Attitudes of Students Towards Internet

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INTRODUCTION

Technology is great key that social, cultural, political values have been changed. By the improvements at technology, internet becomes a quide to analyse these changes and inform people about changes. By requiring the changes, adaptation for these are needed factor to survive with the effect of globalization and competition. Reaching resources in a fast way and gathering them under the different points of views with the perspectives of equality and alternatives. Although Internet has advantages, it has shortcoming by creating alinieation, addiction and deviance issues and communities. On the other hand, it effects the education cycle of students by providing alternatives learning styles and learning in a creative way issues as an advantages of internet. Gaining advantage is great options for everyone, internet is an aspect of changing life in order to be further step in life. Technological developments open wide range alternative choices to gain benefit for people's life (Forcier, 1996). The great impact about technology requires individuals to be more creative rather than accepting all conditions without questioning. Because technology contributes individual to search lonely in order to get information in a stable and comfortable way. In addition to this, students get various capacities and properties while they are engaging with learning. In that sense, technology makes people to have self-differentiated properties in order to get wide range of knowledge and about all issues and everyone has same opportunities for gathering this knowledge. Time is main consideration beyond the technology to create active searching about information at this competitive environment. Because of the effects of competitive environment, stable knowledge is needed to get further step at one's life among people. Therefore, we have to realize the perspectives of students about internet as a first step by relating advantage of technology. Internet comes to the point that reflects discovery of data instantly to adapt the changes (Grabe, et al., 2001). Therefore, Internet is the main item for establishing new cultures among societies because of effecting education.

AIM OF THE RESEARCH

At education system, technology is main facilitator that provides to contribute system under requiring needed knowledge. Technology provides us to know and follow all issues with the help of the basic item, which is Internet. Internet is a wide range of supporter by providing all contacts requirements and all types of information, searching facilities with its various digital tools.

Technology has impact on education with today's contemporary term as Educational Technology. Within this perspective; computers and Internet are one of the part of the educational technology not replacing all technological developments but it is part of the common concern term. By the way, it is the time to examine what are the attitudes of students' toward Internet that is apart of technology in order to clarify the role of Internet at students' life. Technology especially in education as computers and computer based system requires and concentrates to the how students can learn and use it effective way. Internet and its multi functions are in the roles of delivering information and gathering with easy navigations and paths. Technology and Internet reflect support for new dimensions under the perspective of education especially students' learning-teaching cycle (Forcier, 1996).

On the other hand, constructivist perspective merged the education cycle by effecting the technological instruction. By this way, it requires importance role of technology in

education. There are many components of Internet that facilitate the easy, stable and meaningful learning of students. There is a concrete role of computers and included Internet in society and schools. With well-known advantages of high technology, students can catch the consciousness of importance about technology and main issue is how they develop attitudes toward it (Grabe, et al., 2001). It is questionable how effectively affect and what are the attitudes of students toward internet as a role in education.

Importance of the Research

Through the Internet, students can reach real experiences leaning. The idea that is learning is constructive process widely accepted; learners do not passively receive information but instead actively construct knowledge. Through these perspectives, Internet applications provide to apply and experience the facilities of constructivist view (Plomp, et al., 1996). In addition to this, Internet helps to facilitate cooperative learning environment. Within the group heterogeneity, positive group interdependence, individual accountability and group processing components of cooperative learning, students can feel the sense of group dynamics and motivation on their learning through the internet (Crane, 2000). Through the constructivist approach, integrating Internet to the education is so easy and effective. This can foster the high level of the skills for students in problem solving and analyzing information through the help of the Internet facilities (Roblyer, 2000). Based on constructivist and student centered sense of education, students should catch the vision and be active in building what is needed for change and growth on the issue of educational technology importance and applications. All integration of these perspectives should be in the repertoire of the students to be much better for learning. Students must adopt that willingness; consciousness is the first step in using the technological facilities. In order to use effectively, productively and efficiently, there should be correct and positive attitudes of the user. In the scope of the research, the attitudes of students were determined for resulting reflections towards Internet and technology.

METHOD-OPERATIONAL DEFINITION OF VARIABLES

This study was designed to examine students' attitudes about Internet and to realize their tendencies based on gender, education level of their mothers and fathers, having computer at their homes, having internet connection at home, Internet education and student's positions. Independent and dependent variables in this study were used as follows:

Independent variables
Students' Characteristics.

1- Gender.
2- Education level of their mothers.
3- Education level of their fathers.
4- Having computer in their homes.
5- Having internet connection in their homes.
6- Having internet education.
7- Position of students.

