

A Study on Awareness of ICT in Upper Primary School Students

Vinita Singh¹ and Dr. Surendra Kumar Tripathi²

Research Scholar, Department of Life-Long Learning, A. P. S. University, Rewa, (M.P.)¹

Assistant Professor, Government Education College, Rewa, (M.P.)²

Abstract: *The study was conducted to find out the level of awareness among upper primary school students with respect to gender and locale. In this study, survey method has been used for research. The researcher used self-constructed ICT awareness questionnaire to find out ICT awareness among the upper primary school students. The researcher selected randomly 100 upper primary students from CBSE school Rewa (6th to 8th grade) The data were analyzed by means of mean, standard deviation and t test. The study results reveal that the most of the upper primary secondary school students have moderate level of awareness towards ICT. It was found that there is no significant difference between the male and female secondary school students in terms of ICT awareness and Urban school students have more awareness towards ICT compared to rural school students.*

Keywords: ICT awareness, Upper Primary School Students, Gender, World Wide Web, Social Network

I. INTRODUCTION

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has become an essential part of modern education in our daily lives, and it is crucial to ensure that students have a good level of awareness and skills in this area. The use of ICT has revolutionized the way we communicate, work, and learn. In the education sector, ICT has become an important tool for enhancing teaching and learning. The integration of ICT in education has the potential to improve the quality of education and prepare students for the digital age.

In India, the government has launched several initiatives to promote ICT and digital literacy in education. The National Policy on Education (NPE) of 2020 emphasizes the need for integrating ICT in all levels of education. However, the success of these initiatives depends on the awareness and skills of students related to ICT. Therefore, this study aims to investigate the awareness of ICT among upper primary school students and identify the factors that influence their awareness.

In the present study the ICT awareness was assessed on following components such as knowledge of computer, Internet, Electronic Mail (E-mail), World Wide Web (WWW), Radio and Television- associated human interactivity materials that allow students to use them for broad range of learning processes in addition to personal use to improve the level of ICT awareness among upper primary school students and achieve the objectives of NEP 2020.

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

1. Naeem, M. A., & Ahmed, S. (2019). ICT Awareness among Elementary School Students: An Exploratory Study. *Journal of Educational Research and Reviews*, 7(2), 22-30.
2. Singh, A., & Kaur, S. (2018). Awareness and Attitude towards ICT among School Students. *International Journal of Engineering and Technology*, 7(3.22), 60-63.
3. Jena, S. K., & Sahu, S. K. (2019). A Study on ICT Awareness among Secondary School Students in Rural and Urban Areas of Odisha. *International Journal of Applied Engineering Research*, 14(3), 597-601.

2.1 Need and Significance of the study

The significance of this study lies in the fact that it will provide valuable insights into the current level of ICT awareness among upper primary school students. The findings of the study will help policymakers and educators to

develop effective strategies to improve the level of ICT awareness among students. It will also help to bridge the digital divide between urban and rural students in terms of access to ICT resources and opportunities for learning ICT skills.

2.2 Objective

The primary objective of this study is to investigate the level of ICT awareness among upper primary school students with respect to gender and locale.

1. To find out the level of awareness of ICT among the Upper Primary school students.
2. To analyse the awareness of ICT among the Upper Primary school students with respect to gender.
3. To analyse the awareness of ICT among the Upper Primary school students with respect to locality.

2.3 Hypothesis

1. There is average level of awareness of ICT among the upper primary school students.
2. There is no significant difference in ICT awareness levels between male and female of upper primary school students.
3. There is a significant difference in ICT awareness levels between students of rural and urban areas of upper primary school students.

2.4 Method of the study

The investigator has adopted the survey method for investigation of the problem.

Sample

The population of the present study consists of those students who are studying in the Upper Primary Schools of Rewa District, Madhya Pradesh investigator has used simple random sampling technique for selecting the sample from the population. The sample consists of 100 Upper Primary School students of CBSE.

Tool Used

The investigator has prepared ICT Awareness Questionnaire for the study.

Statistical Techniques Used

For analyzing the data percentage, mean, standard deviation and 't'-test is used.

III. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Hypothesis 1. To find out the level of awareness of ICT among the upper primary school students.

Level of ICT Awareness	Scores	Percentage (%)
Very Good	30&Above	17%
Good	27-29	19%
Average	24-26	30%
Poor	21-23	15%
Very Poor	Below 20	19%
Total		100%

Table 1: Level of ICT Awareness among upper primary school students

Table 1, shows that 17% students possess very good level of awareness, 19% students possess good level of awareness, 30% students possess average level of awareness, 15% students possess poor level of awareness and 19% students possess very poor level of awareness related to ICT. Hence, most of the upper primary level school students have average level of ICT awareness and the hypothesis no. 01 is retained.

Hypothesis 2. There is a no significant difference in ICT awareness levels between male and female upper primary school students.

Gender	N	Mean	Standard Deviation	t-value	Level of Significance
Male	50	25.96	5.42	0.66	NS
Female	50	25.14	7.21		

Table 2: ICT Awareness among upper primary school students with respect to Gender

Degree of Freedom: 98

It was found from the table 2 that the mean score of ICT awareness of male and female upper primary school students were 25.96 and 25.14 with S.D. 5.42 and 7.21 respectively. The obtained 't' value 0.66 was smaller than table value 1.99 at 0.05 and 2.63 at 0.01 level of significance. So the hypothesis no. 02 has been accepted. We can say that male and female teachers do not differ significantly in their awareness towards ICT.

Hypothesis 3. There is no significant difference in ICT awareness levels between students of rural and urban areas of upper primary school students.

Level of Teaching	N	Mean	Standard Deviation	t-value	Level of Significance
Urban	65	25.21	6.90	2.26	0.05
Rural	35	27.97	6.18		

Table 3: ICT Awareness among upper primary school students with respect to locality

Degree of Freedom: 98

From the above table, the calculated 't' value 2.26 is greater than table value 1.99 at 0.05 level of significance. So, the hypothesis no.03 was rejected. We can say that urban and rural students differ significantly in their awareness towards ICT.

Major Finding of the Study

The study results reveal that the most of the upper primary school students have moderate level of awareness towards ICT. It was found that there is no significant difference between the male and female secondary school students with respect to ICT awareness.

Urban school students have more awareness towards ICT compared to rural school students.

Educational Implications

The study on awareness of ICT in upper primary school students has significant implications for education. Some of the education implications are:

1. Curriculum Development: The study's findings can be used to develop a curriculum that focuses on ICT skills and knowledge. This can help students to acquire the necessary skills and knowledge to use ICT tools and applications effectively.
2. Teacher Training: The study's findings can be used to design teacher training programs that focus on ICT integration in teaching and learning. This can help teachers to effectively integrate ICT in their teaching practices and improve students' ICT awareness.
3. Provision of ICT Infrastructure: The study's findings can be used to inform policymakers about the need to provide adequate ICT infrastructure in schools. This can help to bridge the digital divide and ensure that all students have equal access to ICT resources.
4. Bridging the Gender Gap: The study's findings can be used to develop strategies to bridge the gender gap in ICT awareness. This can help to ensure that both male and female students have equal opportunities to acquire ICT skills and knowledge.
5. Improving Academic Performance: The study's findings can be used to develop strategies to improve students' academic performance. This can be achieved by integrating ICT tools and applications in teaching and learning, which can enhance students' engagement and motivation.

In conclusion, the study's findings have significant implications for education. It is essential to develop effective strategies to improve students' ICT awareness, which can help to bridge the digital divide and ensure that all students have equal opportunities to acquire ICT skills and knowledge.

IV. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

In conclusion, the present study has provided insights into the level of ICT awareness among upper primary school students with respect to gender and locale. The findings of the study suggest that most of the students have a moderate level of ICT awareness, and there is no significant difference between male and female students with respect to ICT awareness. However, the study highlights the need to address the digital divide between urban and rural school students and provide equal access to ICT resources and opportunities for learning ICT skills. Future studies with larger sample sizes and diverse populations are needed to confirm these findings and explore other factors that may affect ICT awareness among upper primary school students.

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