

## **E-Learning: Current Scenario of Internet and Educational Learning among University Students of Punjab Pakistan**

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### **Abstract**

*The core aspire of this research was to explore internet use for educational learning among youth targeted public sector university students of Punjab, Pakistan. The study recorded students' internet usage pattern and demographic information of respondents. A sample size of 2237 respondents were taken from six selected public sectors universities with highest student statistical rate using multi-level sample technique. Detailed Urdu translated questionnaire consisted on 15 close-ended and one open ended question was used to collected data from selected sample. The study focused how they think about internet as medium of educational information like inspiration towards e-learning, English language learning, assignments making, effects on handwriting and books reading in their lives. The study concluded that internet has captured almost all aspects of lives of university students. Assumed hypothesis proved that students looked inspired towards e-learning and use of English language. The study also found that handwriting practice is decreasing among university students and copy paste culture is promoting. Furthermore, study also revealed that books reading habits also decreasing among students due to fast and easy access to internet.*

**Keywords:** Internet, E-Learning, English Language Learning, Books Reading, Writing Practice, University Students.

### **Introduction**

In present day, internet is world's largest network and through this facility billions of people are connected round the globe. Now, not only computers but also computer like devices are available in variety of shapes and connected with through internet (Shabir et al., 2015; Safdar et al., 2018). The facility of World Wide Web have make internet more fruitful due freedom of downloading and uploading data of user's interests. Before 1990's internet was limited scope and was in the ownership of some dominant companies to get access limited data in limited way. But the development of WWW by Burners-Lee created revolution in networking by giving freedom to users to upload and download information from anywhere in the world (Safdar et al., 2018b).

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Information technologies, internet and computers have extraordinarily influential tools. These tools have powerful potential both to benefit and harm societies that hug those (Shabir et al., 2015c). In beneficial, internet has been used improve business, education and create meeting places even participants are away from each others. But in negatively, these technologies have also been produced new avenue for theft, fraud, distribution of pornography, hate speech and invasion of privacy (Toor, 2003).

In recent decade life without information communication technologies seems as profound and picturesque as an era before sliced bread. Now youth of today have instant access to human knowledge and information just through click of mouse or touch of finger (Khan et al., 2018). This facility sometimes, provides unparalleled opportunities for global connection, learning and innovation as never before. Along with threats, internet also best showed numerous benefits as it is potential for persistent and presenting new ideas but also unpredictable challenges for young people (Rallings, 2015; Swanbrow, 2010).

Now internet is huge collection of concepts that provide data and information from societies to individuals round the clock. From email to video conferencing, print media electronic media, advertising to e-commerce, knowledge sharing to making assignments and searching educational material and increasing friend's list from all over the world is facility provided by the internet.

### *Internet as Educational Hub*

Internet is not new source for students and scholars to get educational material. Since last three decades, internet has become significant source of information that contains enormous quantities of data and information that offer grand deal concerning its contents, reliability, aspire and intention groups (Shabir et al., 2014). So, it is imperative that user should aware about miscellaneous information available on the internet (Chapman, 2002). The marvellous expansion in telecommunication technology has offered online service. Internet's facility of email, websites and information about any topic has promoted our lives and education. Internet offers and provides such environment in which millions of people get connect and contribute in formation and swap of information (Rose & Fernlund, 1997; Shabir et al., 2015c).

Students have occasion to use internet to search for and get academic objects and therefore, facts on how professionally they make use of this waterway. Students use internet to access library, online books, journals, and any other educational material while making their assignments and thesis. Majority of user prefers to access internet to get information as e-books, e-journals, and e-newspapers are more convenient as hard copy (Safdar et al, 2018a). By using internet getting educational material is as easy as they there no need to go library, waste time in searching relevant book, journal or purchase books, and journal or order newspaper by expense. Saving time and expense is main factor for every individual. Easy way of searching accurate material has make internet

most influential for students and according to survey, till 2000 50% of academic material were obtained from the internet (Tenopir et al. 2003; Fescemeyar, 2000).

