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# **Abbreviations**

ICT – Information & Communication Technology

LMS – Learning Management System

PES – Performance Evolution System

# **Acknowledgement**

# **Abstract**

# **CHAPTER 1**

1. **Introduction**

This Study is about the Impact of ICT on Education in Students of Sri Jayewardenepura University. World of ICT changes every day. Use of ICT creates an easy life for human beings. People adopt to new technology and change their life style a lot.

Same thing applies to the students of a University. ICT is now used inside university of Sri Jayewardenepura widely. University have its own LMS web site to support students in their learning process. Other than that University offers computer facility for the Students for their Studying purpose.

Therefore this research has been carried out to investigate the impact ICT makes on the Education of the Students in University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

* 1. **Research Questions**
* What are the Students attitudes towards ICT?
* Do students use ICT to support their studies?
* Does ICT impact students Study habits?
  1. **Research Objectives**
* Identify Students attitudes towards ICT in the University
* Identify whether Students use ICT for their Education purpose
* Identify whether ICT changed students study habits
  1. **Scope of the Study**

This investigation studies the impact of the ICT on education of University Students. For this research data will be collected mainly from the Students of Sri Jayewardenepura using Questionnaires. Secondary data will be gathered from the University reports.

* 1. **Conclusion**

This chapter introduced the research topic by briefly introducing the research background. Research objectives and research questions were mentioned in this chapter. Next chapter will give a Literature Review about the Study.

# **CHAPTER 2**

1. **Literature Review**

### **2.1. Introduction**

A literature review is a discussion of several important research papers in the field, relating the findings to one another. They are also known as surveys and discussions of existing literature, which covers the same subject matters.

**2.2. ICT**

ICT (Information and Communication Technology – or Technologies) is an umbrella term that includes any communication device or application, encompassing: radio, television, cellular phones, computer and network hardware and software, satellite systems and so on, as well as the various services and applications associated with them, such as videoconferencing and distance learning. (Rouse, n.d.).

In recent years people became interested in finding out how computers and internet can be used to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of education at all levels and in both formal and non-formal settings. Older ICT technologies are now being given low attention and new technologies are entering to the field of ICT. ICT have a longer and richer history. For instance, radio and television have for over forty years been used for open and distance learning., although print remains the cheapest, most accessible and therefore most dominant delivery mechanism in both developed and developing countries. The use of computers are still a challenge in developing countries.

### **2.2. Overview of ICT in University of Sri Jayewardenepura**

University of Sri Jayewardenepura uses ICT for education purposes of the Students widely. Starting from the university Student registration every activity in the management of the University is now computerized.

University Library offers computer facility to the students who visit Library. University Library contains a Library Management System which supports Students in searching books easily and it allows students to read some of the pdf versions of the books.

University offers multiple Wi-Fi areas inside the university. It is always open and students are free to use it for their studying purposes.

Therefore University of Sri Jayewardenepura can be considered as a better place to learn with usage of new Technology.

### **2.3. Commonly Used ICT equipment among Students in the University**

From observation research group was able to identify that there are set of ICT equipment which University students use widely. Those equipment are as mentioned in the below list

* Computers/Laptops
* Tablets
* Phones / Smartphones

Almost every student of the University have at least one of these ICT equipment and they are attached to them.

### **2.4. Similar Research Details**

**Introduction**

Similar survey was carried out by Mubah in University of Beua, Cameroon. Two main purposes of this research was to investigate student familiarity and attitude towards ICT and Secondary, the impact of ICT on students study habits.

**Materials and Methods**

This study was based on survey research design. This research was carried out in two parts. First part of the study was to achieve answers for the research question students familiarity with ICT and how they use it. And second part was carried out to investigate gender impact of the students to the ICT usage.

**Research Findings**

* *What are the students’ attitudes towards information and communication technologies?*

Results have revealed that 81% of the examined students have positive attitude towards ICT. From gender impact it showed 91% of male students supported to this question results and 73% of female students supported. So It was clearly displayed that male students supported more than female students.

