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**PERCEPTION OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS TOWARDS
USAGE OF INTERNET AND IT'S IMPACT**

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PERCEPTION OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS TOWARDS USAGE OF INTERNET AND IT'S IMPACT

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ABSTRACT

This is the era of technology, especially in telecommunication. Today every one using smart phones and has access to internet on fingertip. In India around 1 billion are internet users in 2023 and by 2040 it is expected to reach 1.5 billion users (www.statista.com). During COVID-19 lockdown, online classes were conducted which led students using mobiles. Most of the students use mobile phone for entertainment purpose rather for education purpose. This paper is about perception of students towards internet usage and its impact. The research paper includes both primary and secondary data.

The structured questionnaire tool used to collect primary data and also collected the information's through the secondary data.

Keywords: Internet, Students, Academics, Mobiles.

INTRODUCTION

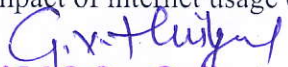
Today, internet playing significant role in teaching, learning for research work. Post introduction of smartphones and telecom companies introduced with lower rate of internet packages increased in the volume of internet users. Pre Covid period there were restriction on using mobile phones in colleges but during Covid it became necessary to learn online and students habituated with use of internet. Students started surfing the notes, video lectures and also, they engaged more themselves in social medias like Facebook, Instagram and on WhatsApp.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

To study the perception of students towards internet usage.

To know the benefits of internet in education sector.

To study the impact of internet usage on students' life.


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LITERATURE REVIEW

(Limey and Dr. Fotwengal, 2015) In their research mentioned that majority of the students spend 3 to 5 hours daily on internet and only 40% of the students use the internet for academic work and remaining 60% of the student's internet used non-academic purpose. Also mentioned that in this technology world students make use of internet for knowledge improvement.

(Balasubramanian, 2013) in this article it explores that, excessive use of internet students affecting with mental depression, isolation from the society and addiction for mobile usage. In this article also highlighted on social aspect that students are restricted themselves with the virtual world and interpersonal communication skills are not developing among the students.

(Baral, Minz & Meher, 2019) in this article mentioned that the students who have used internet have achieved good score in their respective subjects as compare to non-internet user students. Also, it found that there both positive and negative impact for academic achievements.

(Saha & Guha, 2019) in this article studied that most of the students chat in phone for more than one hour. Students are more interested to update their status in Social Sites. The study shows that internet usage both negative and positive impact on students' social life and also it leads to waste of time and adversely effect on studies.

(Kaur, Kaur 2020) Studied that most of the university students uses internet for various purpose like education, career opportunities, and for global affairs etc. Male students keen interest searching for career opportunities and prospects compare to female students. And also mentioned about students should involve in video conferencing and also take help of internet for competitive exams. Only one third of the students negatively affected and for them proper awareness has to provide by universities.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The data has been collected from both primary and secondary data. Primary data has been collected through structured questionnaire and secondary data has been collected from several journals, research papers and websites.

SAMPLING DESIGN

The population of the study is comprising of undergraduate students of Belagavi district and convincing sample method used to collect data. More than 250 online questionnaires were distributed among that 129 were received back.

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DATA INTERPRETATION & ANALYSIS

