Study on Effect of Internet community in Socialization among Teenagers

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ABSTRACT

Internet community can be a positive or negative influence among teenagers as most of the youth look upon the media as their best friend, owing to the influence of the society. The lack of attention from parents or inability to mingle with peers also forces children towards internet community. This study was conducted among teenagers to identify the upshot of internet community like Facebook, twitter, instagram and whatsapp. The study conducted among the age group 13-19 revealed that 70% of the participants use internet community through gadgets very often and this has affected their interaction with family members and friends. 90 percentage of the participants agreed that this has also affected their academic performance, participation in sports and extracurricular activities in a negative way. Children in Urban area are using social network for recreation whereas rural children are blindly addicted to this. At the same time, teenagers have not raised any concern related to health or poor eating habits due to addiction to social networks. The study was also a revelation that twenty first century teenagers are more cautious in terms of health and relationship. Due to the exposure gained in urban areas, participants are found to be very alert in trustworthiness of friends on internet community but participants from rural areas are found to give more importance and trustworthiness for their virtual friends which points out the necessity to educate rural students about the negative aspects of social websites.

1. Introduction

Internet community can be a positive influence or negative influence among children as most of the children look upon the media as their best friend, may be due to the influence of the society. This may be due to lack of attention from parents or inability to mingle with peers. This study was conducted among teenagers to identify the effect of internet community like Facebook, twitter, instagram and whatsapp. The study conducted among the age group 13-19 revealed that 70% use internet community through gadgets very often and this has affected their interaction with family members and friends. 90% agreed that this has affected their academic performance, participation in sports and extracurricular activities in a negative way. At the same time they found internet community as a platform for recreational activities and to get more friends. At the same time teenagers have not raised any concern related to health or poor eating habits due to any addiction of internet community. This suggests that twenty first Century teenagers are more cautious in terms of health and relationship. Due to the exposure gained in urban areas, participants are found to be very alert in trustworthiness of the friends in Internet community but participants from rural areas are found to give more importance and trustworthiness for the friends in internet community which points out the necessity to educate rural students about the cons of internet community.

1.1 Statement of the problem:

As social animals, humans are naturally made, relying mostly on their relationship with each other to get things done. Our contact with others depends on the way we talk, dress, eat, work or live. Today, one of the most effective means of socializing has become the internet. Via information technology, interpersonal interactions are conducted. It is noted that people often use the Internet for social purposes. At present, social networks, which have achieved a high rate of use by the general public, have changed communication patterns and attitudes as a result. For certain people, however, the use of internet community can become "problematic" and only a few studies have studied the simultaneous contribution of social context and emotion control to problematic internet community use.

The portion of family, community, education, peer bunches is viewed and recognized by sociologists and anthropologists as the primary specialists in influencing the example of socialization in young people. As of late, another aspect has emerged as the ground-breaking effect element affecting a child's socialization. As children routinely take the redemption of their virtual self as a security tool to satisfy their inborn necessities, the Web has an increasing effect on young people.

The use of personal computers and the internet in most schools in India is mandatory. Consequently, children going to school pretty much entirely resort to using such gadgets for the intention of education, but they're still exposed to the threats of harm at the very same time through Activities online. There is a desperate need to safeguard them from such online operations that Conventional and preferable socialization may be impaired. Analysis can also be conducted to examine whether there were any social learning experiences and differences in the socialization of boys and girls on the Internet.

Childhood passes through three major developmental stages like toddlerhood (Learning to crawl and walk), early childhood (Age 2 to 7), middle childhood(7- 12) and adolescence(13-19)[1,2]. Each stage plays a major role in shaping the behavior of an adult. There can be hereditary traits as well as environmental influence which results in shaping the character of an adult. Internet community plays a significant role in early childhood and middle childhood in molding the behavior and attitude of an individual. In this century, an individual is exposed to internet community from early childhood onwards. Socialization is a natural process during these stages which results in acquiring the values, behavior and social skills. Internet community can be a positive influence or negative influence among children as most of the children look upon the media as their best friend, may be due to the influence of the society. This may be due to lack of attention from parents or inability to mingle with peers. Literatures propose that media exposure results in learning (reasoning, developing social or cultural skills) and implication for behavior (Antisocial or violent) and development of world views and values. The growth of internet community is very fast and the impact of this is visible even in rural areas. Technology is fast spreading to remote villages and in this context, it is vital to understand and evaluate the positive and negative impact of internet community on children who are the future policy makers or leaders. This Project focuses its study both on urban and rural adolescent children.

