University of Ibadan, Nigeria, and to establish the variation use by students' personal characteristics, and as a result to recommend improvements where necessary to the benefit of the student community. Participants were recruited through a random sampling technique, and data were collected from them using a questionnaire. It has showed that students who communicate with varies significantly with age, gender and level of study while the various tools they use vary significantly with age, gender, faculty and level of study. Both younger users (<24 years) and older colleagues (>24 years) use chat rooms. Across gender, educational purpose dominates the use of the internet, but it varies with age, level of study and faculty. Higher educational level is associated with less use of the internet for leisure and entertainment. About 73 per cent of the respondents considered internet information as useful while much less than this (44.4 per cent) reported finding internet information as trustworthy.

3.0 Need and Scope of the Study

Use of internet by the distance learners is an important area of study on today's information environment. Internet exists to serve the need of the user. In order to fulfill the needs of the distance learners, internet support to access different kinds of web based sources & services. The present study demonstrates and elaborates the various aspects of use of internet like, academic and general purposes of use of internet and various resources available on the internet etc,. The findings of such a study may be taken into consideration in the university plans for effective and efficient use of internet by the KSOU students. This study confined to study the use of internet by the Post Graduate (PG) students of Karnataka State Open University (KSOU).

4.0 Objectives
1. To ascertain the academic purposes for which KSOU PG students use Internet
2. To study the general purposes for which KSOU PG students use Internet
3. To find the purpose of visiting KSOU website for which KSOU PG students use Internet.
4.   To know the Internet resources used by the KSOU PG students.

5.0 Methodology

In the light of objectives set forth the information has been collected from various Post Graduate (PG) students. The primary data has been collected from the respondents of various disciplines with the help of questionnaire.

A questionnaire is prepared and used as a tool for collecting the data. Collected data has been analysed by using SPSS software.

6.0 Results and Discussion

Table: 1 Academic Purposes for Using Internet by the Respondents

S/N	Academic Purposes for using internet	Responses in frequency and percentage					Mean	S.D	X^2	P
		1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**				
1	For information to supplement course materials	232 (19.3)	280 (23.3)	137 (11.4)	255 (21.3)	296 (24.7)	3.09	1.48	65.14	.000
2	To prepare assignments /seminars/ conferences papers / to participating in discussion meetings	40 (3.3)	174 (14.5)	117 (9.8)	439 (36.6)	430 (35.8)	3.87	1.15	563.28	.000
3	Research (**e.g.:**literature search; to use open reference source)	156 (13)	309 (25.8)	160 (13.3)	275 (22.9)	300 (25)	3.21	1.40	96.01	.000
4	To prepare for examination	38 (3.2)	197 (16.4)	143 (11.9)	514 (42.8)	308 (25.7)	3.71	1.11	549.01	.000
5	To publish research papers	325 (27.1)	515 (42.9)	286 (23.8)	34 (2.8)	40 (3.3)	2.12	0.95	697.51	.000
6 a	To use online journals	94 (7.8)	218 (18.2)	194 (16.2)	360 (30)	334 (27.8)	3.52	1.28	196.47	.000
6 b	To use e-Databases	185 (15.4)	271 (22.6)	166 (13.8)	399 (33.3)	179 (14.9)	3.10	1.33	160.27	.000
6 c	To find and download e-books	93 (7.8)	214 (17.8)	114 (9.5)	428 (35.7)	351 (29.3)	3.61	1.28	357.61	.000
6 d	To use e-theses/ Dissertation	220 (18.3)	362 (30.2)	165 (13.8)	196 (16.3)	257 (21.4)	2.92	1.43	96.39	.000
7	To access on line tutorials (**e.g.:** online MBA)	422 (35.2)	498 (41.5)	141 (11.8)	90 (7.5)	49 (4.1)	2.04	1.07	701.96	.000
8	To examine the articles or other publications available on the Internet	61 (5.1)	110 (99.2)	128 (10.7)	577 (48.1)	324 (27.0)	3.83	1.08	758.79	.000
9	To benefit from the forums related to education	16 (1.3)	252 (21.0)	297 (24.8)	387 (32.3)	248 (20.7)	3.50	1.07	313.50	.000
10	To get information about the topics I have learned during contact programme	243 (20.3)	382 (31.8)	216 (18.0)	187 (15.6)	172 (14.3)	2.72	1.33	117.425	.000

Note:- 1-Strongly Disagree; 2-Disagree; 3-Neutral; 4- Agree; 5-Strongly Agree: N= Total number of respondents, SD= Standard Deviation: x^2 = Chi-square: P= Probability.

From the table it may be seen that, **'for information to supplement course materials'** the biggest choice of the respondents is 'strongly agree' scoring 296 representing 24.7 percent. This is followed by 'disagree' scoring 280 representing23.3 percent. 255 respondents state 'agree' representing 21.3 percent. The choice 'strongly disagree' scores 232 representing 19.3 percent. The least choice by the respondents is 'neutral' scoring 137

representing 11.4 percent. This is supported by the **mean value 3.09 and SD value being 1.48 (x^2 =65.14; P=.000)**.