GENDER INDEX	
Male	28
Female	101
Total	129

Access the internet from various devices

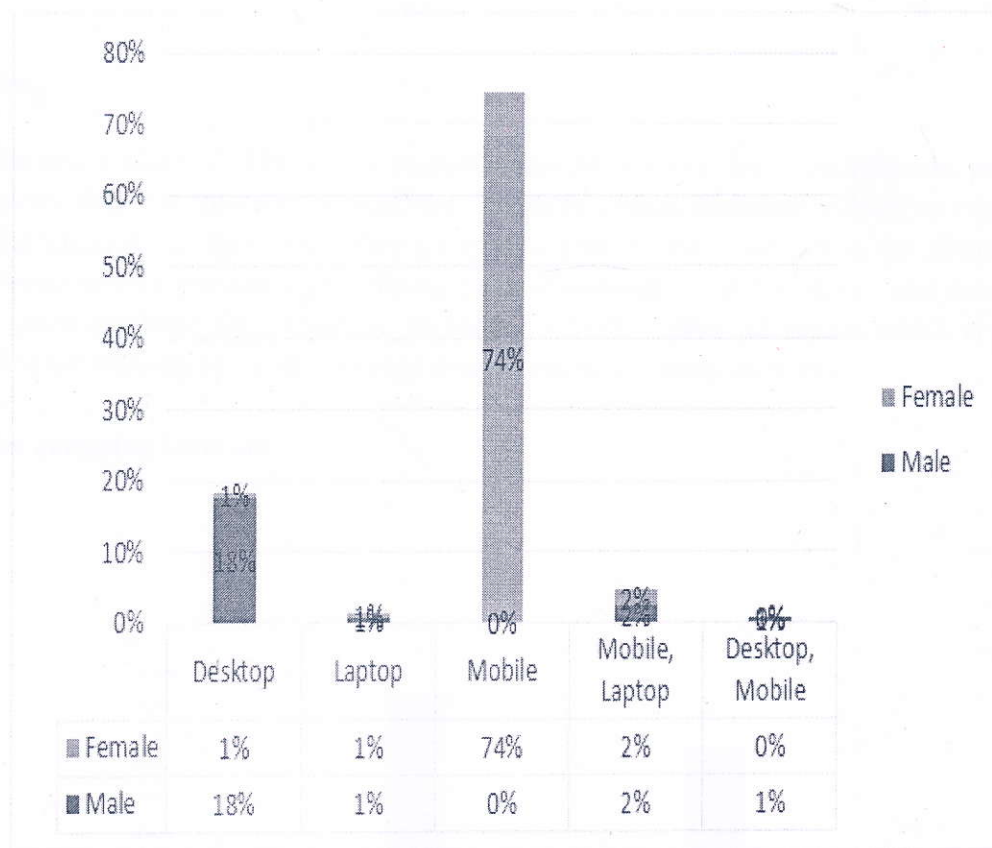


Chart:1

From the above Chart No.1, it shows that 74% of the respondents use internet through mobiles, as mobiles are cheaper compared to laptops, desktops, etc. The consumption of internet data is less on mobiles; hence, students prefer more mobiles. Minimum respondents mentioned that they use laptops or desktops. Laptops & Desktops help students prepare notes, collect information, and keep it in one place for easy access.



Access of internet per day

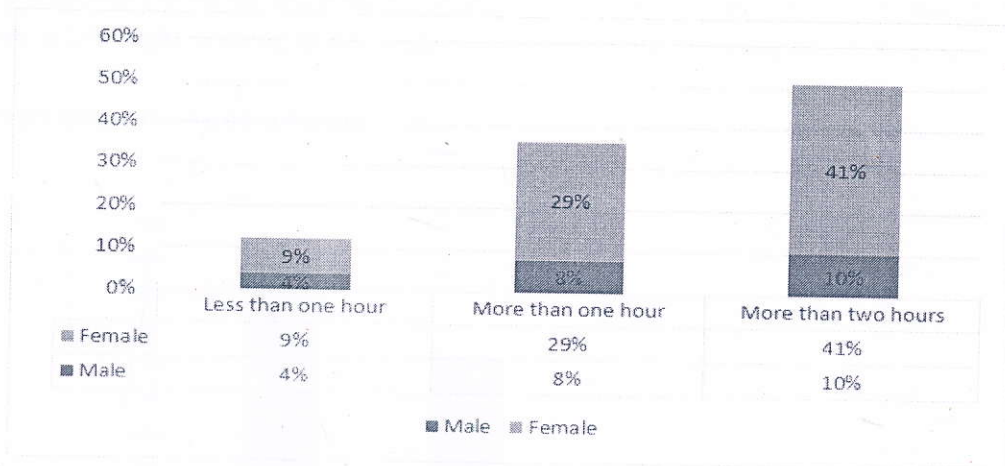


Chart:2

From the above Chart: 2, 51% of the student respondents access more than 2 hours per day, the students may use internet for watching academic or non-academic videos, or might be accessing social media apps hence they are spending more time in accessing the internet and also internet service providers are offering internet packages with less prices and also Data addon option available for students to recharge for 1GB approx. 25 rupees which is easily affordable for students hence they engage themselves in accessing internet.