1.2 Objectives
The Main Objectives of this Study are listed below

i.   To comprehend the feeling of closeness and emotional attachment of the internet community among children.
ii.   To identify psychological impact of internet community among urban and rural children
iii. To study the positive and negative impact of internet community in parent- child relationships.

1.3 Scope of the Study

The Scope of this study focuses on the impact of internet community on the learning capacity of youths in school/colleges of south india. It focuses on determining the nature to which adolescent students (male and female) use social networks, the effect that internet community sites have on teens learning to shape their awareness, skills and attitudes.

i. The research will help students as it will expose them to consider the educational advantages and to use internet community effectively .
ii. Teachers can develop awareness of internet community issues and integrate it into the instructional effort.
iii. Parents will profit from the research as they will know how to direct their wards in using internet community.
iv. The study would be beneficial to the psychologists and practitioners as it will help them to plan the behavioral improvement on education for internet community users in colleges .
v. To determine the influence of internet community usage based on age.

2. Review of Literature

Internet community has become one of the major influencing platforms for children. There are many studies happening to find the impact of internet community among children and adults. Sarah et al., has described media literacy and games with virtual reality and augmented reality are prompting children to hook into internet community[1]. Pila et al., pointed on the fact that influence of internet community in young children is alarming and they are more prone to being bullied, threatened and exploited in many ways to gain some benefits[2].Sale et al., has worked on the impact of internet community among Omani children and came up with the following results-Both male and female children are equally affected, mean hours spend on internet community and the various topic of interest among children[3]. A systematic review was conducted offers on to conclude that there are risks and benefits among teenagers in their social and emotional development due to the use of social network [4].

A positive note on internet community was highlighted by Bryant and Aaron. Authors have come up with some recommendations on how to avoid negative influence of internet community on adolescence and suggested some strategies to restrict teenagers from using the media in a negative way. At the same time the benefits of internet community were also discussed [5]. David conducted an survey on internet addiction on adolescents that Current Research and Viewpoints on Internet Addiction in Adolescents and Internet gaming leads to ICD 11 [6][7].
This paper clearly depicts the picture how Internet gaming affects the behaviour of the individual. Although some people usually use Facebook for mood regulation, they sometimes feel even worse after using it [8]. Further study showed that such mood decreasing is mediated by a feeling of wasting time and doing nothing meaningful, which may be because people overestimate Facebook's mood regulation characteristics [9].

Previous studies have indicated that users with diverse technology accessibility did not online regret experience, while heavy Facebook users with high internet community participation tended to experience higher regret than those with less internet community participation [10].Stant reviewed the fields of internet community impact on youth. The worldwide organization is turning out to be increasingly more a space of our lives and regular working of the young as well as grown-ups and old individuals. We use it for the drives of our work, education, to search for information, communicate, interact with others and have contact with popular culture. Hence, on the Internet, we can observe many phenomena and processes reflecting the objective reality, which however occur in different ways and determine other variables[13].

Cyber-communication may change many aspects of our lives – private, social, cultural, economic, and intellectual. However, with proper instruction, guidance, and supervision, there is the potential for the impact of positive, personal growth [11]. It is important to teach and model for our youth how and why to get "unplugged". In this time of truly expanding electronic use, from phones to PCs to iPods to video games, it is essential to bring back human social communication. Matching the "virtual" domain with the "real" biosphere can be the maximum talent of all[12].

The concept of family is very important for the development of social culture. The place where the individual receives his/her first education is family. Whatever the child sees in his/her family, he/she grows up to become a parent. Therefore, to ensure that the social structure does not deteriorate and that children can grow up as healthy, self-confident individuals who can express themselves well, families should actively devote time to their children. Neither the internet community environment nor an educational institution can give the values that the family should give [14].

To raise an individual in a mental health place, the mother and father need to have healthy and regular communication with each other.

2.1   Hypothesis
i.   This study is limited to the inputs from the southern region of India
ii. Lack of study in psychological or behavioral issues of teenagers.
iii. This study does not have the impact on economic conditions on the family.
iv. This study is not merely emphasized on health conditions of the individual
v.   This study visualizes the use of internet community and has an major impact on attitude of students to learning.
vi. The routine of using internet community has no major impact on the relationship with family members.
vii.   The students are not blindly believing on Internet community friends

3. Methodology
This study uses the approach of qualitative research through quantitative analysis to gather a detailed understanding of adolescent use behaviors and their consequences for their behavior. The number of samples is 100 and the adolescent group is (14-19). Samples from various colleges in and around South India, who are members of social networking sites were randomly selected.

