Chapter 5

GENDER ACCESS PATTERNS OF INTERNET COMMUNICATION

The internet service was first developed in the United States by the department of Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA). It was first connected in October 1969 (www.simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internet/...). Internet is a system of global interconnected computer networks that provides the internet protocol for several users. Most traditional communications media including telephone, music, film and television are redefined by the Internet that gives birth to new services such as Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) and Internet Protocol Television (IPTV). Newspaper, book and other print media are also reshaped into website technology. Internet has enabled to speed up new forms of human interaction through rapid information as well as peer-to-peer or social network. The internet bears an extensive range of information resources that circulate peer-to-peer networks (www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internet/...). The Internet has a variety of services that include WWW (World Wide Web), E-mail, file transfer, instant transfer, chat rooms, message boards, news-groups etc. The Internet is a worldwide collection of networks that connects together millions of businesses, government agencies, educational institutions etc. Anybody can access internet from anywhere. Some important uses of the Internet include accessing information, news and research material, communicating with others around the world, e-banking, e-shopping, accessing to other educational material, accessing to sources of entertainment such as online games, magazines and holidays planning guides, sharing and editing documents with others in time and to avail information, photographs, audio/ video clips etc. This chapter will discuss ICT exposure, computer knowledge and various aspects of Internet access of the respondents.

I

NEW ICT EXPOSURE OF THE HOUSEHOLDS

New ICT is a noteworthy communication technology for each family members of urban society in Silchar town. Many members of the sampled households have extensive access to new ICT. New ICT deals with Information Communication Technology. Information Communication

Technology constitutes three components; namely, Computer, Internet and Mobile. This chapter discusses on the internet and computer users and non-users. There are 2847 persons from the sampled (124) households in Silchar town. Out of 2847 persons, the computer users are of 664; 577 persons are internet users and out of 577 persons, there are 567 persons having computer knowledge. Persons are subscribing this technology of communication irrespective of age group; children comprise 6-12 years, adolescent comprises 13-17 years, early youth comprises 18-25 years, late youth comprises 26-31 years, early middle age comprises 32-39 years, late middle age comprises 40-45 and also religious groups. It is observed that there are 1241 computer and internet users and 1606 non users out of 2847 The following table shows the distribution of user and non-user of computer and internet technology:

Table 5.1(a)
Users and Non-Users of Computer
(Percentage in Parentheses)

Religious Group	Exposure of Computer (%)						Grand Total (%)		
	Users			Non-Users					
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Hindu	366 (76.89)	123 (65.43)	489 (73.64)	400 (100)	200 (86.21)	600 (94.94)	766 (87.44)	323 (76.9)	1089 (84.03)
Muslim	110 (23.11)	65 (34.57)	175 (26.36)	--	32 (13.79)	32 (5.06)	110 (12.56)	97 (23.1)	207 (15.97)
Total	476 (100)	188 (100)	664 (100)	400 (100)	232 (100)	632 (100)	876 (100)	420 (100)	1296 (100)

Source: Field Survey Conducted during the Period from 5th September 2011 to 7th March 2012

The table shows that over four fifths (76.89%) of males from Hindu religious group are computer users followed by nearly one fourth of them belonging to Muslim religious group. Over three fifths of female from Hindu religious group are computer users followed by over one third of them belonging to Muslim religious group.

Thus, it is found that majority of males are using computer in Silchar town.

Table 5.1(b)
Users and Non- Users of Internet Technology
(Percentage in Parentheses)

Age-Group	Exposure of Internet Technology (%)						Grand Total (%)		
	Users			Non-Users					
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Adolescents	99 (30.18)	93 (37.35)	192 (33.28)	--	--	--	99 (10)	93 (16.58)	192 (12.38)
Youth	110 (33.54)	63 (25.3)	173 (29.98)	248 (40.33)	180 (50.14)	428 (43.94)	358 (40.91)	243 (34.94)	601 (38.75)
Middle Aged	119 (36.28)	93 (37.35)	212 (36.74)	367 (59.67)	179 (49.86)	546 (56.06)	486 (49.09)	272 (48.48)	758 (48.87)
Total	328 (100)	249 (100)	577 (100)	615 (100)	359 (100)	974 (100)	943 (100)	608 (100)	1551 (100)

Source: Field Survey Conducted during the Period from 5th September 2011 to 7th March 2012

The table demonstrates that over one third of male from the middle age are internet users followed by one third of youths and nearly one third from adolescent aged. Over one third (37.35%) of female adolescents and the middle aged are internet users followed by one fourth from youth.