Time for accessing Internet.

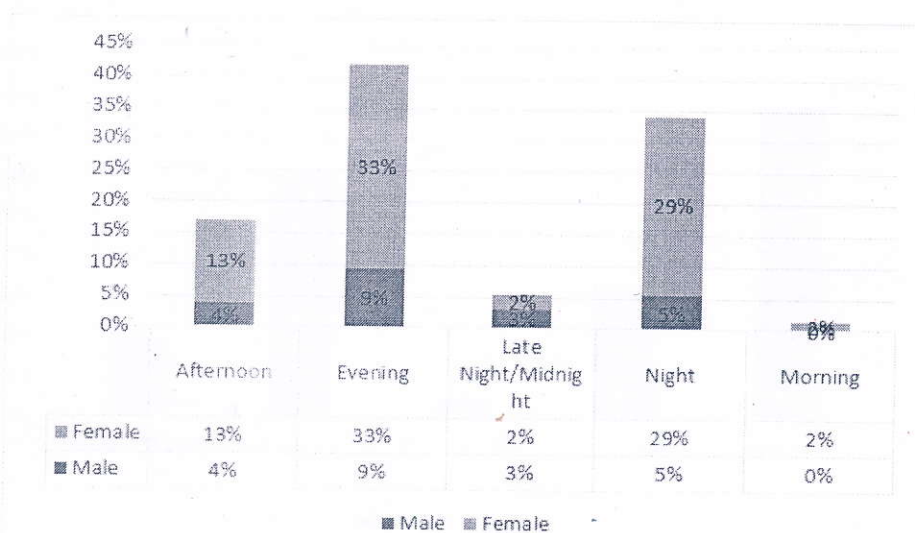


Chart No. 3

From the above Chart No. 3, its shows that 42% students prefer to access internet at evening and 34% students' access at night. Since students attend the college morning they prefer to surf at evening or at night. from the secondary data indicates most of the male student's access mobile at late night. Surfing at late night or midnight impacts on health conditions,

Main purpose accessing internet

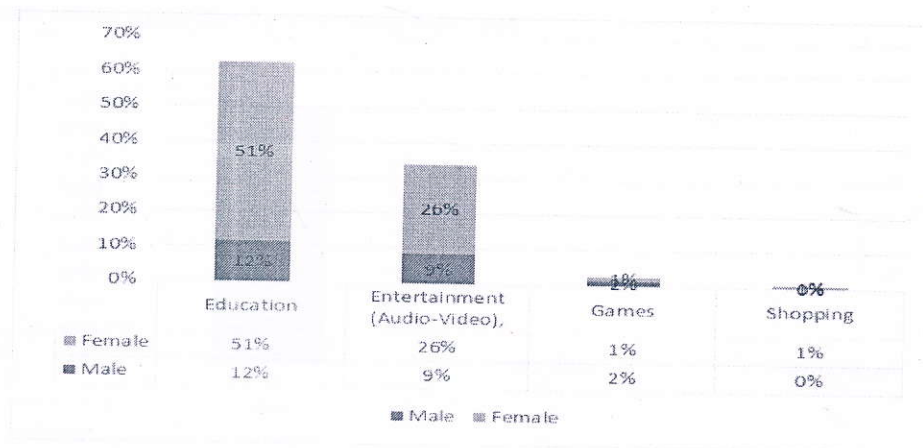


Chart:4

From above chart no.4 63% of students use internet for Education purpose and 35% for entertainment which include both audio and video. And only 3% use for video games and 1% students for shopping. Since respondents are undergraduates and more respondents are female students. Usually, female students are study oriented hence there is good response on education.

