

**A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF ATTITUDE TOWARDS INTERNET AND  
SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES OF GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE  
SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS OF CHANDIGARH**

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**ABSTRACT**

*This study examines the attitude towards internet and social networking sites of government and private senior secondary school students of Chandigarh. The findings were based on 200 students' responses taken from government and private schools of Chandigarh. Results show no significant difference of attitude towards internet of government and private senior secondary school students of Chandigarh, but they differ significantly in their attitude towards social networking sites. Also, no significant differences were found between male and female students with regard to their attitude towards internet and social networking sites*

**INTRODUCTION**

Today, the Internet is a public, supportive and self-sufficient facility reachable to millions of people throughout the world. People use it as the primary source of information utilization, and it has fueled the formation and growth of its own social bionetwork through social media and information sharing. Furthermore, e-commerce, or online shopping, has become one of the major uses of the Internet. The Internet can be used to communicate across large or small distances, share information from any place in the world and access information or answers to almost any question in moments. The internet is a globally connected network system facilitating worldwide communication and access to data resources through vast collection of private, public, business, academic and government networks. The internet refers to the global communication system, including hardware and infrastructure. The Internet is a global network of billions of computers and other electronic devices. It is possible to access almost any information, communicate with anyone else in the world, and do much more with the help of Internet. By connecting a computer

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to the Internet, we can do all of this, which is also called going online. When someone says a computer is online, it's just another way of saying it's connected to the Internet. Since their introduction, social network sites (SNSs) such as MySpace, Facebook, Cyworld, and Bebo have attracted millions of users, many of whom have integrated these sites into their daily practices. Most sites support the maintenance of pre-existing social networks, but others help strangers connect based on joint interests, political views, or activities. Some sites cater to varied audiences, while others attract people based on language used by them or their shared ethnic, sexual, spiritual, or their identities based on nations. Social Sites also vary in the extent to which they integrate new information and communication tools, such as mobile connectivity, blogging, and photo/video-sharing. Braintech(1999) defines the internet as a global super-networks of computer networks used by individuals, corporations, organizations and educational institutions worldwide.

#### **IN THE LEGAL DICTIONARY (2000)**

Internet has been defined as a global computer network through which the almost instant delivery of data or files occurs between connected computers.

#### **NEED OF THE STUDY**

Internet and social networking sites play a very important role in today's digital world and their impact on academic activities of the students can't be ignored. Internet and social networking sites have revolutionized the digital world by connecting people throughout the world. Because senior secondary stage of education is most important stage, at this stage attitude of students towards internet and social networking sites should be studied to know their liking and disliking about internet and social networking sites.

#### **OBJECTIVES**

1. To study and compare the attitude towards internet and social networking sites of male and female senior secondary school students.
2. To study and compare the attitude towards internet and social networking sites towards of government and private senior secondary school students.

#### **HYPOTHESES**

1. There will be no significant difference between attitude towards internet and social networking sites of male and female senior secondary school students.

2. There will be no significant difference between attitude towards internet and social networking sites of government and private senior secondary school students.

### **REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE**

Haythornthwaite (2005) observed that on many of the large social networking sites, participants are not necessarily "networking" or looking to meet new people; instead, they are primarily communicating with people who are already a part of their extended social network.

Sahin, Balta and Ercan (2010) in their study on the use of internet resources by university students reported students' views about the reliability of the sources obtained from the Internet. They found that 70% of students found the internet sources up-to-date, for educational purposes, and free from any bias.

Oghenetega and Igere (2014) conducted research at University of Maiduguri Nigeria on students' academic performance and internet usage. A questionnaire was designed and administered to students. The analysis showed that most of the respondents were computer literate, since 65% of the respondents agreed that they are computer literate, while 29% were not, 6% of the respondents neglected the question. The investigation also shows that 79% of the respondents accepted that their academic performance actually improved by using the internet, as 13% thought otherwise, 8% made no response to that question.