Further, '**To prepare assignments /seminars/ conferences papers / to participating in discussion meetings'**, the biggest choice of the respondents is 'agree' scoring 439 representing 36.6 percent. This is followed by the choice 'strongly agree' scoring 430 representing 35.8 percent. The choice 'disagree' scores 174 representing 14.5 percent. So also, the choice 'neutral' scores 117 representing 9.8 percent. The least choice of them is 'strongly agree' scores 40 representing 3.3 percent. This is supported by the **mean value 3.87 and SD value 1.15 (x^2 = 563.28; P=.000)**.

Similarly, the academic purpose of using Internet, **'Research' (e.g.: literature search; to use open reference source)'** about 309 respondents say 'disagree' representing 25.8 percent. This is followed by 'strongly agree' scoring 300 representing 25 percent. The choice 'agree' scores 275 representing 22.9 percent. 'Neutral' scores 160 representing 13.3 percent. Only 156 of them state 'strongly agree' representing 13 percent. **With the mean value 3.21 and SD being 1.40 (x^2 = 96.01; P=.000)**.

Further, for the purpose **'To prepare for examination'** the biggest choice of the respondents is 'agree' scoring 514 representing 42.8 percent. This is followed by the choice 'strongly agree' scoring 308 representing 25.7 percent. The choice 'disagree' scores 197 representing 16.4percent. So also, the choice ''neutral' scores 143 representing 11.9 percent. Only 38 of them say 'strongly disagree' representing 3.2 percent. This is supported by the **mean value 3.71 and SD value being 1.11 (x^2 = 549.01; P=.000)**.

Regarding, for the purpose **'To publish research papers'** the majority of the respondents say 'disagree' scoring 325 representing 42.9 percent. This is followed by the choice 'strongly disagree' scoring 325 representing 27.1 percent. The choice 'neutral' scores 286 representing 23.8 percent. So also, the choice 'strongly agree' scores 40 representing 3.3 percent. Only 34 of them state 'agree' representing 2.8 percent. This is supported by the **mean value 2.12 and SD value being 0.95 (x^2 = 697.51; P=.000)**.

Further, for the purpose **'To use online journals'** the biggest choice of the respondents is 'agree' scoring 360 representing 30 percent. About 334 of them say 'strongly agree' representing 27.8 percent. The choice 'disagree' scores 218 representing 18.2 percent. So also, the choice 'neutral' scores 194 representing 16.2 percent. Only about 94 of them say 'strongly disagree' representing 7.8 percent. This is supported by the **mean value 3.52 and SD value being 1.28 (x^2 = 196.47; P=.000)**.

Similarly, for the purpose **'To use e-Databases'** the biggest choice of the respondents is 'agree' scoring 39 representing 33.3 percent. This is followed by the choice 'disagree' scoring 271 representing 22.6 percent. The choice 'strongly disagree' scores 185 representing 15.4 percent. So also, the choice 'strongly agree' scoring 179 representing 14.9 percent. The least choice by the respondents is 'neutral' scores 166 representing 13.8 percent. This is supported by the **mean value 3.10 and SD being 1.33 (x^2 = 160.27; P=.000)**.

Regarding, the purpose of using Internet by the respondents, **'to find and download e-books'**, the biggest choice of them is 'agree' scoring 428 representing 35.7 percent. This is followed by the choice 'strongly agree' scoring 351 representing 29.3 percent. The choice 'disagree' scores 214 representing 17.8 percent. So also, 'neutral' scores 114 representing 9.5 percent. Only about 93 of them state 'strongly disagree' representing 7.8 percent. This is supported by the **mean value 3.61 and SD being 1.28 (x^2 = 357.61; P=.000)**.

Similarly, the purpose of using Internet by the respondents, **'To use e-theses/ Dissertation'**, the biggest choice of them is 'disagree' scoring 362 representing 30.2 percent. This is followed by the choice 'strongly agree' scoring 257 representing 21.4 percent. The choice 'strongly disagree' scores 220 representing 18.3 percent. 196 of them state 'agree' representing 16.3 percent. Only about 165 of them state 'neutral' representing 13.8 percent. This is supported by the **mean value 2.92 and SD being 1.43 (x^2 = 96.39; P=.000)**.

Further, the purpose of using Internet by the respondents, **'to access on line tutorials (e.g.: online MBA)'**, the biggest choice of them is 'disagree' scoring 498 representing 41.5 percent. This is followed by the choice 'strongly disagree' scoring 422 representing 35.2 percent. The choice 'neutral' scores 141 representing 11.8 percent. So also, the choice 'agree' scores 90 representing 7.5 percent. Only about 49 of them state 'strongly agree' representing 4.1 percent. This is supported by the **mean value 2.04 and SD being 1.07 (x^2 = 701.96; P=.000)**.