Thus, majority of females are accessing to internet technology in Silchar town because in the urban area females are getting resource, mobility and technological infrastructure. This section comprises access to computer, status of computer knowledge, internet access, use, purpose, attitude and impact, internet accessing habits of the members in families, internet items accessed etc. These are taken up for discussion.

II

THE COMPUTER ACCESS

This section explains the access to computer. It includes accessing to laptop and desktop in terms of sharing and individual use for a specific purpose. It is found out of 2847 persons in the sampled households/families that there are total 664 computer users. Among 664 computer users,

there are 489 users from Hindu religious group comprising 366 males and 123 females. On the other hand, there are 175 users from Muslim religious group comprising 110 males and 65 females. The distribution of the individuals of the households accessing to computer is given in the following table:

Table 5.2
Types of Computer Access by Religious Group
(Percentage in Parentheses)

Type of Computer	Religious Group (%)						Grand Total (%)		
	Hindu			Muslim					
	Male N=366	Female N=123	Total N=489	Male N=110	Female N=65	Total N=175	Male N=476	Female N=188	Total N=664
Desktop (sharing/individual)	177 (48.36)	52 (42.28)	229 (46.83)	67 (60.91)	37 (56.92)	104 (59.43)	244 (51.26)	89 (47.34)	333 (50.15)
Laptop (sharing/individual)	193 (52.73)	75 (60.98)	268 (54.81)	47 (42.73)	32 (49.23)	79 (45.14)	240 (50.42)	107 (56.91)	347 (52.26)

Source: Field Survey Conducted during the Period from 5th September 2011 to 7th March 2012

Data reveal that near about half of the males from Hindu religious group are using desktop computer at home, followed by more than half using laptop in office. Over one third of females from Hindu religious group are using desktop computer at home and over half using laptop in office. Over half of males from Muslim religious group are accessing to desktop in office/home followed by nearly two fifths accessing at home.

Near about half of females from Muslim religious group are accessing to laptop at home followed by more than two fifths accessing at home/office.

Thus, it determines that majority of males from Hindu or Muslim religious group are accessing to laptop. On the other hand, majority of females from Hindu or Muslim religious group are accessing to laptop at home. So, it is found that there is more domestic engagement and less opportunity among females to access to computer outside home.

Uses of Computer

Both male and female are using computer for various purposes like entertainment, business, academic etc. The distribution of uses of computer according to the religious groups is given in the following table:

Table 5.3
Purposes of Having Computer
(Percentage in Parentheses)

Purpose	Religious Group (%)						Grand Total (%)		
	Hindu			Muslim					
	Male N=366	Female N=123	Total N=489	Male N=110	Female N=65	Total N=175	Male N=476	Female N=188	Total N=664
Education	52 (14.21)	34 (27.64)	86 (17.59)	27 (24.55)	17 (26.15)	44 (25.14)	79 (16.6)	51 (27.13)	130 (19.58)
Entertainment	53 (14.48)	38 (30.89)	91 (18.61)	25 (22.73)	20 (30.77)	45 (25.71)	78 (16.39)	58 (30.85)	136 (20.48)
E- Business	65 (17.76)	--	65 (13.29)	25 (22.73)	--	25 (14.29)	90 (18.91)	--	90 (13.55)
Office Work	59 (16.12)	31 (25.2)	90 (18.4)	23 (20.91)	21 (32.31)	44 (25.14)	82 (17.23)	52 (27.66)	134 (20.18)
E-mail and Internet	59 (16.12)	30 (24.39)	89 (18.2)	18 (16.36)	20 (30.77)	38 (21.71)	77 (16.18)	50 (26.6)	127 (19.13)
Downloading	58 (15.85)	25 (20.33)	83 (16.97)	18 (16.36)	12 (18.46)	30 (17.14)	76 (15.97)	37 (19.68)	113 (17.02)
Chatting	69 (18.85)	--	69 (14.11)	23 (20.91)	--	23 (13.14)	92 (19.33)	--	92 (13.86)

