

## RESEARCH NOTE

## Knowledge and Awareness of PG Students of CoA, Pune about Information Technology Tools

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### ABSTRACT

*The results of the study revealed that cent percent students were having knowledge about various websites used for academic, research purpose and they accessed weekly, also they had knowledge about social networking sites and its use. As regard to knowledge about Microsoft office all students had knowledge about MS word and its application, followed by MS power point and MS excel. It is also revealed that most of the post graduate students were awared about functioning of Kisan Call Centres, followed by role of Agricultural Technology Information Centres, Video conferencing in agriculture. Majority of students' awared about concept of e- learning etc. Thus the post graduate students were using a wide range of computer aided information technology tools for different purpose at different intervals. The constraints faced are viz. unavailability of Wi-Fi connection and latest operating systems, no access to e- library. Hence the Wi-Fi facility should be provided to the students, regular maintenance and updation of systems is necessary, strengthening of e-library of the college to serve students information needs.*

**Key words:** Knowledge; Awareness; Information technology tools;

It is an era of information technology revolution where information technology (IT) tools plays a significant role in knowledge development, communication, information management and its application in several fields. In educational field, computers can support the variety of ways, it has made teaching learning more meaningful and interesting, learners can construct their own understanding. In the IT globalised world there is vast scope for accessing the information and its application in education, research and several fields. Its a world of magic, technology can choose various options for information generation, storage, and retrieval. Multimedia software can mix text, pictures, sound, and motion to provide a variety of options for learners. Introducing technology into the learning environment can encourage interactive and cooperative learning.

Thus, information technology empowers students with knowledge, skills, work efficiency etc. Today's college students have woven technology into their everyday repertoire of communication and connection

tools. IT applications in agriculture field offer enormous potential in enhancing the efficiency of planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of agricultural research, education, extension, programmes. In Agricultural Education field, post graduate students and under graduate students are using the multimedia, internet for different purpose and active in social networking. In order to know the awareness and status of use of information technology tools by the students, present study was conducted with the following objectives.

1. To study the knowledge and extent of use of information technology tools by post graduate students.
2. To study the awareness of post graduate students regarding various interventions of information technology in agriculture.
3. To study the constraints faced by the post graduate students regarding use of information technology tools.

## METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted in College of Agriculture, Pune which is one of the historical and constituent college of Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri. At college level under graduate as well as post graduate degree programmes are being implemented. For the present study post graduate students were purposively selected as respondents. List of these students was obtained from Academic Branch of College of Agriculture, Pune. From the obtained list, total 63 post graduate students who represent all the disciplines of post graduate degree programme were randomly selected for the study. Keeping in view the objectives of study, an interview schedule was designed in English to get accurate response from all the respondents. Data was analysed in terms of statistical tools like frequency and percentage.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Knowledge and extent of use of computer aided IT tools by the students Post graduate students use a wide range of computer aided information technology tools for different purpose viz. information seeking, communication, research, entertainment, job search - recruitment and general awareness etc. The data regarding this is presented in Table 1.

*Knowledge and extent of use of Internet services by the students* : Data given in Table 1 indicated that 100.00 per cent students had knowledge regarding academic,

research and agriculture related websites and most (85.71%) of the students were using internet weekly for academic, research and agriculture study purpose. Further data indicated that 100.00 per cent of the students had email accounts and they access their email accounts 'weekly'.

Further data showed that majority (95.24%) of the students had knowledge about instant messaging through various apps and 87.30 per cent of the students using it 'daily'.

Data regarding knowledge about downloading and installing different softwares indicated that 85.71 per cent of the students had knowledge but only one third (23.81%) of the students using it 'fortnightly'.

*Knowledge and extent of use of Microsoft Office tools* : Data in Table 1 indicated that all the students (100.00%) had knowledge about various functions of MS Word and majority (90.48%) of the students using it 'weekly' for different purposes whereas 82.54 per cent of the students had knowledge regarding MS Excel but more than half (58.73%) were using it fortnightly. Majority of the students (95.24%) and (85.87%) had knowledge and were making use of various tools of MS Power Point respectively. These findings are in similar to Parvada et al. (2017).

*Knowledge and extent of use of other tools of information technology* : Majority (95.24%) and (80.95%) students had knowledge about use of androids/ smartphones and were using it daily respectively.