4. Experiment Result And Analysis
We have obtained the following result after conducting analysis among urban participants. The study was conducted among teenagers and is aimed at exploring the following traits among the participants

i. Attitude towards internet community
ii. Relationship with family members
iii Skipping food and studies to spend time on internet community ?
iv Reliability of internet community friends

Table 1: Profile of the respondents

Age group (Years)	Percentage of respondents
13-15	50.52
15-20	48.43
Gender	**Percentage of respondents**
Female	51.04
Male	48.95
Total	100

The data was collected from a sample of 192 teenagers from various parts of south India with age group ranging between 13-20 years which is given in Table 1.

Table 2: Information on Profession of the Parents and children using internet community

Field of Employment	Total % of respondents	% Agreed that they are using internet community

Agriculture	10.71	81.81
Business	16.96	99.6
Education related	8.03	84
Government Services	14.29	93.2
IT related	4.47	90
Administration/Management	43.75	85

The values tabulated in the Table 2 helps to analyze whether the profession of the parents are related to the students tendency to get addicted to the internet community, the distribution is presented in the it has been observed that teenagers whose parents are from Business background are influenced by internet community more than the other professions. 93.2 % from Government service background and 90% from IT related back ground are also depending on internet community. The least was 81.8 % from Agriculture background which may be due to their rural background or infrastructure facilities available in those areas.
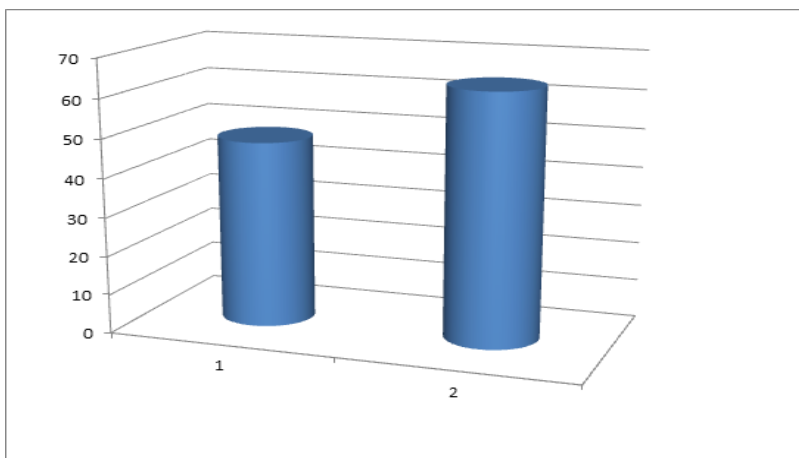
Figure 1 : Relationship with family members who use internet community very often
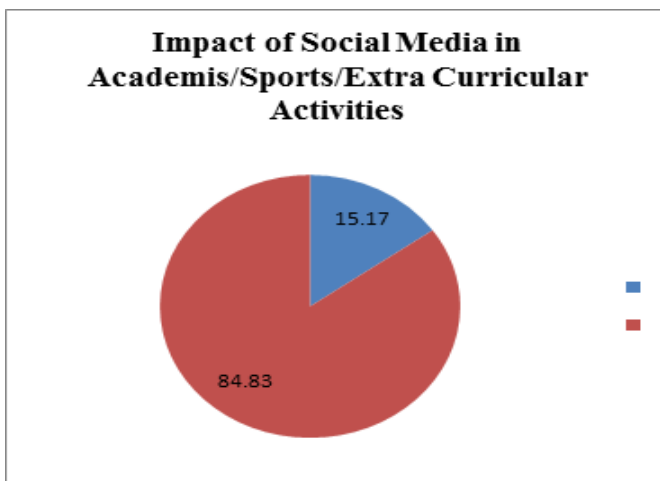
Figure 2: Internet community Impact on Academics/Sports /Extra-Curricular

Figure 2, provides significant insight into the impact of internet community in academics/sports and extra-curricular activities of teenagers. 84.83 % of the students agreed that due to internet community addiction, they are getting deviated from academics, sports and other activities. This stressed upon the fact that more awareness has to be created among teenagers for effective usage of time and internet community.

Internet community is a major part of the lives of many teenagers. A survey of almost 197 adolescents from 13- to 17-year-olds found that 45 percent are almost always online and 97 percent use a forum for internet community, such as YouTube, Facebook, Instagram or Snapchat.