Apps used while internet access

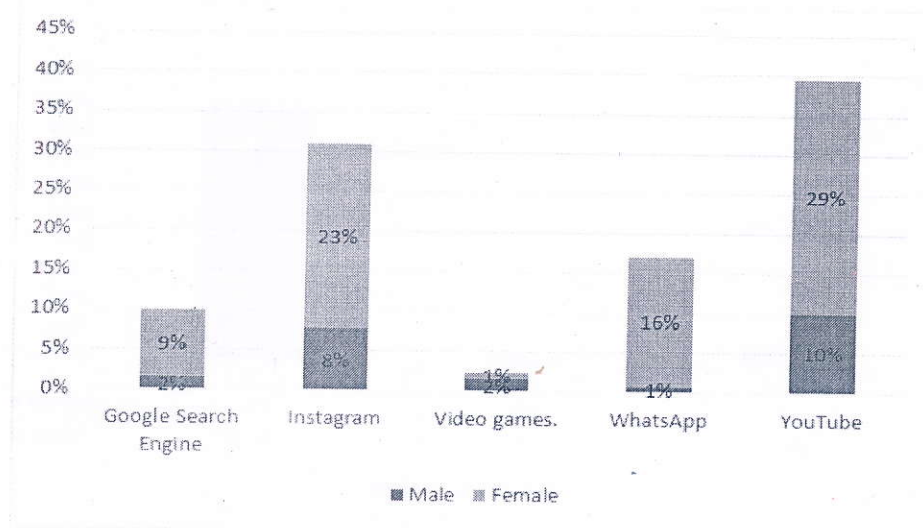


Chart:5

Chart No.5, indicates that 39% students access YouTube,31% Instagram and 16% WhatsApp, 9% Google. Student use YouTube for educational classes, to watch movies and to learn new things especially female students are interested to learn new dishes by watching cooking shows. And students do reels, short videos and upload in Instagram and WhatsApp used for chatting and updating the status hence the usage of WhatsApp percentage is less in above sample.

Collection study material by accessing internet

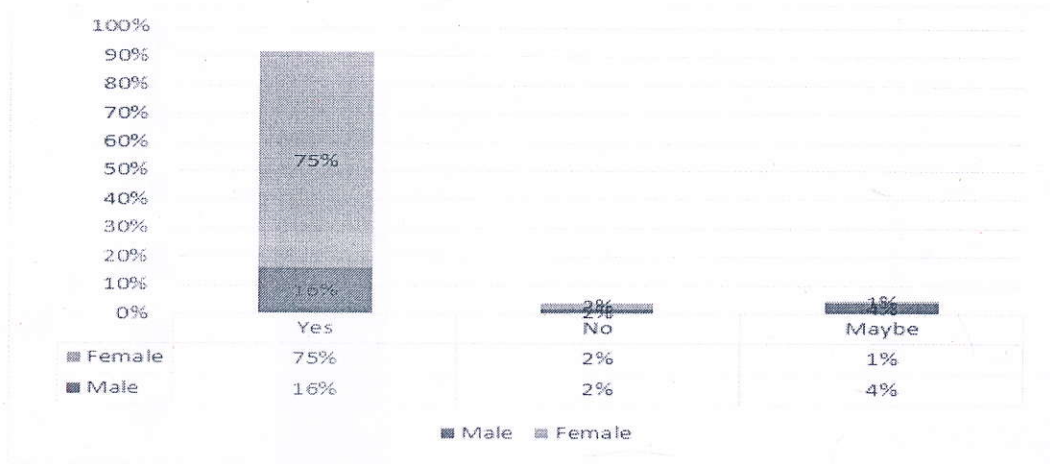


Chart:6

Chart No.6, indicates that 91% of the students collect the study material from internet to enhance their skills by referring various notes, video lectures. Only 9% students do not shown interest in accessing the study material from internet, they may more be comfort with physical books and physical classes.

