

Abstract

This study investigates the possibilities of using computers by students at home effectively for their education, as a solution for this problem. Survey method was used in this study

The sample of 50 students was selected from Grades 6 – 9. A students sample who use computers at home were selected from 5 schools in Badulla and Bandarawela educational zones.

Usage of computers without guidance and control among junior secondary school children at home as investigated in relation to the nature of the problem, importance of studying those problems and the studies done on them so far

Four objectives were set out to identifying the need of using computers at home, for what purposes they use computers, evaluation of time devoted to computers and suggestions on how to use computers for the development of their education.

Information was gathered in this research by a questionnaire given to students, interviewing a selected group of teachers and parents and through the documents at school. All these collected information were analyzed quantitatively and qualitatively.

The following findings were discovered in this research. Parents were compelled to supply their children with a computer since the children say that it would help their education. More than eighty percent (80%) of the students use the computer for more than one hour per day.

Fifty (50%) of parents in this sample do not have the computer literacy. Nearly twenty percent (20%) of the parents of junior & secondary students do not like their children to use computers at home as they believe it could be harmful to use a computer without a proper guidance.

It was identified by this study that computers are used at home for drawing pictures, to play games and finding information. Students playing computer games as a hobby has caused many problematic conditions.

It was also found out that even though the parents have given computers to their children when they requested, the junior secondary students do not get their computer education in a proper way, and they gave priority to computer games. It was revealed by this study that half of the students who used computers at home, for more than one hour have not reached their educational goals as the parents expected.

It was concluded that if students who are given computers with regard to the progress of their education, it should be done under the supervision of the parents and according to a time table which will be fruitful.

Furthermore through this research, suggestions could be presented which will be helpful for the future researchers.