THE EFFECT OF INTERNET ON STUDENTS' STUDIES: A REVIEW

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ABSTRACT

An analysis of the literature on the impact of internet use on academic achievement is presented in this study. This study's primary goal is to evaluate the variables that influence how kids use the internet. The research report also tries to identify the numerous tasks that pupils do online. As well as evaluate the many internet-accessing tools that kids employ. The researcher went through a number of papers. All of the articles we analysed dealt with issues related to the internet usage of kids. Nine of the twelve articles examined the ways in which the Internet can be used by students for their activities, and fourteen others focused on the devices that they use to access the Internet. Only articles dealing with tertiary education were targeted by the inclusion criteria. The internet has a significant impact on students' academic performance since it enables them to access publications and articles that are otherwise unavailable in libraries. The study came to the conclusion that increased internet usage was very helpful in enhancing learning results. The study also identified the detrimental effects of internet use, which results in distraction as people spend more time on social media than studying. Therefore, it is suggested that authorities issue directives to aid students in overcoming some of the difficulties encountered when utilising the Internet.
KEYWORD: *Internet, Internet Technology, Information Technology*

INTRODUCTION

The internet has had a profound and far-reaching effect on students' studies, revolutionising the way they access information, interact with educational content, and collaborate with others. One of the most significant advantages of the Internet is its ability to provide students with easy access to a vast amount of information. With a few clicks, students can conduct research, find scholarly articles, access educational resources, and explore various perspectives on a given topic. This instant access to information has greatly expanded the scope and depth of students' learning, empowering them to delve into diverse subjects and explore new areas of interest.

Furthermore, the internet has transformed the learning experience itself. Online platforms and educational tools offer interactive and engaging learning materials, such as videos, simulations, and gamified content. These resources provide dynamic and immersive ways for students to understand complex concepts, making their studies more enjoyable and effective. Additionally, the internet facilitates personalised learning experiences, allowing students to tailor their educational journey to their own pace, style, and interests.

Collaboration and communication have also been significantly enhanced by the internet. Students can connect with peers, experts, and educators from around the world through online platforms, discussion forums, and social media groups. This global connectivity fosters collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and the exchange of ideas, enriching the learning process. Online platforms also enable students to work on group projects

remotely, improving teamwork and communication skills that are crucial in today's interconnected world.

However, it is important to acknowledge that the internet also poses challenges for students. The abundance of information available online can be overwhelming, and students must develop critical thinking skills to assess the credibility and reliability of sources. Distractions from social media, entertainment, and other online activities can also hinder students' focus and productivity if not managed effectively. Digital literacy skills, including information evaluation, time management, and online etiquette, are essential for students to navigate the online landscape successfully.

In conclusion, the internet has had a transformative impact on students' studies. It has expanded access to information, provided interactive and personalised learning experiences, facilitated global collaboration, and offered new avenues for creativity and self-expression. However, students must also develop the necessary skills to navigate the digital world responsibly and effectively. With the proper guidance and digital literacy education, students can harness the full potential of the internet to enhance their studies and prepare themselves for the demands of a knowledge-based society.

There are advantages and disadvantages to students in higher education using information and communication technologies (ICTs), such as the internet (Nyakwende, 2011). Students can easily get the information they need to do their assignments on the internet with just one search on a search engine. It also

allowed people to communicate with one another while conversing and exchanging thoughts and knowledge across vast distances. The internet was the main information and communication technology that caused a major shift in the world's information landscape. Students can get many points of view on a topic debate through interaction by sharing their own learning efforts with other students and talking about problem-solving strategies. Siraj (2015).

According to Akin Adaeamola (2014), the internet was created to provide a platform for different social activities for all age groups. A technology that has significantly impacted peoples' daily lives is the internet. The internet was introduced to academic institutions as a tool to improve students' academic experience in the mid-1990s because of its capacity to serve as a support medium in various activities for which people utilise it (Ngoumandjoka, 2012).