### **SAMPLE**

A simple random sampling technique was used for data collection. 200 students of 2 government and 2 private senior secondary schools of Chandigarh were selected. 100 students were taken from government schools and 100 from private schools.

### **TOOL USED**

Internet and social networking sites attitude scale by Sarkar and Das (2017)

### **RESULT**

**HYPOTHESIS 1:** There will be no significant difference between attitude towards internet and Social Networking sites of male and female senior secondary school students.

**Table 1:** Mean Differentials of attitude towards internet and social networking sites of male and female senior secondary school students.

| Dimension                                | Categories | mean  | SD      | N   | t-value | Level of Significance |
|--|------------|-------|---------|-----|---------|-----------------------|
| Attitude towards Internet                | Male       | 78.11 | 7.91099 | 100 | 0.661   | Not Significant       |
|  | Female     | 77.4  | 7.26414 | 100 |         |                       |
| Attitude towards Social networking sites | Male       | 78.1  | 5.53684 | 100 | 1.467   | Not Significant       |
|  | Female     | 79.54 | 8.1034  | 100 |         |                       |

**DISCUSSION OF RESULTS**

Table 1 shows that the mean scores of attitudes towards internet of male and female were 78.1100 and 77.4000 respectively. The standard deviation score of attitude towards internet of male and female were 7.91099 and 7.26414 respectively. Table 1 further shows that the mean scores of attitude towards social networking sites of male and female students were 78.1000 and 79.5400 respectively. And that of standard deviation score of males and females were 5.5369 and 8.10340 respectively.

To test the difference between scores of the two, t-ratio was calculated, which was found to be .661 for the two groups for attitude towards internet, which is not significant and that of attitude towards social networking sites was 1.467 which is not significant at any level of significance. Hence it is interpreted that there is no significant difference in attitude towards internet and social networking sites of male and female senior secondary school students. Hence, hypothesis I “There will be no significant difference in attitude towards internet and social networking sites of male and female senior secondary school students” has been accepted.

**HYPOTHESIS 2:** There will be no significant difference between attitude toward internet and social networking sites of government and private senior secondary school students.

**Table 2:** Mean Differentials between attitude toward internet and social networking sites of government and private senior secondary school students.

| Dimension                                | Categories | mean  | SD      | N   | t-value | Level of Significance |
|--|------------|-------|---------|-----|---------|-----------------------|
| Attitude towards Internet                | Govt.      | 77.98 | 7.30709 | 100 | 0.419   | Not Significant       |
|  | Private    | 77.53 | 7.881   | 100 |         |                       |
| Attitude towards Social networking sites | Govt.      | 80.13 | 6.52689 | 100 | 2.704   | 0.05                  |
|  | Private    | 77.51 | 7.15979 | 100 |         |                       |

### **DISCUSSION OF RESULTS**

Table 2 shows that the mean scores of attitude towards internet of government and private schools were 77.9800 and 77.5300 respectively. The Standard deviation of scores of attitude was 7.30709 and 7.88100 respectively. Table 2 further shows the mean scores of attitude towards Social Networking sites of government and private schools were 80.1300 and 77.5100 respectively. The Standard deviation of scores of attitude towards social networking sites were 6.52989 and 7.159 respectively.

To test the difference between the two groups, t-ratio was calculated which was found to be .419 for attitude towards internet, which is not significant and calculated t value between two groups for attitude towards social networking sites was found to be 2.704 which is significant at 0.05 level of significance. Hence hypothesis 2 “There will be no significant difference between attitude towards internet and social networking sites of government and private senior secondary school students”, has been partially accepted.

### **CONCLUSION**

On the basis of above discussion of results, it is concluded that male and female secondary school students do not differ in their attitude towards internet and social networking sites, but government and private secondary school students do not differ in their attitude towards internet. Significant difference has been found between government and private secondary school students in their attitude towards social networking sites.

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