

Boarding School's Students and Using of Internet – Research

Dijaki v dijaškem domu in uporaba interneta - raziskava

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Abstract

The information society and globalization have been introducing considerable changes into our lives on the level of our mutual relations. Generations of young people stay home and communicate with the outer world by computer and internet. We cannot designate the young people of today to be less sociable as past generations, only the way of communicating has changed. They socialize by means of internet and SMS – messages. We carried out a research among the pupils of high schools to find out how much time is spent daily on communicating via internet, which internet chat rooms they join, what communication methods they use, how many friends they make and how many acquaintances they meet in this way, how much e-mail is used and how much of their free time is spent for personal contacts.

Key words: internet, students, boarding schools, communication, chat rooms, informations

Povzetek

Informacijska in globalna družba spreminja naš način življenja na mnogih relacijah. Mladi vse bolj in pogostejše uporabljajo internet in SMS sporočila kot prioriteto komunikacijsko sredstvo. Dijaki uporabljajo internet doma, v šoli, v dijaških domovih, cyber kotičkih, knjižnicah. V raziskavi, ki smo jo izvedli v dijaškem domu, nas je zanimalo predvsem, kaj mlade privabi na internet, katere storitve uporabljajo, koliko prijateljev so spoznali preko interneta, katere komunikacijske metode uporabljajo ter kako pogosto uporabljajo email in koliko časa preživijo pred računalnikom.

Ključne besede: internet, dijaki dijaški domovi, klepetalnice, informacije

1. Introduction

Many people in modern society are becoming addicted with Internet. Most things that are addictive have its effect on human brains in a way of pleasure (Lacković, 2005, page 76).

Internet is more and more and more useful tool for gathering and comfortable search for information. The way to knowledge is faster and review able cause we do not need to run to libraries and browse through books, losing nerves with phone calls, etc. Information's are getting more and more practical

and cost effective. The way of search is changing and with that we use less time, so we can use it for other things.

Pattern of users of Internet is available, maybe with more computer knowledge. It is different kind of group of people, which most of its free time spend on Internet with different reasons (Sandre M.2000 page 396).

Survey made this year by Jupiter Computers in Media Metrix showed surprising results. It showed that more adults than adolescent people are using Internet and computers. Adolescents in average spend 303 minutes on Internet per month. On the other side adults spend in average spend 303 minutes on Internet per month. Boys are more interested in games, making of web pages and copying of software and music. Girls do use Internet in more practical ways, they are usually sending emails, they use Internet as help with their homework's and mostly as communication tool and they spend more time in chat rooms than boys (www.mladina.si).

2. Internet and student's free time

Students from all over Slovenia spend their free time when they are not in school. Spending of free time is a process and a way of increasing someone's hobbies and working potentials. Actions in free time are important for students to raise their working activities and their creativeness (Vaspitni rad domovima, 1973, page 77).

Students are using computer in their free time for variety of reasons. It serves them as a tool for searching different information's, for education, fun and for chat with other people etc.

In this article we want to show why Internet is attractive for students. We are interested in use of Internet amongst adolescents and so we choused next questions:

- where students use Internet;
- how often they use services of Internet and for what purposes;
- how long do they communicate over the Internet;
- what web pages in Slovene do they visit most and
- how much time do they spent on personal contacts and how many friendships they have made over the Internet.

3. The time communicate over the internet

3.1 Goal of research, pattern and methods

Amongst secondary school students we have made a research and use questionnaire method. With this research we wanted to find out how their communication over the Internet works and what of its services are they using. Questionnaire included thirteen questions. Within research we wanted to find out how much time students communicate over the Internet, what chat rooms they use, how much time they spend on personal contacts and how many new friendships they make over the Internet.

In this research we included thirty one students from different areas in Slovenia. There were seventeen female students and fourteen male students in age from fifteen to nineteen year, who were included in pattern. We used methodology of non experimental pedagogic research at which we compared the results in quantity al quality. Questionnaire had thirteen questions, some were closed and some were open type. Students returned questionnaires on their own and we got them all back and they were fully answered.

3.2 Research questions and analysis of answers

Question 1: »Do you use Internet?«

Table 1: Use of Internet

Answer	Count
Yes.	31
No.	0
TOTAL	31

We can see that all students included in this research use Internet.

Question 2: » For how long do you use Internet?«

Lowest number of use of Internet is three years, most is ten years. One student uses Internet for three years, five students for four years, five students for five years, eight students for six years, seven students for seven years, two students for eight years and three students for ten years.

Question 3: »Where do you use Internet?«

Table 2: Use of Internet

Answer	Count
Home.	27
In school / boarding school.	27
At friends.	18
In clubs, cybercaffes.	0
In libraries.	15
Other.	4

Most students have access to Internet at home and in school or at boarding school. eighteen of them also have access to Internet at their friends, fifteen of them also use Internet at libraries, but not one of them access Internet in clubs or cybercaffes.

Because the frequency is more that thirty one, we can say that some students have access to Internet at more than one location.

Results are showing us that students use Internet as a tool for forming relations, as help it study and for other things in their free time.

