THE IMPACT OF CYBER PSYCHOLOGY ON COLLEGE STUDENTS

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Abstract

The research focused on how cyberpsychology affected students in the Indian state of Assam town of Barpeta. Cyberpsychology is the study of how people interact with technology and their minds. It includes studying the psychological consequences of cyberspace, Artificial Intelligence, and virtual reality, among other things. The current study focuses on how computers, the internet, webpages, etc., affect college students. Data was gathered from 120 pupils at a chosen MC College. In the current study, preliminary data were combined with a 50-item built opinion scale. The acquired data were analyzed using the Mean, Standard Deviation, and Critical Ratio to assess several posed hypotheses. According to the study's findings, boys do better than girls across all domains of cyberpsychology, including education, enjoyment, habits, and knowledge as well as social, familial, and emotional adjustment. It may be assumed that male students spend more time, have more leisure, and are free to utilize the internet and other forms of technology.

Keywords: Students, Cyberpsychology, Emotional adjustment, Technology

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INTRODUCTION

A relatively new area of psychology is called cyberpsychology. Although it had its beginnings in the 1990s, the rise of social media throughout the 2000s truly helped it to become more relevant. Understanding online behaviors has become increasingly crucial due to the expansion of online communication. The discipline of 'cyberpsychology' is devoted to the investigation of the mind in relation to human-computer interaction. The term 'cyber' derives from the terms 'cybernetics,' which is the study of communication and control systems, and psychology which is the subject of human behavior and mind.

The study of how people use computers and other digital technologies, as well as the psychological effects such usage has on users' emotions, is known as cyberpsychology. Cyberpsychology is sometimes known as web psychology or internet psychology. Cyberpsychology is interested in how humans and technology connect with one another as well as how technology is changing how people communicate and interact. In India, the use of computers and the Internet has been rising quickly. This is clear from the proliferation of cyber cafés with a variety of practical uses on the streets of big cities and towns. Cyberdisorders, online addiction, and new hectic lifestyles are some of the negative effects of the internet. The goal of the current work was to study the conduct of college students while taking into account the negative effects of cyberculture and the cyber world.

LITERATURE REVIEW

In a 2003 study, Dharnija Neelam and Kumar Panda Sushanta examined how postgraduate students felt about the internet. According to the study's findings, postgraduate students are more positive towards the Internet. When factors like sex, location, and field of study are taken into account, there is no discernible variation in the attitudes of postgraduate students toward the Internet.

In an investigation into educational experiments, Raja Sekhar and Santhi Kumar (2004) looked at students in higher secondary schools' awareness of the Internet. According to the research, girls have a greater level of online literacy than boys. In terms of internet literacy, rural pupils outperformed urban students. Government and private higher secondary school pupils have similar levels of internet literacy.

In their 2005 study, Vandana Mehera and Amandeep examined internet usage among college students. According to the study's findings, male students in the arts use the internet more frequently than male students in the sciences. More female students in the arts than in the sciences use the internet for leisure. Male postgraduate students utilize the internet more than female postgraduate students to kill time. Postgraduate students in the arts use the internet more for entertainment than postgraduate students in the sciences. More male students in the sciences than the arts utilize the internet for instructional purposes. More female students in the sciences than the arts utilize the internet for educational purposes.

Research Design

Problem: The influence of cyberpsychology on students in the Indian state of Assam's Barpeta town was the issue chosen for the research.

Variables of the study: We used cyberpsychology as the dependent variable and gender (both male and female) as the independent variable in this study.

OBJECTIVES

1. To determine the extent of the impact of cyberpsychology on students.
2. To determine the impact of cyberpsychology on boys and girls.
3. To determine the impact of dimensions of cyberpsychology on boys and girls.

HYPOTHESIS

1. There will be a moderate impact of cyber psychology on the students.
2. There is no significant difference between boys and girls in the impact of cyberpsychology.
3. There is no significant difference between boys and girls in the impact of dimensions of cyberpsychology.