* *Do Students use ICT to support their Studies?*

Results revealed that 83% of students use ICT to support their Studies. And study habits improve with the wide use of Internet.

* *Do gender impact on the use of ICT?*

Research revealed that 93% of male students use ICT to support their Studies and only 73% of female students use ICT to support their Studies.

* *Does ICT impact students study habits?*

Research revealed that 83% of Students use ICT positively to facilitate their learning and secondly it revealed that 80% of students go internet to send emails and to find data for study/research. And 65% go internet to chat with friends.

**Conclusion of the research**

Students of the University of Buea have a positive attitude towards the use of ICT to support studies and facilitate learning. As such, they use computers and the internet on daily basis to communicate through e-mail and chat, and also for research/studying. ICT is considered to exploit the flexibility of training. The rhythm of study, the allocation of time and the availability of teachers can allow better articulation between private life/professional life (studies) as well as a better allocation of time between the various uses.

### **2.5. Conceptual Framework**

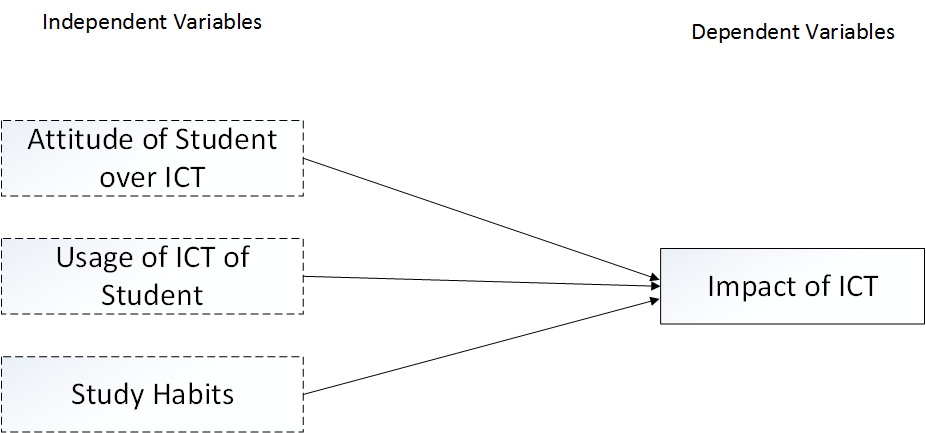
****

Figure : Conceptual Framework

### **2.6. Conclusion**

This chapter mentioned about the Literature Review of the Research. This contained a detailed review of the University itself and review details of previous similar research. Next chapter will describe about the Methodology used for the research.

# **CHAPTER 3**

1. **Methodology**

### **3.1. Introduction**

The third chapter represents the central point of the research report. Previous chapters of the report have laid the groundwork for the project. A description of the respondents who took part in the study will be provided.

### **3.2. Design and Study Sample**

#### **3.1.1. Population**

Population of the study will be the students of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura. This is a mixed faculty research so research did not divide into any faculty.

#### **3.1.2. Sample**

Sample of the study was Fifty students from canteens around the University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

### **3.3. Data Collection Method**

Method used to carry out the investigation is listed below.

#### **3.3.1. Questionnaires**

Questionnaire supported in gathering big amount of data in a very short time period. This method is very useful in collecting data from massive amount of people.

A common questionnaire was designed to achieve the target. Questionnaire was distributed among students in common places in the university. As Example University Open Canteen.

Cause of the closed ended questions series it is easy to interpret and tabulate information gain from questionnaires and it is easier and quicker for respondents to answer.

### **3.3.2. Observation**

Observation is a method of data collection which involves the research group with the target group at the study area. This method gives 100% reliable information about an investigation.

Research group attended in lectures with students and observed students behavior inside the university.