Source: Field Survey Conducted during the Period from 5th September 2011 to 7th March 2012

The table depicts that more than one tenth (18.85%) of the males from Hindu religious group are using computer for chatting followed by E-business (17.76%) purpose, office work (16.12%) and E-mail and internet, entertainment (14.48%), education (14.21%) over one fourth using computer for entertainment, more than one tenth are accessing for office work, E-business (11.24%) and the rest use internet for downloading. Nearly one third of the females from Hindu religious group are accessing to computer for watching entertainment followed by over one fourth accessing to computer for education, office work (25.2%) e-mail and internet (24.39%) purpose and the rest (one tenth) use computer for downloading. Nearly one third of females of the households from Muslim religious group are accessing to computer for office work purpose

followed by entertainment, e-mail and internet(30.77%), over one fourth accessing to computer for education and e-business, office work (20.91%) and chatting and the rest over one tenth accessing to computer for downloading (18.46%). Nearly one fourth of males of the households from Muslim religious group are accessing to computer for office work education purpose followed by entertainment and e-business (22.73%), office work and chatting (20.91%) and the rest are using for e-mail, internet (16.36%) and downloading.

Thus, majority of females from both religious groups are using computer for various purposes. So, there is less gender discrimination in accessing to computer in Silchar town.

Status of Computer Knowledge

The status of computer knowledge means the knowledge acquired by both male and female on computer after doing some computer courses or attending computer training programs which are usually conducted by computer institutions available in Silchar town.

It is observed that there are total 664 computer users and 577 internet users. Out of 577 internet users, 567 users are having computer knowledge, out of which 412 users are from Hindu religious group and 155 users from Muslim religious group. There are 305 of males and 107 females from Hindu religious group. On the other hand, there are 155 users from Muslim religious group comprising 75 males and 80 females. The distribution of the status of computer knowledge obtained by both males and females of different religious groups is shown in the following table:

Table 5.4
Status of Computer Knowledge
(Percentage in Parentheses)

Status of Computer knowledge	Religious Group (%)						Grand Total (%)		
	Hindu			Muslim					
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Basic knowledge	115 (37.7)	37 (34.58)	152 (36.89)	47 (62.67)	53 (66.25)	100 (64.52)	162 (42.63)	90 (48.13)	252 (44.44)
Basic knowledge by Training	50 (16.39)	18 (16.82)	68 (16.5)	--	--	--	50 (13.16)	18 (9.63)	68 (11.99)

Skilled by Training	52 (17.05)	16 (14.95)	68 (16,5)	--	--	--	52 (13.68)	16 (8.56)	68 (11.99)
Skilled by Practice	88 (76.52)	36 (33.64)	124 (30.1)	28 (37.33)	27 (33.75)	55 (35.48)	116 (30.53)	63 (33.69)	179 (31.57)
Total	305 (100)	107 (100)	412 (100)	75 (100)	80 (100)	155 (100)	380 (100)	187 (100)	567 (100)

Source: Field Survey Conducted during the Period from 5th September 2011 to 7th March 2012

Data reveal that nearly four fifths of males in the sampled households from Hindu religious group are having computer skill by practice followed by more than one third having basic knowledge and the rest (more than one tenth) have basic knowledge by training and skilled by training. Over one third of females of the households from Hindu religious group have basic knowledge followed by one third having skilled by practice, more than one tenth have basic knowledge by training (16.82%) or by practice (14.95%). Over three fifths of males of the households from Muslim religious group are having computer's basic knowledge followed by nearly two fifths having skilled by practice, computer basic knowledge and the rest (one fifth) have basic knowledge by training. Over three fifths of females of the households from Muslim religious group have computer basic knowledge followed by one third having computer knowledge by practice.

