

# THE PATTERNS OF INTERNET BEHAVIOUR : FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE YOUNGER GENERATION



## **Report by :**

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# Introduction

**The predominance of overt affinity towards internet use by young adults and teenagers has been a concern for the concerned individuals. We have conducted multiple studies to understand this impact. Parents of the young people were the respondents in those studies, where they aired their observations about the cyber behaviour of their children. But it is important to gauge the perception of the younger generation about their internet behaviour. In the light of this idea, we decided to study the behaviour and opinion of the members of the younger generation about their internet behaviour.**

# Research Objectives

**This study has the following research objectives:**

- 1. To understand the internet usage pattern of the members of the younger generation, as perceived by themselves.**
- 2. To locate the frequency of unpleasant behaviour like intimidation, bullying, harassment, etc. in the cyber world.**
- 3. To develop an understanding about the idea of the younger generation about their own Behaviour and the repercussions.**

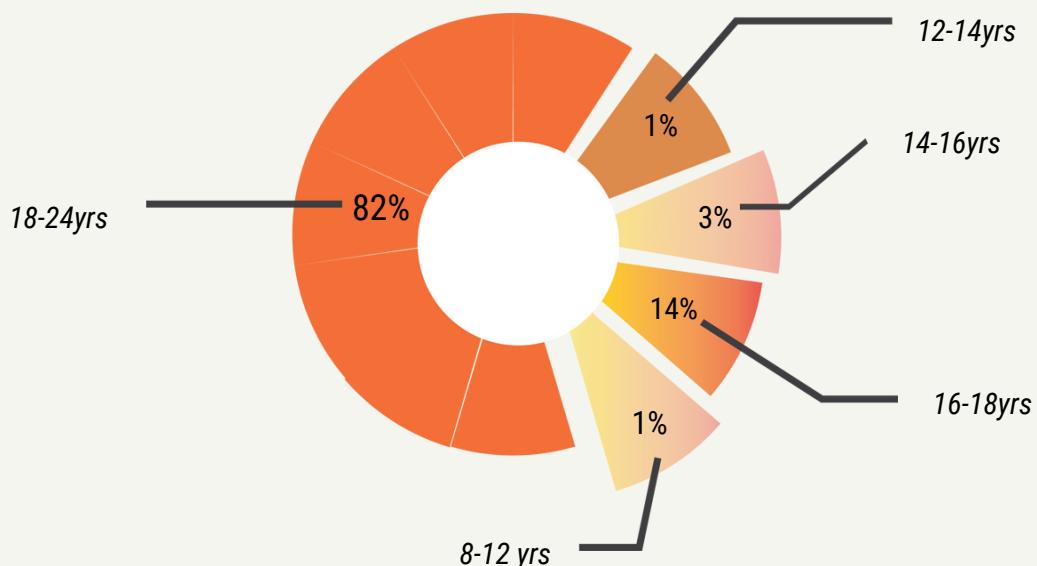
# Research Methodology

**This study used the quantitative method. A close-ended questionnaire was used for the purpose of the data collection. The questionnaire is attached in the annexure part of this report. Along with this study, we decided to gauge the opinions of the young people (aged between 8 to 24). Therefore, we conducted an online survey to which 839 respondents replied. After cleaning the data, 768 responses were finally put into analysis.**

# Major Findings

In this study, we decided to gauge the opinions of the young people (aged between 8 to 24). Therefore, we conducted an online survey to which 839 respondents replied. After cleaning the data, 768 responses were finally put into analysis.

