

## Internet usage amongst Commerce & Management undergraduates: a study based on University of Kelaniya

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Internet usage has increased amongst undergraduates and it is also used as a teaching and learning tool within the university environment in Sri Lanka. Most of the study programmes in the university provide students with access to internet via departmental or faculty computer labs. The usage of internet by the students can be differ according to the student interest about internet and the facilities available within the system. The objective of this study is to identify the Commerce and Management undergraduates' internet usage behavior.

Data for the study were gathered from eighty four (84) undergraduates, using a structured questionnaire. Sample represented undergraduates from four Departments Commerce & Financial Management (26%), Marketing Management (28%), Human Resource Management (22%) and Accountancy (24%) and 67% male and 33% female undergraduates.

Research findings reveal that 100% of undergraduates using internet facilities as an information searching and communication tool. 59% start to use internet after enter the university while only 22% use internet during their school age. The online mean time spent is two to three times per week while on the average (50%) 2-6 hours per week. 72% of Undergraduates use the internet for education and e-mailing purposes. Undergraduates mostly use e-mail and web searching while less preference for use of games and chatting. Slow access, difficult to find required information and confidentiality identified as problems and 65% use to search required information through typing web address directly and through the search engines. Undergraduates identified internet as time saving and informative tool for their education and adversely affects the use of conventional documents. Only 97% having their own e-mail address including 65% using Yahoo. The study concludes that majority of the undergraduates in the university use the internet for many purposes and they are not fully satisfied existing internet facilities. Opinion of large percentage of the students was that the usage of the internet has affected greatly on their education.

**Key words:** Internet usage, Learning tool, Undergraduates, Information, Search engine, ICT