

RESEARCH PAPER : Internet Use of High School Students :  
A Case Study of Suan Kularb Wittayalai School  
in Nonthaburi Province

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The study investigated the internet use of high school students in Suan Kularb Wittayalai School in Nonthaburi Province, including the factors related to the purposes of their internet use.

The sample group was composed of 95 high school students selected by the accidental sampling technique. Two questionnaires were used to collect the data : a survey form to elicit the data from the students and an interview schedule for interviewing the school director. Percentage, mean, standard deviation and t-test were employed to analyze the data.

**Findings.** Most of the subjects were female (63.2%) and were 16 years old (56.8%). About 67.4 percent spent weekends using the Internet. The place where they used the Internet most was at home (66.3%) and about 35.8 percent had a computer with the installed Internet at home.

Regarding the purposes of the Internet use, it was found that they used the Internet in a small extent ( $\bar{X} = 0.52$  out of 3). They used the Internet for entertainment most ( $X = 0.71$ ). For example, they entered the websites in which they are interested, listening to music and

playing games. Next, they used the Internet for educational purposes ( $\bar{X} = 0.59$ ). For instance, they searched for information to supplement class material or to prepare a report by searching through the Internet. Besides, they studied the lesson plans before going to classes. As for the Internet use for communication, the mean score was 0.57. What they did was chatting through the website and sending electronic mail (E-mail). They used the Internet least for business ( $\bar{X} = 0.06$ ). For example, they bought goods or designs homepages to make money.

When the hypotheses were tested, the following were found :

The factor significantly related to the high school students' purposes in the Internet use at the 0.05 level was the place for Internet use for communication. That is, those with a computer at home used the Internet for communication more often than those who had to use the Internet elsewhere. What they did through the Internet was chatting, sending electronic mail and cards. The other factors were found to have no significant effect on their purposes of Internet use.

#### **Recommendations**

1. Most of the high school students were found to use the Internet very little. Therefore, the teachers or the school should set some measures to promote and motivate the students to use the Internet for educational purposes. For example, they should be assigned to search information through the Internet to prepare reports.

2. The majority of the students seemed to use the Internet for entertainment more than for education, so the parents and the teachers should closely supervise their Internet use at home and at school so that they will use it in a productive way.