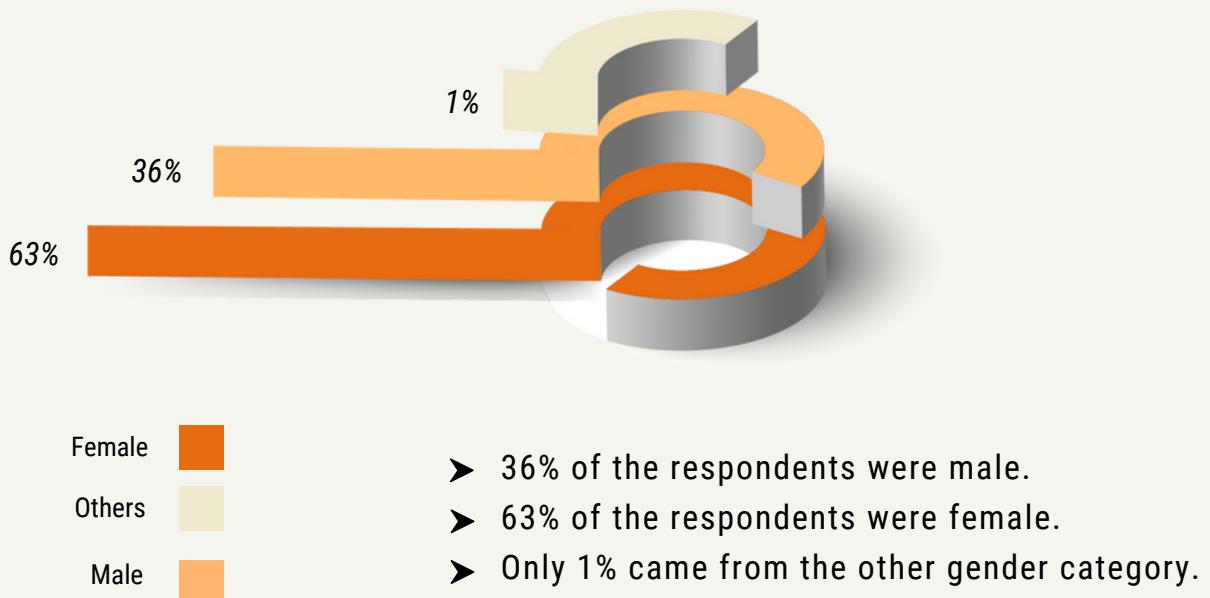
Figure 1: Distribution of Age



*\*Because of approximation, the overall percentage may slightly go beyond 100.*

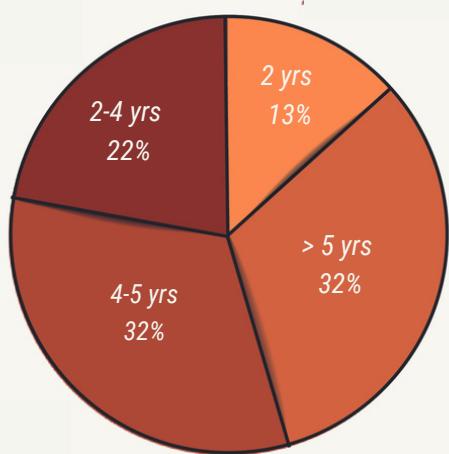
- 82% of respondents were from the age group of 18-24.
- 14% were from the age group of 16- 18.
- Only 3% of respondents were from the age group of 14-16.

## Figure 2: Distribution of Gender



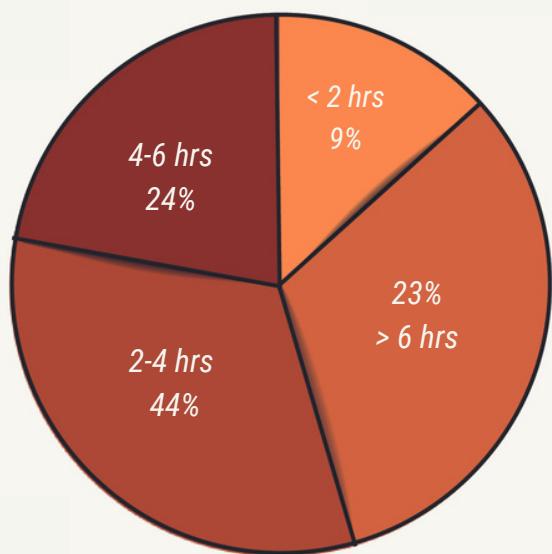
Smartphones have become an integral part of our daily lives. However, long years of association with these devices create a higher degree of dependence on these devices. As smartphones are the most commonly used device to access the internet in India, it is vital to locate the relationship between years of smartphone usage and per day screen time of individuals.