Internet connectivity has greatly increased over the past few decades and is now accessible everywhere, including homes, workplaces, travel destinations, and schools (Ellore, 2014). Access to information can affect students' academic performance, according to recent empirical studies (Akende, 2015). For academic research, using reliable online sources is crucial, especially in challenging courses where a review of the literature is required (Sahin, 2010). According to Kim (201), the key to adolescent academic success is using internships for educational purposes. The majority of students have access to the internet on their cellphones because it is practically universally available (Ellore, 2014).

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Lack of funding for the efficient operation of universities, particularly their libraries, has negatively impacted the adequate provision of contemporary books, updated literate materials, and journals where available, are now expensive as warranted by the economic downturn, international political crises, and currency devaluation, compounded by the information explosion we have witnessed in the global electronic village that the world has turned to. Ghanaian students are now focusing on using the internet for studying, performing research, and acquiring general knowledge as a result of the aforementioned issues. Therefore, students who have access to this technology may become less interested in visiting the library as a result of the increased focus on the internet as a result of its many advantages. Therefore, the purpose of this study is to determine how the internet affects students' learning outcomes.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. Identify the factors that influence how children use the internet.
2. Describe the issues with student internet use.

Which elements have an impact on pupils' internet use?
What are some of the difficulties students may encounter when using the internet?

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Information and communication technology (ICT) has been a tool for innovation and raising academic standards in many sectors around the world. For high school students, ICT has been a crucial component of teaching and learning from both within and outside the classroom in the educational sector. In order to facilitate international communication and access to data resources, the internet is a vast network system that connects a variety of commercial, public, business, academic, and governmental networks. Although they are not synonymous, the terms "Internet" and "World Wide Web" are frequently used interchangeably. While the internet refers to the global network of communications that includes hardware and infrastructure, the Web is only one of the services offered by the internet (Techopedia, 2020).

Users of the internet were divided into heavy and light users by Ngoumandjoka (2012). He thinks that the primary reason college students utilise the internet is for academic purposes. Students who were labeled as heavy users were discovered to utilise the internet more for leisure activities than students who were categorised as light users. His study further stated that the perception of the internet's beneficial impact on academic grades increased with its use for academic purposes. Many authors (Torres, 2016) concurred that using the internet has a beneficial effect on academic achievement. They believed that students who utilise the internet more frequently for educational materials are less likely to perform poorly on exams.

According to Singh (2013), using the internet primarily for social networking and mailing causes psychological issues such as mood swings, changing conduct, a withdrawn attitude, and loneliness. This is because they still exist in some sort of online virtual environment. (Turel & Toraman, 2015) found in their study that students' average levels of internet addiction decrease as their academic accomplishment increases. This implies that internet addiction has an effect on students' academic performance.

Aitokhuehi (2014) also made note of the fact that students who are adept with computers but are not dependent on them perform better than those who are. According to Kakkar (2015), internet addiction has a significant detrimental effect on kids' academic performance and mental health. He made it clear that students in the severe and profound category of internet addiction were shown to have a detrimental influence on their academic performance and physical health, in contrast to children who use the internet moderately.

Austin (2011) arrived at a similar conclusion in their study, which divided internet users into three groups: light, moderate, and intense users. They discovered that students who use the internet in moderation at school and at home perform better academically than those who don't. Additionally, school-only internet users (light users) performed worse academically than non-users.

The major obstacles to fully utilising the internet, according to Sahin (2010), include limited access, inherent risks, and

problems like pornography and frauds, among other things. The fact that students are more interested in internet resources than traditional sources does not change the challenges they encounter. Therefore, it is crucial that internet connection be provided continuously and that lecturers or professors point students to academic websites for more relevant content.

Internet use causes consumers to become more aware of their surroundings and how large the globe is. According to Akin-Adaeamola (2014) and Yebowaah (2018), the internet collects a variety of data that is used by college students and seniors in high school. If people can access the internet without being hindered, internet use will increase (Olatokun, 2008). According to recent research, the internet allows people to access websites that provide data such as social networking sites, online gaming, and cybersex (Yebowaah, 2018). According to research by Ellore et al. (2014) on the impact of internet use on academic progress and face-to-face communication, most students have internet access on their mobile phones due to the accessibility of the internet. This will help students broaden their intellectual perspectives (Akin-Adaeamola, 2014; Yebowaah, 2018).