Thus, it signifies that majority of males are having computer knowledge from Hindu religious group. On the other hand majority of females are having computer basic knowledge and basic knowledge by training from Hindu religious group. It is found because of both males and females are equally having computer knowledge.

Time Span

Time span refers to time duration taken by both male and female having access to computer. It is observed that both males and females are accessing to computer in different time intervals. The frequency of access to computer is found daily basis. The distribution of different time intervals for accessing to computer by gender in multiple religious groups is shown in the following table:

Table 5.5
Time Span and Frequency of accessing to Computer
(Percentage in Parentheses)

Religious Group	Time Span of Computer (%)						Grand Total (%)		
	30 min– 2 hr.			2 – 4 hr.					
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Hindu	194 (78.86)	51 (60.71)	245 (74.24)	172 (74.78)	72 (69.23)	244 (73.05)	366 (76.89)	123 (65.43)	489 (73.64)
Muslim	52 (21.14)	33 (39.29)	85 (25.76)	58 (25.22)	32 (30.77)	90 (26.95)	110 (23.11)	65 (34.57)	175 (26.36)
Total	246 (100)	84 (100)	330 (100)	230 (100)	104 (100)	334 (100)	476 (100)	188 (100)	664 (100)

Source: Field Survey Conducted during the Period from 5th September 2011 to 7th March 2012

Data show that nearly four fifths of males of the households from Hindu religious group are accessing computer for about 30 min to 2 hr. followed by over one fifth (21.14%) to accessing computer from Muslim religious group. Three fifths of females of the households from Hindu religious group are accessing to computer for about 30 min-2 hour followed by nearly two fifths (39.29%) of females accessing to computer from Muslim religious group. Over three fifths (74.78%) of males of the households from Hindu religious group are accessing to computer for about 2-4 hours followed by one fourth accessing to computer from Muslim religious group.

Thus, from both religious groups, more males are accessing to computer because of getting male-bias in the society and available opportunity. On the other hand, less number of females from Muslim religious group are accessing to computer due to social constraints on them.

III

THE INTERNET ACCESS

This section introduces gender access to internet. Internet has made advance communication, simplified manual work, fastened processing, provided more options etc. Anderson et al (1995) proposed that inequality in Internet access is to limit people's opportunities to find jobs, obtain education, access government information, participate in political dialogue, and build networks

of social support. Compaine (2000) has suggested "digital divide" to mean inequalities in access to the Internet, extent of use, knowledge of search strategies, quality of technical connections and social support, ability to evaluate the quality of information and diversity of uses.

Internet is a new web-net technology that implies access, likeness, goal, advantages and disadvantages after accessing to it. It includes gender, age-group, place of access, time span, frequency, purpose, likeness/attitude, impact felt, etc. In case of impact of internet felt, it is found that impact consists of both positive and negative impact. These are being analysed below.

The Place of Access

The place of access implies the location where both males and females can access to internet. The places of accessing to internet may be at cyber café, shop, home, office etc. By gender, the distribution of places of internet access is shown in the following table:

Table 5.6
Places of Access to Internet
(Percentage in Parentheses)

Place of Access	Age-Group (%)									Grand Total (%)		
	Adolescents			Youth			Middle Aged					
	Male N=99	Female N= 93	Total N=192	Male N=119	Female N=93	Total N=212	Male N=110	Female N=63	Total N=173	Male N=328	Female N=249	Total N=577
Home	74 (74.75)	65 (69.89)	139 (72.4)	64 (53.78)	65 (69.89)	129 (60.85)	58 (52.73)	44 (69.84)	102 (58.96)	196 (59.76)	174 (69.88)	370 (64.12)
Cyber Café	29 (29.29)	32 (34.41)	61 (31.77)	21 (17.65)	15 (16.13)	36 (16.98)	24 (21.82)	16 (25.4)	40 (23.12)	74 (22.56)	63 (25.3)	137 (23.74)
Office	--	--	--	34 (28.57)	25 (26.88)	59 (45.74)	27 (24.55)	15 (23.81)	42 (24.28)	61 (18.6)	40 (16.06)	101 (17.5)
Shop	--	--	--	16 (13.45)	--	16 (7.55)	17 (15.45)	--	17 (9.83)	33 (10.06)	--	33 (5.72)