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Table: 2 General Purposes for Using Internet by the Respondents

S/N	General purpose for using Internet	Responses in frequency and percentage					Mean	S.D	X^2	P
		1	2	3	4	5				
1	For current awareness and to update knowledge for competitive exams	173 (14.4)	287 (23.9)	133 (11.1)	327 (27.3)	280 (23.3)	3.21	1.41	113.817	.000
2	To search and apply for jobs	208 (17.3)	346 (28.8)	213 (17.8)	199 (16.6)	234 (19.5)	2.92	1.39	61.275	.000
3	To visit websites of government and other statutory bodies	190 (15.8)	266 (22.2)	183 (15.3)	249 (20.8)	312 (26.0)	3.19	1.44	48.708	.000
4	To book online tickets (**e.g.:**air, train, bus, movies etc.)	213 (17.8)	386 (32.2)	235 (19.6)	149 (12.4)	217 (18.1)	2.81	1.36	128.667	.000
5	For e-banking	243 (20.3)	382 (31.8)	216 (18.0)	187 (15.6)	172 (14.3)	2.72	1.33	117.425	.000
6	For paying bills(**e.g.:** electricity, mobile)	242 (20.2)	324 (27.0)	193 (16.1)	196 (16.3)	245 (20.4)	2.90	1.43	46.792	.000
7	Entertainment									
7a	Movies	356 (29.7)	504 (42.0)	175 (14.6)	71 (5.9)	94 (7.8)	2.20	1.16	571.892	.000
7b	You Tube	301 (25.1)	476 (39.7)	164 (13.7)	115 (9.6)	144 (12.0)	2.44	1.29	375.142	.000
8	Communication and Social Networking									
8a	email	66 (5.5)	202 (16.8)	109 (9.1)	422 (35.2)	401 (33.4)	3.74	1.24	449.692	.000
8b	Blog	250 (20.8)	321 (26.8)	188 (15.7)	205 (17.1)	236 (19.7)	2.88	1.43	44.192	.000
8c	Face Book	120 (10.0)	262 (21.8)	137 (11.4)	311 (25.9)	370 (30.8)	3.46	1.38	197.642	.000
8d	Twitter	223 (18.6)	447 (37.3)	122 (10.2)	185 (15.4)	223 (18.6)	2.79	1.40	251.567	.000
9	To read newspapers on line									
9a	International	278 (23.2)	460 (38.3)	233 (19.4)	159 (13.3)	70 (5.8)	2.40	1.15	355.642	.000
9b	National	274 (22.8)	350 (29.2)	127 (10.6)	226 (18.8)	223 (18.6)	2.81	1.45	110.458	.000
9c	Regional	164 (13.7)	269 (22.4)	94 (7.8)	351 (29.3)	322 (26.8)	3.33	1.42	195.742	.000
9d	Local	190 (15.8)	344 (28.7)	136 (11.3)	240 (20.0)	290 (24.2)	3.08	1.44	110.967	.000

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10	To read general magazines on line									
10a	International	279 (23.3)	465 (38.8)	243 (20.3)	150 (12.5)	63 (5.3)	2.38	1.12	381.600	.000
10b	National	226 (18.8)	367 (30.6)	108 (9.0)	240 (20.0)	259 (21.6)	2.95	1.46	142.125	.000
10c	Regional	198 (16.5)	328 (27.3)	101 (8.4)	248 (20.7)	325 (27.1)	3.14	1.48	150.492	.000
10d	Local	208 (17.3)	352 (29.3)	138 (11.5)	216 (18.0)	286 (23.8)	3.02	1.46	111.100	.000
11	To watch on line TV	649 (54.1)	324 (27.0)	146 (12.2)	41 (3.4)	40 (3.3)	1.75	1.02	1094.892	.000
12	Online Shopping									
12a	Amazon	183 (15.3)	289 (24.1)	164 (13.7)	249 (20.8)	315 (26.3)	3.19	1.44	71.383	.000
12b	Flip kart	158 (13.2)	265 (22.1)	155 (12.9)	329 (27.4)	293 (24.4)	3.28	1.39	105.433	.000
12c	eBay	172 (14.3)	306 (25.5)	194 (16.2)	218 (18.2)	310 (25.8)	3.16	1.42	68.667	.000
12d	Snap deal	208 (17.3)	281 (23.4)	147 (12.3)	240 (20.0)	324 (27.0)	3.16	1.48	76.708	.000
13	To participate in video conferences (**e.g.:** Skype)	205 (17.1)	247 (20.6)	199 (16.6)	253 (21.1)	296 (24.7)	3.16	1.44	26.083	.000
14	To use Smartphone applications (**e.g.:** Whats App; Viber etc)	43 (3.6)	75 (6.3)	73 (6.1)	374 (3.12)	635 (52.9)	4.23	1.05	1116.267	.000

Note:- 1-Strongly Disagree; 2-Disagree; 3-Neutral; 4- Agree; 5-Strongly Agree: N= Total number of respondents, SD= Standard Deviation: x^2 = Chi-square: P= Probability.

It is observed from the table that, the general purposes of using Internet, **'for current awareness and to update knowledge for competitive exams'**, the biggest choice of the respondents is 'agree' scoring 327 representing 27.3 percent. This is followed by the choice 'disagree' scoring 287 representing23.9 percent. The choice 'strongly agree' scores 280 representing 23.3 percent. So also, 'strongly disagree' scoring 173 representing 14.4 percent. Only 133 of them say 'neutral' representing11.1 percent. This is supported by the **mean value 3.21 and SD being 1.41 (x^2 = 113.817; P=.000)**.

Similarly, for general purpose **'to search and apply for jobs'** the biggest choice of the respondents is 'disagree' scoring 346 representing 28.8 percent. This is followed by 'strongly agree' scoring 234 representing19.5 percent. The choice 'neutral' scores 213 representing 17.8 percent. So also, the choice 'strongly disagree' scores 208 representing 17.3 percent. 199 of them say 'agree' representing 16.6 percent. This is supported by the **mean value 2.92 and SD being 1.39 (x^2 = 61.275   ; P=.000)**.