Dependent variables
Students' attitudes were evaluated by survey.

1- Internet is a universal digital library.
2- Internet provides easy life.
3- Internet is a fastest way to reach knowledge.
4- Internet is a digital place that creates close relationship among societies.
5- Internet provides endless freedom to people.
6- Internet is vital to enhancing exchanging cultures.
7- Internet has a potential to be an effective training tool.
8- Internet is a way to provide learning for people in order to search.
9- It is exciting to get information about internet.
10- It is enjoyable to chat at internet.
11- Having friends in internet is temporary.

12- Internet causes to be far away from real life.
13- Chatting in internet prevent to be socialised.
14- Internet can provide stable friendship by doing chatting.
15- Internet creates tendency to people for getting prepared knowledge.
16- Internet includes unnecessary, non-useful knowledge.
17- Internet causes destroyed societies.
18- Internet creates addiction.
19- Internet creates cultural dilemma.
20- Internet forces people to be alone.
21- There should not be any nervous while making shopping at internet.
22- Foreign languages that internet includes is not obstacle.
23- It is not safety to make shopping at internet.

Identification of the Population
The population under investigation included students whose are the students at graduate and postgraduate in Fall 2002-2003 school year in Eastern Mediterranean University at Northern Cyprus.

Sample
Sample selected by the method of random sampling as a hundred seventy three graduate and postgraduate students taking courses during Fall 2002-2003 school year in Eastern Mediterranean University.

Instrument
For this research study, questionnaire was designed for analyzing students' attitudes towards Internet. Survey was designed according to outlines of "Tendency Towards Internet" (Kilinçoglu, Altun, 2002). There were 30 items at this instrument, 7 related with personal information, and 23 items related with Internet attitudes are on a series five-point Likert-scale. (5=strongly disagree and 1=strongly agree).

Data Collection
In Eastern Mediterranean University, a hundred seventy three undergraduate and MS level students' perceptions and attitudes were analyzed through the prepared questionnaire about internet. Students' responses to the questionnaire were statistically analyzed according to gender, education level of their mothers and fathers, having computer at their homes, having internet education and student's positions.

Data Analysis Procedures
In this study, quantitative research methods (frequencies, t-test, and ANOVA) were used in order to investigate the research problem that is effects of internet on learning. Questionnaire as survey was designed to get the perceptions of student-teachers towards internet and its effects to learning.

DATA ANALYSIS AND PRESENTATION OF FINDINGS

The main purpose of this study was to investigate students-teachers' perceptions and attitudes towards internet based on their gender, education level of their mothers and fathers, having computers at home, having Internet connection, having internet education, and students positions with relating statement type questions by the support of statistical analysis and evaluation that questionnaire results are the basis of these evaluations.
The light of quantitative data analysis examines demographic data and frequencies for all items in the survey.

Demographic Data
An analysis of the characteristics of the target population of the study; indicated that 27.2% of the respondents were male and 72.8% of were female. Similarly, 26.6% of the respondents' mothers' education level were primary school, 15.6% were secondary school, 41.6% were high school, 5.2% were undergradute, 7.5% were graduate, 2.9 were postgraduate, and 0.6% were doctorate degree. About 18.5% of the respondents' fathers' education level were primary school, 12.7% were secondary school, 30.6% were high

school, 3.6% were undergradute, 23.7% were graduate, 9.2% were postgraduate, and 1.7% were doctorate degree. Similarly, 85% of the respondents have a computer and 15% of them don't have a computer at home. About 65.9% of the respondents have an Internet connection at home and 34.1% do not have Internet connection at home. Similarly, 32.4% had an Internet education and 67.6 did not have an Internet education. About 72.3% were graduates and 27.7% were postgraduate students.

Frequencies of Individual Items
According to the single item indicating satisfaction with Internet attitudes, it appears that the students were strongly agree on having internet attitudes. However, for 13 of the 23 specific items, more than 50% of the students, indicated that they were strongly agreed and agreed. At least, 50% strongly agreed and agreed that:

Internet is a universal library (76.6%);
Internet provides easy life (69.9%);
Internet is a fastest way to reach knowledge (67.6%);
Internet is a digital place that creates close relationship among societies (51.4%);
Internet provides endless freedom to people (42.2%);
Internet is vital to enhancing exchanging cultures (45.1%);
Internet has a potential to be an effective training tool (39.9%);
Internet is a way to provide learning for people in order to search (39.9%);
It is exciting to get information about internet (40.5%);
It is enjoyable to chat at internet (34.1%);
Internet causes to be far away from real life (27.7%);
Internet creates tendency to people for getting prepared knowledge (39.9%);
Internet creates addiction (38.7%);