Source: Field Survey Conducted during the Period from 5th September 2011 to 7th March 2012

Data reveal that more than three fifths of males of the households from adolescent are subscribing internet at home followed by more than one fourth(26.73%) subscribing internet at cyber café. Three fifths of females from adolescent are accessing internet at home followed by nearly one third accessing to internet at cyber café. Near about half of females of the households from youth age are accessing to internet at home followed by nearly one fourth accessing at office, over one tenth accessing at cyber cafe and the rest (insignificant number) access internet

at shop. Over three fifths of females of the households from youth age are accessing to internet at home followed by over one fifth (21.65%) at offices and the rest (more than one tenth) (11.34%) access to internet at Cyber café .Over two fifths of males of the sampled households from middle age group are accessing to internet at home followed by one fifth accessing at offices, over one tenth accessing at cyber café (17.54%) and shop (11.4%). Nearly three fifths of females of the households from old age group are accessing to internet at home followed by over one tenth accessing to internet at cyber café (17.91%) and office (16.42%).

Thus, it interprets that females from youth and middle age are more in accessing to internet to due to lack of social constraints in view of the changing social environment and mainly engaged with studies only.

IV

THE INTERNET USE PATTERNS

In this section, the use patterns of internet are being discussed. The distribution of internet uses for various purposes like entertainment, business, e-mail, etc. by the individuals of the sampled households is presented in the following table:

Table 5.7
Purposes of Internet use among Members of the Sampled Households/Families
(Percentage in Parentheses)

Purpose	Age-Group (%)									Grand Total (%)		
	Adolescents			Youth			Middle Aged					
	Male N=99	Female N=93	Total N=192	Male N=119	Female N=93	Total N= 212	Male N=110	Female N=63	Total N=173	Male N=328	Female N=249	Total N=577
Business	--	--	--	44 (36.97)	16 (17.2)	60 (28.3)	34 (30.91)	13 (20.63)	47 (27.17)	78 (23.78)	29 (11.65)	107 (18.54)
Entertainment	41 (41.41)	32 (34.41)	73 (38.02)	32 (26.89)	40 (43.01)	72 (33.96)	24 (21.82)	15 (23.81)	39 (22.54)	97 (29.57)	87 (34.94)	184 (31.89)
E-mail	24 (24.24)	14 (15.05)	38 (19.79)	29 (24.37)	29 (31.18)	58 (27.36)	39 (35.45)	23 (36.51)	62 (35.84)	92 (28.05)	66 (26.51)	158 (27.38)
Education	43 (43.43)	56 (60.22)	99 (51.56)	30 (25.21)	24 (25.81)	54 (25.47)	29 (26.36)	28 (44.44)	57 (32.95)	102 (31.1)	108 (43.37)	210 (36.4)

Source: Field Survey Conducted during the Period from 5th September 2011 to 7th March 2012

The table depicts that nearly two fifths of males of the households from adolescent age-group are accessing to internet for education purpose followed by more than one third using internet for entertainment and the rest (one fifth) access to internet for e-mail purpose. More than half of females of the households from adolescent age are accessing to internet for education followed by more than one fourth using internet for entertainment and the rest, more than one tenth 11% access to internet for e-mail. More than one fourth of males of the households from youth age are accessing to internet for business (28.99%) and entertainment (27.54%) followed by over one fifth accessing to internet for education and nearly one fifth accessing to internet for e-mail. More than one third of males of the households from youth age are accessing to internet for entertainment followed by one fifth accessing internet for education and e-mail and the rest (more than one tenth) access to internet for business.

Near about one third of females of the households from middle age are accessing to internet for e-mail followed by more than one fourths using internet for entertainment followed by more than one fifths using internet for business and more than one tenth accessing to internet for education. Over one third of females of the households from middle age are accessing internet for education followed by over one fourth accessing to internet for e-mail, more than one tenth accessing internet for entertainment (15.71 %) and business (12.86%).