Tools Used

The self-developed and standardized cyberpsychology tool, which consists of 50 items in statement forms, was employed in the current study together with the background data. The tool has seven dimensions, including Educational, Enjoyment, Knowledge, Habitual, family, Social adjustment, and emotional aspects. The answers to each sentence are of the 'Yes' & 'no' variety. The subjects must mark according to their selection. 'Yes' responses received two marks, and 'No' responses received one mark, for scoring purposes. Therefore, the overall score range for each quiz is between 50 and 100.

RESULTS & DISCUSSION:

Table-1 Effects of cyberpsychology overall on students

"N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	SD
120	45.20	74.15	59.36	23.75"

The overall impact of cyberpsychology on college students' scores was summarised in Table 1 together with their standard deviation at the minimum, maximum, and average levels. College students are seen to have a moderate level of influence over their behavior. Thus, the posed hypothesis was accepted.

Table 2 Cyberpsychology research comparing boys' and girls' behavior

Variables	Category	N	Mean	SD	t value
Cyberpsychology	Girls	60	53.77	23.82	12.71**
	Boys	60	64.96	23.69	

**P< 0.01

The results of cyberpsychology on the behavior of girls and boys were summarised in Table 2. Gender differences were observed to be highly significant. Thus, the gender-based null hypothesis was rejected.

Table 3 Impact of dimensions of cyber psychology on the Behaviour of boys and girls.

Sl. No.	Dimension	Category	N	Mean	SD	t value
1.	Enjoyment	Girls	60	55.70	16.65	4.67**
		Boys	60	66.32	15.54	
2.	Education	Girls	60	48.00	24.23	1.14
		Boys	60	66.00	25.13	
3.	Habits	Girls	60	71.68	20.14	0.81
		Boys	60	74.15	22.71	
4.	Knowledge	Girls	60	55.60	25.00	1.39
		Boys	60	62.75	23.96	
5.	Social adjustment	Girls	60	50.43	22.90	1.49
		Boys	60	64.41	20.26	
6.	Family adjustment	Girls	60	49.00	34.08	2.92**
		Boys	60	64.00	37.65	
7.	Emotional adjustment	Girls	60	45.20	22.98	1.24
		Boys	60	57.10	20.61	

**P< 0.01

Table 3 contains the means, standard deviations, and t-values for the gender-specific variables of cyberpsychology. The measures of happiness and family adjustment clearly show considerable disparities between boys and girls. As a result, the dimensions of enjoyment and family adjustment null hypotheses were disproved. Habits, Education, social adjustment, emotional adjustment, and knowledge were the other characteristics where there were few differences. Therefore, it was decided to accept the null hypotheses formulated on the dimensions of knowledge, habits, education, emotional adjustment, and social adjustment.

CONCLUSION
According to a general analysis of the student body, cyberpsychology has a moderate impact on the community of college students. Boys are more affected by cyberpsychology than girls. Boys students are likely to use technology more frequently and with more freedom if this is the case. In comparison to girls, boys are more impacted by all aspects of cyberpsychology, including enjoyment, habits, education, and knowledge as well as social, familial, and emotional adjustment. It may be assumed that male students have greater freedom, time, and freedom to use technology in internet centres and cyber cafes, but female students face several restrictions in their houses and dorms for leaving to use the internet and technology cafes.

Recommendation
- The student's enthusiasm for using computers and the Internet must be increased by the teachers.
- Teachers must cultivate a creative mindset if they want to inspire their students to study cyberpsychology.
- While using the systems, teachers must give each student their undivided attention.
- While their children are online, parents must watch over them. A software locking mechanism has also been added in recent years to block unwanted websites.
- The use of computers is crucial in the modern world. Therefore, teach the student how to use it correctly and for good.
- In order for students to be careful in their technological protection, teachers must educate them about internet addiction, cybercrime, etc.

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