Social networking has provided teenagers the opportunity to communicate and share their lives with others instantly through photos, videos and status updates. These platforms are represented by teens themselves as a key tool to link and sustain relationships, be innovative, and learn more about the world. But more negative aspects of internet community use, such as drama and bullying or payments, must also be dealt with.

1.   Teens post on a number of internet community subjects, with articles about their successes or families playing a particularly prominent role
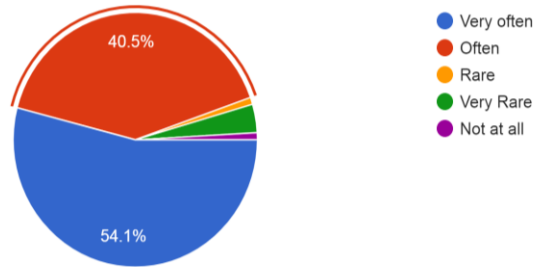
Figure 3: Teens post on internet community

From the above figure, it is very prominent that the majority of the teenagers i.e. around 95 percent, post their achievements on internet community which is again supported by their family members.

2.   **How often do you use or access internet community apps/ websites (daily basis) ?**
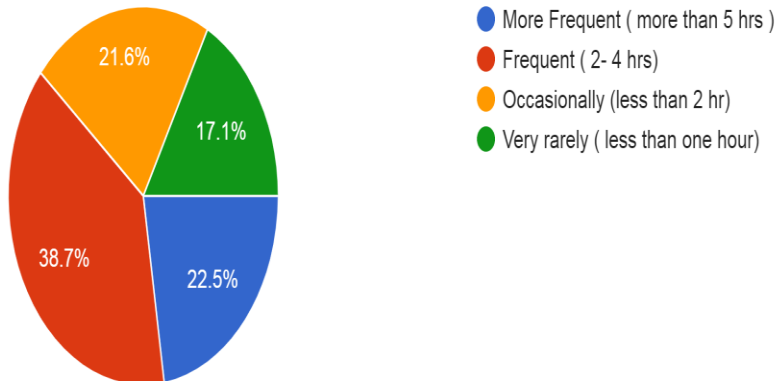
Figure 4: Internet community usage

As per Figure 4, more than 60% of the respondents agreed that they use internet community very frequently which emphasis on the fact that internet community has become a relevant part of their daily life.

3. Do you interact with your family member
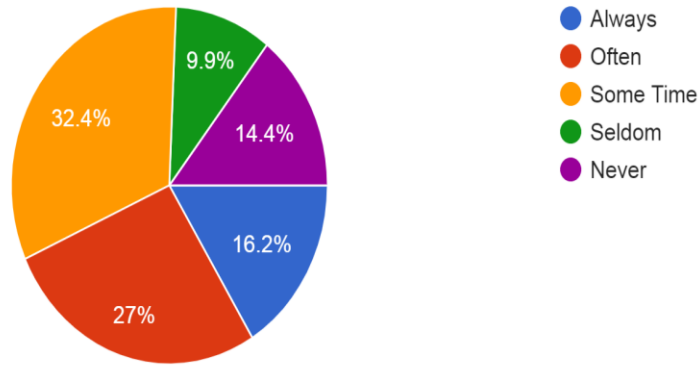
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more because of Internet community

Figure 5: Interaction with family members through Internet community

4. You express yourself more with the members of your family because of Internet community
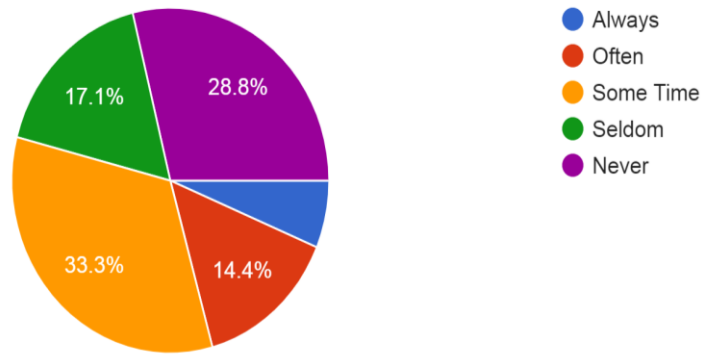

Figure 6: Internet community and its significance within family

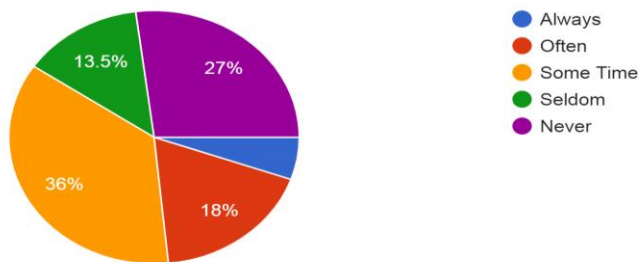**5. Does internet community improve your relationship with your family**

Figure 7: Effect of Internet community and relationship with family

One of the major studies which will be beneficial to the practitioners was pointed out through the previous three questions. From Figure 5, 6 and 7, it is very clear that teenagers do give importance to the family. Especially, urban students have voted positive about their outlook of internet community whereas rural students agreed that the sometimes their family relationship are affected radically.