Further, for general purpose **'to visit websites of government and other statutory bodies'** the biggest choice of the respondents is 'strongly agree' scoring 312 representing 26.0 percent. This is followed by 'disagree' scoring 266 representing 22.2 percent. The choice 'agree' scores 249 representing 20.8 percent. 190 of them state 'strongly disagree' representing 15.8 percent. Only 183 of the respondents say 'neutral' representing 15.3 percent. This is supported by the **mean value 3.19 and SD being 1.44 (x^2 = 48.708; P=.000)**.

In the case of use of Internet for general purpose, **'to book online tickets (e.g.:air, train, bus, movies etc.)'**. About 386 of the respondents state 'disagree' representing 32.2 percent. This is followed by the choice 'neutral' scoring 235 representing 19.6 percent. The Choice 'strongly agree' scores 217 representing 18.1 percent. The choice 'strongly disagree' scores 213 representing 17.8 percent. The least choice of them is 'agree' scores 149 representing 12.4 percent. This is supported by the **mean value 2.81 and SD being 1.36 (x^2 = 128.667; P=.000)**.

'For e-banking' the biggest choice of the respondents is 'disagree' scoring 382 representing 31.8 percent. This is followed by the 'strongly disagree' scoring 243 representing 2.3 percent. 'Neutral' the choice scores 216 representing 18.0 percent. The choice 'agree' scores 187 representing 15.6 percent. Only 172 of them state 'strongly agree' representing 14.3 percent. This is supported by the **mean value 2.72 and SD being 1.33 (x^2 = 117.425; P=.000)**.

Towards the general purpose, **'for paying bills (e.g.: electricity, mobile)'**, majority of the respondents state 'disagree' scoring 324 representing 27.0 percent. This is followed by 'strongly agree' scoring 245 representing 20.4 percent. About 242 of them say 'strongly disagree' scoring 20.2 percent. So also, the choice 'agree' scores 196 representing 16.3 percent. Only 193 of them state 'neutral' representing 16.1 percent. This is supported by the **mean value 2.90 and SD being 1.43 (x^2 = 46.792; P=.000)**.

In the case of use of Internet for general purpose like **'entertainment'** in that 'movies' about 504 say 'disagree' representing 42.0 percent. This is followed by the choice 'strongly disagree' scoring 356 representing 29.7 percent. The choice 'neutral' scores 175 representing 14.6 percent. 'Strongly agree' scores 94 representing 7.8 percent. Only 71 of them say 'agree' representing 5.9 percent. This is supported by the **mean value 2.20 and SD being 1.16 (x^2 = 571.892; P=.000)**.

In the case of use of Internet for general purpose like **'you tube'**, the biggest choice of the respondents is 'disagree' scoring 476 representing 39.7 percent. This is followed by the choice 'strongly disagree' scoring 301 representing 25.1 percent. The choice 'neutral' scores 164 representing 13.7 percent. About 144 states 'Strongly agree' scoring 12.0 percent. The choice 'agrees' scores 115 representing 9.6 percent. This is supported by the **mean value 2.44 and SD being 1.29 (x^2 = 375.142; P=.000)**.

In the case of use of Internet for general purpose **'email'**, the biggest choice of the respondents is 'agree' scoring 422 representing 35.2 percent. About 401 respondents are with the opinion 'strongly agree' representing 33.4 percent. This is followed by the choice 'disagree' scoring 202 representing 16.8 percent. So also, the choice 'neutral' scores 109 representing 9.1 percent. Only about 66 of them say 'Strongly disagree' representing 5.5 percent. This is supported by the **mean value 3.74 and SD being 1.24 (x^2 = 449.692; P=.000)**.

Similarly, the general purpose of using Internet **'Blog'**, majority of the respondents state 'disagree' scoring 321 representing 26.8 percent. This is followed by the choice 'strongly disagree' scoring 250 representing 20.8 percent. The choice 'strongly agree' scores 236 representing 19.7 percent. About 205 states 'agree' representing 17.1 percent. So also, the choice 'neutral' scores 188 representing 15.7 percent. This is supported by the **mean value 2.88 and SD being 1.43 (x^2 = 44.192; P=.000)**.

The purpose of using Internet **'face book'**, the biggest opinion of the respondents is 'strongly agree' scoring 370 representing 30.8 percent. This is followed by the opinion 'agree' scoring 311 representing 25.9 percent. The choice 'disagree' scores 262 representing 21.8 percent. About 137 of them state 'neutral' scoring 11.4 percent. Only 120 of the respondents say 'strongly disagree' representing 10.0 percent. This is supported by the **mean value 3.46 and SD being 1.38 (x^2 = 197.642; P=.000)**.

Further, the general purpose of using the Internet **'twitter'**, the biggest choice of the respondents is 'disagree' scoring 447 representing 37.3 percent. This is followed by the choice 'strongly agree' scoring 223 representing 18.6 percent and 'strongly disagree' scoring 223 representing 18.6 percent. The choice 'agree' scores 185 representing 15.4 percent. S also, the choice 'neutral' scores 122 representing 10.2 percent. This is supported by the **mean value 2.79 and SD being 1.40 (x^2 = 251.567; P=.000)**.