## Figure 3: Years of Using a Smartphone



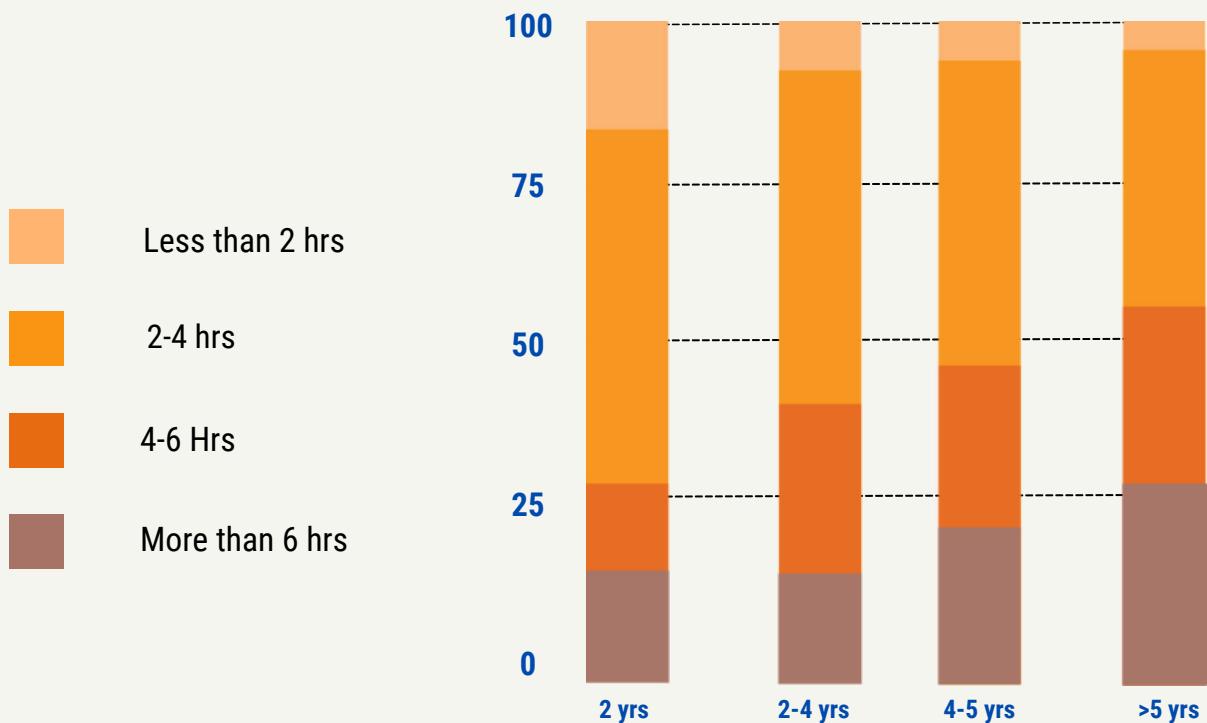
- Figure 3 shows the smartphone usage distribution among the respondents.
- 32% of the respondents have been using them for more than five years.
- Another 32% have been using them for more than four years but less than five years.
- 22% of respondents were using them for two to four years
- Only 13% were using them for less than two years.

## Figure 4: Distribution of Screen Time



- Figure 4 depicts the distribution of screen time among the respondents. Here the respondents had to answer their average screen hour for non-academic/non office purposes.
- 23% of respondents were found to be using the internet for more than six hours another 23% replied that they spend up to six hours daily on the internet for non-academic and no-office purpose.
- 44% of the respondents said that they use it for 2 -4 hours.

