# THE EXTENT OF INTERNET EXPOSURE OF THE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AT ST. BENEDICT COLLEGE OF COTABATO, INC.

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**Abstract**

The study was conducted to determine the extent of the internet exposure of the High school students at St. Benedict College of Cotabato, Inc.  The specific research questions of the study sought to find out the high school students, the level of the internet literacy, the extent of the internet exposure, the advantages and disadvantages of internet and the importance of internet to the respondents.  To answer the questions raised in the study, the descriptive survey method of research was used. The self-made questionnaire was used to collect data from the respondents. The respondents are mostly comprised of males, with 50.27 percent than female respondents. More than half of the high school population have a computer with internet connection at home. Out of 254 respondents, only 0.39 percent do not know how to use internet.  In spite of integrating computer subjects in the curriculum with hand-outs manipulation.

Results revealed that high school students use internet because of doing research works or school activities.  This could mean that the students are required to research assignment, projects and reporting.  It was also found that the advantage of internet is helping the respondents to learn, enhance knowledge and discover new interesting ideas. The data revealed as disadvantage that using the internet makes one feel superior and powerful in the classroom over than with their classmates and teachers.  The study concluded that the high school students of St. Benedict College, with the help of their teachers are capable of supplementing themselves with interesting knowledge information beyond what is being learned in the confines of the classroom. Recommendations were provided at the end.

**Keywords:**  Education, Information Communication Technology, Internet literacy, Cyberbullying

## INTRODUCTION

The third millennium is an era characterized by technological advancement. Computers have revolutionized life around the world such that information technology has become a by-word. Because of its immense impact in the field of education, computers have been accepted inside the

school and classroom. The internet as the new technology aims to provide promise to humanity has known for learning and universal access to quality education. Accordingly, it allows students to broaden their academic experience access important information and communicate to others within the academic community. By and large, the quality and level of education acquired by an individual determines his contribution to national development. (Turkle, S. 1997)

As the technology for internet progressed and its presence widened, it eventually become popular due to a number of almost endless capabilities it can offer, including electronic mail systems, information distribution, file sharing, multimedia streaming service and online social networking. The internet has significantly served billions of people around the world. (Layton, T.G. 2000)

Some of the great benefits of the internet over the other communication networks are its global presence, easy accessibility and wide-scale communication. Since the presence of the internet can be found almost everywhere across the world, you will not have any problem accessing it. Apart from the presence and accessibility issues, the internet greatly offers rapid communication of a global scale. It even delivers an integrated multimedia entertainment that any other mass medium cannot offer. (Weston, R. 1994)

In the city, quite the number of computer houses have been established in the past five years or so as a result, children are exposed to this technology both of it advantages and disadvantages.

The internet has come in the school now, for better or worse. One must learn to use it to the advantage and protect children from its negative effects just as we do with cars and electricity and other technological innovations.

This study wanted to find out the extent of exposure of high school students to internet in terms of length of time they are exposed, different activities they do in the importance of internet in relation to school activities.


## METHODS

This study used the descriptive survey research. This was employed to determine the extent of internet exposure of Junior High School students at St. Benedict College of Cotabato, Inc..

The importance, advantages, disadvantages, length of time and online activities that students engaged and were elicited through the survey questionnaire accomplished by the high school student's respondents. This study was conducted at St. Benedict College of Cotabato, Inc. Junior High School Department. It is a non-sectarian school and it is run by a five (5) Board of Trustees. The school offers different level of educational services. The study made used of students coming from the junior high school.

The data used in the study was taken from the Junior High School Students of St. Benedict College of Cotabato, Inc.. The student population of as respondents of the study is two hundred fifty four (254) Junior High School students. The researcher used complete enumeration of the students enrolled was used to strengthen the reliability of the result of the study.

A survey questionnaire was used by the researcher in gathering the needed data of this study. After the questionnaire was constructed it was submit to the panel for the comments and suggestions. As soon as the final draft was made, it was reproduced then it was administered to a sample group of first year students of San Vicente Academy.

The questionnaire was composed of four major parts. The part one aimed to gather information on the respondent's profile such as age, sex and year level. It also consists of information about the computer literacy.

Part II has ten items under two general topics. It aimed to gather the answers the extent of internet exposure, the activities they usually do in the internet and reasons of using internet. It describes the respondent's perception to the situation as expressed to the statement listed. The perception on the reasons of using the internet is ranked according to its great importance to least importance.

Part III consisted of the list of advantages and disadvantages the internet bring to the students in school.