Similarly, the general purpose of using Internet **'to read news paper online- international'** the biggest opinion of the respondents is 'disagree' scoring 460 representing 38.3 percent. This is followed by the choice 'strongly disagree' scoring 278 representing 23.2 percent. The choice 'neutral' scores 233 representing 19.4 percent. 159 of them state 'agree' representing 13.3 percent. The least choice of them is 'strongly agree' scoring 70 representing 5.8 percent. With a **mean value 2.40 and SD value being 1.15 (x^2 = 355.642; P=.000)**.

Further, **'to read newspaper online-national'** the biggest choice of the respondents is 'disagree' scoring 350 representing 29.2 percent. This is followed by the opinion 'strongly disagree' scoring 274 representing 22.8

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percent. The opinion 'agree' scores 226 representing 18.8 percent. So also, the opinion 'strongly agree' scores 223 representing 18.6 percent. The least opinion of them is 'neutral' scoring 127 representing 10.6 percent. This is supported by the **mean value 2.81 and SD being 1.45 (x^2 = 251.567; P=.000)**.

Similarly, **'to read newspaper online-regional'** the majority of the respondents say 'agree' scoring 351 representing 29.3 percent. This is followed by the opinion 'strongly disagree' scoring 322 representing 26.8 percent. The opinion 'disagree' scores 269 representing 22.4 percent. So also, the opinion 'strongly disagree' scores 164 representing 13.7 percent. The least opinion of them is 'neutral' scoring 94 representing 7.8 percent. This is supported by the **mean value 3.33 and SD being 1.42 (x^2 = 195.742; P=.000)**.

When it comes '**to read newspaper online-local'**, the biggest opinion by the respondents is 'disagree' scoring 344 representing 28.7 percent. This is followed by the choice 'strongly agree' scoring 290 representing 24.2 percent. The opinion 'agree' scores 240 representing 20.0 percent. 190 of them say 'strongly disagree' representing 15.8 percent. The least opinion 'neutral' scores 136 representing 11.3 percent. This is supported by the **mean value 3.08 and SD being 1.44 (x^2 = 111.100; P=.000)**.

In the case of using Internet **'to read general magazines online - international'** the biggest choice of the respondents is 'disagree' scoring 465 representing 38.8 percent. This is followed by the opinion 'strongly disagree' scoring 279 representing 23.3 percent. The opinion 'neutral' scores 243 representing 20.3 percent. 150 of them say 'agree' representing 12.5 percent. The least opinion of them is 'strongly agree' scoring 63 representing 5.3 percent with a **mean value 2.38 and SD being 1.12 (x^2 = 381.600; P=.000)**.

Further, **'to read general magazines online - national'** majority of the respondents say 'disagree' scoring 367 representing 30.6 percent. This is followed by the choice 'strongly agree' scoring 259 representing 21.6 percent. The choice 'agree' scores 240 representing 20.0 percent. So also, the choice 'strongly disagree' scores 226 representing 18.8 percent. The least choice of the respondents is 'neutral' scoring 108 representing 9.0 percent. This is supported by the **mean value 2.95 and SD being 1.46 (x^2 = 142.125; P=.000)**.

Similarly, **'to read general magazines online - regional'** the biggest choice of the respondents is 'disagree' scoring 328 representing 27.3 percent. This is followed by the choice 'strongly agree' scoring 325 representing 27.1 percent. The choice 'agree' scores 248 representing 20.7 percent. So also, the choice 'strongly disagree' scores 198 representing 16.5 percent. The least choice of the respondents is 'neutral' scoring 101 representing 8.4 percent. This is supported by the **mean value 3.14 and SD being 1.48 (x^2 = 150.492; P=.000)**.

'To read general magazines online - local' the biggest choice of the respondents is 'disagree' scoring 352 representing 29.3 percent. This is followed by the choice 'strongly agree' scoring 286 representing 23.8 percent. The choice 'agree' scores 216 representing 18.0 percent. 208 of them say 'strongly disagree' representing 17.3 percent. The least choice of the respondents is 'neutral' scoring 138 representing 11.5 percent. This is supported by the **mean value 3.02 and SD being 1.46 (x^2 = 111.100; P=.000)**.

In the case **'to watch online TV'**, the biggest choice of the respondents is 'strongly disagree' scoring 649 representing 54.1 percent. This is followed by the choice 'disagree' scoring 324 representing 27.0 percent. The opinion 'neutral' scores 146 representing 12.2 percent. The choice 'agree' scores 41 representing 3.4 percent. The least choice 'strongly agree' scoring 40 representing 3.3 percent. This is supported by the **mean value 1.75 and SD being 1.02 (x^2 = 1094.892; P=.000)**.

In the case of use of Internet for **'online shopping – amazon'**, majority of the respondents say 'strongly agree' scoring 315 representing 26.3 percent. This is followed by the opinion 'disagree' scoring 289 representing 24.1 percent. The opinion 'agree' scores 249 representing 20.8 percent. So also, the 'strongly disagree' scores 183 representing 15.3 percent. The least opinion by them is 'neutral' scoring 164 representing 13.7 percent. This is supported by the **mean value 3.19 and SD being 1.44 (x^2 = 71.383; P=.000)**.

