



## A STUDY ON INTERNET BROWSING BEHAVIOUR AND ATTITUDE TOWARDS INTERNET OF B. ED STUDENTS

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### ARTICLE INFO

#### Article History:

Received 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2018  
Received in revised form  
26<sup>th</sup> June, 2018  
Accepted 09<sup>th</sup> July, 2018  
Published online 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2018

#### Key Words:

Cherished goal of everybody, Acquiring knowledge, Procuring knowledge

### ABSTRACT

Ever since the dawn of the cultural history of mankind, the question of acquiring knowledge has become a problem. Time passed. Man advanced very much in procuring knowledge in various fields of his existence such as arts and literature, science and technology, economics, commerce etc. Nations and countries emerged. They began giving more importance to the methods being employed for educating the masses in various fields of knowledge. Modern nations give stress on scientific advancement through the application of many theories and methods found out by famous educationists and scientists. To lead a better life is the cherished goal of everybody. To equip the community for this, is the aim of education. When the Greek philosopher Aristotle was asked 'how the educated men were superior to the uneducated' he replied out rightly, "As much as the livings are to the dead". The significance of education becomes evident from the wisdom of the philosopher. Education opens the door to enter into the process of modernization and social change.

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Citation: Nandabai P. 2018. "A study on internet browsing Behaviour and attitude towards internet of B.Ed students", *International Journal of Development Research*, 8, (8), 22481-22485.

### INTRODUCTION

**Net or web based Education at B. Ed, level:** Web based instruction is a hypermedia- based instructional programme, which utilizes the attributes and resources of the world wide web to create a meaningful learning environment where learning is fostered and supported. The integral parts of a WBI system such as content development, software, hardware and internet service providers feature the characteristics of a WBI programme contributed by these components. Student's teachers can use internet for preparing instructional packages in CD's and DVD disks, Multimedia Presentation LCD Projector etc. by integrating voice, graphics and animation along with texts. These can be used to provide information. Use of software's like 'intelligent tutoring system' with back up of knowledge and expertise to teach students will make internet more beneficial for transacting knowledge.

**Significance of the Study:** India has reached a stage in its economic and technical development. A major effort must be made to derive the maximum benefit from the assets already attained and to ensure that the fruits of change reach all sections. Education is the high way to the goal. Recent years have witnessed the widespread acceptance of the significant role of computers in education all over the world. Computer is making a profound impact on education and within a span of about two decades this will be a major delivery system for education at all levels and practically in all subjects.

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The use of technology in the classroom improves student's motivation and attitude about themselves and about learning. Since independence, efforts are being made to develop infrastructure for education, research and industry in India. The Science Policy (1958), The Technology Policy (1983), The National Policy on Education (1986) and the Industry Policy Resolution, from time to time have all helped in achieving the present level of development in these areas. The present study tried to find out after effect of these policies in B.Ed., Colleges teacher education centers by the Way of studying the internet browsing behavior and the internet attitude of B.Ed, Students. Considering all the facts mentioned above, it could be clearly seen that within next few years, no one can turn his face away from this internet revolution. The investigator in the present study is trying to find out the status of internet utilization by the students' teachers of B.Ed., Colleges and their attitude towards it.

**Need for the Present Study:** Internet browsing behavior is very essential for a teacher to update his knowledge and competency. It is a fact that the attitude towards an activity is the key factor to develop competency in that activity. So, the attitude towards internet will be the determining factor of an individual's internet browsing behavior. Hence to find out at what level the experiences are to be providing to develop internet browsing competency, studies are to be conducted to assess the present competency of student teachers to internet browsing. Internet attitude as well as internet browsing behavior along with the influences of sex, age, educational qualification of student teacher and parents, locality of the child and college, computer installation, type and management of college and subjects taken by the student teacher should be studied for the purpose. From the review of

related studies, the investigator could understand that there are no studies on this dimension. Hence the investigator felt an urgent need to conduct the study. The review indicates the need for undertaking researches in various aspects of internet.