**Table 1. Knowledge and extent of use of computer aided IT tools by the students**

Information technology applications	Knowledge		Use		Extent of Use
	Yes	No	Yes	No	
<i>Online services</i>					
Agriculture, Academic and Research Purpose-websites	63(100.00)	00(00.00)	54(85.71)	9(14.29)	Weekly
Emails	63(100.00)	00(00.00)	63(100.00)	00(00.00)	Weekly
Instant Messaging / Chatting	60(95.24)	3(4.76)	55(87.30)	8(12.70)	Daily
Entertainment	62(98.41)	2(1.59)	48(76.19)	15(23.81)	Daily
Downloading and Installation of Softwares	54(85.71)	9(14.29)	15(23.81)	48(76.19)	Fortnightly
<i>MS Office Tools</i>					
MS Word	63(100.00)	00(00.00)	57(90.48)	6(9.52)	Weekly
MS Excel	52(82.54)	11(17.46)	37(58.73)	26(41.27)	Fortnightly
MS Power Point	60(95.24)	3(4.76)	54(85.87)	9(14.28)	Weekly
<i>Other IT Tools</i>					
Use of I-pads	42(66.67)	21(33.33)	16(25.40)	47(74.60)	Rarely
Use of Smartphones/ Androids	60(95.24)	3(4.76)	51(80.95)	12(19.05)	Daily
CDs/ DVDs writers	48(76.19)	15(23.81)	18(28.57)	45(71.43)	Rarely

**Table 2. Awareness regarding IT interventions in agriculture**

Applications of IT	Awareness	Ranks
Video conferencing	56(88.89)	III
Agricultural IT Centre	57(90.48)	II
National Information Centre	40(63.49)	VII
Kisan Call Centre	58(92.06)	I
Interactive class room system	29(46.03)	X
e- Learning	55(87.30)	IV
e-Extension, cyber extension	37(58.73)	VIII
e- Marketing, MARKNET	37(58.73)	VIII
e- Governance	35(55.56)	IX
Net Banking	42(66.67)	VI
IT based projects and case studies/ e-Dissertations	52(82.54)	V
Web diaries, cyber library	25(39.68)	XI

**Table 3. Constraints faced by students in use of information technology tools**

Constraints	No.	%
Unavailability of Wi- Fi connection	41	65.08
Unavailability of latest operating system in computer lab	18	28.57
Computers are infected by virus/ malwares	17	26.98
No access to e- library for the students	15	23.81
No separate internet room and inadequate internet connections with low speed at hostel	15	23.81
Inadequate availability of online research journals in library	15	23.81

However more than two third (66.67%) students had knowledge about use of I-pads but one forth (25.40%) of them used it rarely. Majority 76.19 per cent students had knowledge about CD/ DVD writers but were using it rarely for writing CDs.

Data in Table 2 revealed that most ( 92.06%) of the post graduate students were aware about functioning of Kisan Call Centres followed by role of Agricultural Technology Information Centres (90.48%), Video

conferencing (88.89%) in agriculture and obtained rank as I,II and III respectively. Majority students aware about concept of e- Learning (87.30%), various case studies and IT based projects developed in agriculture, National Information Centre (63.49%), whereas equal number of respondents (58.73%) were aware about the concept of e-Extension and e-Marketing, e-Governance (55.56%) etc and obtained the rank subsequently. However less than half (46.03%) know about Interactive class room system and 39.68 per cent students were aware about concept of web diary-cybrary hence obtained X and XI rank respectively. The above findings are in close line with *Uday Kumar Watti (2016)*.

*Constraints* : The data from Table 3 revealed that unavailability of wi-fi connection (65.08%) was the major constraint faced by the post graduate students followed by unavailability of latest operating system in computer lab (28.57%), computers are infected by virus or malwares (26.98%), no access to e- library for the students (23.81%), ‘unavailability of internet room in hostel (23.81%), inadequate online research journals in college library (23.81%).

**CONCLUSION**

Further the study can be concluded that majority of the post graduate students have knowledge about Information technology tools and have high to moderate use of online services, IT tools at different intervals. Awareness about the various IT tools and its applications though they are using it at different intervals and for wide purposes.

Considering the constraints of the study, institute should strengthen the wi-fi connectivity in campus, facilitate the students with latest operating systems, antivirus softwares, also different online research journals should be subscribed in college library.

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