

Internet in Education System: A Review

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Abstract:

In this paper we will discuss uses of internet in education system and its drawbacks. Not long ago, some ten years or even less, we did not know much about the modern Internet; we could not imagine its facilities and our life with it. The Internet swiftly entered the life of the humankind in the 20th century. It took us less than ten years to face the reality of its spreading all over the world, including the developing countries. It has become not only the hugest information resource in the world, but – what is even more important – the most rapid means of communication. The Internet is a container with enormous information at hand, available so quickly and cheap that we never had before. With all these advantages at our disposal we have also faced its disadvantages which will be discussed in this paper along with the conclusion which summarizes the points discussed while incorporating the contents of this paper.

1. Introduction

The Internet is the global system of interconnected computer networks that use the Internet protocol suite (TCP/IP) to link devices worldwide. It is a network of networks that consists of private, public, academic, business, and government networks of local to global scope, linked by a broad array of electronic, wireless, and optical networking technologies [1]. The origins of the Internet date back to research commissioned by the federal government of the United States in the 1960s to build robust, fault-tolerant communication with computer networks. The primary precursor network, the ARPANET, initially served as a backbone for interconnection of regional academic and military networks in the 1980s [2]. The Internet carries many network services, most prominently mobile apps such as social media apps, the World Wide Web, electronic mail, multiplayer online games, Internet telephony, and file sharing services.

Many people use, erroneously, the terms Internet and World Wide Web, or just the Web, interchangeably, but the two terms are not synonymous. The World Wide Web is the primary application program that billions of people use on the Internet,

and it has changed their lives immeasurably [3]. However, the Internet provides many other services. The Web is a global set of documents, images and other resources, logically interrelated by hyperlinks and referenced with Uniform Resource Identifiers (URIs). URIs symbolically identify services, servers, and other databases, and the documents and resources that they can provide. Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP) is the main access protocol of the World Wide Web. Web services also use HTTP to allow software systems to communicate in order to share and exchange business logic and data [4].

2. Internet Architecture

Internet technical architecture looks a bit like a multi-dimensional river system, with small tributaries feeding medium-sized streams feeding large rivers. For example, an individual's access to the Internet is often from home over a modem to a local Internet service provider who connects to a regional network connected to a national network. At the office, a desktop computer might be connected to a local area network with a company connection to a corporate Intranet connected to several national

Internet service providers [5]. In general, small local Internet service providers connect to medium-sized regional networks which connect to large national networks, which then connect to very large bandwidth networks on the Internet backbone. Most Internet service providers have several redundant network cross-connections to other providers in order to ensure continuous availability [6].

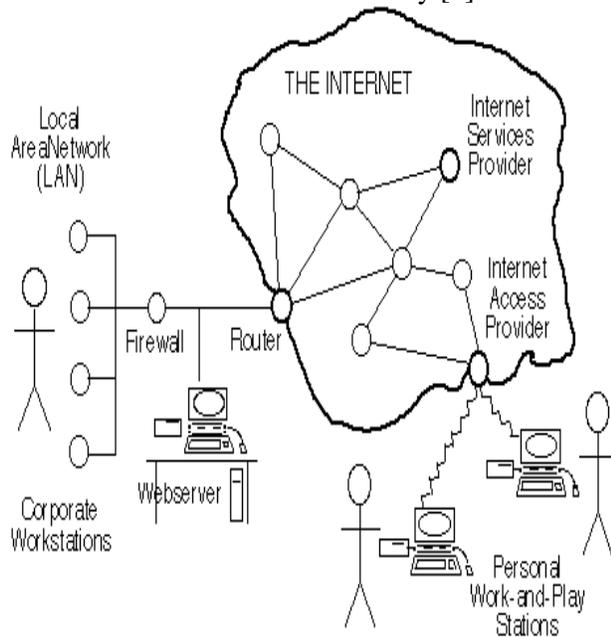


Fig. 1- The Internet As Perceived by Users

The companies running the Internet backbone operate very high bandwidth networks relied on by governments, corporations, large organizations, and other Internet service providers. Their technical infrastructure often includes global connections through underwater cables and satellite links to enable communication between countries and continents [7]. As always, a larger scale introduces new phenomena: the number of packets flowing through the switches on the backbone is so large that it exhibits the kind of complex non-linear patterns usually found in natural, analog systems like the flow of water or development of the rings of Saturn [8].

3. Overview of use of Internet in Education System

The Internet swiftly entered the life of the humankind in the 20th century. It took us less than ten years to face the fact of its spreading all over the world, including the developing countries. It has become not only the hugest information resource in the world, but – what is even more important – the most rapid means of communication. People from different countries have got an opportunity to communicate with each other in quite a short time. In comparison with a snail-mail or even airmail, e-mail gets over distance and time, frontiers of the states with a lightning speed [9].

Thus, people get closer to each other. They have got a chance to know each other better, to become aware of what is common among nations and can unite them and what is different, what peculiarities of culture and religion should be taken into account to achieve mutual understanding. They gradually come to realize the fact that we all are inhabitants of one planet – the Earth – and have to live together depending on each other, helping each other. But, the Internet is only one of the means to understand this and does not guarantee the comprehension of the people only by the technological and information opportunities that it provides. Everything depends on the people themselves, their mentality, their will and intellect [10].