Internet has become incredibly accepted in almost all areas of lives as well as in education in since last two decades. The use of internet in colleges, schools and universities has been increased over the last ten years (Berson, 2000). Computers with multimedia capabilities are new tools that can transfer education (Hutchinson Jonathon, 2016). Computer can solve many complex problems that usually teachers face and able teachers to customize educational material for students (McKeown, 1991). Mostly university teachers use internet to get tutorial as Chifwepa (2003) discovered that in Zambia University almost 95% teachers were using internet to get material for students and respondents argued that internet is use tool to get quick and useful information for students. Another research Bao (1998) found that 10% respondents from Seton Hall University were not user of internet while 90% teachers and students were regular users of internet.

The research of Jagdoro (2004) concluded that internet usage is more frequently activity among university students. For internet usage, usually students prefer cyber café in universities, library to get access to internet, where very less number of students prefers their own personal internet connection. Since late 1990s, the use of email and online suffering has been increased among under graduate students (Hendel & Harrold, 2004). This internet usage has putted both positive and negative impacts on students (Morgan & Cotton, 2003). Internet has caused broaden and strengthen direct personal relationship (Wellman and Gulia, 1999). Internet usage among university students decreased depression and get social support (LaRose et al. 2001). Internet promotes also more equitable social interaction between individuals belonging to various backgrounds (Janet and Ann, 2002). Virtual interaction decreased face to face communication that causes social isolation and depression (Subramaniam et al. 2008).

Internet has brought advancement in the world of information technology and has become constructive gadget to make this world global village. From various researches, it has been proved that internet has immense impacts on student's social and educational life (Asdaque et al. 2010).

### *Punjab: The Study Province*

Punjab is the major province of Pakistan with highest population and has many metropolitan cities of the country. Punjab is the largely urbanized and progressive province of Pakistan and its capital is Lahore.

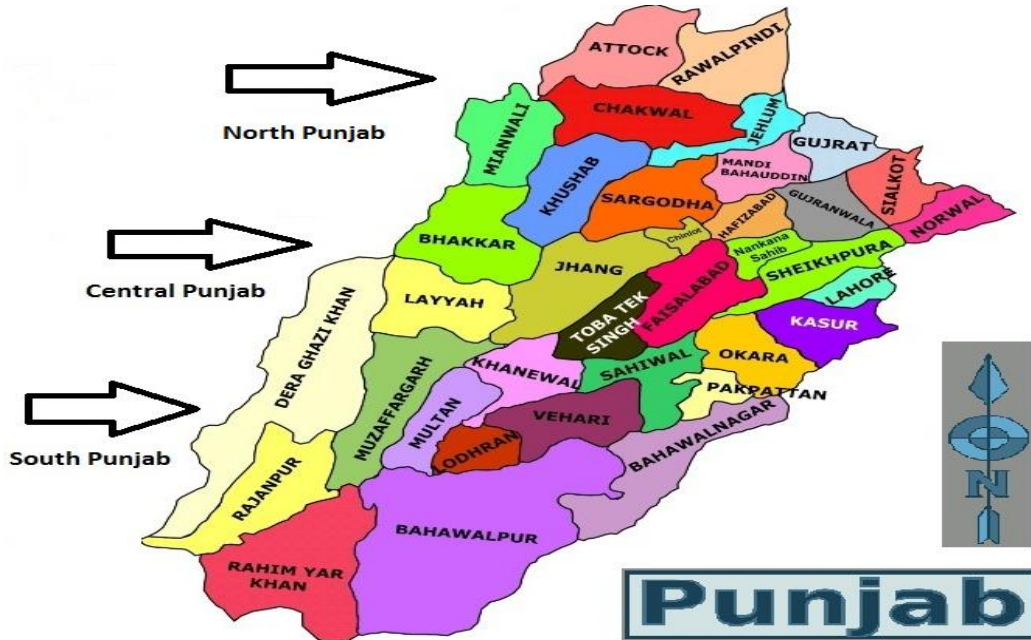


Figure 1: Map of Punjab Province

### *Universities in Punjab*

There are totally 213 Degree Awarding Institutes (DAI's)/ Universities in Pakistan recognized by the Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan. In Punjab there are totally 72 Degree Awarding Institutes/ Universities in which 44 are public sector DAI's/universities chartered by the Government of Punjab, 6 got chartered-ship from the Government of Pakistan, 28 private sector DAI's/ universities got chartered-ship from the government of Punjab and 2 private sector university is chartered by Government of Pakistan (HEC, 2020).