6. How has usage of Internet community impacted your academic performance
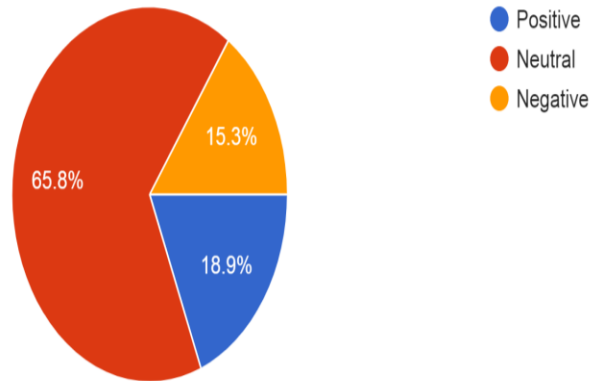
Figure 8: Academic performance

7. How has usage of Internet community impacted your sports performance
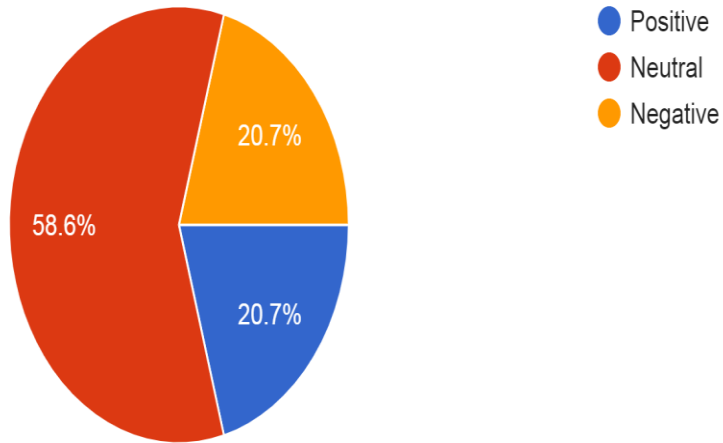
Figure 9: Internet community vs Sports

The Figure 9 clearly depicts that around 60% of people reported that internet community impact on sports. Around 40 % people have reported neutral and negative responses.

8.   How has usage of Internet community impacted your extra curricular activites
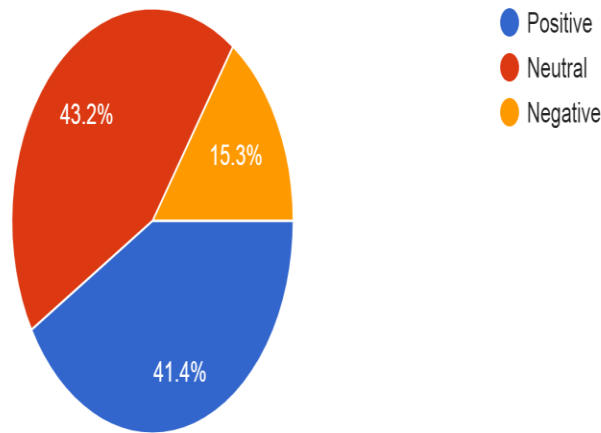

Figure 10: Internet community vs Extra-curricular Activities

With the widespread usage of internet community, students are very much aware of the current happenings and technology which has improved their academic performance. This is clearly evident from Figure 8. But when it came to sports and extra-curricular activities, more than 70% agreed that internet community has become a barrier for participation in sports and other activities. This is an evidence that they are hooked to the indoor activities rather than outdoor activities which is depicted in figure 8,9 and 10.

