A Study of Websites of CBSE Schools of Aurangabad (M.S.) District

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ABSTRACT

The present study aimed to know the functionality and presentation of the web sites of CBSE schools. The data collection for the present study is done by using survey method. To analyze the websites some basic criteria's have been taken over. These criteria's are authority, objectivity, accuracy, currency, coverage and scope. Apart from this study has also been taken by analyzing the buttons, links, no. of pages and download facility etc. After data collection the same has been analyzed. This paper shows the analysis of the websites of these Schools in Aurangabad district. As a result it is found that majority of CBSE schools in Aurangabad district are in urban area, and near about half of the schools are providing download button on their websites. Further it is found that majority of schools websites are providing map, links and buttons. But unfortunately majority of school websites are having commercial domain name as .com.

KEYWORDS: Website Survey, CBSE School Website Survey

INTRODUCTION

In the today's era there is a great challenge for information professionals to procure the information spread all over the world. Because of the information explosion there is enormous growth in knowledge regularly. Studying websites of schools will help to the students of the respective schools to use the websites. As in the Covid-19 pandemic era it has became necessary to use the electronic resources. Therefore the present study "A study of Websites of CBSE Schools of Aurangabad District" has been undertaken for the reasons;

- To know the appearances of the CBSE School Websites.
- To know the functionality of the CBSE School Websites.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The study was undertaken with the following objectives.

- To study the websites of CBSE Schools.
- To evaluate the homepage of Websites of CBSE Schools.

LIMITATION AND SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The limitation of the study is limited to the Websites of CBSE Schools only. The scope of the study covers CBSE schools situated in the District of Aurangabad only.

Review of Related Literature

Elizabeth (1996) states views on the World Wide Web that it offers information and data from all over the world. Because so much information is available, and because that information can appear to be fairly anonymous, it is necessary to develop skills to evaluate what you find. When you use a research or academic library, the books, journals and other resources have already been evaluated by scholars, publishers and librarians. Following would be the criteria's of evaluation.

1. Authorship is perhaps the first and major criterion used in evaluating information. This shows the source of generating information or work. The responsible person or body for development of the knowledge is actually represented in these criteria.

2. Publishing Body is responsible for presenting the knowledge and also helps evaluate any kind of document you may be reading. This point shows that producer of the information. The work of Author is to write or express knowledge and the work of the publishing body shows the body or person who is responsible for producing or publishing the topic.

3. Accuracy or verifiability of details is an important aspect of any produced information. The accuracy is also part of certification of the truthfulness of the presented knowledge.

4. Currency refers to the timeliness of information. In printed documents the date of publication is first indicator of currency. For some types of information, currency is not an issue. But most of the time currency matters.

Jim (1998) has given five criteria for Web evaluation.

Accuracy

1. Writer of the particular information.
2. Purpose of producing document.
3. Author's ability to produce the same.

Authority

1. It means the publisher of the document.
2. The publisher must be reputed.

Objectivity

1. What are the purpose of website.
2. Information coverage under the website.

Currency

1. Publication date.
2. Updating date.

Coverage

1. Appropriate links on the webpage.
2. Images and text must be balance on the appearance of the webpage.

Smith (2005), presented outline for Criteria for evaluation of Internet Information Resources beginning with **Scope** of the website which means the subject coverage area of the contents of website. Secondly **Content** of the webpage means the information available should be shown on the homepage of the website. The user or visitor of the website must know about it.

Accuracy of information available on the webpage must not be fake and void. **Authority** of publishing website should be given under contact information. **Currency** is further criteria for evaluating webpage. The date of uploading the particular document or date of updating of the information should be given on the webpage. **Uniqueness** of the website is always there. Each and every website has its own uniqueness, but in some cases the website is just built by hackers to misguide the visitors by giving similar names and purposes. **Links made to other resources** webpage should provide related information links for the visitors. It might help in directing the visitor in proper way. Links are more helpful for saving time and bringing the website more reliable by providing required links at proper place on the webpage. **Quality of writing** is an internal matter of the available information. It shows the ability of the author and publishers who are there in bringing the knowledge before the public.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND DATA COLLECTION

In the present study the survey method of research has been applied. Survey method can be used in quantitative and qualitative studies. In this method the responses of the respondents are taken as primary data collection. This collected data is further processed for results and conclusions. Researcher has made survey of the school websites of the CBSE schools situated in Aurangabad district. The responses of the survey have been collected and filled in excel sheet. After that the data is analyzed and presented.