Part IV contained question about the importance of internet in schoolwork.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

**On the Profile of the Respondents**
**Table 1**
**Frequency Distribution According to Age**

| Age | Frequency(f) | Percentage (%) |
|-----|--------------|----------------|
| 11 | 3 | 1.18 |
| 12 | 24 | 9.45 |
| 13 | 62 | 24.41 |
| **14** | **65** | **25.59** |
| 15 | 61 | 24.02 |
| 16 | 34 | 13.39 |
| 17 | 4 | 1.57 |
| 18 | 1 | 0.39 |
| **Total** | **254** | **100%** |

Table 1 presents the frequency and distribution of high school according to age. Data showed that out of 254 respondents (n=234), 1 respondents or 0.39 percent belong to age 18, 3 respondents or 1.18 percent belongs to age 11, 4 respondents or 1.57 percent belong to age 17, 24 respondents or 9.45 percent belong to age 12,34 respondents or portunity to explore and learn modern technologies and inventions has a frequency of 224 or 88.19 percent with a mean rating of 1.11 that internet offers economical and affordable means of communication with friend and relatives anywhere in the world. Statement number 5 in which by using the internet keeps me updated about the latest happenings, issues and trends fall as number four with a frequency of 206 or 81.10 percent with a mean rating of 1.18. It was noted from the table 8 that statement number 9 which states that internet helps me forge linkages with friends and organizations has the lowest percentage among the rest with a 60.63 percent and with a mean rating of 1.39.

Internet therefore, helps the high school students in developing their own personality and assist in the students school-related activities, such as accomplishing assignments, projects and research.

**Table 2**

**Respondents Perception on the Disadvantages of Internet**

| Item | F | % | Mean | SD | Description |
|------|---|---|------|-----|-------------|
| 2. Using the internet makes me feel superior and powerful in the classroom over than with their classmates and teachers | 217 | 85.43 | 1.85 | 0.24 | Disadvantage |
| 4. Internet subscription is costly and it is an additional expense | 179 | 70.47 | 1.7 | 0.45 | Disadvantage |
| **6. Engaging so much in the internet makes me forget and neglect my other obligation at home and in school** | **184** | **72.44** | **1.72** | **0.44** | **Disadvantage** |
| 8. With the internet I will be able to browse any information I would like to know without permission | 156 | 61.42 | 1.6 | 0.48 | Disadvantage |
| **10. I spend more time using the internet for fun and leisure than looking up information for my school assignments.** | **139** | **54.72** | **1.54** | **0.49** | **Disadvantage** |

Legend:

| Scale | Range of Mean | Descriptive Interpretation |
|-------|---------------|----------------------------|
| A | 1.00 - 1.50 | Advantage |
| B | 1.50 - 2.00 | Disadvantage |

Table 2 presents the mean and standard deviation of the items 2,4,6,8 and 10 which were identified as disadvantages as perceived by the respondents. The data revealed that using internet makes me feel superior and powerful in the classroom over than with their classmates and teachers. Among the items name disadvantage, items 2 generated the highest response with a mean of 1.85 or 85.43 percent. This is followed by item 6, engaging so much in the internet makes one forget and neglect their obligation at home and in school with a mean of 1.72 or 72.44 percent. This result

means that the internet may possible influence high school students to disregard school obligations because internet can also be used for fun and leisure activities.

**Table 3**

**Respondents Perception on the Importance of Internet in School works**

| Item | Mean | SD | Rank |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. With my constant posting, writing on my homepage, I am able to improve my English grammar | 4.89 | 3.03 | 5 |
| **2. With the use of internet I am able to make my assignment** | **3.30** | **2.47** | **1** |
| 3. Internet helps me to develop my reading skills through scanning different information | 4.24 | 2.48 | 3 |
| 4. The internet gives me easy and fast access to information and provides advance knowledge in the different lessons tackled in the class. | 3.89 | 2.43 | 2 |
| 5. The knowledge I got in my researches allows me to do active class participation | 4.66 | 2.14 | 4 |
| 6. With the use of internet I can enroll in any online class or subscribe learning with my interest | 7.44 | 2.36 | 9 |
| 7. It allows me to communicate with my classmates or teacher whenever I am not in class and task about the school assignments or projects | 6.2 | 2.44 | 7 |
| 8. It leads me to catch current events and news and participated in class discussion | 6.13 | 2.27 | 6 |
| **9. Its gives me opportunity to chat with others in different countries and learn their different culture and life style** | **7.48** | **2.44** | **10** |