Thus, both males and females are equally using internet for e-mail purpose. Females from adolescent age have no gender gap. But females from youth age-group are more in accessing online study material due to a tendency of increasing female literacy in Silchar town.

V

THE ATTITUDE PATTERNS OF INTERNET ACCESS

Attitude plays a significant role in Internet adoption. Through motivation and perception, attitudes are formed and gender makes decisions. Thus, attitudes are authority of decision making. This section attempts to analyse the attitude pattern in accessing to internet by gender. The distribution of gender attitude in accessing to internet is shown in the following table:

Table 5.8
Likeness/Attitude of Accessing to Internet
(Percentage in Parentheses)

Likeness/Attitude	Age-Group (%)									Grand Total (%)		
	Adolescents			Youth			Middle Aged					
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Don't Like	--	--	--	--	--	--	17 (15.45)	19 (30.16)	36 (20.81)	17 (5.18)	19 (7.63)	36 (6.24)
Like a Little	--	--	--	--	--	--	31 (28.18)	14 (22.22)	45 (26.01)	31 (9.45)	14 (5.62)	45 (7.8)
Like Much	49 (49.49)	48 (51.61)	97 (50.52)	70 (58.82)	47 (50.54)	117 (55.19)	36 (32.73)	12 (19.05)	48 (27.75)	155 (47.26)	107 (42.97)	262 (45.41)
Like Very Much	50 (50.51)	45 (48.39)	95 (49.48)	49 (41.18)	46 (49.46)	95 (44.21)	26 (23.64)	18 (28.57)	44 (25.43)	125 (38.11)	109 (43.78)	234 (40.55)
Total	99 (100)	93 (100)	192 (100)	119 (100)	93 (100)	212 (100)	110 (100)	63 (100)	173 (100)	328 (100)	249 (100)	577 (100)

Source: Field Survey Conducted during the Period from 5th September 2011 to 7th March 2012

Data highlight that more than half (50.51%) of males of the households from adolescent age-group like internet much followed by nearly half who like internet very much. More than half (51.61%) of females of the households from adolescent age like internet very much followed by nearly half who like internet much. Near about three fifths of males of the households from youth age like internet much followed by two fifths (41.18%) like internet very much. Half of females of the households from youth are like internet much followed by nearly half (49.46%) liking internet very much. Nearly one third of males of the households from middle age like internet much, followed by more than one fourth (28.18%) like internet a little and the rest (more than one fifth) like internet very much.

Over one fourth (30.16%) of females of the households from middle age don't like internet and followed by more than two fifths like internet a little and nearly one fifth like internet much.

Thus, both males and females are equal in their attitude in accessing to internet. Adolescents and youth have high positive attitude and likeness for Internet.

VI

THE IMPACT PATTERNS

Impact includes the positive and the negative effect of accessing to internet which is felt by both males and females. This section introduces the positive impact that includes four criteria like quick connectivity, trade affairs, educational and establishing gender relation through e-mail, online discussion etc. and reducing the digital divide. On the other hand, the negative impact includes health hazard, less privacy, addiction and mail hacking. The distribution of positive impact of internet that is felt by the genders of different age-groups is shown in the following table:

Table 5.9
Positive Impacts Felt by the Individuals of the Household
(Percentage in Parentheses)

Positive Impact of Internet	Age Group (%)									Grand Total (%)		
	Adolescents			Youth			Middle Aged					
	Male N=62	Female N=36	Total N=98	Male N=68	Female N=54	Total N=122	Male N=63	Female N=37	Total N=100	Male N=193	Female N=127	Total N=320
Quick Connectivity	23 (37.1)	14 (38.89)	37 (37.76)	19 (27.94)	13 (24.07)	32 (26.23)	13 (20.63)	09 (24.32)	22 (22)	55 (28.5)	36 (28.35)	91 (28.44)
Business	--	--	--	15 (22.06)	14 (25.93)	29 (23.77)	16 (25.4)	10 (27.03)	26 (26)	31 (16.06)	24 (18.9)	55 (17.19)
Educational	23 (37.1)	15 (41.67)	38 (38.78)	32 (47.06)	24 (44.44)	56 (45.9)	27 (42.86)	21 (56.76)	48 (48)	82 (42.49)	60 (47.24)	142 (44.38)
Establish Gender Relation through E-mail, Online Discussion, etc./Reduced digital divide	25 (40.32)	16 (44.44)	41 (41.84)	18 (26.47)	19 (35.19)	37 (30.33)	23 (36.51)	13 (35.14)	36 (36)	66 (34.2)	48 (37.8)	114 (35.63)