Similarly, the general purpose of using Internet for **'online shopping – flip kart'**, majority of the respondents say 'agree' scoring 329 representing 27.4 percent. This is followed by 'strongly agree' scoring 293 representing24.4 percent. About 265 of them say 'disagree' representing 22.1 percent. So also, the opinion 'strongly disagree' scores 158 representing 13.2 percent. The least opinion 'neutral' scores 155 representing 12.9 percent. This is supported by the **mean value 3.28 and SD being 1.39 (x^2 = 105.433; P=.000)**.

'Online shopping –e Bay', the biggest choice of the respondents is 'strongly agree' scoring 310 representing 25.8 percent. This is followed by the choice 'disagree' scoring 306 representing 25.5 percent. The choice 'agree' scores 218 representing 18.2 percent. So also, the choice 'neutral' scores 194 representing 16.2 percent. The least choice 'strongly disagree' scores 172 representing 14.3 percent with the **mean value 3.16 and SD being 1.42 (x^2 = 68.667; P=.000)**.

Further, **'online shopping – Snap deal'**, majority of the respondents state 'strongly agree' scoring 324 representing 27.0 percent. This is followed by 'agree' scoring 281 representing 23.4 percent. The opinion 'agree' scores 240 representing 20.0 percent. About 208 of them state 'strongly disagree' scoring 208 representing 17.3 percent. The least opinion of them is 'neutral' scoring 147 representing 12.3 percent. This is supported by the **mean value 3.16 and SD being 1.48 (x^2 = 76.708; P=.000)**.

Use of Internet for the general purpose **'to participate in video conferences (e.g.: Skype)'**, the biggest choice of the respondents is 'agree' scoring 253 representing 21.1 percent. This is followed by the choice 'strongly agree' scoring 296 representing 24.7 percent. The choice 'disagree' scores 247 representing 20.6 percent. About 205 of them say 'strongly disagree' scoring 17.1 percent. The least choice by them is 'neutral' scoring 199 representing 16.6 percent. With the **mean value 3.16 and SD being 1.44 (x^2 = 26.083; P=.000)**.

The general purpose of use of Internet for **'to use Smartphone applications (e.g.: Whats App; Viber etc)'**, majority of the respondents say 'strongly agree' scoring 635 representing 52.9 percent. This is followed by 'agree' scoring 374 representing 3.12 percent. The choice 'disagree' scores 75 representing 6.3 percent. So also, the choice 'neutral' scores 73 representing 6.1 percent. The least choice by them is 'strongly disagree' scoring 43 representing 3.6 percent. This is supported by the **mean value 4.23 and SD being 1.05 (x^2 = 1116.267; P=.000)**.

Table: 3 Purposes of Visiting Ksou Website

S/N	Purpose of visiting KSOU Website	Responses in frequency and percentage					Mean	S.D	X^2	P
		1	2	3	4	5				
1	To know courses/programmes of KSOU	61 (5.1)	110 (9.2)	128 (10.7)	577 (48.1)	324 (27.0)	3.83	1.08	758.79	.000
2	To register courses and enroll for exams	163 (13.6)	239 (19.9)	161 (13.4)	350 (29.2)	287 (23.9)	3.30	1.38	110.33	.000
3	To send mail and to communicate with faculties, officers or staff	190 (15.8)	328 (27.3)	193 (16.1)	241 (20.1)	248 (20.7)	3.02	1.39	52.16	.000
4	To check KSOU notifications and circulars	24 (2.0)	82 (6.8)	119 (9.9)	721 (60.1)	254 (21.2)	3.92	0.87	1324.24	.000
5	To browse E-resources of KSOU library	57 (4.8)	300 (25.0)	198 (16.5)	372 (31.0)	273 (22.8)	3.42	1.22	239.03	.000
6	To access KSOU online courses	217 (18.1)	552 (46.0)	211 (17.6)	125 (10.4)	95 (7.9)	2.44	1.14	554.02	.000
7	To check the result	8 (.7)	15 (1.3)	42 (3.5)	571 (47.6)	564 (47.0)	4.93	0.68	2019.71	.000
8	To check exam time-table	93 (h8)	214 (17.8)	158 (13.2)	496 (41.3)	239 (19.9)	3.48	1.22	393.94	.000
9	To check contact programme date and time-table	155 (12.9)	297 (24.8)	238 (19.8)	241 (20.1)	269 (22.4)	3.14	1.36	47.17	.000
10	To check syllabus	165 (13.8)	305 (25.4)	205 (17.1)	277 (23.1)	248 (20.7)	3.11	1.36	52.11	.000
11	To check the scholarship details	135 (11.3)	322 (26.8)	172 (14.3)	300 (25.0)	271 (22.6)	3.21	1.35	112.22	.000
12	To download previous year question papers	115 (9.6)	296 (24.7)	191 (15.9)	327 (27.3)	271 (22.6)	3.29	1.31	123.72	.000
13	To browse OPAC of KSOU library	38 (3.2)	288 (24.0)	195 (16.3)	520 (43.3)	159 (13.3)	3.39	1.08	542.06	.000

Note:- 1-Strongly Disagree; 2-Disagree; 3-Neutral; 4- Agree; 5-Strongly Agree: N= Total number of respondents, SD= Standard Deviation: x^2 = Chi-square: P= Probability.