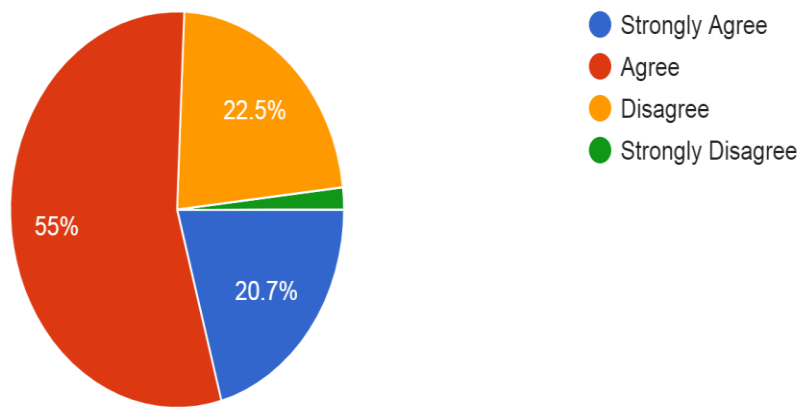**9.   Do you agree that internet community helps you getting more friends easily**

Figure 11: Internet community vs Friends

More than 75% of the teens agree that getting friends through internet community is very easy but at the same time they knew the trustworthiness of the internet community friends. Because of the publicity through internet community, now the teenagers are aware of the risk of trusting internet community friends blindly. But Teens from rural areas agreed that they share more information to these virtual friends than their physical friends which is clear from Figure 11.

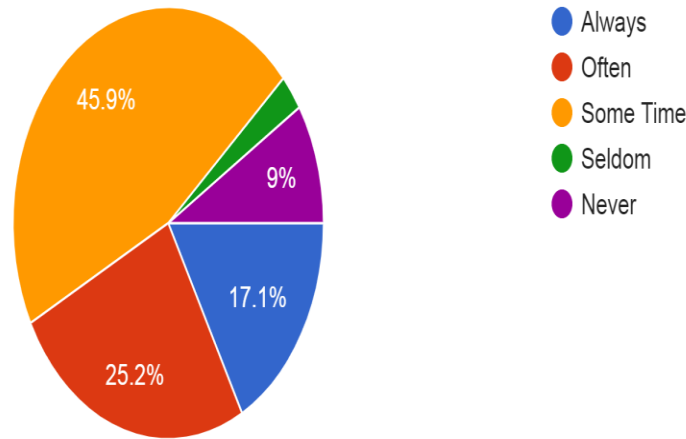## 10. Has Internet community benefited you as source of recreation

Figure 12: Internet community and recreation

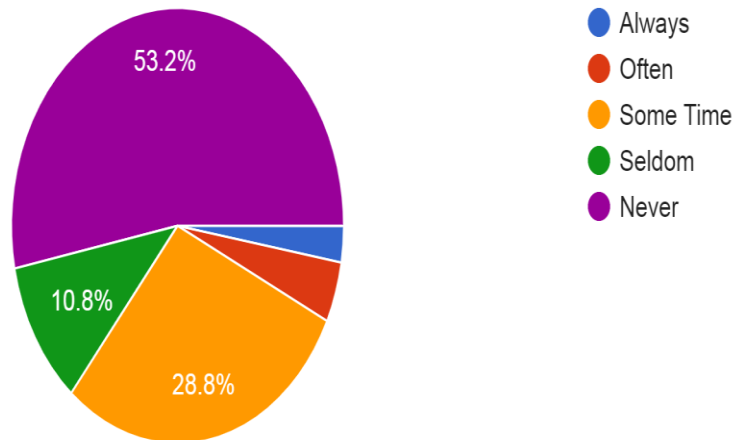## 11. Have you ever skipped meals while using internet community?

Figure 13: Internet community and health of teenagers

The above two questions were framed to find out the impact of internet community and its effect on the health of the teenagers. Around 80% treat internet community as source of recreation and it has not affected their eating habits. But there are few youth who agree that they feel worse about their eating habits due to internet community.

12. What according to you is the degree of trustworthiness of the people you meet only on internet community
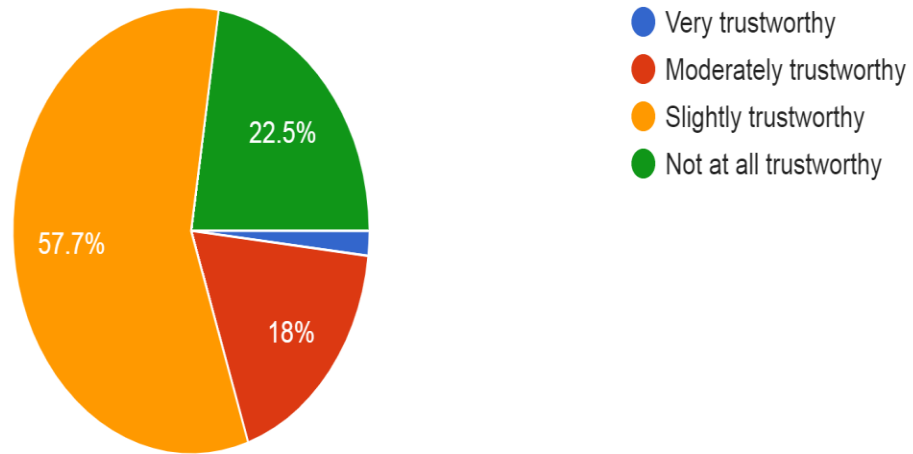
Figure 14: Internet community and trust worthiness

