THE ROUTINES OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS HOMEWORK PREPARATION PROCESS WITH THE USAGE OF INTERNET SOURCES

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Abstract: With the technologic developments, the usage of internet and gathering information have become easier and this process is naturally eventuated with high use of internet by students during preparing their homework. Especially online libraries like vikipedia and homework preparation the med websites help to the students to prepare their homeworks. Aim of the study is to investigate high school student's homework preparation process with the usage of online and offline internet sources.The internet sources used by students, their opinions and routines of internet usage have been investigated with the study. According to this purpose; survey method is used to collect data. Data was collected administering a questionnaire contained Closed-Ended questions. Descriptive analyses technique was administered on the collected data.

Keywords: Internet, Homework, SecondaryEducation

1.Introduction

Today many obstacles on acquiring knowledge are removed with the development of internet and communication technologies. Even though it was not felt in the first period of internet, data produced in different disciplines and online documents about daily life increase day by day. As the amount of data increased, the purposes of internet usage have changed accordingly. In the beginning, internet was considered as a venue for fun, but with the introduction of more data and knowledge it turned to be one of the main sources of information. We can say that internet has a very important share in the daily lives of high school students.

According to Karasar, innovations in the field of communication technology have a huge effect on education just like other areas. Educational environment changes with the help of these technologies. It is indispensable to adjust the tools in education with these developments in technology. The transformation of educational technology into an advanced level of modern one is one of the most precedent issues. (2002:118) The fact that internet usage has become a very effective resource in education process should not be neglected. The increase in capability of internet access and diversification of resources are directing the students to this new generation of resources. It is observed that students tend to use online encyclopedic resources while preparing their take home assignments. According to Packhard and Holmes, there are seven types of websites which might contribute in preparing a take home assignment.

a) Portal sites: Those sites provide links to sources of research and information.
b) Information Sites: These sites provide their own articles and information. These websites contain examples, book summaries and encyclopedic information rather than directing the user to another source.
c) Article sites: Almost 1/3 of homework help sites are designed as article providers. Some websites give students a chance to download previously written home works.
d) Ask Someone Who Knows Sites: Those websites provide online studying. They answer the questions of students via chat, e-mail or instant messaging.
e) Websites with Various Book and Site Summaries: These websites provide summaries of various books and sites.
f) Online Encyclopedia and Library Sites: Websites like Britannica and World Book provide memberships and give access to whole encyclopedia.
g) Study Service Sites: A lot of presentations are done online in these websites. Some of them provide interactive studies. (Arıkan, Altun, 2007:359, from Packard and Holmes, 2001)

The most important question that bears in mind is how these websites are being used. As homework preparation sites have become a financial sector by time, students have been shopping their home works. These problems bring new questions such as the liability of these resources.

2.Purpose and Importance

The purpose of this study is to determine the internet usage motivations of High school students and to find out which internet resources are being used while preparing a take home assignment. Finding out the resources students use and their attitude towards these websites might play an important role in the determination of education policies. Papers and resources students gather from internet without any control mechanisms involved cannot be considered as reliable; so, their attitude on gathering the sources and preparing their assignments could bring important assumptions about the process.

3.Methodology

In this research, scanning methodology is used to cope with the aims. Collected data is about the motivations of students on internet usage and their habits to use homework websites. A questionnaire consisted of 18 questions is prepared. 15 of these questions are multiple choice and 3 of them are fill in the blanks. Questionnaire was applied to a total amount of 131 High school students in Elazığ and then analyzed through the 15th edition of SPSS.

4.Findings

49.6% of the subjects participated in the questionnaire were female students, and the rest %50.4 were male students. The gender equity is there. Internet access levels of the subjects are 74%. The most visited website by the subjects turned out to be Facebook, followed by Twitter. It can easily be said that the first choice of the students on internet is Facebook.

Ratio of the Most Visited Sites

	Number of persons	Percentage
Facebook	69	52.7
Twitter	16	12.2
Youtube	3	2.29
Google	3	2.29
Diğer	40	30.5
Toplam	131	100

The research showed that 90.1% of the participants have used internet while preparing a take home assignment, whereas the remaining 9.9% do not. We can say that internet is highly used while preparing homework. First source students use while preparing their homework turned out to be Wikipedia with 40%, followed by Google (8.4%), Forums (4.6%) Blogs (2.3%) and Yandex (2.3%). Besides, resource sites such as zambak.com, cosku.com, fenokulu.com are also used while preparing take home assignments.

Subjects say that they have enough resources on internet while preparing their take-home assignments. 69.5% said that they found enough resources, while 20,6% said no. It can easily be said that students could find the necessary resources they needed online. 48.1% of the students said that they fact checked the information they gathered from internet, while 42% said they did not. The resources they use for fact check resulted with 35% of internet and only 44% as published works, such as encyclopedia, books or journals. Only 9.5% of students tend to look for advice from their teachers while preparing their take home assignments, and almost never ask their parents. Also, 68.9% of students think that their homework are perfect and the sources they used from internet are reliable.

71.43% of the students said that they read the resources they found online while preparing their assignments and 80.9% of them believed that the information they gathered online was useful. Another question showed that only 61.9% of the assignments handed are believed to be checked by the teacher; which is believed to shake the reliability on student control mechanism.

5.Result and Suggestions

Research showed that internet penetration among students in Turkey is higher than the average of the country, along with students' computer possession rates. Within this context, we can easily say that access to the information is no longer a problem for High school students. The widespread usage of internet in schools is believed to be the main reason behind this. But, it is also observed that websites like Facebook, which are not basically used for education but for fun and communication, are very popular among the students. We can say that internet usage with the purpose of education is still not at the adequate level.

The routine take home assignments have become questionable with the overall widespread of internet usage. The main reason behind this is the students' usage of information uploaded to the internet with no control mechanism. This brings us the problem of reliability of the collected data. We can say that the unreliable information gathered by students might cause more problems than assets. It can be thought that projects and student-based take home assignments might become more appropriate within these circumstances. It is obvious that take home assignments prepared with internet resources only will have no use for the personal development of students.

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