DATA ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

After collecting data from the websites of the different schools situated in the Aurangabad District, following results has been observed.

1. Locality of Schools

It is observed that most of the schools are located in the Urban areas of the District. The percentage of the urban school is 62. Whereas rural CBSE schools are only 15 (38%).

Table No. 1: Locality of the School

Locality			
Sr. No.	**Locality**	**Schools**	**Percentage**
1	Urban	24	62
2	Rural	15	38
	Total	39	100

2. Availability of Download option

The study shows that only 19 schools that are 49% websites of the school provide download option on their website, whereas 20 school websites are not having download option on their website. After calculating in percentage it goes to 51%, which is high than positive response.

Table No. 2: Availability of download option

Download Option			
Sr. No.	**Download Option**	**Schools**	**Percentage**
1	Yes	19	49
2	No	20	51
	Total	39	100

3. Availability of Map on the Website

Locating school building is an important task to be done by the school management. It is found that 31 school websites, i.e. 79% websites provides Map of their school on the website of the school. Only 8 school websites are not having Map of school on website.

Table No. 3: Availability of Map on the Website

Availability of Map			
Sr. No.	**Locality**	**Schools**	**Percentage**
1	Map Available	31	79
2	Map Not Available	8	21
	Total	39	100

4. Availability of Links

From the present study it is found that, 90% of school websites provide links to other important websites. Only 4 school website are not having links to the other websites.

Table No. 4: Availability of Links on the Website

Availability of Links			
Sr. No.	**Nature**	**Websites**	**Percentage**
1	Yes	35	90
2	No	4	10
	Total	39	100

5. Domain Names

The present study shows that the most of the school websites are having domain name as '.com', there are 18 school website with this domain name, this share is a lion's share in the present statistics with 46%. It is further observed that 'in' and 'ac.in' domains are used by 5 websites with 13 percent each. Only 8 school websites are using domain name as '.org.'. Whereas '.net' domain is used by two websites and only one websites is having domain name as 'gov.in'.
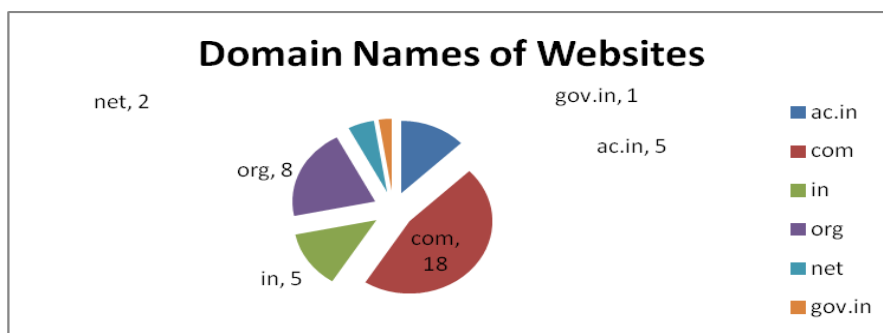
Figure No. 1: Domain Names of Website