The results depicted in the figure 14 represents 57% of slight trustworthiness, ratio of internet community, around 47% and 22% noteworthiness.

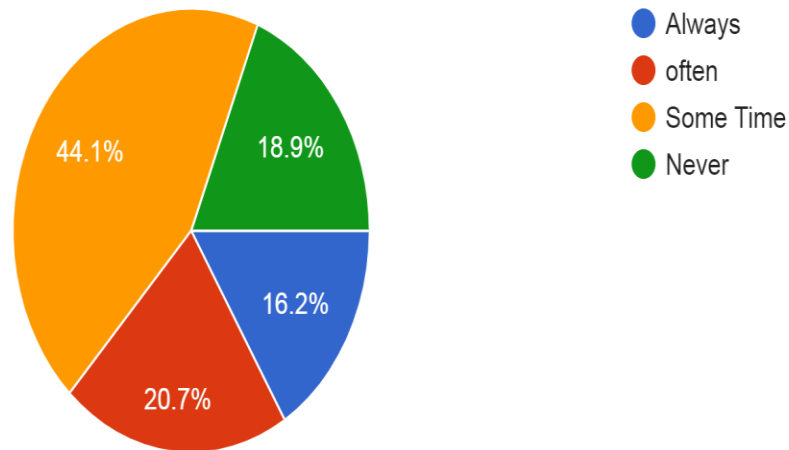**13. How often do you go to bed late because of the usage of internet community**

Figure 15: Internet community and sleep patterns

The results depicted in the figure 1 represents 44% people reported sometimes go for bed late due to the usage of internet community.

14. How quickly after meeting people on SNS (Social Networking site) do you start sharing your personal details with them?
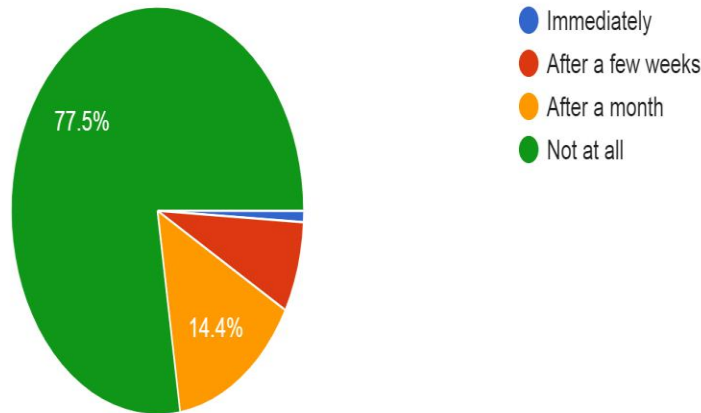
Figure 16: Internet community and friendship

The Figure 16 clearly depicts around 77 % people shared their personal details in the Social Networking Sit