Source: Field Survey Conducted during the Period from 5th September 2011 to 7th March 2012

The table depicts that more than one third of males of the households from adolescent age-group are establishing gender relation through e-mail, online discussion, etc. which reduced digital divide followed by educational impact (30.3%) and quick connectivity (30.3%). Nearly

one third of females of the households from adolescent age are establishing gender relation through e-mail, online discussion etc. which reduced digital divide followed by educational impact(30%), nearly one fourth having quick connectivity. Nearly two fifths of males of the households from youth age are getting study material and downloading study material through internet followed by quick connectivity (20.83%), establishing gender relation through e-mail, online discussion, etc. which reduced digital divide (19.44%), business (15.28%). Over one third of females of the households from youth age are getting and downloading study material through internet followed by one fourth establishing gender relation through e-mail, online discussions etc. which reduced digital divide. Nearly one fifth are doing business activities and the rest are getting quick online connection. Over one third of males of the households from middle age are getting study material and downloading them followed by more than one fourth establishing gender relations through e-mail, online discussion etc. which reduced digital divide, nearly one fifth doing e-business activities, more than one tenth getting quick connectivity.

Over two fifths of females of the households from middle age are getting study material followed by nearly one fourth establishing gender relation which reduced digital divide, doing business activities (14.63%) and getting quick connection (12.2%).

Thus, it signifies that majority of females from middle age-group are getting study material because of easy access to internet. However, the males and females have felt negative impacts of Internet. The following table shows the negative impacts:

Table 5.10
Negative Impact Felt by Individuals of the Sampled Household
(Percentage in Parentheses)

Impact of Access to Internet	Age-Group (%)									Grand Total (%)		
	Adolescents			Youth			Middle Aged					
	Male N=37	Female N=57	Total N=94	Male N=51	Female N=39	Total N=90	Male N=47	Female N=26	Total N=73	Male N=135	Female N=122	Total N=257
Health Hazard	20 (54.05)	27 (47.37)	47 (50)	21 (41.18)	16 (41.03)	37 (41.11)	15 (31.91)	7 (26.92)	22 (30.14)	56 (41.48)	50 (40.98)	106 (41.25)
Addiction	--	--	--	20 (39.22)	14 (35.9)	34 (37.78)	19 (40.43)	9 (34.62)	28 (38.36)	39 (28.89)	23 (18.85)	62 (24.12)
Less Privacy	13 (35.14)	24 (42.11)	37 (39.36)	19 (37.25)	18 (46.15)	37 (41.11)	16 (34.04)	11 (42.31)	27 (36.99)	48 (35.56)	53 (43.44)	101 (39.3)
Mail Hacking	13 (35.14)	15 (26.32)	28 (29.79)	--	--	--	14 (2979)	15 (57.69)	29 (39.73)	27 (20)	30 (24.59)	57 (22.18)

Source: Field Survey Conducted during the Period from 5th September 2011 to 7th March 2012

The table depicts that over two fifths of males of the households from adolescent age-group are getting by health problems followed by less privacy (25%) and mail hacking (25%). Two fifths of females of the households from the adolescent age are getting health problems followed by near about one third have problem due to less privacy.

Nearly one third of males of the households from youth age are getting health problems followed by addicted by internet adoption(30.91%), less privacy (29.09%), health hazard (20.75%). Over one third of females of the households from youth age are facing less privacy by followed by health problems (30.23%), addicted by internet (25.58%). Over one fourth of males of the households from middle age are addicted by internet followed by facing less privacy (23.53%), health problems (21.57%), mail hacking (19.61%) Over one third of the individuals of the households from middle age experienced mail hack problem followed by less privacy (23.33%).

