ISSN : 2394-2975 (Online)
ISSN : 2394-6814 (Print)

A Study on the Differences Based On Gender and Locality in the Attitude of College Students of Nagaon District of Assam Towards Computer Education

[I]Dr. (Mrs) Parbin R. Akhtar, [II]Monjusree Bora
[I]Associate Professor (Rtd), Cotton College and Research guide of Gauhati University, Assam, India
[II]Research Scholar, Dept. of Education, Gauhati University, Assam, India

Abstract
This survey research investigated attitudes of male and female college students towards computer education and the differences in attitude between them towards the same. For doing so, questionnaire and attitude scale was applied on 130 college students. The study is conducted by applying descriptive survey method. The objectives of the study are to study the attitude of college students towards computer education and to study the significant difference in attitude if any between male and female students as well as urban and rural students towards computer education. The data is analyzed through simple frequency percentage, Mean, S.D and Chi-square, t-test and graphical representation. The findings of the study suggest that there is positive attitude of college students towards computer education. It also shows that more numbers of urban college students have positive attitude than rural students towards computer attitude. Again, female students shows more positive attitude than male students towards computer education.

Keywords
Computer, Computer education, Attitude

I. Introduction

In the twenty first century, information and knowledge explosion have become realities and the advent of computer and other information technologies help in happening the same. As a result, the boundaries between many disciplines become blurred (Rajput,J.S.2005). Computer, one of the most effective tools is no more an unknown tool and it affects the life of everyone, no matter whether literate or illiterate. It is now transforming into a fact of life and a common thread that ties together our education, work and home lives. Along with its influence in all the activities of life, education is of no exception; in fact computer helps to bring about revolutions in the system of education. Today, students need instructions not directly from the instructors, but need to experience the realties with technological guidance (Salih, USUN.2004). So, a technology like computer has achieved utmost importance in today's system of education. The old traditional concept of classroom is now becoming outdated and in its place the concept like, 'Smart Class' has emerged. By the use of computer, a dull classroom can be converted into an interesting and innovative one. Today, students find it easier to take help from internet than from reference books. It is also much convenient to store information on computers than hand written notes. It helps to provide meaningful learning and also to correlate technology and instruction. It helps to make students more informative and get up-to-date information in just a single click of the mouse in the computer. In fact, computer has brought modernity into the system of our education. It is an important tool to provide quality education for all. It has also a remarkable impact on all spheres of curriculum. Problem solving is an age old activity and the emergence of computer has given impetus to this (Kothari, C.R. 2006). So, due to the increasing uses of computer in all aspects of our education system, the concept of 'Computer education' and 'Computer science' has emerged. Computer education is thus a field of knowledge that attempts to impart information regarding all the aspects of computer. It is indispensible for attaining mastery over the technologies like computer. It provides as a base for taking computer as a future career and proceed that way. But, students' success in computer education depends on many factors and among them 'attitude' is one. Computer attitude is nothing but the reactions of people towards computer and such reactions include liking, enjoyment, belief about usefulness, ease to use computer etc. Computer attitude determines one's behavior in using computer and in pursuing a subject like computer education. Regarding the attitude towards computer education, it is of utmost importance to know the differences between male and female students' attitudes and such studies are gaining worldwide attention today.

Significance of the study

It is a universal truth that a nation can lead towards its future progress through education. Since, computer education has become an important part of our overall system of education, especially higher education, so it is necessary that an in-depth study should be done regarding the present status of computer education along with how students perceive and show their attitude towards it. Moreover, it should be emphasized that a proper attitude towards it will be helpful for the students in their later part of life to proceed in that direction. Therefore, it seems necessary to undertake a study on the perception and attitude of college students towards computer education.

Various studies reveal that there are significant differences between the attitude of male and female students of rural and urban areas towards computer education. Therefore, the investigator tries to find out whether there are significant differences exist regarding these matters. The findings of the study will be helpful for teachers, educational institutions and other persons to know the differences in attitude among various categories of college students and how they perceive computer education, to bring out some innovations to reduce such differences and to use new methodologies and approaches to make this subject more popular.

Statement of the problem

The present study is entitled as, "A Study on the Differences Based on Gender and Locality in the Attitude of College Students of Nagaon District of Assam towards Computer Education".

Objectives

The objectives of the study are as follows,

1. To study the attitude of college students towards computer education.
2. To study the significant difference in attitude between urban and rural college students towards computer education.
3. To study the significant difference in attitude between male and female college students towards computer education.

Hypotheses

1. The attitude of college students towards computer education is positive.
2. There exists no significant difference in the attitude of urban and rural college students towards computer education.
3. There exists no significant difference in the attitude of male and female college students towards computer education.

Delimitation

1. The study is delimited to the students of general degree colleges of Nagaon district affiliated to Gauhati University only.
2. In the present study, the investigator tries to find out college students' attitude towards computer education.