**Objectives of the Study:** The following are the major objectives of the study.

1. To find out the internet browsing behavior of the B.Ed, teacher trainees.
2. To find out the attitude of the B.Ed, teacher trainees towards internet.
3. To find out whether the internet browsing behavior and attitude of the B.Ed, teacher trainees towards internet are influenced by the sex of B.Ed, teacher trainees.
4. To find out the internet browsing behavior and attitude of the B.Ed, teacher trainees of below 25 years of age or above 25 years of age.
5. To study whether educational qualifications of the B.Ed, teacher trainees is a factor in influencing their internet browsing behavior and attitude towards internet.
6. To find out the internet browsing behavior and attitude of the B.Ed, teacher trainees studying in government, aided and self-financing colleges.
7. To find out the internet browsing behavior and attitude of the B.Ed, teacher trainees studying in Women's Colleges and mixed colleges.
8. To find out whether the B.Ed, teacher trainees belonging to arts and science faculties differ in their internet browsing behavior and attitude towards internet.
9. To find out whether the collection of college is a factor in influencing the internet browsing behavior and attitude towards internet of the B.Ed, teacher trainees.
10. To find out the internet browsing behavior and attitude of the rural and urban B.Ed, teacher trainees.
11. To find out whether the educational status of parents is a factor in influencing the internet browsing behavior and attitude of the B.Ed, teacher trainees towards internet.
12. To find out whether the B.Ed, teacher trainees who have computers at home and who do not have computers at home differ in their internet browsing behavior and attitude towards internet.

**Internet: Meaning:** The internet is a worldwide network of computer networks. Two networks spread over different locations are connected together so that one can send and receive data from a computer on one network to a computer on the other network. Similarly, when several networks are connected together, a network of networks is formed. The internet connects millions of computers all over the world, forming a network in which computers across different locations can communicate with each other. The internet represents the transformation and evolution of the information age. The flexibility, ease and speed with which people can communicate by using the internet, as compared to the other means of communication, have made it very popular. Internet is not a single network; it is a vast, global – spanning network of networks. No single person, group or organization runs the internet. Instead, it is the purest form of electronic democracy. The networks communicate with each other based on certain protocols, such as Transmission Control Protocol (TCP) and Internet Protocol (IP). More and more computers and networks are being hooked up to the internet every day. Tens of thousands of these networks exist ranging from university networks to corporate local area networks to large online services. Every time one taps into the net his / her own computer becomes an extension of that network.

**Internet as a Network:** Organizations use the internet to link their offices and employees, thus using the internet as a private network. Such a network can be used to transfer official data and to conduct meetings and conference.

## REVIEW OF REALTED LITERATURE

### Studies Related to Internet Browsing and Attitude

**Towards Internet:** Mushi (2018) explored the interrelationships among information technology, the curriculum process, student exposure to information technology and the role of the teachers in the developing countries and in the developed world. The study highlights about the tremendous amounts of information readily available in and accessible through computer networks around the world. The network varies, ranging from little or more in developing countries to everyday use in most parts of developed countries. The study discussed the class room practices and teachers qualities. The study suggested collaboration between teachers in the developed world and the developing world to reduce ever widening gap with regard to computer networks. Saunders et al (2023) revealed that a graduate level distance learning courses used a "class page" on the world wide web to increase student interaction and access to web resources. Petrie and Gunn (1998) surveyed the use of internet with self-selecting sample of 445 users. They reported that female internet user's use more likely to volunteer to participate in research and the proportion of female internet users was growing rapidly. There is significant relationship between high internet use and positive attitudes towards the internet with both self-reported depression and introversion.

## METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

**Assumptions:** The assumptions of the study are the following.

1. In the ICT era, internet browsing is inevitable.
2. The internet browsing behaviors' of student the teachers are either weak or strong.
3. The trainees may develop either positive or negative attitude towards internet.
4. The internet browsing behaviour and the internet attitude of student teachers are influenced by certain variables.

It is possible to study and measure the Internet Browsing Behaviour of student teachers and their internet attitude.

### Hypotheses

The following hypotheses are formulated to give specific directions to the study.