Internet effectiveness in academic performance

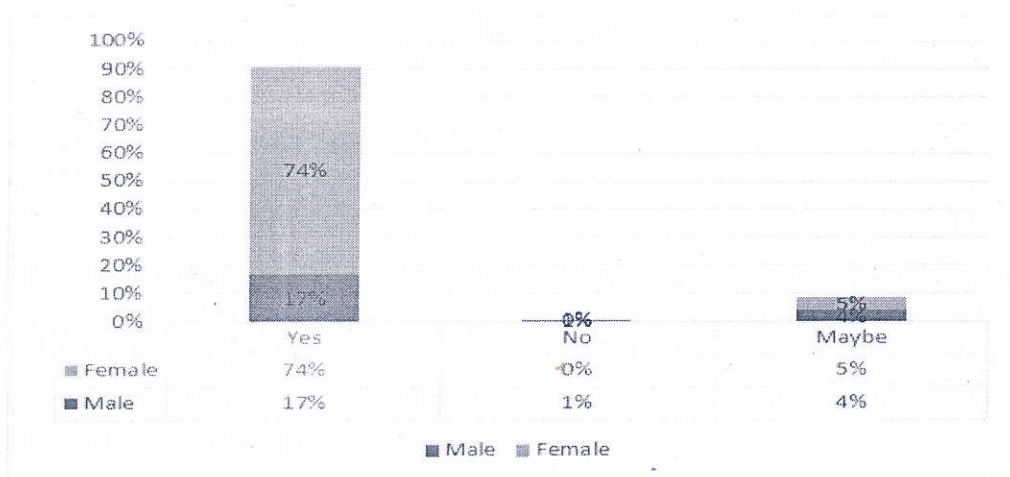


Chart:7

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From the Chart No.7, it shows that 91% students are agreed that internet help in their in improving academic courses. Internet will help in improving the knowledge of the students by providing various expert lectures and with vulnerable languages and also help to collect the notes. Hence students seem to behappier with internet in respect of academic progress.