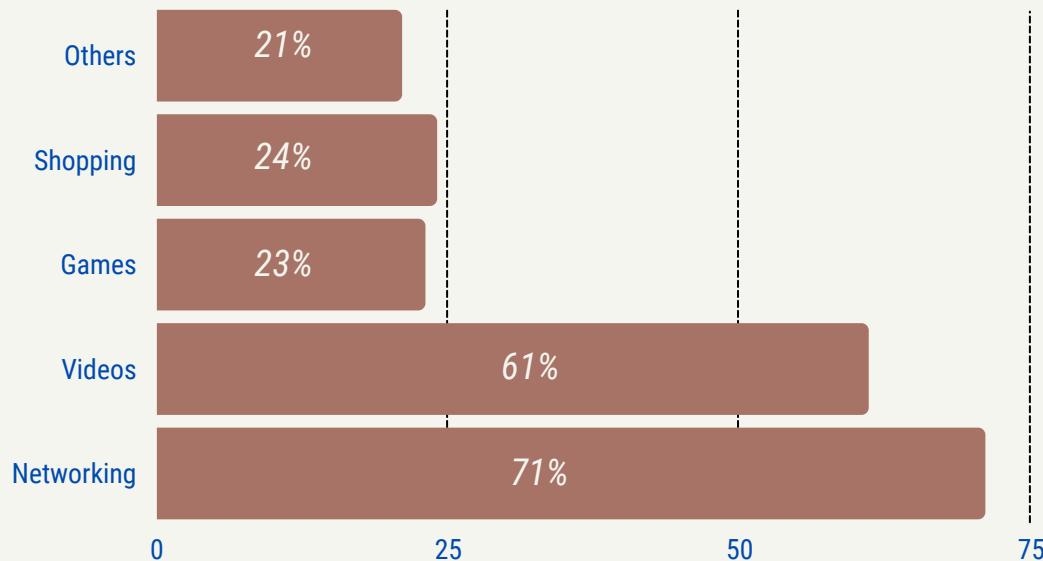
## Figure 5: Prolonged Screen Time Hours



In the light of **Figure 3** and **Figure 4**, **Figure 5** is prepared. This figure categorically shows that those who had been using smartphones for longer years are more prone to use them for long hours every day.

# Mobile Usage Pattern

**Figure 6: Major Non-Academic Use**

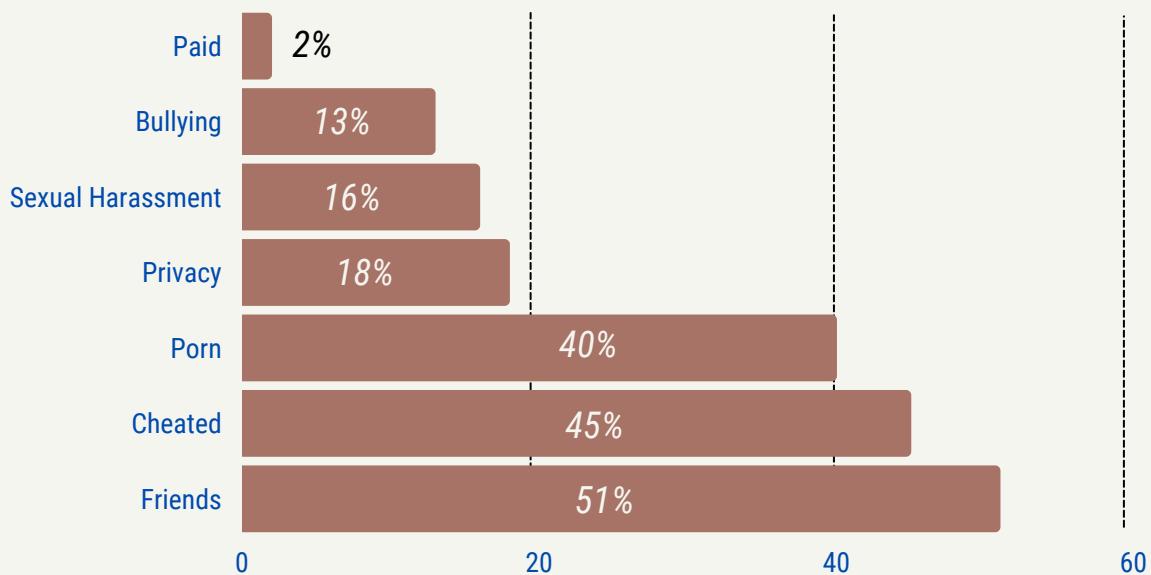


The respondents were asked about the most frequent non-academic purpose for which they use their internet. Multiple options were allowed in this particular question.

- Social networking was the most frequently replied category.
- 71% of respondents replied that social media occupies their biggest non-academic internet usage.
- The next biggest user base was for online videos. According to 61% of the respondents, online videos consume their biggest non-academic use.

Unpleasant and untoward mishaps are not uncommon in the cyber world. But for those who are not adults, such mishaps may leave an irrecoverable impact if done at an impressionable age. The questionnaire, based on secondary literature, pointed out the most frequently reported online mishaps, and asked the respondents whether or not the respondents underwent similar accidents. Figure 7 summarises the responses.