### *Public Sector Universities in Punjab Province*

There are totally 44 public sector DAI's/universities in Punjab, including 38 Degree Awarding Institutes/universities got chartered from Government of Punjab and 6 Degree Awarding Institutes/universities got chartered by Federal Government of Pakistan (HEC, 2020).

**Table 1**

*Public Sector Universities in Punjab”*

Universities in Punjab	Data
“Public Sector universities/DAI’s chartered by the Government of Punjab”	38
“Public Sector universities/DAI’s Chartered by Government of Pakistan”	6
“Total Public Sector Universities/DAI’s in Punjab”	44
“Students’ Statistical data of public sector universities/DAI’s in Punjab”	283122

### *The Present Study*

The present study dealt with digit media use educational learning among university students of Punjab Pakistan. Internet has changed the way of education due to frequently access to internet. Now e-books, audio video lectures and other educational material is available on the internet round the clock. In any society, youth considers status symbol and educational societies play their vital role in development of country. Study was hypothesized that more internet use is source of inspiration towards e-learning (H1), more internet use is source of more in use of English language (H2), internet use for making assignment decreasing hand writing (H3), internet use increasing copy paste culture (H4), and internet use decreasing book reading habits (H5).

### **Method**

Current research study dealt with survey method as research design. From four provinces of Pakistan, Punjab is largest province of Pakistan in population as 53% of total population live in Punjab (PBS, 2018). Current research study conducted in six highest student enrolled public universities of Punjab Pakistan. From selected six public sector universities, two universities selected from South Punjab, three from Central Punjab and one from North Punjab. In this way, researcher kept in mind representation from three sides of Punjab equally on the basis of students enrolled in universities i.e. “The Islamia University of Bahawalpur and Bahauddin Zakariya University Multan from South Punjab, University of the Punjab Lahore, University of Sargodha Sargodha and University of Agriculture Faisalabad from Central Punjab and Pir Mehr Ali Shaha Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi from North Punjab.” Current research study consisted on multi stages sampling technique. At first stage, the researcher used purposive technique to select the top enrolled public sector universities of Punjab in which two universities from south, three from centre and one from north Punjab were selected. At second stage, the researcher used purposive sampling to select faculty and at third stage, the researcher used random sampling to selects five departments from each faculty for data collection. The target public of study was male and female university students of class ranging BS level to PhD level. Questionnaire was distributed among 2500

respondents (depending upon enrolled statistics in each district). In return 2237 questionnaires were returned. In this way response rate was 89.48%.

**Table 2**

*Selected Public Sector Universities in Punjab (Region Wise)*

Sr. No.	University	Area
1	The Islamia University of Bahawalpur.	Southern Punjab
2	“Bahaddin Zakariya University Multan.”	
3	“University of the Punjab Lahore.”	
4	University of Agriculture Faisalabad.	Central Punjab
5	University of Sargodha, Sargodha.	
6	“Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi.”	North Punjab

The Table 2 represents detail of selected universities region wise. To represent equal representation from all three regions of province, the researchers gave equal representation by selecting universities having highest students enrolled statistical from south, central and north Punjab, Pakistan.

**Table 3**

*Selected Public Sector Universities/DAI's in Punjab*

*(Excluding Virtual University & Government College University of Faisalabad)*

Sr.	Name of University	Student's Statistics	Respondents per University	Students per Area
1	“Bahauddin Zakariya University Multan”	21444 17.35%	434	Southern Punjab 815 32.60%
2	“Islamia University of Bahawalpur”	18807 15.22%		
3	University of the Punjab Lahore	32481 26.28%	658	Central Punjab 1506 60.21%
4	University of Sargodha	22219 17.98%		
5	University of Agriculture Faisalabad	19705 15.94%	399	North Punjab 179 7.19%
6	“Pir Mehr Ali Shaha Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi”	8895 7.19%		
Total population of selected Universities		123551 100%	2500	2500 100%

The table 3 represents the percentage of respondents from all six selected universities. Furthermore, percentage of students' region wise also presented in this table to understand the phenomenon of selection of sample.