Recognition of Hidden Talents through Social Networks

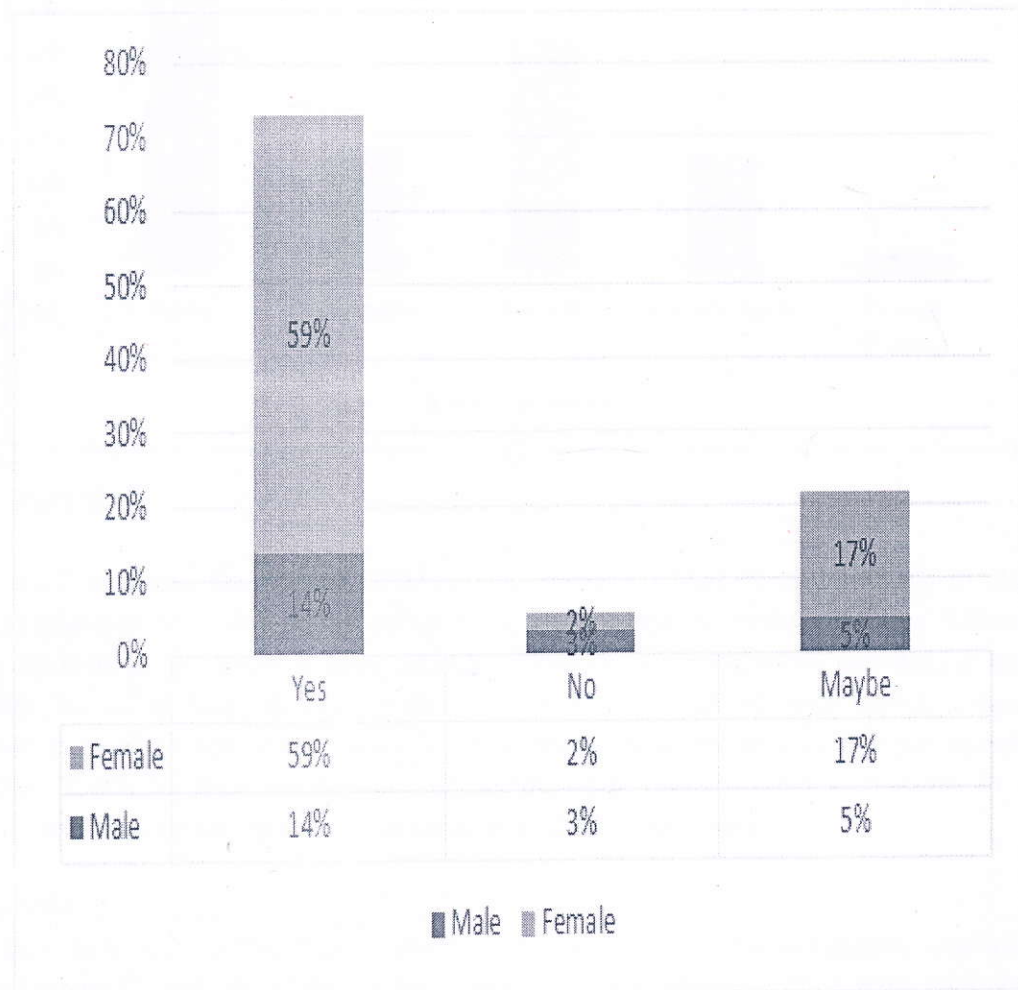


Chart:8

Chart No.8 indicates that 73% students agreed that Social Networks gives platform to their hidden talents like singing, dancing, acting, motivational speaking, cooking, etc. students can show their talents by uploading videos without any geographical limits. Rest of the respondents are not sure as sometime people may not show interest in videos, reels etc. if the content and quality is not good.

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Addiction to mobiles by excessive usage.

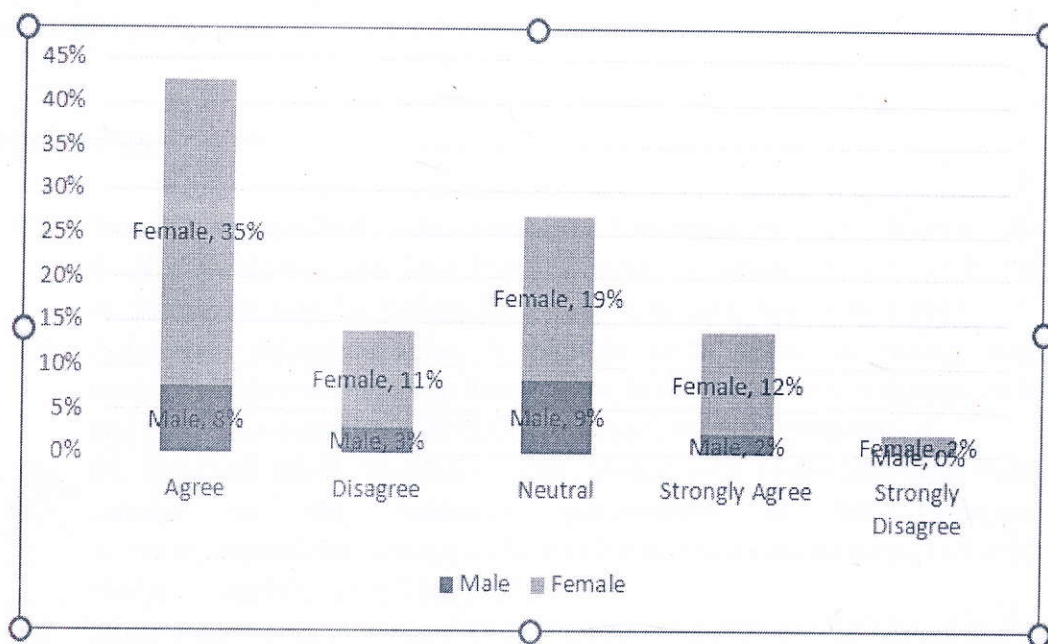


Chart :9

Chart No.9, it shows that around 57% students responded that excessive usage of internet leads to addiction to mobile usage and many health experts mentioned that it is difficult for young students to live without using mobile phones or accessing social networks in current scenario. Including Male & Female students are now habituated with mobile usage and addicted to mobiles and social networks. Few respondents are neutral and not agreed for addiction, might be they are cautious of health, study and involved themselves in other physical activities hence they might be using as per their requirement.

FINDINGS

From this study we can find that all students are familiar with internet access, smartphones especially post COVID-19 all the students are having smartphones with internet connections. Study reveals that most of the students are depend now on video lectures, notes available in various website, especially students use You Tube for learning academic as well as non-academic video lectures which help to achieve good score in their academic career. And also search for notes, most the responds mentioned social media gives platform to show their hidden talents especially in Instagram, Facebook and in WhatsApp.

Some student's internet uses only for watching videos, gaming, and for updating their personal photos etc excessively. Which may not contribute much for their academic growth and may lead to depression, health issues and loneliness this is not good sign for younger generation.

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CONCLUSION

Internet has both pros and cons, especially for young students. If the students use internet wisely and for academic purpose and with limited access to entertainment then defiantly it helps in better performance at their academic level and as well as social life.

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