II. Methodology

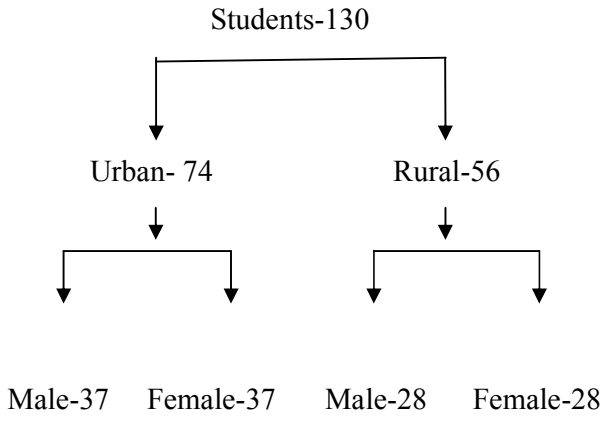
The present study is based on descriptive survey method.

Population

The population of the study is constituted of all the students enrolled in computer education courses in the Gauhati University affiliated general degree colleges of Nagaon district of Assam.

Sample

In this study, samples of 130 students have been taken. Out of this total, 74 are urban students and 56 are rural. Again, out of the total 74 urban students, 37 are male and 37 are female; out of the 56 rural students, 28 are male and 28 are female students. The sample distribution of the study is thus as follows,



Tool used

Following tool was used for data collection by the investigator,
One self-structured computer attitude scale: An attitude scale was prepared by the investigator. It consists of 70 statements. It is a Likert type scale having five (5) alternative responses namely 'Strongly agree' (SA), 'Agree' (A), 'Undecided' (U), 'Disagree' (D) and 'Strongly disagree' (SD). The respondents have to decide their answers to every statement and put a tick mark in the appropriate box against each alternative response. The reliability co-efficient of the scale as per Split-half method and Test-retest method are 0.92 and 0.86 respectively.

Statistical Techniques:

The following statistical techniques have been used for interpreting and analyzing the collected data.
A) Simple frequency percentage
B) Arithmetic Mean.
C) Standard Deviation
D) Chi-square.
E) T-test
F) Graphical representation (Bar-diagram)

III. Data Analysis and Interpretation:

Objective 1: To study the attitude of college students towards computer education.

Table-1: Attitude of college students towards computer education (N=130)

Sl.No	Attitude group	Number of students	Percentage
1	Positive	80	61.5
2	Negative	50	38.5
3	Total	130	100.0

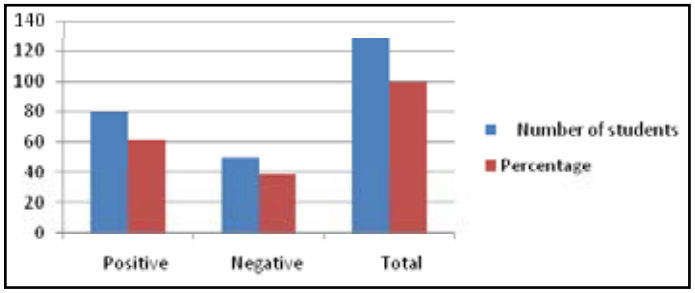


Fig. 1: Attitude of college students towards computer education

Table 1and figure 1 show that 80 (61.5%) students have positive and 50 (38.5%) have negative attitude towards computer education. So, we can say that college students have positive attitude towards computer education.

Table 2: Mean and S.D of attitude of college students towards computer education

Sl.No	Attitude group	Mean	S.D
1	Positive	266.35	6.60
2	Negative	238.60	16.14

Table 2 shows that the Mean and S.D at positive attitude group of college students towards computer education are found to be 266.35 and 6.60 respectively, whereas, Mean and S.D found at negative attitude group of students are to be 238.60 and 16.14 respectively. The Mean score is better in positive attitude group than the negative one.

Objective 2: To study the significant difference in attitude between urban and rural college students towards computer education

Hypothesis: 2- There exists no significant difference in the

ISSN : 2394-2975 (Online)
ISSN : 2394-6814 (Print)

attitude of rural and urban college students towards computer education.

Table: 3. Attitude of Rural and Urban college students towards computer education

Sl. No	Attitude group	Rural		Urban		Total	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
1	Positive	35	26.9	45	34.6	80	61.5
2	Negative	21	16.2	29	22.3	50	38.5
3	Total	56	43.1	74	56.9	130	100.0

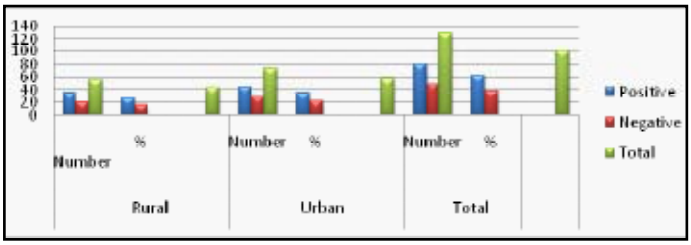


Fig. 2: Attitude of Rural and Urban college students towards computer education

According to Table 3 and Figure 2, out of 56 rural students, 35 (26.9%) have positive and 21 (16.2%) have negative attitude. Again, out of 74 urban students, 45 (34.6%) have positive and 29 (22.3%) have negative attitude. But, in comparison to rural, urban students have more positivity in attitude. So, if we see the total, then it is clear that out of the total 130 students, 80 (61.5%) have positive and 50 (38.5%) have negative attitude. So, in totality more numbers of urban and rural college students have showed positive attitude towards computer education.