It may be seen from the table that, the purpose of visiting KSOU website, **'to know courses /programmes of KSOU'**, majority of the respondents opinion is 'agree' scoring 577 representing 48.1 percent. This is followed by the opinion 'strongly agree' scoring 324 representing 27.0 percent. The opinion 'neutral' scores 128 representing 10.7 percent. So also, the opinion 'disagree' scores 110 representing 9.2 percent. The least opinion of them 'strongly disagree' scores 61 representing 5.1 percent. This is supported by the **mean value 3.83 and SD being 1.08 (x^2 = 758.79; P=.000)**.

Further, **'to register courses and enroll for exams'**, majority of the respondents revealed the opinion 'agree' scoring 350 representing 29.2 percent. 'Strongly agree' scores 287 representing 23.9 percent. The opinion 'disagree' scores 239 representing 19.9 percent. So also, 'strongly disagree' scoring 163 representing 13.6 percent. The least opinion of them 'neutral' scores 161 representing 13.4 percent. With the **mean value 3.30 and SD being 1.38 (x^2 = 110.33; P=.000)**.

Similarly, the purpose of visiting KSOU website, **'to send mail and to communicate with faculties, officers or staff'**, the biggest choice of the respondents is 'disagree' scoring 328 representing 27.3 percent. This is followed by 'strongly agree' scoring 248 representing 20.7 percent. The choice 'agree' scores 241 representing 20.1 percent. About 193 of them state 'neutral' scoring 193 representing 16.1 percent. The least choice of them is 'strongly agree' scoring 190 representing 15.8 percent. This is supported by the **mean value 3.02 and SD being 1.39 (x^2 = 52.16; P=.000)**.

Further, the purpose of visiting KSOU library **'to check KSOU notifications and circulars's**, the biggest choice of the respondents is ' agree' scoring 721 representing 60.1 percent. This is followed by 'strongly agree' scoring 254 representing 21.2 percent. The choice 'neutral' scores 119 representing 9.9 percent. So also, 'disagree' scores 82 representing 6.8 percent. The least choice of the respondents is 'strongly disagree' scoring 34 representing 2.0 percent. This is supported by the **mean value 3.92 and SD being0.87 (x^2 = 1324.24; P=.000)**.

'To browse OPAC of KSOU library' majority of the respondents are with 'agree' scoring 520 representing 43.3. This is followed by 'disagree' scoring 288 representing 24.0 percent. The choice 'neutral' scores 195 representing 16.3 percent. So also, the choice 'strongly agree' scoring 159 representing 13.3 percent. The least choice by them is 'strongly disagree' scoring 38 representing 3.2 percent. With the **mean value 3.39 and SD being 1.08 (x^2 = 239.03; P=.000)**.

Further, **'to browse E-resources of KSOU library'** the biggest choice of the respondents is 'agree' scoring 372 representing 31.0 percent. This is followed by 'disagree' scoring 300 representing 25.0 percent. The choice 'strongly agree' scores 273 representing 22.8 percent. So also, the choice 'neutral' scores 198 representing 16.56 percent. The least choice 'strongly disagree' scores 57 representing 4.8 percent. This is supported by the **mean value 3.42 and SD being 1.22 (x^2 = 239.03; P=.000)**.

'To access KSOU online courses', majority of the respondents state 'disagree' scoring552 representing 46.0 percent. This is followed by the option 'strongly disagree' scoring 217 representing 18.1 percent. 211 respondents say 'neutral' representing 17.6 percent. About 125 of them state 'agree' representing 10.4 percent. The least option by them is 'strongly disagree' scoring 95 representing 7.9 percent. This is supported by the mean **value 2.44 and SD being 1.14 (x^2 = 554.02; P=.000)**.

Similarly, the purpose of visiting KSOU website **'to check the result'** the biggest choice of the respondents is 'agree' scoring 571 representing 47.6 percent. This is followed by 'strongly agree' scoring 564 representing 47.0 percent. The choice 'neutral' scores 42 representing 3.5 percent. So also, 'disagree' scores 15 representing 1.3 percent. The least choice of them is 'strongly disagree' scoring 8 representing 0.7 percent. This is supported by the **mean value 4.93 and SD being 0.68 (x^2 = 2019.71; P=.000)**.

Further, **'to check exam time-table'**, majority of the respondents state 'agree' scoring 496 representing 41.3 percent. This is followed by 'strongly agree' scoring 239 representing 19.9 percent. The choice 'disagree' scores 214 representing 17.8 percent. So also, 'neutral scores 158 representing 13.2 percent. The choice 'strongly disagree scores 93 representing 8 percent. This is supported by the **mean value 3.48 and SD being 1.22 (x^2 = 393.94; P=.000)**.

Regarding the purpose of the visiting KSOU website **'to check contact programme date and time-table'** the biggest choice of the respondents is 'disagree' scoring 297 representing 24.8 percent. This is followed by 'strongly agree' scoring 269 representing 22.4 percent. The choice 'agree' scores 241 representing 20.1 percent. So also, 'neutral' scores 238 representing 19.8 percent. The least choice of them is 'strongly agree'

scores 155 representing 12.9 percent. This is supported by **the mean value 3.14 and SD being 1.36 (x^2 = 47.17; P=.000)**.