According to Olatokun (2008), the main obstacles to broad internet use include problems with inadequacy, accessibility risks, concerns with pornography, fraud, and other challenges.

Despite opposition to these findings, studies have indicated that students favour online services to traditional media (Siraj et al., 2015). If students have constant access to the internet for additional in-depth knowledge, teachers or lecturers may direct them there (Osunnade, 2003). It was discovered that SHS students don't have enough access to the internet. It is disheartening to realise that some pupils are unable to even utilise a computer despite spending years in education (Samual, 2010). In addition to entrance, this.

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS
Reviewing previous studies on how internet use affects students' learning results is the project's main goal. The study examines the following subjects: the factors that influence how frequently kids use the internet. the various online activities that students take part in. the various means that kids use to access the internet. The internet was found to be one of the methods utilised to gauge students' learning outcomes after the study examined more than 35 papers and journals. Prior research has shown that a sizable percentage of respondents to representative e studies use the internet for a variety of academic study-related activities. Although technology surely has enhanced education, it has also undoubtedly had some negative repercussions.

The conclusions of the study are based on a review of the literature on how internet use affects students' learning outcomes. specific reasons why students use the internet. The study discovered that students' perceptions of the internet's value and attitudes towards it played a significant role in predicting their behavioural intentions to utilise it for academic purposes. The study of online learning indicates how students' attitudes, opinions, and judgements of its usefulness as well as

the social influence of their referent group are all acknowledged as significant drivers of their motivation to practise online. Male students are more prone than female students, according to a study, to use the internet in a way that has a negative effect on their performance.

Several different technologies are used by students to access the internet. When connecting to the internet, software and hardware technologies are both used. The survey indicates that 0% of people use desktop computers, while 70% use smartphones and 20% use laptops to access the internet. Most students use software tools, such as apps, to assist them while they are online; some of these apps are expressly used for communication, entertainment, and educational purposes. Students at higher institutions can use the internet to enhance their educational development by using their cellphones, tablets, computers, and other technical gadgets. However, the primary problems that students encounter are more frequently identified as a poor internet connection and a high subscription cost. Due to its accessibility, the internet has aided in the globalisation of education.

In conclusion, the internet has had a significant and transformative effect on students' studies. It has revolutionised the way students access information, interact with educational content, and collaborate with others. The internet provides easy access to a vast amount of information, empowering students to conduct research, explore diverse subjects, and expand their knowledge base. Online platforms and tools offer interactive and personalised learning experiences, making studies more engaging and effective. The internet also facilitates global collaboration and communication, allowing students to connect with peers and experts from around the world. However, students must also navigate the challenges posed by the internet, such as information overload and digital distractions. Developing critical thinking, digital literacy, and time management skills are crucial for students to make the most of the internet's benefits while mitigating its drawbacks. Overall, the internet has revolutionised education, offering unprecedented opportunities for students to enhance their learning journey, broaden their intellectual horizons, and prepare for a digitally driven world.

The internet has had a profound and multifaceted effect on students' studies. Its vast availability of information and resources has empowered students to conduct research, access educational content, and explore diverse subjects like never before. The interactive and personalised learning experiences offered by online platforms have made studying more engaging and effective. Additionally, the internet's capacity for global connectivity has facilitated collaboration and knowledge-sharing among students, promoting a deeper understanding of subjects and fostering essential communication and teamwork skills.

However, while the internet presents numerous benefits, it also poses challenges that students must address. The abundance of information requires students to develop critical thinking and digital literacy skills to discern reliable sources and avoid

misinformation. Managing distractions from social media and other online activities is crucial for maintaining focus and productivity in studies. Emphasising digital literacy education can equip students with the necessary tools to navigate the online world responsibly and effectively.
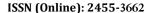
Overall, the internet has revolutionised education, providing students with unparalleled opportunities to expand their knowledge, connect with peers globally, and prepare for the demands of a digitally driven world. By harnessing the positive aspects of the internet while being mindful of its potential pitfalls, students can fully maximise its impact on their studies and academic success.

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