Question 4: »How often do you use Internet?«

Table 3: Use of Internet

Answer	Count
More times per day.	3
Daily.	7
Weekly.	16
Monthly.	5
Less than once per month.	0
TOTAL	31

From table 3 we can see that sixteen students use Internet weekly, seventeen students use it daily, five students use it monthly and three students use it more than once per day.

Question 5: »How much times have you spent on Internet last week? «

Table 4: Use of Internet

Answer	Count
0 hour.	9
1 hour.	6
2 hours.	5
3 hours.	5
More.	6
TOTAL	31

We can see that in last week six students have used Internet more than three hours per week, five students spend three hours, five students for two hours, six students only one hour and nine students haven't used Internet in last week.

Question 6: »How often do you use next services on Internet?«

Table 5: Use of Internet services

Service	I don't use	Less than once per month	monthly	weekly	daily	More than once per day
E-mail.	3	2	4	19	2	1
World Wide Web (www).	1	4	10	10	5	1
Transferring files with FTP.	24	1	5	0	0	1
IRC.	14	3	10	2	2	0
MS Chat.	20	2	6	3	0	0
Mailing lists.	8	9	12	1	0	0
Online Chats. (Yahoo, MSN messenger,...).	3	5	9	12	1	1

Students use email, web browsing, IRC chatting, use of mailing lists and online chat rooms weekly.

Question 7: »Do you have your email address?«

Table 6: Own email

Answer	Count
Yes.	21
No.	10
TOTAL	31

From the results we can see that twenty one of all asked students have their own email address and ten doesn't.

Question 8: »How often do you read your email?«

Table 7: Reading of email

Answer	Count
More than once per day.	1
Daily.	1
Almost daily.	3
Weekly.	13
Monthly.	7
Less than monthly.	2
I have read it only once.	0
Never.	4
TOTAL	31

From table 7 we can see that thirteen students read their email weekly, seven students read it monthly, four of them never checks their email, three students read it almost everyday, only two read it less than once per month and only one reads it daily and one more than once per day.

Question 9: »How often do you use world wide web (www)?«

Table 8: Use of world wide web

Answer	Count
More than once per day.	3
Every day.	3
Daily.	6
Weekly.	10
Monthly.	8
Less than once per month.	1
I used it only once.	0
Never.	0
TOTAL	31

From table 8 we can see that ten students use world wide web weekly, eight of them use it monthly, six of them use it almost every day, three of them use it more than once per day, three of them daily and only one uses it less than once per month.

Question 10: »How often do you use Internet for next purposes?«*Table 9: Use of Internet services*

Service	Never	Sometimes	Usually	Frequently
Search for information.	1	5	18	7
For fun.	1	11	15	4
Chatting with friends.	2	15	9	6
Research and education.	1	13	15	2

Students use Internet mostly for information's, research and education.

Table 10: Use of Internet services

Service	Never	Sometimes	Usually	Frequently
Browsing.	7	12	12	0
Reading news.	12	11	7	1
Searching phone numbers.	19	12	1	0
Buying on Internet in Slovenia.	27	3	1	0
Buying on Internet in Abroad.	27	3	0	1
Browsing pornographic sites.	24	4	1	2

Students answered that they use Internet for browsing (for fun)

Question 11: »What web pages do you visit mostly«

At this question we gave students a chance to write down web pages that they visit most. They wrote down next pages:

- www.najdi.si;
- www.google.com;
- www.email.si;
- www.24ur.com;
- www.matkurja.com.

Question 12: »How mush of your free time do you spend on personal relations?«*Table 11: Time spent on personal relations*

Answer	Count
Less than hour.	8
Up to 2 hours.	4
More than 2 hours.	14
I dont use computer with personal relations.	5
TOTAL	31

Most students use more than two hours of their free time on personal relations, eight students use less than one hour of their free time, four of them use less than two hours and five of them find computer unimportant with personal relations.

Question 13: »How many friends have you made on Internet?«

With this question we gave students an opportunity to write down how many friends have they made on Internet. Twelve students answered that they have made many friends on Internet, five of them made few new friendships and five made no friendships. Other students do not make new friendships on Internet.

4. Conclusion

Boarding schools is an education organization, where live many young people in their free time. An in free time they used ICT. We were interested in our research what attracts adolescents on Internet, where do they use it, what of its services and how often do they use and how often they check their emails, how much time they spend on communication over the Internet, etc.

With this research we came to conclusions that use of Internet amongst adolescent is at high level and many of them have their own email addresses.

Students use Internet at home, school, boarding schools at friends and in libraries. They use Internet daily and weekly. If some time ago users of Internet were people who had high knowledge in computers, we see that with the help of user friendly application and lower prices to access the Internet are spreading this circle of people who use Internet. Internet became most favorite medium which inflicts the age of adolescent and their growth in positive way of thinking.

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About authors

Lina Dečman is a specialist of management and organization of information systems, employed in IskraEmeco Kranj. Her field is research, use and implementation of information technology and data protection in public and private organizations. Her articles were published in local and also worldwide science literature. She also conducted many world conferences and meetings.

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