And less than 50% of the students were less positive about 10 items of the 23 indicating undecided, disagree and stronly disagree with:

Having friends in internet is temporary (39.9%);
Chatting in internet prevent to be socialised (28.9%);
Internet can provide stable friendship by doing chatting (38.7%);
Internet includes unnecessary, non-useful knowledge (48%);
Internet causes destroyed societies (35.8%);
Internet creates cultural dilemma (32.9%);
Internet forces people to be alone (33.5%);
There should not be any nervous while making shopping at internet (38.2%);
Foreign languages that internet includes is not obstacle (30.1%);
It is not safety to make shopping at internet (41.6%);

t-test of Individual Items
According to Independent Samples Test results that were done for gender; as indicated above, all values are higher than the standard value that is 0.05 except the values of Internet is a universal digital library (0.026), Internet provides easy life (0.002), Internet is a fastest way to reach knowledge (0.026), Internet is a digital place that creates close relationship among societies (0.008), it is exciting to get information about internet (0.021), foreign languages that internet includes is not obstacle (0.002), which are representing meaningful difference between gender variations, on the other hand other values indicate no meaningful difference between genders based on their responds.

According to Independent Samples Test results that were done for having computer in students' homes; as indicated above, all values are higher than the standard value that is 0.05 except the value of having friends in internet is temporary (0.017), and foreign languages that internet includes is not obstacle (0.000) which representing meaningful difference with having computer in their homes on the other hand other values indicate no meaningful difference between have computer in students' home based on their responds.

According to Independent Samples Test results that were done for having internet

connection in students' homes; as indicated above, all values are higher than the standard value that is 0.05 which are representing no meaningful difference between statements and having internet connection in their homes based on their responds.

According to Independent Samples Test results at table 8 that were done for the position of students which vary as being graduate and postgraduate students that indicated above, all values are higher than the standard value that is 0.05 except the values of Internet is a universal digital library (0.044), it is exciting to get information about internet (0.041), and chatting in internet prevent to be socialised (0.022) which are representing meaningful difference between statements and positions of students based on their responds.

ANOVA of Individual Items

According to ANOVA results that were done for the students' mother education level, all values are higher than the standard value that is 0.05 except the values of "Internet includes unnecessary, non-useful knowledge" (0.001), which is representing meaningful difference between statements and students' mother education based on their responds.
According to ANOVA results that were done for education levels of student's fathers as indicated above, all values are higher than standard value that is .05, that representing no meaningful difference between statements and education level of student's fathers.
Comments and Recommendations

All reflections about the study that is "attitudes of students towards internet" concluded that because of living technology based and knowledge based century, adaptation to technology is inevitable conditions. As known, internet is great option for us to catch information any time we want. There is a consensus that internet provides huge alternatives with its advantages but also it includes different dimensions as a shortcoming. In addition to this, research results represent that high percentages concentrated on positive and consciousness about internet.

Therefore, the results of the research and the questionnaire, students have positive tendency the useful and easy reflections of internet. This examine that there is a consciousness about effects and importance of internet by having tendency to apply the consciousness or willingness of new technological style, because students education levels are convenient to apply and use internet otherwise they can not reach the competitive environment.

Because of Internet become a part of every people's life, all of the people should eliminate negative perceptions and attitudes about internet and improve their adaptations in order to catch competitive environment strengths. By relating these information, aim of the this study was defined as to make analyse the attitudes of students towards internet as a being first step to do comments on these issues and to realize the effects at education as being influencer on student's learning through effecting variables which are the personal information about students. As it is obvious that internet has shortcoming and also advantages. This study also targeted to define the awareness of students about negatives aspects of Internet and how they respond by emerging their backgrounds consideration.

In addition to this, by the evaluation of all statistical implementations which are t-test as independent, ANOVA and frequency evaluations based on questionnaire results reflect that statements of foreign language is not obstacle in internet, internet is a digital place that creates close relationship among societies and internet provides easy life represent meaningful difference at t-test. But at ANOVA, all values represent no meaningful difference between statements and the independent variables as education levels of student' fathers and mothers.

As a result, having consciousness and positive reflections about Internet makes people to be further step at competitive environment. Therefore, at education cycle of students concentrate more to learn internet alternatives and functions for getting great positive benefit their future life by adapting contemporary trends.

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