1. The B.Ed. teacher trainees in general have great Internet browsing behaviour.
2. The B.Ed. teacher trainees show positive attitude towards internet.
3. There exists significant difference between the men and women teacher trainees in their internet browsing behavior and internet attitude
4. The teacher trainees below 25 years of age and above 25 years of age differ in their Internet browsing behavior and attitude towards Internet.
5. There exists significant difference between the teacher trainees having UG qualification and PG qualification in their internet browsing behavior and attitude towards internet.
6. The B.Ed. teacher trainees studying in government, aided, and self-financing colleges of education differ in their Internet browsing behavior and attitude towards internet.
7. The B.Ed. teacher trainees studying in women's colleges differ in their Internet browsing behavior and attitude towards internet.
8. There is existing significant difference between the teacher trainees of Arts and Science subjects in their internet browsing behavior and attitudes towards internet.
9. The B.Ed. teacher trainees studying in rural and urban colleges of education differ in their Internet browsing behavior and attitude towards internet.

10. The B.Ed. teacher trainees coming from rural and urban areas differ in their internet browsing behavior and attitude towards internet.
11. The educational status of parents of B.Ed. teacher trainees is a factor in influencing the internet browsing behaviour and attitude towards internet.
12. The B.Ed. teacher trainees who own computers at home and who do not own computer at home differ in their Internet browsing behaviour and attitude towards internet.

**Research Strategy:** Internet browsing behavior and attitude towards internet are the psychological variables which have much influence in one's life. Direct measurements of the above two variables are not possible. But it can be measured indirectly by using several tools and techniques such as observation, interview, rating scale, check test. Questionnaire, projective techniques, records and reports, among them, a survey method was considered as appropriate methods for studying the present problem.

**Tools Employed for the Collection of Data:** In the present study, two tools were employed for the collection of data.

1. Questionnaire on internet Browsing Behavior (QIBB)
2. Scale of Attitude towards Internet (SAI)

These tools were prepared by the investigator supervising teacher. In addition, tools, the Investigation used a Performa to collect personal data of B. Ed. Teacher trainee. The personal data was designed to categories the respondents to make sin-samples, which is given as Appendix 1.

**Questionnaire on Internet Browsing Behaviour:** Internet browsing behaviour is the dependent variable of the study. This is the tool developed by investigator with the guidance of the supervising teacher for assessing the internet browsing behavior of the B.Ed. teacher trainees.

**Construction:** Before preparing the questionnaire, the investigator made a review on the available literature in areas of internet utilization, computers and Education technology. The Investigator further made discussions with computer experts, Internet scholars and his supervising teacher. The supervising teacher extended all help in planning and preparation of questionnaire. The investigator utilized the books such as Best and Kahn, (1995). Computers and their uses by Desmonde, (1998), Internet in easy steps by Geoff Preston; How the internet works by Preston Gralla; Internet and web technologies by Rajkamal and Doing Internet Research by Steve Jones (Editor). The Interaction with students and others also helped the investigator in the questionnaire preparation. On line basis of collected information from all sources, the investigator planned the QIBB. The investigator pooled initially about 46 items. These items are related to three selected areas of general internet utilization namely extent of utilization, availability and accessibility and purpose of utilization. Some of the items were deleted and some of them were modified after a careful scrutiny of the items. The questionnaire was reedited further to have 38 items in total.

**Technique of Sampling:** In the present study the investigator adopted stratified random sampling technique for the selection of the sample. This was done to ensure representation of all strata and to avoid bias. The population was composed of sub groups or strata of different size. So that a representative sample must contain individuals drawn from each category or strata.

#### Sample of the Study

Sl.No	Name of the College	sample
1	Sri Rangapoopathi College of Education, Gingee.	150
2	Sri Rangachionammal College of Education, Gingee	180
3	Government College of Education, Vellore.	120
4	N.K.T. College of Education, Chennai.	60
Total		510

The sample of 510 B.Ed. teacher trainees was stratified on the basis of the following factors:

- 1) Gender of the subject
- 2) Locality of the colleges
- 3) Management category of the college
- 4) Rural and Urban classifications

**Statistical Procedure for Analysis:** The data for the study have been analyzed using the following statistical techniques. For descriptive analysis of data, mean and S.D values are calculated. For differential analysis significant of different between means is found out. When mean of occurrence of a behavior in two or more independent samples are found out, one may be interested to find out whether the incidence of behaviour is really different in the two groups. The mere difference seen in the means may not indicate any significant difference. The difference may be due to sampling error. Here to make the study effective in comparison, the investigator carried out the test of significance of difference between the means. The researcher used the SPSS software to find out the 't' values.