### **3.4. Data Analysis**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Activity | 1st Month | | | | 2nd Month | | | | 3rd Month | | | |
| Week | | | | Week | | | | Week | | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | |
| Defining Project |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |
| Identifying Project Scope &  Boundaries |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |
| Analyzing Data Collection Technique |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |
| Identify Basic & Critical  Information Requirement |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |
| Identify Suitable Information Source |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |
| Design Questionnaires |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |
| Analyze & Process Gathered Information |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |
| Finalize Project |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |
| Design Solutions/Make Recommendations |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |
| Prepare Documentation |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |
| Delivery |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |

The data gathered using the above stated methods will be analyzed using descriptive analysis method.

### **3.5. Report Plan**

Table : Report Plan

### **3.6. Conclusion**

Chapter three described the study settings and methods of research. How the research was done is interpreted in the subtopics of this chapter. The methods of data collection and how the research was done are the main points highlighted in this chapter along with the time plan of the research. The next chapter would focus on the methodology of the study and the basic findings of the research.

# **CHAPTER 4**

1. **Research Findings**

**4.1. Introduction**

This section outlines the finding from analyzing the questionnaires distributed. The gathered information is being analyzed by use of Microsoft excel, and findings are given in this chapter.

**4.2. Research and Analysis**

Students of the University have supported a lot in the research progress. They have supplied required information without hesitating although they had Examinations in this period of Research progress. Students of the University claim to be friendly and very supportive to each other.

Most of the Students appeared to be using ICT for their Studies. From just an overlook it was clearly visible. But still there were some students who were using no ICT for their education. But their attitude towards ICT seems to be positive.

**4.3. Research Findings**

**4.3.1. Results from Observation**

* + Research group managed to find out that university offer IT course unit which is open to all faculties. Aim of this program was to improve the IT knowledge of the students in the university.
  + Research group managed to find out in science faculty students have a big encouragement to attend Computer Science lectures and Computer Science Society programs.
  + University maintains students’ exam results in an online system which students of the University are using very happily.
  + University students seem to be more attached to LMS of the university because most of the lecturers upload daily lecture notes to it.
  + Students tend to use internet from University Wi-Fi area.
  + Students use internet very widely to complete their assignments provided by lecturers. And lecturers also provided online references for students to further study than providing book references from the Library.

**4.3.2. Results of the Questionnaires collected**

**4.3.2.1. Opinion of ICT from the Students of the University**

From the selected population all of them responded that they believe IT is really helpful for their Studies. There was a 100% positive respond mentioning overall ICT is helpful.

Following is the Results for their Opinion about internet.

Figure : Opinion about Internet

According to the results above chart was created. According to the above chart 54% of the Students state that Internet is useful and 44% students state that it is very useful for them. Rest of the 2% students have no idea of the Internet. So from overall result of this chart we can mention average of 98% students consider Internet as useful to their day to day work.

**4.3.2.2. Usage of ICT tools**

**Students Computer Access**

Figure : Computer Access

According to above chart 81% of the students of the target group appears to have a computer at home or a personal laptop. Only 2% of the students go to internet café to get the required information they need from Computers. 17% of the students go to computers provided by the university. Rest of the students use their own personal computers to gather their required information.

**Students Computer Usage**

Figure : Computer Usage

Above chart describes about how much time a student use computer daily. From results of above chart it display 76% of students from target group use computers less than 2 hours. Only 10% of the students use computers greater than 2 two hours according to the results.

**Students Tab/Smartphone Usage**

Figure : Tab/Smartphone usage

From the target group only 64% of the students have Tab/Smartphones in the University. This shows that 36% of the students use computer as the only ICT tool to facilitate their needs. Cause of this must be mostly is the lack of money to buy such smartphones and Tabs.

**Students Tab/Smartphone usage Time**

Figure : Tab/Smartphone Usage Time

Above chart contains the results for the usage time of Tabs/Smartphones of Students in target group. According to results 58% of students in the target group use smart phones less than two hours. Therefore students use Tablets/Smartphone more than they use the phones averagely.

**4.3.2.3. Students ICT usage priorities**

Following charts display students’ first and second priorities of ICT usage.