On the other hand, people in different countries, not only in the cultural and scientific centres, are able to get education in famous universities. Disabled children, invalids can learn at schools, colleges and universities by distance. Those who study at schools, universities, colleges can enhance their knowledge using the educational literature, encyclopaedia, references, dictionaries, databases, which are freely accessed, participating in distance educational courses, in collaborative projects with students from other schools, universities, countries, discussing different problems with them.

So, the opportunities, which the Internet can offer in the sphere of education, are really unique [11].

4. The factors which influence the effectiveness of Internet use in education

The most important among them is the ability of a user to work with information. It is not that simple, because it demands on behalf of a student the ability to use different kinds of intellectual skills, which many of our students do not possess. It means that a student should be able to analyse the information he deals with, to select the facts, data adequate to the problem he investigates. He/she has to find arguments to prove his/her point of view. It is quite obvious that the information the student comes across in the Internet is not always helpful. More than that, it can be very aggressive; it can be not up to the scientific level, etc. The Internet is a very democratic environment where every user can locate his/her information [12].

The second factor is connected with the culture of communication in the net, intercultural communication in particular. It is a very important and complicated problem to solve. The fact is that many people do not possess the culture of communication in terms of using the adequate forms of greetings, of writing briefly and laconically, using the literary language, avoiding abbreviations, etc. The lack of knowledge of a strange culture, national traditions, the peculiarities of different confessions, etc. promote misunderstanding between the partners and can be a cause of a conflict. New technologies are only means for communication among people of different nationalities. Their mutual understanding or misunderstanding, sympathies or antipathies depend not on the technologies but on the people's respect of the culture and traditions of each other, on their awareness of the peculiarities of these cultures. [13].

The next factor is that teachers in most cases are unprepared for the practice of integrating the information resources of the Internet, its facilities in teaching and learning process, let alone distance education. In many and many countries the institutes of education do not train future teachers for the specific activity of handling Internet resources. The situation is changing in some countries due to the organization of special associations for in-service teacher training [14].

But still many teachers and educators consider this a self dependent activity in terms of using Internet technologies, finding some materials for the projects, reports, essays, using e-mail if necessary, etc. But in fact if we speak about education, we must keep in mind that this is a mutual, interactive activity, which should be controlled and directed. Even if the students are supposed to study some course or material located in the Internet all by them, they should be provided with the necessary instructions how to do it, what additional information is to be used in the Internet or other resources. So, this problem deals with the training of teachers either in the universities or at in-service training courses [15].

5. The Internet as an instrument for the educational process:

It is a fact that the Internet is an instrument for the educational processes of many people. The Internet has been credited for its capacity to inform and teach and for the fascination its technological architecture causes. The Internet covers almost everything and magnetizes everything. At least it is not indifferent even to those who are overflowed by the new communication and information technology [16]. Together with this ocean of new data, there are also stores, libraries, museums exotic places, folklore, various suggestions and experiences at hand. With the Internet we are facing the access to the biggest flows of knowledge in real time ever in history. This outlines countless problems, among

those, learning for a selective appropriation of resources, training for a productive assimilation and critical capacity for a socially useful validation of possible massive knowledge. The Internet, on the other hand, opens stimulating opportunities [17].

Among them are: -

- Modulation of self-learning,
- Appearance of suggesting spaces for the construction of a universalistic spirit,
- Diverse proposals to produce plastic metallization for an open, multi-focal and decolonized culture,
- Stimulation of the freedom of expression, multidirectional interaction with a perspective to produce opinions connected by virtual meetings as numerous as wanted and affordable by the users [18].

Anyway, now one needs smaller financial means than those we needed to obtain similar results in the past. So, the resources of the Earth have been distributed democratically and with justice. Everything in the Internet can be educational and used for personal growth as any other matter in this life. The difference with the Internet is that you can live there virtually [19].

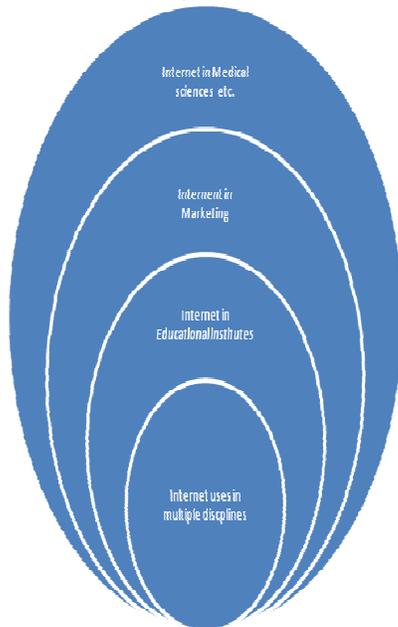


Fig. 2- Role of internet in today's Scenario

Conclusion:-

We can consider the possibilities of the Internet to establish relationships between distant people and limitations because the short distance itself can be a suspicious matter, in orientation to be aware against that "terrible stranger who can copy us shamelessly". We suspect that the information is never complete and loyal, so we come to a state where everything is affected by the doubt of the sincerity and, in consequence, the contents of information are devaluated. The Internet is a container with enormous information at hand, available so quickly and cheap that we never had before. Data, documents, books, libraries and bigger encyclopaedias are available at home after a successful search. However the Internet is in danger of becoming a labyrinth for the users that have to deal with different interfaces, with the communication systems of the programmes, which elements inform them on what is possible to do or what is happening, so they can end up being confused by the differences that the diverse programmes establish for one operation. Besides, there are effects that can produce such a heap of information, that would darken the necessary commitment with social and human values in the personal behaviour or get away from genuine human purposes.

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