#### Alalysis and Interpretation of Data

**Internet Browsing Behaviour (Global):** In order to find out the internet browsing behavior of the entire sample, Mean and SD values are calculated and are presented below in a tabular column:

#### Internet browsing behavior of the B.Ed. trainees (Global) Mean and SD values

Variable	Maximum score	Mid Value	Mean	S.D
Internet Browsing Behavior	190	95	91.81	30.04

From the table, it is known that internet behavior of the B.Ed. trainees is low as revealed by the mean value 91.81 which is lesser than the mid value of the maximum score 190. Although internet plays a significant place on the educative process, the number of B.Ed. students utilized it is not encouraging.

**Internet Attitude (Global):** In order to find out the attitude towards Internet of the entire sample, mean and SD values are calculated and are presented below in a tabular Column:

#### Internet Attitude of the B.Ed. trainees (Global) Mean and SD values

Variable	Maximum score	Mid Value	Mean	S.D
Internet Attitude	120	60	89.99	15.12

From the table, it is inferred that the B.Ed. trainees, in general have more favorable attitude towards internet as revealed by the mean value 89.99 which is fair above the mid value 60 of the maximum score 120. The B.Ed. trainees opine that Internet is an essential tool in the present educational world; it has changed the teaching- learning process. It has reduced the tendency of cramming among the learners. Further they maintain that Internet is an effective medium for searching job opportunities. On line education through internet reduces the cost of education. It is a tool to the users to exchange information in the quickest time possible. It enables every learner to move according to his own ability. Globalization of education requires greater utilization of internet. Internet allows completion of tasks at lower costs. Internet utilization incases the capacity of learners in terms of quantity and quality. Internet ensures high academic achievements. The application of internet in the educational institution keeps the teachers professionally active. Internet changes the world more permanently and profoundly than any other technology so far seen in history. Internet has a lot of potentialities to improve and manage different aspects of colleges of education Internet provides opportunities for high quality, flexible learning experiences for students. The future of entire educational system squarely rests on Internet. Internet use

enables even the poorest performing learner to achieve better in his studies. Web-based instruction proves to be more effective when compared with other methods of instruction. Internet has become the buzz word in educational circle in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Internet has more empowering effect on the teachers, students, administrators and even parents in the new millennium. Internet helps student teachers so discharge their professional roles to their satisfaction. Greater utilization of internet services enhances academic excellence in the educational system. The effective use of internet requires a total mind shift within the teaching profession. Internet helps in maintaining social relationship with others. On the whole the B.Ed. trainees show more favorable attitude towards internet.

**Differential Analysis:** In the present study, 't' test is employed to find out the significance of difference between independent means. The results are tabulated below.

**Gender:** The sample is divided into gender wise male and female. In order to find out whether the male and female B.Ed. teacher trainees differ in their internet browsing behavior and attitude towards internet 't' test is resorted to and the results are tabulated below.

#### Significance of difference between men and women student's teacher in their internet browsing behaviour and internet attitude

Sl. No.	Variables	Men (N = 178)		Women (N = 332)		t
		Mean	S.D	Mean	S. D	
1	Internet browsing Behaviour	104.11	25.10	95.51	30.88	3.06
2	Internet Attitude	91.98	13.17	88.03	17.06	2.91

\*Significant at 0.01 level

## FINDINGS

The following are the conclusions drawn from the table.

1. The men and the women B.Ed. teacher trainees differ in their internet browsing behaviour as revealed from the  $t=3.06$ , which is significant at 0.01 level.
2. From the table it is inferred that men teacher trainees have more internet browsing behavior than the woman teacher trainees.
3. It is concluded that the sex of B.Ed. teacher trainees is a variable influencing the internet browsing behavior of the teacher trainees.
4. The men and women B.Ed. teacher trainees differ in their attitude towards internet as revealed from the  $t=3.06$ , which is significant at 0.01 level.
5. From the table it is inferred that men teacher trainees have more positive attitude towards internet than the woman teacher trainees.
6. It is concluded that the sex of B.Ed. teacher trainees is a variable influencing the attitude of the teacher trainees towards internet.

**Age:** The sample is divided on the basis of age-below 25 years of age and above 25years of age. In order to find out whether two groups differ in their internet browsing behaviour and attitude towards internet, 't' test is used and the results are presented below in a tabular column.