15. How do you grade the online friendship to real world friendship?
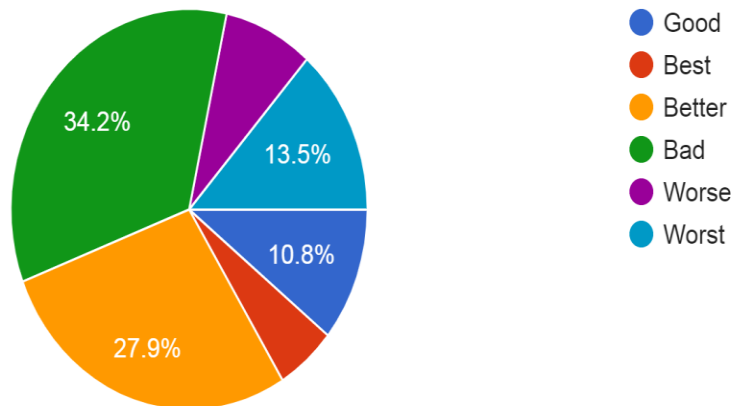

Figure 17: online vs real friendship

Due to the widespread disasters and posts in internet community, teenagers are very careful in their posts and they are even reacting to the negativity and hatred spread through internet community. But as per the survey (figure 14 to figure 17), 50-60 % respondents have agreed to the fact that their sleep patterns are affected due to the addiction to facebook, twitter, instagram etc but well clear that majority of urban respondents are not sharing any personal details with them. This is also alarming as rural youths believe on internet community posts blindly and are influenced by it blindly. Urban teens consider internet community as recreational whereas the relationship are taken very seriously among rural teens which may be one of the reason for rural being exploited and lured which leads to very serious negative impacts.

16. **Do you feel that your family income affects the usage of internet community ?**
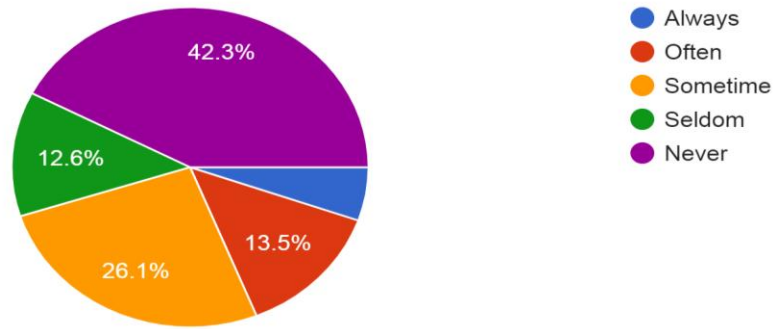

Figure 18: Internet community and Family Income

Only 50% feel that their income is being affected by internet community. This also highlights the fact that internet community is accessible to 50 % of the population and is affordable to them. When compared to other developing nation, India is trying to make the availability of network even to rural commun

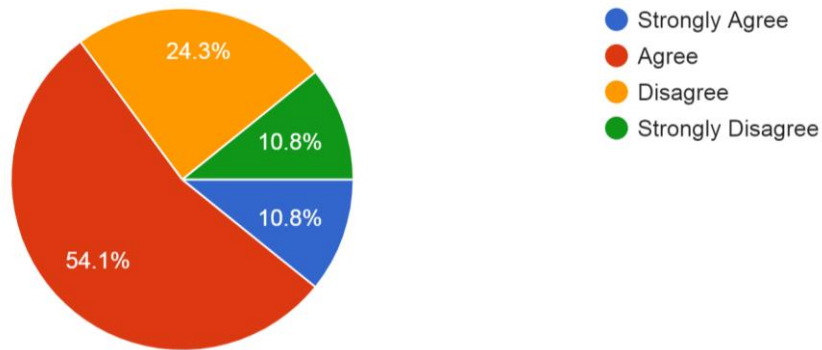**17.** **Do you agree that the usage of Internet community leads to less emotional bonding in relations?**

Figure 19: Internet community and Emotional Bonding

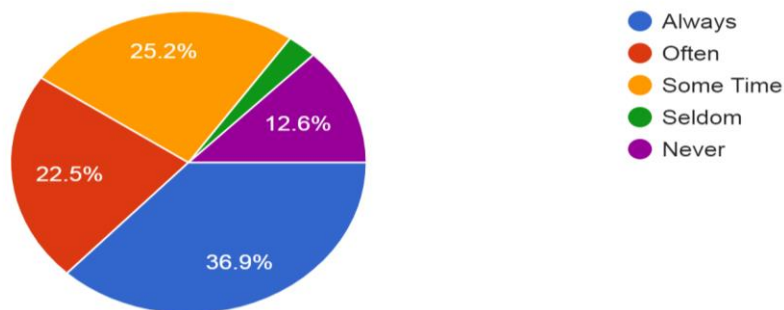**18. Do you wish to use your internet community for Education**

Figure 20: Internet community for Education

Figure 19 strongly disagrees that internet community is not affecting relationship. Based on the observation depicted in Figure 20 around 60% of teenagers are willing to use internet community for education.

5. Conclusion and Future Scope

The outcome of this survey is to find the positive/ negative influence of internet community among teenagers. Some of the major observation to be highlighted after this study was urban youths are well aware of the pros and cons of internet community and their interaction with their internet community friends are with cautious in nature but rural teens blindly belief their internet community friends which stresses on the fact that rural youths should be given more awareness on the effective usage of internet community

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