6. No. of pages of Websites

It is observed that most of the websites are having 1-2 pages on their websites. It is studied that 62% of websites are having one or two pages on their websites. Only five school websites are having 3-4 pages on their website home page. Websites with 5-6 pages are only 15%. Lastly only four websites are having more than 6 pages on their websites.
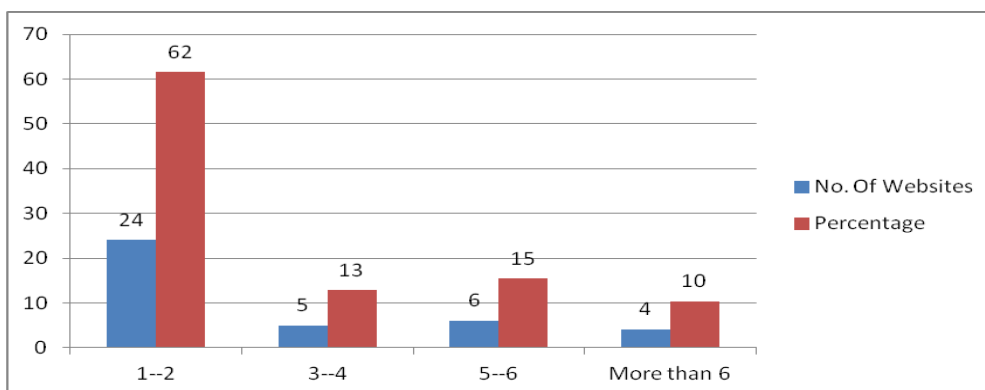

Figure No. 2: Pages of Website

7. No. of Buttons on Homepage of the Websites

As far as number of buttons on webpage is concerned, it is observed that in 67% of websites the buttons are between 6 to 10. In 20% websites of CBSE schools of Aurangabad district the buttons are 1 to 5. Lastly it is observed that in 13% websites the buttons are more than 11 on their webpage.
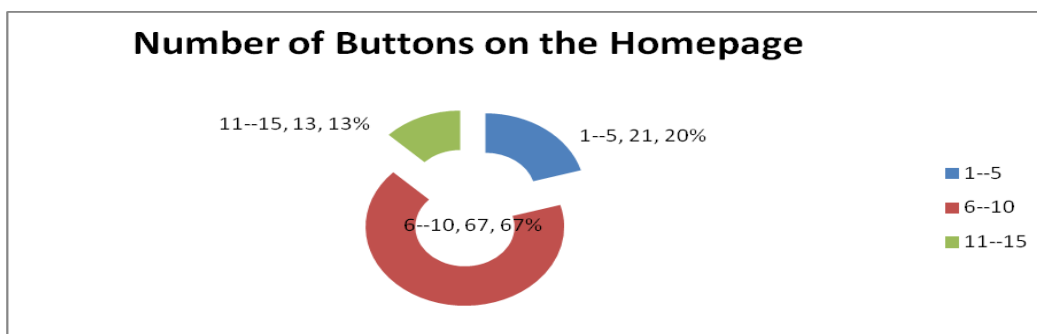

Figure No. 3: Buttons of Website

CONCLUSION, FINDINGS AND SUGGESTION

At the end it has been observed that for the evaluation of the websites there are different criteria. Considering some criteria the website can be evaluated. The above study has been taken out considering the criteria namely, domain name, download option, number of buttons, geographical location and provided links on the website. From the present study it has been revealed that;

➢ Majority of the CBSE schools in Aurangabad district are situated in urban area.

➢ Most of the website of CBSE schools of Aurangabad are providing links to other important educational and administrative websites.

➢ It is also found that more that 67% websites are having buttons ranging from six to ten.

➢ Download option is provided by near about fifty percent websites.

➢ Majority of the websites are providing location map on their homepage so as to ease for the students in reaching at the appropriate location without wasting time.

➢ It has been revealed that 62% of websites are having one or two pages on their websites.

➢ It is observed that even though the organizations are academic and non commercial than also they are using commercial domain names as .com.

After finding the above results the researcher would like to suggest that;

▪ These organizations are suggested that they should change their domains and the academic domains should be used by them.

▪ The government should compulsorily provide educational domain names for these educational institutes.

The present study was carried out to study the websites of the CBSE schools of Aurangabad district. Findings of this study would help to the students and aspirants of these schools. In the era of online education websites must be updated time to time as the users or visitors are seeking information online only. Carrying the same study for the higher education institutes would be feasible for further research.

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