**Figure 7: Unpleasant Experiences of the Respondents**



- 45% of them have suffered from cases of online cheating.
- 40% accepted to have watched pornographic content on the internet.
- 18% admitted that they have shared personal/ private data on the internet that may compromise privacy.
- 16% said they have undergone sexual harassment.
- 13% of them said they suffered online bullying.
- 51% of them said they know at least someone who has undergone such untoward incidents.

Based on these findings, we ran a chi- square causality test and found that with more than 95% probability we can conclude that a woman is more likely to face online sexual harassment than a man on the internet. Table 1 shows the chi-square table.

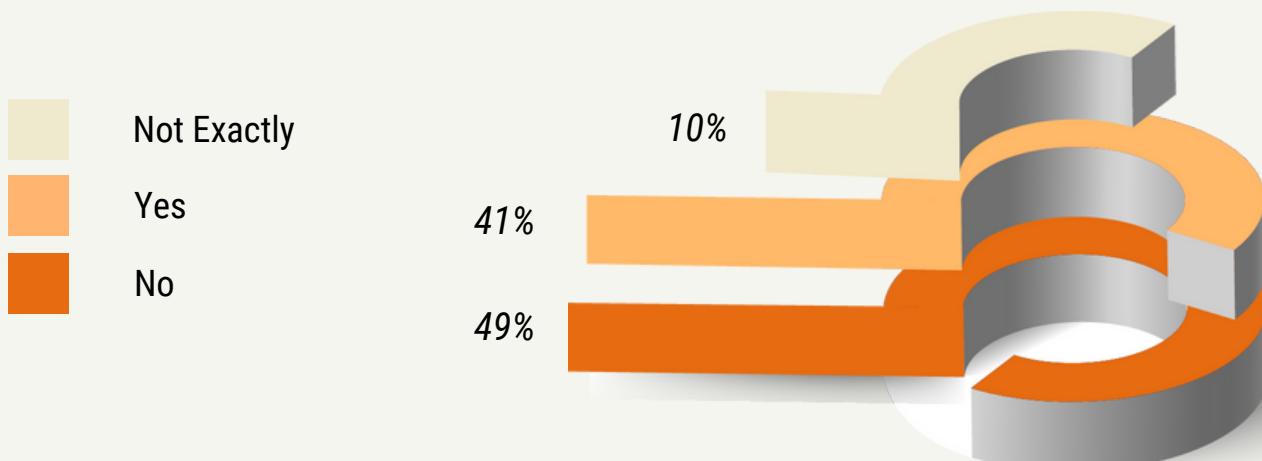
**Table 1: Relation Between Sexual Harassment and Women Respondents**

Frequency  
(Chi - Square contribution)

	Yes	No	Not Exactly	Total
Female	118 (13.22)	318 (5.51)	62 (2.5)	498 (21.23)
Male	15 (23.81)	258 (10.37)	17 (5.33)	290 (39.51)
Other	2 0.55	3 0.86	2 2.32	7 (3.74)
Total Chi-square value				64.47
df= (3-1)x(3x1)= 4				

Hence the null hypothesis was rejected.

**Figure 8: Known Someone Who Shared Nude Picture on the Internet**

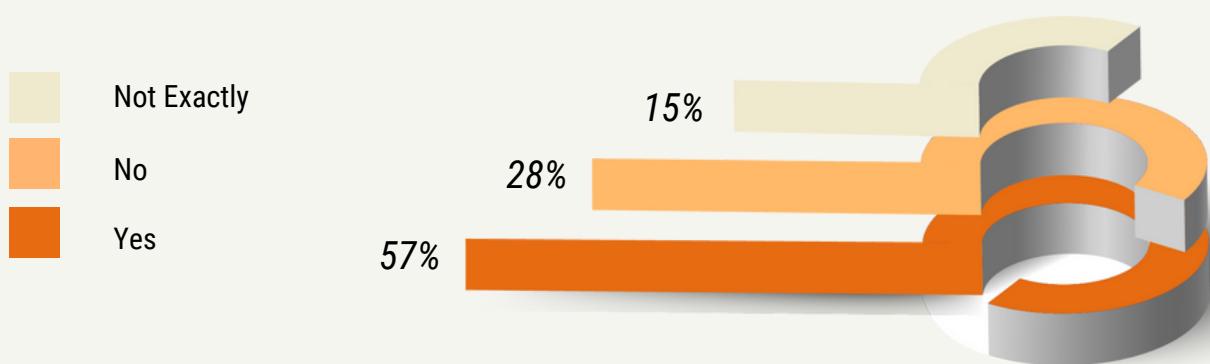


- There have been cases, where under aged or young adults have been found sharing their nude pictures on the internet, causing enormous problems in their personal life.
- In this survey, 41% responded that they knew at least someone who have engaged in such activities.