**4.3.2.3.1. Computer Usage Purpose**

Figure : Computer Usage Purpose

Above chart display students first and second priorities of using a Computer. Other section stands for Computer games, Movies and Social Networks. From the results received it displayed clearly that Students use Computers for Studies more than they use it for other purposes. Among them 28% of the students use computer as a tool for reading.

**4.3.2.3.2. Tab/Smartphone Usage Purpose**

Figure : Tab/Phone Usage Purpose

Others slice in the above chart stands for Social Networks, Games and Movies. From the results gathered above chart was created. According to above chart 46% of the students in the target group use Tab/Smartphones for Other purposes. And from the data it was using social networks which took their highest priority. But 54% of students use Tabs/Smartphones for their Studying or Reading purposes in total. Therefore it can be concluded that majority of the students use Tabs/Smartphones for their Studies while involving into Entertainment purposes as well.

**4.3.2.3.3. Internet Usage Purpose**

Figure : Internet Usage purpose

Others slice in the above chart stands for Online gaming Sites, Social Networks and Sports Sites. From the results of the investigation it revealed that 96% of the students use internet for their Educational purposes. Among that 52% students use internet to studies. This contains looking for online notes and watching online lectures.

**4.4. Conclusion**

This chapter includes the research findings and they are presented through charts and graphs. It consists of an analysis of the results. Furthermore it includes the results that were obtained by the data finding methods and they are clearly elaborated.

# **CHAPTER 5**

1. **Conclusion**

### **5.1. Introduction**

The chapter consists of the final results findings, and the recommendations generated by the analysis based on the findings. The results were analyzed deeply in order to derive the findings, to provide optimal solutions to the research. Furthermore, methods are suggested for further study for more accurate results.

### **5.2. Research Findings**

#### **Attitude of Students over ICT**

**From Questionnaire results**

All of the students responded in the questionnaire that ICT is helpful to their day to day life and from figure 2 it revealed that 98% of the students see Internet as a useful tool.

**From Observation results**

University students always use some sort of an ICT equipment for their studying. Research group reported that some of the students use Tablets to read books than trying to get them from the Library. And these students consider it very helpful due to low cost and they are easily available.

**Final Conclusion**

Therefore from these results it revealed that almost 99% of the students have a positive attitude over ICT.

#### **Do students use ICT to support their Studies?**

**From Questionnaire results**

**Computer**

From figure 3 it is revealed that majority of Students (81%) use personal Computer and from figure 4 it reveals that 76% of Students use computers daily for less than 2 hours.

And also from figure 7 it reveal that most of the Students (76%) use computers to Read or Study purpose. Therefore it reveals students use computers for their Studying purpose more than looking for entertainment. This concludes that students use computers to support their studies.

**Tabs/Smartphones**

From figure 5 it revealed that only 64% of the students use Tabs/Smartphones in the target group. And among that 64% of students according to figure 7 it revealed that 54% of students use Tabs/Smartphones for their Study and Reading purposes while 46% of Students use it for their entertainment purposes. Still students tend to give a higher priority to Studies. Therefore we can conclude that students use Tabs/Smartphones to support their Studies while using it for entertainment mostly during their leisure time from the details shown because, according to figure 6 nearly half of the students use Tabs/Smart phones more than two hours.

**From Observation results**

Research group managed to find out that University students use internet always to complete their assignments and gather information to study. Whenever they do not understand some part of a lesson first thing they do is trying to search required information online.

**Final Conclusion**

Therefore final conclusion can be understood as Students use ICT to support their Studies.

#### **Does ICT impact students Study habits?**

**From Questionnaire results**

According to figure 7 and figure 8 averagely 61% of the students in the target group use ICT for their Studies. From figure it revealed that 81% of the students use personal computers. And majority of the students (53%) use it in greater one hour per day according to figure 4.

From figure 6 72% of the students who have Tabs/Smart phone use them more than one hour. And 54% students use it for educational purposes.

From figure 9 it reveals that 96% of the students use internet to search information for their studies or to go to LMS of the University. And from above results it reveals that majority of the students spend a lot of time studying using online resources.

