56% Nagpur school students claim to own a smartphone

Aparna Nair | TNN

A survey of school students last year found 56.03% of the respondents in Nagpur owned a smartphone. The results of the Gen Y survey, conducted by Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) along with Smart Tech Wizards quiz last year, were released in June 2013.

The survey was conducted in 14 cities covering around 17,500 students. In Nagpur, the survey covered approximately 1,400 students from over 80 schools.

TODAY'S SPECIAL

The survey aimed to map use of information technology by students, including the time spent on internet, use of social media and so on. Dr Rajiv Mohta, paediatrician and national joint secretary, Indian Adolescent Health Academy, however, did not agree with the smartphone figures. "They might have access to smartphones but they might not necessarily own. Many students like to show off. But it is a fact that children's access to such devices and internet is increasing, which is creating problems in the long run."

Some 85% of the respondents rated Facebook as the most preferred social networking platform. About 15% of the respondents spent a whooping 2-3 hours daily on the internet while 18.34% spent about an hour on it. Many also said they preferred using social networking sites to communicate with their friends, rather than picking up the phone and calling them.

"This trend is indeed very worrisome. Due to an increased level of so-called social networking, the social skills of children are fading. Ask them to name one friend they would turn to with full confidence during trouble, most of them will be lost," Mohta said.

Agreeing with the above sentiment, Neeru Kapai, principal, Modern School, Koradi, said, "Indeed, a large number of students are using such technology. Many times, they end up using social networking sites just for the heck of it as many of their friends are using it. In this process, a lot of students don't know what they are getting into and how people can take them for a ride."

She further said that the school had conducted a workshop about two years back to educate students about the dangers and pitfalls of excessive use of internet. "We are planning another such workshop in the near future," Kapai said.

Experts say such easy access to gadgets and technology is hampering children's socializing skills and health. "Obesity is rising at an alarming rate. Students are so glued to the internet that they shy away from meeting actual people, which can be quite dangerous. On internet, you can never ever judge and decide about a person as you can face to face," Mohta said.

CALL DETAILS

85% respondents rated Facebook as most preferred social networking platform

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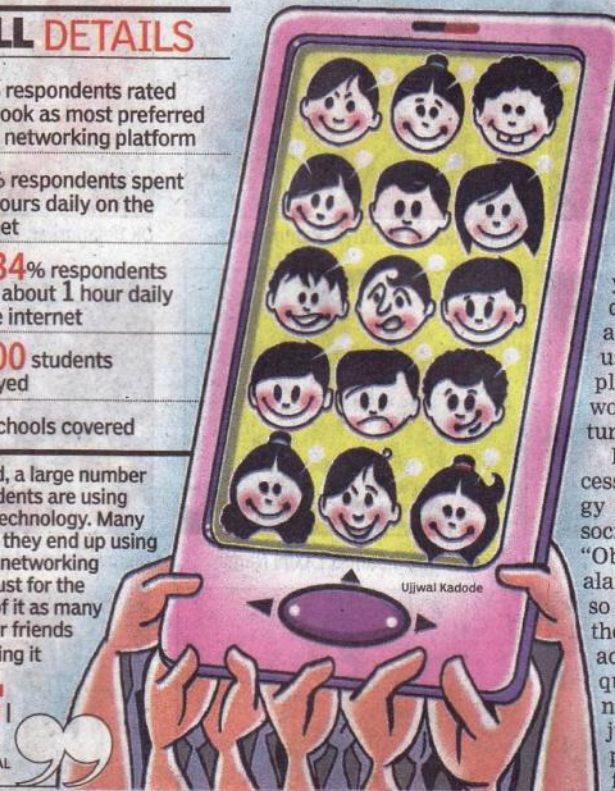
18.34% respondents spent about 1 hour daily on the internet

1,400 students surveyed

80 schools covered

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Neeru Kapai |
SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

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Inter-school quiz catches city twitteratis' fancy

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TALES FROM TWEETS

This occasional column will be based on what's trending in the city

Nagpur: Tweets about Smart Tech Wizards'2013, an inter-school quiz competition organized by the Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) trended on Twitter in Nagpur on Wednesday. With about 1,700 tweets, the city's tweet-count matched up to the level of tweets from metros like Bengaluru for the same quiz.

The tweets about the event began at least two days in advance. ROuNAk @Truly_madly tweeted on Monday, '@TCSITWiz very excited to see you in Nagpur.' He further tweeted that as he was not a schoolchild, he hoped he would be able to participate in any way possible. Similarly, Anand @Anand-Baidmohata tweeted on Tuesday, 'Waiting eagerly for tomorrow. #tcsitwizNagpur... I m coming.'

With the organizers promoting what they called 'tweeporting' during the quiz in various cities, students have taken it quite seriously. A sense of competition could be clearly seen in the tweets, with the city lads competing with other cities.

Shreyas Kshirsagar @Shreyas1998 tweeted, '@TCSITWiz: let's hope for more than 3000 tweets this evening... Let's rock Nagpur@Pickbrain #TCSITWiz.' In a more competitive tone Raunak @raunak_parijat tweeted, 'Tweet Guys, Lets show Bhubaneswar what Nagpur is: D #TCSITWiz.'

Nagpur surpassed Pune in its tweet count. Prakhar Jain @leakawesome tweeted 'Nagpur Everyones glued with cell and twitter. What a generation #TCSITWiz 'Tech savvy.' With the increasing number of tweets, some amusing ones added spice. @pkanhe1tweeted, 'Tcsitwiz is the 3rd most popular thing in Nagpur after tarri pohe and oranges. #TCSITWiz just kidding.' Tweeting from US he further said that he was tweeting from the states only to increase the tweets from Nagpur.

The tweeporting part seemed to have gained success with students posting every development of the competition. parth padmawar @parthmcp tweeted about the conclusion of the preliminary round. While some spoke about the atmosphere in the quiz hall. VRUSHABH GUDADE @VGUDADE #tcsitwiz what an atmosphere at Nagpur! Finals about to start. we are buzzing.'

Raunak @raunak_parijat tweeted 'PickBrain appreciating the Nagpur Crowd: D #TCSITWiz'. Some even seemed to have picked up some general knowledge. 'TCS working on the MIHAN in Nagpur, I didn't know that. #TCSITWiz' tweeted Janak Chadha @beingJRC.

As the number of tweets increased students began to tweet about it. Shreyas Kshirsagar Shreyas1998 tweeted, '@TCSITWiz #TCSITWiz. Nagpur rocks with tweets!!!!!!! Coming nearly 1200 tweets till now... Come on Nagpur.' While Janak Chadha @beingJRC updated it to 1300. The last count was 1,732.