Further **'to check syllabus'** the biggest choice by the respondents is 'disagree' scoring 305 representing 25.4 percent. This is followed by 'agree' scoring 277 representing 23.1 percent. The choice 'strongly agree' scores 248 representing 20.7 percent. So also, the choice 'neutral' scores 205 representing 17.1 percent. 'Strongly disagree' scores 165 representing 13.8 percent. This is supported by the **mean value 3.11 and SD being 1.36 (x^2 = 52.11; P=.000)**.

'To check the scholarship details', the majority of the respondents state 'disagree' scoring 322 representing 26.8 percent. This is followed by the choice 'agree' scoring 300 representing 25.0 percent. The choice 'strongly agree' scores 271 representing 22.6 percent. So also, 'neutral' scores 172 representing 14.3 percent. The choice 'strongly disagree' scores 135 representing 11.3 percent. This is supported by the **mean value 3.21 and SD being 1.35 (x^2 = 112.22s; P=.000)**.

Similarly, the purpose of visiting KSOU website **'to download previous year question papers'**, the biggest opinion of the respondents is 'agree' scoring 327 representing 27.3 percent. This is followed by 'disagree' scoring 296 representing 24.7 percent. The choice 'strongly agree' scores 271 representing 22.6 percent. About 191 of the respondents say 'neutral' representing 15.9 percent. The least opinion of them is 'strongly agree' scoring 115 representing 9.6 percent. This is supported by the **mean value 3.29 and SD being 1.31 (x^2 = 123.72; P=.000)**.

Table: 4 Techniques Used for Searching and Accessing Information on the Internet

S/N	Techniques	Responses in frequency and percentage					Mean	S.D	X^2	P
		1	2	3	4	5				
1	Author search	6 (.5)	75 (6.3)	122 (10.2)	794 (66.2)	203 (16.9)	3.93	0.75	1684.13	.000
2	Title search	19 (1.6)	133 (11.1)	130 (10.8)	431 (35.9)	487 (40.6)	4.03	1.05	707.83	.000
3	Subject search	64 (5.3)	297 (24.8)	169 (14.1)	452 (37.7)	218 (18.2)	3.39	1.19	352.89	.000
4	Keyword search	14 (1.2)	128 (10.7)	129 (10.8)	318 (26.5)	611 (50.9)	4.15	1.06	915.28	.000
5	Boolean Operation/ Combine Search	52 (4.3)	529 (44.1)	336 (28.0)	189 (15.8)	94 (7.8)	2.79	1.02	633.33	.000

Note: - 1- Not at all ; 2- <25%; 3- 25%-50%; 4- 50%-75%; 5- >75%: N= Total number of respondents, SD= Standard Deviation: x^2 = Chi-square: P= Probability.

It may be seen from the table 5.22, techniques used for searching and accessing information on Internet by the respondents.

In the case **'Author search'**, the biggest choice of the respondents is '50-75%' scoring 794 representing 66.2 percent. This is followed by the choice '>75%' scoring 203 representing 16.9 percent. The choice '25-50%' scores 122 representing 10.2 percent. About 75 of the respondents state '<25%' representing 6.3 percent. The least choice 'Not at all' scores 6 representing 0.5 percent. This is supported by the **mean value 3.93 and SD being 0.75 (x^2 =1684.13; P=.000)**.

Further, **'Title search'**, majority of the respondents are in agreement with the opinion '<75%' scoring 487 representing 40.6 percent. This is followed by the opinion '50-75%' scoring 431 representing 35.9 percent. About 133 of the respondents state '<25%' representing 11.1 percent. So also, the choice '25-50%' scores 130 representing 10.8 percent. The least choice 'Not at all' scores 64 representing 5.3 percent. This is supported by the mean **value 4.03 and SD being 1.05 (x^2 =707.83; P=.000)**.

Similarly **'Subject search'**, the biggest opinion of the respondents is '50-75%' scoring 452 representing 37.7 percent. This is followed by the opinion '<25%' scoring 297 representing 24.8 percent. So also, the opinion '>75%' scores 218 representing 18.2 percent. About 169 of the respondents say '25-50%' representing 14.1 percent. The least choice 'Not at all' scores 14 representing 1.2 percent. This is supported by the **mean value 4.15 and SD being 1.06 (x^2 =915.28; P=.000)**.

Regarding the techniques used for searching and accessing information 'Boolean operation/Combine search', the biggest choice of the respondents is '<25%' scoring 529 representing 44.1 percent. This is followed by the choice '25-50%' scoring 336 representing 28.0 percent. About 189 of the respondents state '50-75%' representing 15.8 percent. So also, the choice '>75%' scores 94 representing 7.8 percent. The least choice 'Not at all' scores 52 representing 4.3 percent. This is supported by the **mean value 2.79 and SD being 1.02 (x^2 =633.33; P=.000)**.

7.0 Conclusion

A rapid change in information accessing and use of Internet has become the vital part of various information needs. The users develop the skills and knowledge to use the internet resources and services. The Internet is the most important source of accessing information for the distance learners. It is proved that the internet save the times of the users. Majority of the KSOU PG students are aware of internet use and also use internet both for academic as well as general purpose. This study helps to improve the facilities and services related to internet access to KSOU PG students.

8.0 References

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