**Table 4**  
*Faculty wise distribution of respondents*

Faculty	Departments	%	Respondents
Science	1	20%	833 100%
	2	20%	
	3	20%	
	4	20%	
	5	20%	
Arts/Social Science	1	20%	833 100%
	2	20%	
	3	20%	
	4	20%	
	5	20%	
Other Faculty	1	20%	833 100%
	2	20%	
	3	20%	
	4	20%	
	5	20%	
Grand Total	15	100%	2500

Table 4 represent faculty wise distribution of respondents. As selected universities fall in “*general*” category and “*Science*” and “*Social Science*” faculties consider highest students' statistical ratio, hence researchers considered these two faculties obligatory while other one selected randomly using lottery system to select respondents from three faculties of each selected university.

**Table 5**  
*Class-wise respondents detail*

Class	BS	50%
	Master	30%
	M.Phil	15%
	PhD	5%
<b>Total</b>		<b>100%</b>

Table 5 explained next step of strategy. In this step researchers divided respondents further into classes to get sufficient representation from each level of class.

### *Data Collection Tool*

The data collection tool (questionnaire) was designed in Urdu (National Language) for data collection. It seemed necessary to reduce complexity of understating questions among the respondents. After data collection, tool was again translated into English language for processing in SPSS and data presentation.

*Internet use and inspiration towards E-Learning.* Respondents were asked to answer what they think internet use inspiring you towards e-learning. (1=Yes, 2=No, 3=To some extent). Results of exploratory factor analysis showed that three items were loaded in a single factor. The items showed high reliability and were average created scale (M=1.66, SD=.910).

*Internet use and English language learning.* Respondents were reported to answer what they think internet use is good source of learning English language. (1=Yes, 2=No, 3=To some extent). Results of exploratory factor analysis showed that three items were loaded in a single factor. The items showed high reliability and were average created scale (M=1.94, SD=.841).

*Internet use and hand writing habits.* Respondents were reported to answer what they think internet usage their practice of hand writing. (1=Yes, 2=No, 3=To some extent). Results of exploratory factor analysis showed that three items were loaded in a single factor. The items showed high reliability and were average created scale (M=1.74, SD=.871).

*Internet use and copy paste culture.* Respondents were reported to answer what they think internet use increasing copy paste culture among university students. (1=Yes, 2=No, 3=To some extent, 4=Don't know). Results of exploratory factor analysis showed that four items were loaded in a single factor. The items showed high reliability and were average created scale (M=1.79, SD=.832).

*Internet use and book reading habits.* Respondents were reported to answer what they think internet use decreasing their book reading habits. (1=Yes, 2=No, 3=To some extent). Results of exploratory factor analysis showed that three items were loaded in a single factor. The items showed high reliability and were average created scale (M=1.64, SD=.864).

*Control Variables.* University, background, class, residence and overall use of internet were used as covariates. Respondents were asked to report their university (1=Islmia University, 2=Bahauddin Zakariya University, 3=Punjab University, 4=Agriculture University, 5=Sargodha University, 6=Arid University) (M=3.03, SD=1.630). In addition, class variable i.e. (1=BS, 2=Master, 3=MPhil, 4=PhD) (M=1.74, SD=.856) were controlled as because this variable found to associated with internet use. Background variable associated with rural or urban (1=Urban, 2=Rural) (M=1.63, SD=.482) as this variable also associated with different level of educated families and



residential environment related to (1=Home, 2=Hosteller) (M=1.60, SD=.489) as this factor associated with freedom to use internet. Finally, overall internet use was controlled, considering that it could be closely linked to the variables of interests, including educational performance. It was measured by reporting three questions regarding the frequency of usage of internet (1=Daily, 2=Three days in a week, 3=According to need) (M=1.86, SD=.969) and time spend on using internet (1=Up to two hours, 2=Up to two to four hours, 3=More than four hours) (M=1.94, SD=.837) and timing of using internet (1=Morning 8 AM to 12 PM, 2=Afternoon 12 PM to 4 PM, 3=Evening 4 PM to 7 PM, 4=Night 7 PM to 12 AM) (M=3.13, SD=.976).