Thus, females are more from adolescent and youth age-group who felt less privacy due to regular use of internet affecting eyes and spinal cord as well.

Finally, there are major patterns of internet access between genders found from the study. These are as follows:

1. Over one third of males of the households from middle age are users of internet technology, one third from youth age and more than one fourth from adolescent age. Over half of females of the households from youth age are computer users followed by one third from adolescent age and the rest are children and from middle age.
2. Near about half of males of the households from Hindu religious group are using desktop at home. Over one third of females from the households of Hindu religious group are using desktop at home.
3. More than one fourth (22.09%) of males of the households from Hindu religious group are using computer for educational purpose. Near about one tenth of females of the households can access to computer for education. One fifth of males of the households from Muslim religious group are accessing to computer for education purpose.
4. More than one tenth (16.62%) of males of the households from Hindu religious group are using computer for chatting purpose, followed by E-business (15.55%), E-mail and internet

Nearly one fourth of females of the households from Hindu religious group are accessing computer for watching entertainment followed by near about one fifth accessing to computer for education and e-business purpose and the rest (more than one tenth) use computer for downloading. One fifth of males of the households from Muslim religious group are accessing to computer for education purpose. Over one fifth of females of the households from Muslim religious group are accessing to computer for office work.

5. Nearly four fifths of males of the households from Hindu religious group are having computer skill by practice followed by more than one third having basic knowledge and the rest (more than one tenth) have basic knowledge by training and skilled by training. Over one third of females of the households from Hindu religious group have basic knowledge followed by having skilled by practice (33.64%), more than one tenth have basic knowledge by training (16.82%) or by practice (14.95%).
6. Over half of males from the households of the Hindu religious group are accessing to computer for about 30 min-2 hour. Over three fifths of females of the households from Hindu religious group are accessing to computer for about 30 min to 2 hr.
7. Over three fifths of males of the households from adolescent are subscribing internet at home followed by more than one fourth (26.73%) using internet at cyber café. Three fifths of females of the households from adolescent are accessing to internet at home followed by nearly one third accessing to internet at cyber café.
8. Nearly two fifths of males of the households from adolescent age-group are accessing to internet for educational purpose followed by over one third using internet for entertainment and the rest (one fifth) access to internet for e-mail purpose. Over half of females of the households from adolescent age are accessing to internet for educational purpose followed by over one fourth using internet for entertainment and the rest more than (11%) one tenth access to internet for e-mail.
9. Over half of males of the households from adolescent age like internet much. Over half (52.24%) of females and males (50.51%) of the households from adolescent age-group like internet much followed by nearly half who likes internet very much.
10. Over half (51.61%)of females of the households from adolescent age like internet very much followed by nearly half who like internet much.

11. Nearly two fifths of males of the households from youth age are getting study material and downloading study material through internet followed by quick connectivity (20.83%), establishing gender relation through e-mail, online discussion, etc. which reduced digital divide (19.44%), business (15.28%). Over one third of females of the households from youth age are getting and downloading study material through internet followed by one fourth establishing gender relation through e-mail, online discussions etc. which reduced digital divide. Nearly one fifth are doing business activities and the rest are getting quick online connection.
12. Over two fifths of males of the households from adolescent age-group are getting health problems followed by less privacy (25%) and mail hacking (25%). Two fifths of females of the households from adolescent age are getting health problems followed by near about one third of less privacy. Nearly one third of males of the households from youth age are getting health problems followed by addicted by internet adoption(30.91%), less privacy (29.09%), health hazard (20.75%). Over one third of females of the households from youth age are facing less privacy by followed by health problems (30.23%), addicted by internet (25.58%).

In sum, Internet technology plays a significant role in gender empowerment. The females are also gradually progressing towards accessing to and using internet. The males are ahead in accessing to and using internet. Gender is balancing social hierarchy by maintaining equal status in accessing to internet that turns another angle of developing urban periphery.