## Overuse of Internet

Excessive affinity to online activities has appeared as a social pattern in recent times, especially among late teenagers and young adults. This study had a dedicated set of questions to investigate this trend.

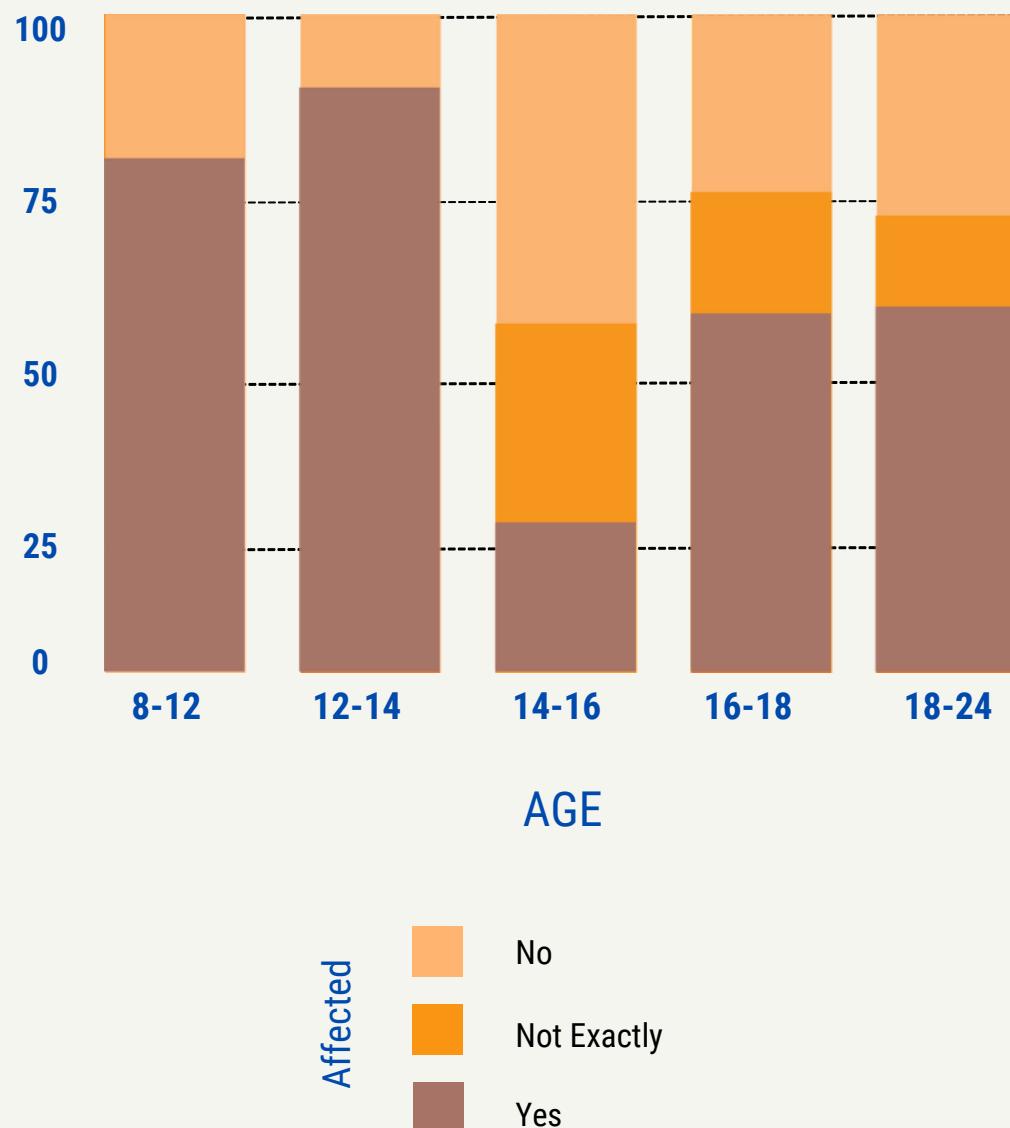
Figure 9: Work getting Affected



- 57% of respondents accepted that their daily schedule is affected because of their overuse of the internet.
- Another 15% refrained from commenting on this question.