#### Significance of difference between B.Ed. teacher trainees below 25 years of age and above 25 years of age in their internet browsing behavior and internet attitude

Sl. No.	Variables	Below 25 (N = 452)		Above (N = 58)		t
		Mean	S.D	Mean	S.D	
1	Internet browsing Behaviour	98.28	30.37	100.28	31.86	0.45
2	Internet Attitude	89.27	16.28	90.47	12.79	0.65

## FINDINGS

The following are the conclusions drawn from the table. There exists no significant difference between the teacher trainees below 25 years of age and above 25 years of age in their internet browsing behavior. Here the calculated  $t=0.45$  is not significant at 0.05 level. From the analysis it is concluded that the age is not a factor in influencing the internet browsing behaviour of the B.Ed. teacher trainees. The teacher trainees below 25 years of age and above 25 years of age don't differ in their attitude towards internet, as the computer ' $t$ ' =0.65 is not significant at 0.05 level. From the analysis, it is concluded that age of the teacher trainees is not a factor in influencing the attitude towards internet.

**Educational Qualifications:** The B.Ed. teacher trainees are divided based on their education qualification – UG and PG. In order to find out whether the UG and PG qualified B.Ed. teacher trainees differ in their internet browsing behaviour and attitude towards internet, 't' test is employed to find out the significance of difference. The final result is tabulated below.

#### Significance of difference between the UG and PG teacher trainees in their internet browsing behavior and internet attitude towards internet

Sl. No.	Variables	UG (N = 325)		PG (N = 332185)		t
		Mean	S.D	Mean	S.D	
1	Internet browsing Behaviour	97.36	30.35	100.54	30.76	1.13
2	Internet Attitude	89.24	17.08	89.69	13.64	0.33

**Findings:** The following conclusions are arrived at from the table. There exists no significant difference between the B.Ed. teacher trainees having UG and PG educational qualifications in their internet browsing behaviour as revealed the  $t=1.13$  which is not significant at 0.05 level. From the analysis it is concluded that the education qualification is not a factor in influencing the internet browsing behaviour of the B.Ed. teacher trainees. There exists no significant difference between the B.Ed. teacher trainees having UG and PG educational qualifications in their attitude towards internet. Here the calculated  $t=0.33$  is not significant at 0.05 level. From the analysis, it is concluded that educational qualification is not a factor in influencing the attitude of B.Ed. teacher trainees towards internet.

**Management of College:** The sample is divided on the basis of the type of management trainees studying in Government, Aided and Self-financing. In order to find out whether they differ in their internet browsing behaviour and attitude towards internet, 't' test is used and the results are presented below in a tabular column.

## DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

The present study has contributed much to the development of education. It is very clear from the analysis that the B.Ed. teacher trainees have more favourable attitude towards the internet but internet browsing behaviour is low. Literacy in the 21<sup>st</sup> century is going to be understood a computer literacy. If knowledge is power, ICT provides the means of knowledge. As teaching is a complex process, it needs systematic delivery of information. To ensure better information delivery, teachers have to understand the dynamics of the teaching-learning process. As yesterday's knowledge becomes obsolete today, teachers have to computer with new technologies and changes in the field of education. In recent times, technology has totally revolutionized the educational system and as a result, computer and internet are considered as the flames that spread the revolution. But the result that the researcher has reached shows that, no much importance in this direction is given in the teacher training courses. The findings are in conformity with the findings of many studies conducted in different parts of the world. The present study reveals that the men and women teacher trainees differ in their attitude

towards internet utilization. The male teacher trainees have more favourable attitude and browsing behavior than their counter parts. As far as the College of Education in Villupuram District area is concerned there is less involvement of women in the public activities compared with men. Their involvement in internet is not encouraging because of their house hold commitment. They may not get much time to think about and to be use internet. When age is concerned, the B.Ed. teacher trainees below 25 and above 25 do not differ in their attitude and browsing of internet. So, age is not a factor in influencing the attitude towards internet and the browsing behaviour. Similar is the case in their educational qualification, subject disciplines, locality, parental qualification and computer installation. It is revealed from the study that those who own a computer in their house do not differ in their attitude and browsing behavior with those who do not have computer. It ensures human conception that those who own computers are only using them for their entertainment activities such as watching movies, playing games etc.