**Results**

As the study was survey based and data was collected from university students of Punjab Pakistan. The researchers explained demographic characteristics of selected respondents including university name, background of respondents, gender, class level and residence. Furthermore, collected data was interpreted using SPSS and applied chi-square test to measure hypothesis.

**Table 6**  
*Demographics of Respondents*

Sr. No.	“Demographic Characteristics”	“Description of Characteristics”	f	%
1	University	“University of the Punjab Lahore”	585	26.2
		“University of Agriculture Faisalabad”	358	16.0
		“University of Sargodha”	403	18.0
		“Bahauddin Zakariya University Multan”	388	17.3
		“The Islamia University of Bahawalpur”	342	15.3
		“Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi”	161	7.2
		Total	2237	100.0
2	Background	Urban	1503	67.2
		Rural	734	32.8
		Total	2237	100.0
3	Gender	Male	1171	52.3
		Female	1066	47.7
		Total	2237	100.0
4	Program Level	BS	1169	52.3
		MA/MSc	636	28.4
		M.Phil	327	14.6
		PhD	105	4.7
		Total	2237	100.0
5	Residence	Hostel	978	43.7
		Home	1259	56.3
		Total	2237	100.0

N=2237

Above table shows the demographics of respondents. Demographics of respondents include university to whom they belong as data was collected from six universities of Punjab Pakistan. Respondent's background i.e. rural or urban, gender male or female, class from BS to PhD and residence that either students come from home daily or hostels.

**Table 7**  
*Reliability*

Reliability analysis		
Level	A	Items
Current Scenario of Internet	0.801	05
Education Learning	0.721	10

Table 7 Instrument used for data collection has 15 items in total. Scale reliability analysis has been conducted to measure the inter item reliability of each variable used for this research study and values corresponding each variable along with their each dimension is mentioned above.

**Table 8**  
*Mean, Standard Deviation, P-value and association of assumed hypothesis (H1)*

Hypothesis	Means	Std. Deviation	Person Chi-Square	Df	P-Value	Association
More internet use is source of inspiration towards e-learning	1.66	.910	25.878 <sup>a</sup>	2	.000	Significant

Significant P-value at <0.05

The result showed digital media usage to learn foreign language. The mean score (1.66), std. deviation (.910), chi-square value is (25.878) and p-value (.000) showed significant association among assumed hypothesis at <0.05 level. Hence the hypothesis (H1) more internet use is source of inspiration towards e-learning supported.

**Table 9**  
*Mean, Standard Deviation, P-value and association of assumed hypothesis (H2)*

Hypothesis	Means	Std. Deviation	Person Chi-Square	Df	P-Value	Association
More internet use is source of more in use of English language	1.94	.841	23.476 <sup>a</sup>	2	.000	Significant

Significant P-value at <0.05

The result showed digital media usage to learn foreign language. The mean score (1.94), std. deviation (.841), chi-square value is (23.476) and p-value (.000) showed

significant association among assumed hypothesis at <0.05 level. Hence the hypothesis (H2) more internet use is source of more in use of English language supported.

**Table 10**

*Mean, Standard Deviation, P-value and association of assumed hypothesis (H3)*

Hypothesis	Means	Std. Deviation	Person Chi-Square	Df	P-Value	Association
Internet use for making assignment decreasing hand writing	1.74	.871	19.316 <sup>a</sup>	2	.000	Significant

Significant P-value at <0.05

The result showed digital media usage to learn foreign language. The mean score (1.74), std. deviation (.871), chi-square value is (19.316) and p-value (.000) showed significant association among assumed hypothesis at <0.05 level. Hence the hypothesis (H3) internet use for making assignment decreasing hand writing supported.