This shows the predominance of overuse of internet by the younger generation.

Figure 10: Getting Affected According to Age Group



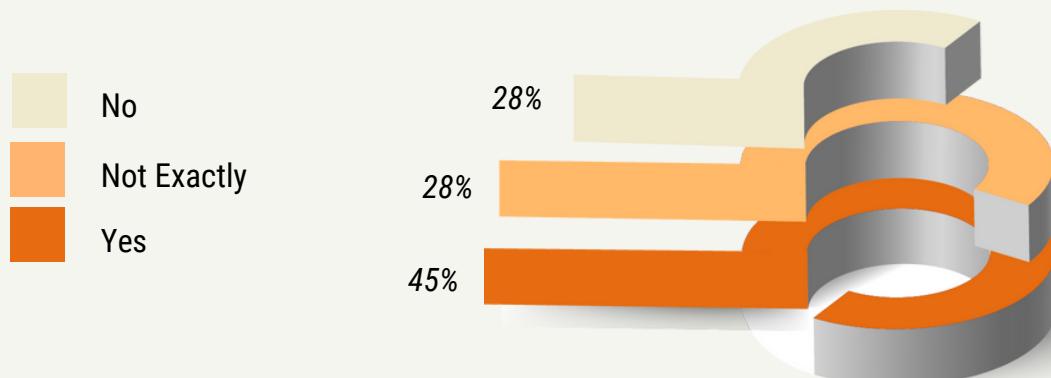
- The findings of Figure 9 were further introspected through the lens of the age group.
- Figure 10 shows that the age group of 12-14 is most susceptible to getting affected because of the internet.
- 14-16 is the age group where the cases of self-declared over users of the internet are the least frequent.

Figure 11: Addicted to Internet



- A considerable proportion of 42% of the respondents declared themselves to be addicted to the internet.
- Another 35% refrained from abjectly denying it.

Figure 12: Need Assistance to Come Out from Addiction



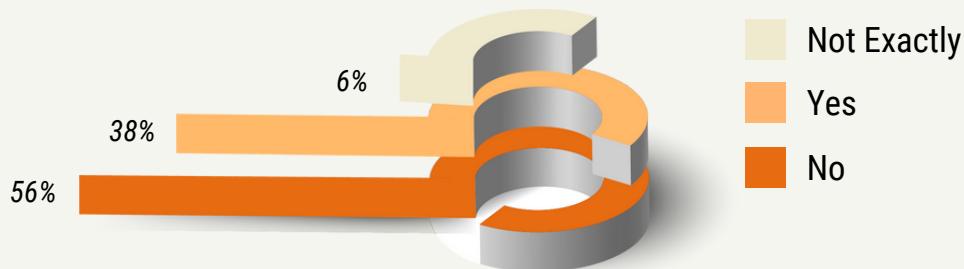
*\*Because of approximation, the overall percentage may slightly go beyond 100.*

- 45% of the respondents who claimed that they are addicted to the internet, said they think they need specialized assistance to overcome their problem.

# Counseling

It is clear from the previous section that, there is a need for systematic awareness building among the youngsters. We inquired about the share of the respondents to have attended any workshop on cyber security. The reply pattern was summed up in Figure 13.

Figure 13: Attended Workshops on Cyber Security



- Only 38% of the respondents said that they have attended such sensitisation/awareness workshops.
- 56% never attended any workshop.

Figure 14: Interested in Workshops



- An overwhelming majority of 91% of the respondents expressed that they are keen to attend workshops for better protection from cyber mishaps.

*\*Because of approximation, the overall percentage may slightly go beyond 100.*

# Conclusion

This study unveils certain interesting facts. The predominance of social networking in the online behaviour of the younger generation is an important finding. This study also showed with conclusive evidences that the incidents of online sexual harassment are more frequent with female internet users. This calls for serious reflections to design strong legal and institutional networks to stop such malice. This study also shows that the younger generation is also aware of the evils of excessive screen time. And very often they successfully detected their overuse of the internet. This is an interesting finding since it is often believed that younger people are completely unaware of the problems of overuse of the internet. Most importantly, an overwhelming majority from this section is interested in discussing their cyber behaviour and attending workshops on this topic.