The table 3 presents the importance of using the internet in school works. The data revealed that the respondents agree to the statement on the importance of internet. With the use of technology, high school students are able to effectively carry out research task for their

assignments, shown as item 2 and rank number one with a mean of 3.3. Item 3 with a mean of 4.24 is second in rank.  The internet is an excellent tool to look up information easier, thus, it enables the students to accomplish research  tasks quickly than searching for the same information in the library. Items 4 and 5, which described the importance of using the internet to have active class participation during class discussion, are third in rank. Preparing and reading a topic before it is discussed or tackled in class is a good habit for high school students. Aside from reading the lessons in advance, this can be supplemented by information found online. The last rank is item number 9 with a mean of 7.48. This implies chatting with other individuals residing in other countries to learn their cultures and lifestyle is the least among priorities of high school students when using the internet. Likewise, this item was identified as the least important item among the options presented.

**Major Findings**

The study aimed to determine the extent of the internet exposure of the high school students at St. Benedict College of Cotabato.

Based on the findings of the data obtained from the respondents of the study, the major findings that emerged were as follows:

On the profile of the respondents, there were more male students with 50.74 percent (n=254) than female students. The most populous age group of high school students is 14 years old with 25.59 percent. The highest number of enrollees came from the first-year level with 27.56 percent, and the least number of enrollees came from the fourth year level with 18.50 percent.

Moreover, the study found out that more than half of the high school population have a computer with internet connection at home. Out of 254 respondents, only 0.39 percent do not know how to use the internet. In spite of integrating computer subjects in the curriculum with hands-on manipulation, the internet café with 37.40 percent, serves an essential environment where high school students have started learning to explore the use of internet. Since internet café may or may not have restrictions in terms of using the
internet, internet café may positively or negatively contribute to any students' ability to learn.

The findings of the study revealed that Junior high school students only use the internet occasionally with 39.37 percent. Since no student reported that he/she has never used the internet before, it can be inferred that the St. Benedict College of Cotabato allows the students and teachers to integrate the use of internet technology in order to perform better in school and learn more effectively by means of supplementary readings and carrying out of school-related activities.

Reasons of Using the Internet

The main reason why the high school students are using and accessing internet is because of doing research works or school-related activities with a mean of 2.37. This could mean that students are required to research the assignments, projects and reporting, and classroom discussions. Internet can offer a big help in the academic aspect of the respondents.

The finding of the study revealed that internet helps the respondents to learn, enhance knowledge, and discover new interesting ideas with a mean of 1.06 or the highest result among the options of the items identified in the advantages of internet to the students. The finding also showed that the internet helps the respondents to develop their knowledge, communication abilities and personality. The internet also makes the respondents feel superior and more knowledgeable than other classmates and teachers and got the highest mean response of 1.85 or 85.43 percent. This further explains that internet can make one superior in terms of having advance knowledge over

other and feel they know everything because they are keep themselves updated of the latest information that the internet provides.

The finding of the data as importance of internet revealed that the respondents agreed to the statement that the use of internet helps the students in carrying out research activities needed to turn out well-written and well-prepared assignments and projects. Using the internet as learning tool provides the respondents an easy and quick means to search and read information, and to store them in the computer for future reference when necessary.

## Conclusions

After analyzing the data obtained in the study, the researcher concluded that there are greater in number of male students than female of St. Benedict College Junior high school population and among the four-year level, the first year level has the most number of students, and most respondents of the study came from this group. Majority of the high school students learned to use and operate internet from the internet cafes and have learned to do so even at the early years of basic education. This can be explained by the fact the internet cafes abound near the vicinity of the school and in other public places.

Internet therefore, helps the high school students in developing their own personality and assists in the students' school-related activities, such as accomplishing assignments, projects and research. The data revealed as disadvantage that using the internet makes one feel superior and powerful in the classroom over than with their classmates and teachers. The Junior high school students of St. Benedict College, with the help of their teachers are capable of supplementing themselves with interesting knowledge information beyond what is being learned in the confines of the classroom.

## Recommendations

On the basis on the principal findings and conclusions, it is recommended that;

1. Conduct further study on the internet exposure of the high school students to maximize the benefits of the study.
2. Since the students are all digital learners, expose the teachers on varied computer and technology service training on teaching methods and strategies so they will be ready to give and teach their students technologically.
3. The school administrators should encourage teachers to use the computer or internet as one of the instructional materials in their teaching and can invest more in internet facilities to enhance the performance of their students and produce better results.
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