**Table 11**

*Mean, Standard Deviation, P-value and association of assumed hypothesis (H4)*

Hypothesis	Means	Std. Deviation	Person Chi-Square	Df	P-Value	Association
Internet use increasing copy paste culture	1.79	.832	13.665 <sup>a</sup>	2	.001	Significant

Significant P-value at <0.05

The result showed digital media usage to learn foreign language. The mean score (1.79), std. deviation (.832), chi-square value is (13.665) and p-value (.001) showed significant association among assumed hypothesis at <0.05 level. Hence the hypothesis (H4) internet use increasing copy paste culture supported.

**Table 12**

*Mean, Standard Deviation, P-value and association of assumed hypothesis (H5)*

Hypothesis	Means	Std. Deviation	Person Chi-Square	Df	P-Value	Association
Internet use decreasing book reading habits	1.64	.864	17.115 <sup>a</sup>	2	.001	Significant

Significant P-value at <0.05

The result showed digital media usage to learn foreign language. The mean score (1.64), std. deviation (.864), chi-square value is (17.115) and p-value (.001) showed significant association among assumed hypothesis at <0.05 level. Hence the hypothesis (H5) internet use decreasing book reading habits supported.

## **Discussion**

Current research study dealt with current scenario of internet and educational learning among university students belonging to public sector universities of Punjab Pakistan. In this era internet has become powerful tool with benefits and drawbacks. Internet for students is just like sea where searching educational material according to topic is not only easy but also fast as search engines filter required data in a moment. As Shabir et al, (2014) since last two decades internet has become significant source of information about any topic. Internet especially social media has enhanced the way of learning among university students (Safdar et al., 2018a). Chapman (2002) internet is world where miscellaneous information is available round the clock. Rose & Fernlund (1997) stated that internet has promoted our lives and education where people swap information and participate in topics of interests. In this developed era, there is no need to go library, find books of interest, making himself bound for a while to read material (Shabir et al., 2015). This difficulty internet has been eliminated and educational material about any topic is now in everyone's access round the clock on their own way. Berson (2000) argued in his research that internet has become very popular among university students since two decades. The popularity and importance of internet has been discussed by hundreds of researchers in the world as this facility has made students much fast to access data online. Jagdoro (2000) also concluded that internet usage is more frequently activity among university students. Online media is more powerful and attractive medium for students that fetch students to get educational material easily and accurately (Safdar et al., 2018b). Searching educational material on internet is much faster and easy and satisfaction level to get desire level of data is high among students (Shabir et al., 2015b). Choosing the right medium guarantees the access to relevant data (Shabir et al., 2015c). The same experience has been noticed in Pakistani universities as almost all the students studying in universities frequently access to internet for their educational and social relationship. The topic of concern verified that internet has captured all the aspects of student's lives and has positive as well as negative impacts on their educational career.

## **Conclusion**

The study concluded that internet is most favourite tool among university students and they are regular user of internet. Since morning time to late night, internet connectivity is vital elements among youth. For any kind of information especially educational learning, internet is more frequently tool for students. Internet is source of inspiration towards e-learning as this facility is available everywhere without time and geographical limit. It is also revealed that due to frequently use of internet, the use of English language among university students has also been increased. More involvement in online communication, texting messages and searching material has proving fruitful in frequently use of English language. From results, it also been found that with these beneficial elements, internet has also posing negative impacts on students as searching material and making assignment from online material the practice of manual writing has

been decreasing among university students. Furthermore due to internet, copy paste culture is also prevailing among students that damaging conceptual understanding and learning. Not only this but also books reading habit also decreasing among university students and making libraries lonely.

### **Recommendations**

- Getting access online data is common practice among students hence it should be courage that students must read, understand and elaborate data accessed from internet.
- Teachers must engage students in writing practice as improve vocabulary and writing practice.
- Book reading must encourage among students at university level as they have one step away from practical life.
- Students must encourage getting access credible data from educational websites rather than accessing fuzzy data.
- Students must engage in practical learning rather than just relying on theoretical learning.

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