



Internet Addiction among the Schedule Tribe College Students: A Sociological Perspective

Dr.Dnyaneshwar Kashinath Bhamare

(Research Guide)

Associate Professor,

Arts, Commerce and Science College,

Nagaon.Tal-Dist-Dhule.Maharashtra.

dkbhamare3@gmail.com

Dipak Prabhakar Baviskar

(Research Scholar-Sociology)

Arts,Commerce and Science College,

Nagaon.Tal-Dist-Dhule.Maharashtra.

dipakbaviskar2020@gmail.com

Abstract:

Any kind of addiction destroys human relationship in the society and Internet addiction is no exception for that. This research paper attempted to investigate the nature and level of Internet addiction among the Schedule Tribe students learning at college level in Dhule Tehsil. A sample of 125 Schedule tribe students from 3 senior colleges of Dhule Tehsil was selected using purposive sampling method. Study included 85 male and 40 female student respondents. Questionnaire was the primary source of data collection. One of the important finding of this study is that leaving in remote and hilly areas as well as in rural areas, schedule tribe students are using internet with due purposes and social media is found the highest platform of Internet use by the these students. As degree of Internet addiction is high among the male students and also is having sever Internet addiction with them, it is necessary to develop remedies to lessen the phenomenon. Though girls are found less in sever Internet addiction, they are found using internet on social media, especially on Instagram platform. Very less students are found using internet for their educational purpose.

Key Words: *Schedule Tribe students, Internet Addiction, Social Media, Technology, Society, Socialization.*

Introduction:

In the process of socialization and communication, the Internet plays an important role in human life and in daily life. The Internet is used as an important medium from the point of view of social communication. Therefore, in the 21st century, the Internet plays an important



role in making human life convenient. If we compare the twentieth and twenty-first centuries in terms of modernization, in the twentieth century, information communication technology has greatly facilitated human life, while in the 21st century, the Internet has introduced global communication forums. Due to the continuous growth of internet usage in the young generation, there is no need to search for any kind of information, but the information comes automatically by just clicking on any keyboard on the computer. Therefore, the Internet is a multifaceted concept through which many services are available to a person. Internet is used for many reasons like online gaming, shopping, gambling communication, social media sites and so on. People who want to run their own business from home are also operating their business through electronic commerce (e-commerce).

For many people the use of internet is related to their daily life through which the internet is used from the point of view of online hotel booking, airline reservation, bus reservation or other things. However, the experience of some people shows an inability in this regard, whereby a psychological dependence is experienced in them. The limits however to which many individuals are engaging with the internet and its many functions such as means for communication is a subject of much discussion, as the topic of Internet Addiction continues to be the subject of much debate among research in mental health. 'Despite the vast number of internet users which exists the benefits of internet are reported to far outweigh the opposing consequences which result from extreme use such as internet addiction, which is not yet recognized by ICD-10 (International Classification of Diseases) or the DSM-IV. There are different terms used for internet addiction like Internet Addiction Disorder (IAD), Problematic Internet Use (PIU), and Excessive Internet Use (EIU). All these types are used by human beings in their daily life to such an extent that other areas of his/her life seem to be neglected.' (Smyth, et al.)

A review of the last two decades in terms of internet usage shows that internet usage has increased by 1000%. However, research into Internet Addiction appears to be in its infancy. Over the last two decades, many problems have been identified with regard to Internet use among college-level students, including a perceived loss of self-control, discrimination academic performances as well as dealing with people in the classrooms, campus and in the society. Therefore, Internet addiction is considered as one of social issues; as majority of social group is found engaged in online platforms with due reasons by spending hours after hours.

Although there is no claim to a definitive definition of Internet addiction, it is generally accepted that it is a state in which a person forgets himself/herself in relation to Internet use



and uses the Internet to the point where he/she has a negative attitude towards own life. However, young (1998) is credited with the concepts of Internet Addiction Disorder and Problematic Internet Use. According to him Internet use is a state of being in which a person involves himself in the context of Internet use in such a way that he forgets his own consciousness and is only active in that process.(Murali and George, 2007)

Rameshkumar Sahu and his colleagues (2018), having reference to Joeng, have argued that Internet addiction is significantly and negatively related to student's academic performance. This means that Internet addiction impairs academic performance of students. On the other hand, Dr. Kishor Raut (2018) argued that internet addiction not only damages individual's academic, economic and psychological and health related performances, but also affects social life. According to him, this addiction also pours social insecurity by means of cybercrimes.

In the process of socialization, every person has to acquire the language, character, and beliefs etc. of his society. Also, no human being inherits the personality and social norms of its culture. He is a born independent, fearless and unsophisticated and unconditioned human being. He has the biological characteristics of a human being. The most important quality is profound intelligence. And he has to learn and others have to learn how to make socially acceptable use of these biological matters. In this process, a person needs to acquire the knowledge of how to behave in society, when to do what, what is good, what is bad, what role should be played, etc. Therefore, the basic aim of socialization is to develop the self-discipline of self.

The use of internet based technology is essential from the point of view of social interaction and social communication. However, it is equally necessary for every element of the society to limit the use of the Internet. Many factors play important roles in the transformation of any social system. Among them technological factor is the most important factor of social change. This is what Narendra Kumarasinghi and Vasudhakar Goswami have said in 'Samajshastra Vivechan'.