# Annexure - Questionnaire

## Personal Information

1. Age
2. State
3. Gender
4. Academic Qualification
5. For how long you have been using mobile phones?
6. For how long you have been using smart phones?

## Screen time

1. For how many hours each day you use your mobile? (excluding non academic purposes)
  1. Less than 2 hours
  2. 2-3 hours
  3. 3-4 hours
  4. 4-6 hours
  5. More than 6 hours
2. For how many hours you use it for academic purposes like attending classes/ watching academic videos etc.?
  1. less than 2 hours
  2. 2-3 hours
  3. 3-4 hours
  4. 4-6 hours
  5. more than 6 hours

### 3. What are the main non-academic purposes behind your mobile usage?

1. social networking
2. watching videos
3. playing games
4. internet shopping

## Cyberbullying

### 1. Have you ever faced cyberbullying?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Not exactly

### 2. Have you ever faced online sexual harassment?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Not exactly

## Cyber behaviour from the ward's perspective Page 8

### 3. Have you ever been cheated in online shopping? (less quality/ different product/ less quantity etc.)

1. Yes
2. No
3. Not exactly

### 4. Have you ever faced a breach of privacy on the internet? (like your personal photo, information, number leaked by someone else!)

1. Yes
2. No
3. Not exactly

5. Has any of your friends/ relatives gone through similar mishaps mentioned in the last four questions?

1. Yes

2. No

3. Not exactly

6. Have you ever watched porn on the internet? (note - this form is anonymous)

1. Yes

2. No

3. Not exactly

7. Have you ever paid for it?

1. Yes

2. No

3. Not Exactly

According to few studies, sharing “nudes” is becoming a common behavior among young people. These experiences – while for some a normative form of sexual exploration – are not without significant risk. Unfortunately, a 2019 report also found young people lack trust in the protective systems around them, both in-person and online, for support as they navigate this topic. Concerns of being blamed, shamed, or ignored are isolating victims and putting them at greater or prolonged risk.

8. Do you know anyone personally, who has shared their nude or semi-nude photographs through social media?

1. Yes

2. No

3. Not Exactly

**9. Do you think this kind of behaviour might be risky?**

1. Yes
2. No
3. Not Exactly

**Cyber behaviour from the ward's perspective Page 9**

**10. According to you, what may be a possible reason behind the behaviour of a teenager sharing their nude/ semi nude photographs online?**

1. It's their choice
2. Possibly to explore different ways of expressing sexuality
3. It's stupidity that they are not completely aware of.
4. They are following the behaviour of others without questioning it.

**11. What according to you is the best way to deal with such problem?  
(multiple choice)**

1. Those who are doing such things should be talked to.
2. Those who are doing such things should be blocked from the internet.
3. There should be awareness programmes for all the teenagers on their internet behaviour.

## **Addiction**

1. Do you think your work is getting affected by the excessive usage of the internet?
4. Yes
5. No
6. Not exactly

**12. Do you think that you are an internet addict?**

- 1. Yes
- 2. No
- 3. Not exactly

**13. If the last answer is yes: Do you think you should reach out for help to check this internet addiction?**

- 1. Yes
- 2. No
- 3. Not exactly

### **Parental interaction**

**2. Do you think that accidents like cyberbullying or cyber breach of privacy are avoidable by training or counselling at a younger age?**

- 4. Yes
- 5. No
- 6. Not exactly

**14. Did your parents ever discuss cybersecurity with you?**

- 1. Yes

**Cyber behaviour from the ward's perspective Page 10**

- 2. No
- 3. Not exactly

**15. Have you ever attended any workshop on cybersecurity?**

- 1. Yes
- 2. No
- 3. Not exactly

**16. Have any of your teachers or senior discussed cybersecurity with you?**

- 1. Yes
- 2. No
- 3. Not exactly

**17. Do you think that parents should discuss the things related to cybersecurity with their children?**

- 1. Yes
- 2. No
- 3. Not Exactly