The management wise analysis reveals that the student teachers of government and aided colleges don't differ in their attitude towards internet but aided college teacher trainees have more browsing behavior than the government and self-financing college student's teachers. When the government and self-financing student's teachers are concerned, the government college student's teachers possess greater attitude towards internet and internet browsing behaviour than the self-financing colleges. It can be read in between the line that the Government of Tamil Nadu and the University Grants commission have been taking adequate measures to strength internet-based instruction. It is a truth that. More technological facilities are available in aided and government colleges than the self-financing colleges. It is observing that these facilities are maximum utilized by the aided colleges than the government colleges. Perhaps the frequent transfer and promotion of govt. Colleges may be one of the causes for low level utilization of internet by the trainees. The study further reveals that the B.Ed. teacher trainees in women's colleges and mixed colleges differ in their attitude towards internet and internet browsing behavior. The student teachers in mixed colleges have more favourable attitude and browsing behavior than the trainees in women's colleges. It shows that mixed colleges have more facilities than the women's colleges. Also, the competition and co-operation will be mixed colleges. The study reveals that internet browsing behavior of B.Ed. trainees of urban colleges is greater than that of the student's teachers of rural infrastructure facilities and greater scope for applying modern technologies in their daily lessons. Moreover, the latest technologies like web-based instruction/learning, programmed learning etc. are utilized much in urban area. The statistical analysis done by the researcher reveals that the greater positive attitude by the trainees. But their internet browsing behavior is not encouraging. On arriving at the above findings and conclusions, and attempt is made to summarize the entire research process with suggestions. This is done precisely in the next chapter.

## SUMMARY FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

**Implication of the Study:** Research in every field of knowledge occupies an important place. It contributes to the advancement of knowledge on the one hand and helps in the improvement of existing practices in the field on the other. Looking from this point of view, every piece of research too, seems to be significant in this context. It has several implications in the field of education. The findings of the study indicated that the B.Ed. teacher trainees coming under the colleges of education have positive attitude towards internet but low favorable behavior to browse the internet. The present educational system has witnessed the revolution of ICT. ICT has a greater impact in education. In the context of globalization, the ICT has to play a significant role in education. Therefore, the teachers and students have to cope with technological changes in order to enrich their skills and competencies. The present study reveals that the teacher trainees have low level of internet browsing behaviour in spite of their more favourable attitude towards internet. As internet encourages self-study on the part of the learners, course. Therefore, it is recommended that a paper on 'internet education' may be offered as a core paper at the

B.Ed. level so as to enable the teacher trainees make use of it for their learning. Further, the management of the college should provide more interne facilities or the trainees at colleges. The trainees may be allowed to use the internet in the college according to their convenience. The internet utilization may be done free of cost to the trainees. The parents should also take steps to encourage the B.Ed. trainees to utilize internet to a greater extent. After the class hours, when the trainees are at homes the parents may induce the trainees to make use of internet for learning. The study shows that certain demographic variables such as age, educational qualification subject studying, locality, parental qualification and possessing a computer system of B.Ed. teacher trainees are not influencing the internet browsing behaviour and attitude towards internet. The present study reveals that the female teacher trainees have less attitudes and browsing behaviour than the male teacher's trainees. Therefore, attempts are to be made to promote the attitude and browsing behaviour of female teachers. It can also be seen from the study that B.Ed. teacher trainees in urban colleges of education have more internet browsing behaviour than rural colleges even though there is no difference in their attitude towards internet so attention should be made to provide internet facilities to the rural colleges of education.

**Suggestions for Further Research:** The scopes for the further study in areas are outlined below:

1. The present study is confined only to two variables, internet browsing behaviour and attitude towards internet. The different internet services may be analyzed and their impact on academic achievement may be examined.
2. The internet browsing behaviour and internet attitude may be studied at technical and higher secondary levels of education.
3. It is suggested to develop web-based courseware in different disciplines to cater to the needs of different disciplines to cater to the needs of different student populations and the effectiveness of the courseware may be studied.
4. The web-based learning approach may be compared with other individualized approaches.

## CONCLUSION

In this chapter, the summary and major conclusions of the study are presented. The study reveals that the internet browsing behavior of the B.Ed. teacher trainees in not favourable though they develop a positive attitude towards internet. On the basis of these conclusions, the implications of the findings are explained and scope for further in the area is outlined.

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