According to Dr. Iyer, addictions like gutkha, tobacco, cigarettes, liquor are harmful from social health point of view. But internet addictions are completely different from these addictions. The effect of this addiction affects the overall personality of the person, his psychological affairs, educational attainment, and financial affairs. Therefore, a person should use the Internet in a limited way for the sake of social welfare.



Indian society is a diverse society in which people of different religions, creeds, races, castes and tribes live together. In terms of economically, educationally, socially backward Scheduled Tribes, out of the total population of Scheduled Tribes in the world, a very large population lives in Indian society alone. According to the 2011 census, there is a total population of 6 crore 78 lakh Scheduled Tribes in India and their proportion is 08.01% of the total population. Scheduled Tribes constitute 09.27% of the total population of Maharashtra. While in Dhule district, this population is 647315. Therefore, Dhule district is one of the largest Schedule Tribe population districts in Maharashtra. Dhule district, the tribal tribes are Pawara, Kokni, Pardhi, Bhill, Korku, of which the Pawara and Kokni tribes have the highest population.

The tribal Konkan and Pawara tribes inhabit the tapering ranges of the Western Ghats and the Satpura ranges in the north, as well as the Paradhi and the Bhil living in urban and rural areas, have different lifestyles and live their own lives from a socio-cultural point of view. The life of tribal living a traditional life has changed a little due to the connection with the city and they have started to use urban life and luxury items. People have also started using devices related to internet i.e. mobiles, computers, laptops. The youth among them are seen using mobiles and other internet related devices to a large extent.

Therefore, the main objective of this research is to understand the prevalence of internet addiction among tribal students studying at college level.

Objectives of Study:

1. To study the nature of Internet use of Schedule Tribe Students.
2. To identify the level of Internet use of Schedule Tribe Students.
3. To study the level of internet addiction of Schedule Tribe Students.

Methodology:

In order to understand the nature and level of Internet addiction of Schedule Tribe Students of Dhule Tehsil, a sample of 125 Schedule Tribe students learning in senior colleges of the tehsil was selected by applying purposive sampling method. Sample included both male and female students with 85 male students and 40 female students. Those who shown their positive concern and admitted that they use internet were selected in the sample. All participant students were in the age group from 19 to 21 years of ages and were learning in First, Second and Third Year. A self-constructed questionnaire was the primary source of data collection. Collected data is treated using measures of central tendency like mean and Standard Deviation.

Analysis:

Table-1 - Nature of Internet Use

Gadgets	Number of users	Percentage
Mobile	89	71%
Computer	32	26%
Others	04	03%
	125	100%

It is with reference to the Table 1 shows the nature of Internet use of students.71% (N=89) students use Internet on mobile, while 26% (N=32) students use Internet on computer, remaining 03% (N=04) students use Internet on other gadgets. This shows that majority of students use internet connected to their mobile devices, while less students use computer and other devices connected to internet facility.

Table-2 - Level of Internet Use

Internet Use	Number of Users	Percentage	Means	SD
Social Media	59	47.20%	44.78	14.27
Online Gaming	27	21.60%	27.14	11.48
Educational Purpose	21	16.80%	23.88	09.21
Online Business	18	14.40%	19.24	07.66
	125	100%		

It is with reference to the Table 2 and data presented in it indicates that majority of students learning at college level in Dhule Tehsil use internet for social networking. The mean value 44.78 is greater than the rest of the means. Thus it can be stated that students learning at college level spend most of their time on social media like whatsapp, Facebook, Instagram etc.

Table-3 - Level of Internet Addiction

Variable	Level	N	M	SD	Male	Female
Internet Addiction	Normal Addiction	77 (62%)	45.22	13.11	48	29
	Light Addiction	33	32.77	09.14	24	09
	Sever Addiction	15 (12%)	19.41	06.45	13	02
		125			85	40

It is with reference to the Table 3 which is about level of internet addiction, 62% (N=77) students are having normal Internet addiction with them while 12% students have sever Internet addiction with them. The mean value 45.22 and SD 13.11 is higher than the other level of Internet addiction. Therefore, students of the Tehsil have normal Internet addiction level with them.



Discussion:

Any kind of addiction destroys human relationship in the society and Internet addiction is no exception for that. This research paper attempted to investigate the nature and level of Internet addiction among the Schedule Tribe students learning at college level in Dhule Tehsil. One of the important finding of this study is that leaving in remote and hilly areas as well as in rural areas, schedule tribe students are using internet with due purposes and social media is found the highest platform of Internet use by the these students. As degree of Internet addiction is high among the male students and also is having sever Internet addiction with them, it is necessary to develop remedies to lessen the phenomenon. Though girls are found less in sever Internet addiction, they are found using internet on social media, especially on Instagram platform. Very less students are found using internet for their educational purpose.

Conclusion:

Stability is not the key to any social system, but change is an integral part of society. The development of mass communication in the 20th century and the development of technology in the 21st century have transformed society to a great extent. Due to the fact that most of the sections of the society are using the changing technology for various reasons, even the tribal section cannot stay away from it. However, tribal students who have independent lifestyle are rooted in culture. Internet addiction among such students is dangerous for the society. Although the Internet addiction among these students is at a normal level, it cannot be ignored that some students have sever Internet addiction with them.

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