**From Observation results**

From observation results research revealed that students are more attached to LMS or the PES of the University. And lecturers are always referring to online references than books. Students in the university have to rely on these online systems to study lectures in the University.

**Final Conclusion**

Therefore it conclude that ICT impacts students study habits and Students tend to consider it very helpful to their studies.

### **5.3. Recommendations**

* **Add few more Wi-Fi areas**

Students’ complaint that Wi-Fi areas are crowded and it becomes slower when more students use Wi-Fi at same place. More and more students requires to access internet for their studying purposes.

Adding one or two more Wi-Fi areas will make students to spread among these areas which will keep the speed of the connection consistent to a certain amount.

* **Provide university Library System online for University Students**

University Library System provide a good and fast service to the students. Students appreciate this facility because it saves a lot of their time from searching books in the library and also because it provide pdf books for students to read.

Still the problem was that these computers are available in very limited amount. So only few of the students can access this at a time. This is a problem student’s face in Library Management System of the University Library.

As a recommendation research group recommend to make Library System available online for Students of the University only. This will allow students to access pdf documents online even from their home. This will help students’ education in a favorable way.

### **5.4. Limitations**

* First year students were not involved in the research because, first year did not start in the time of data gathering of the research.
* Some of the faculty students following different subjects were not involved in the target group due to holiday season (only some faculties) in the data gathering phase.
* Research group had limited access to the LMS, PES and Library System.

### **5.5. Suggestions for further Study**

* Research can be improved further by adding a new research question to study impact of gender for the ICT usage in the University.
* Studying ICT knowledge levels of students in each faculty and ICT usage of each faculty can improve this research further more.
* This research should be carried out in other Universities as well

### **5.6. Reflection on Learning**

The research describes impact of ICT on Students of Sri Jayewardenepura University. It is identified that ICT change the life style of the students’ education style. In old days students used to go to library to gather data now all students go to internet to gather and most of them are lazy to go to the Library.

Study also identified that Students are most of the time connected with the ICT tools. Therefore it is understood that ICT helps a lot for education field.

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# **Appendices**

## **Appendix 1**

**Questionnaire**

1. Gender : Male Female
2. Faculty : …………………………………………………………….....................................................................
3. Year of Study :
   * First Year
   * Second Year
   * Third Year
   * Fourth Year
4. How many hours do you use Computer for Studying per day?

* Never
* Less than an Hour
* One to Two hours
* Two to Five Hours
* More than Five Hours

1. Where do you access Computer?
   * Internet Café
   * College Laboratories
   * Home / Personal Computer
2. What is the order of purpose you use computers for?

Put numbers in the provided boxes in the order of importance.

Most Important = 1 Least Important = 5

If you don’t use computer for a certain given reason leave it blank

* + Watching Movies
  + Playing Games
  + Social Networks
  + Studies
  + Reading

1. Do you use Tablets / Smart Phones? (Yes/No)…………..

If your answer is Yes to above question, answer Question 8 and 9

1. How often do you use Tablets/ Smart Phones?
   * Less than an Hour
   * One to Two hours
   * Two to Five Hours
   * More than Five Hours
2. What is the order of purpose you use Tablets/Smart Phones for?

Put numbers in the provided boxes in the order of importance.

Most Important = 1 Least Important = 5

If you don’t use computer for a certain given reason leave it blank

* + Watching Movies
  + Playing Games
  + Social Networks
  + Studies
  + Reading

1. What is your opinion about Internet?

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No Idea | Harm to Society | Little Useful | Useful | Very Useful |
|  |  |  |  |  |

1. If your answer is Harm to Society give a brief description?

……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………..

1. Order your usage of Internet from following?

Most Important = 1, Least important = 5

* + LMS of the University
  + Social Network
  + Sports Websites
  + Gaming Sites
  + Web Sites for Studies

1. State the Importance of internet in your day to day life
   * Necessary
   * Somewhat important
   * Important
   * I rarely use Internet
2. Do you think ICT is helpful got your studies? (Yes/No) …………..
3. If your answer is No please give a brief description?

……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

**Thank You for Your Co-Operation**