Table 4:Chi-square value of rural and urban students' attitude towards computer education

Variables	Pearson Chi-square value	Degree of freedom	Level of significance
Differences in attitude between rural and urban college students towards computer education	.961	2	Not Significant

Critical value of X^2 = 9.210 (0.01 level of significance) > 0.01 = 9.210

Table 4 shows that the Pearson chi-square value indicating the significant difference between the attitude of rural and urban students' attitude towards computer education to be .961 with the degree of freedom 2, which is not significant at 0.01 level. So, here the null hypothesis can be rejected and we can say that there exists significant difference in attitude between rural and urban college students towards computer education.

Objective 3: To study the significant difference in attitude between male and female college students towards computer education.

Hypothesis: 3- There exists no significant difference in the attitude of male and female college students towards computer education.

Table 5: Attitude of Male and Female college students towards computer education

Attitude group	Male		Female		Total	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Positive	37	28.4	43	33.1	80	61.5
Negative	28	21.5	22	16.9	50	38.5
Total	65	50.0	65	50.0	130	100.0

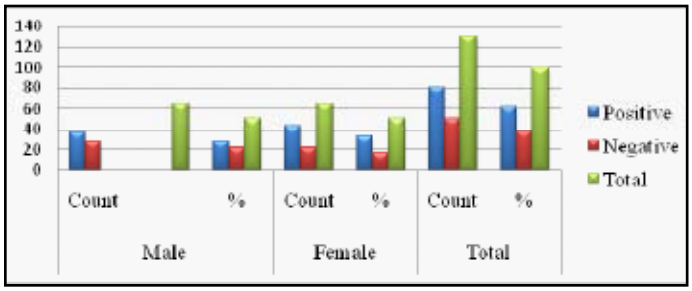


Fig.3: Attitude of Male and Female college students towards computer education

According to Table 5 and Figure-3, out of 65 male students, 37 (28.4%) have positive and 28 (21.5%) have negative attitude. Again, out of 65 urban students, 43 (33.1%) have positive and 22 (16.9%) have negative attitude. But, in comparison to male, female students have more positivity in attitude. So, if we see the total, then it is clear that out of the total 130 students, 80 (61.5%) have positive and 50 (38.5%) have negative attitude. So, in totality more numbers of male and female college students have showed positive attitude towards computer education.

Table 6: T-test of significant difference in attitude between male and female students towards computer education

Variable	Gender	N	Mean	S. D	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
Attitude	Male	65	255.34	19.513	-.219	128	.827
	Female	65	256.02	15.574			

Significant level is at P<0.01

So, the Table 6 shows that the Mean score and S.D of male students (N=65) are 255.34 and 19.513 respectively. Similarly, the Mean score and S.D of female students (N=65) are 256.02 and 15.574 respectively and t ratio -.219 at degrees of freedom128, which is not significant (2-tailed) at 0.01 level of significance. So, our hypothesis, "There exists no significant difference in attitude between male and female college students towards computer education" is rejected, i.e., there exists significant difference in the attitude of male and female students towards computer education.

Major Findings

1. 80 (61.5%) students have positive and 50 (38.5%) have negative attitude towards computer education. So, large number of college students have positive attitude towards computer education. The Mean score 266.35 is found high among positive attitude group of students towards computer education.

2. Urban and rural students have positive attitude towards computer education, in comparison to the rural students urban students have more positivity in their attitude.
3. There exists significant difference in attitude between rural and urban college students towards computer education according to this study. The Pearson chi-square value is .961, with the degree of freedom 2 which is tested at 0.01 level of significance (2-tailed).
4. More numbers of male and female college students have showed positive attitude towards computer education, in comparison to male, female showed more positive attitude.
5. The study found significant difference between male and female college students' attitude towards computer education .The t-value is -.219 with the degree of freedom 128 which is not significant at 0.01 level (2-tailed).

IV. Conclusion

The findings of the study show that college students have positive attitude towards computer education. But in comparison to the rural students, urban students have more positivity in their attitude. So, it can be suggested that both the rural and urban students should get equal exposures to the technological gadgets like computer from the very early phases of their educational life, so that they can be made interested towards a subject like computer education. Similarly, male and female students should get equally easy access to computer education and proper attention should be laid on developing proper perception and attitude towards the same.

Acknowledgement

The author will like to acknowledge all the colleges from where data were collected as well as the students for their kind response and also like to acknowledge Education Department, Gauhati University.

References

[1]. Usun, Salih. (2004). Undergraduate Students Attitudes on the Use of Computers in Education. The Turkish Online Journal of Educational Technology. Vol.3. Issue.2. Article.10. PP.62. Available at:http://www.tojet.sakarya.edu.tr.

[2]. Rajput,J.S.2005.Vision2020_Education.http://planingcommission.nic.in/genrep/bkpap2020/14_bg2020.pdf.

[3]. Kothari, C.R. 2006. Research Methodolgy. Methods and Techniques. Wishwa Prakashan, New Delhi.423.