A DEMOGRAPHIC RESEARCH ON HAVING A PERSONAL WEB SITE OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

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ABSTRACT

In this study, having a personal web site of high school students in Turkey has been researched. The survey has been executed on the students from different types of high schools in Beşiktaş, İstanbul, Turkey. As the data collecting tool in the research, a questionnaire, that consists of some questions about whether they have a personal web site or not, whether they wish to have a personal web site or not, and whether they take any courses about web site design at school or not, has been used. The answers of the students to the questions are examined and evaluated by using quantitative data analysis methods. At the end of the evaluation session, valuable data about the use of technology and the skills of following technology of demographically different high school students have been gained; the importance of designing high school course contents by taking the developments in technology into consideration has been noticed.

Keywords: Web site, personal web page, high school students, computer lesson

INTRODUCTION

Nowadays, Internet is used for all the areas as the developments in technology increase. The use of Internet is widespread thanks to web sites. The aims of using web sites are beyond the academic and institutional ones; many web sites carry personal aims. There are many Internet users having a personal web site from any ages, including many students, in Turkey as well as in the world.

Nowadays the role of students is also changes as technology develops; a student may now be able to reach information, analyze information, and synthesis information (Akkoyunlu). The rate of having a personal web site is an important sign of how well technology is followed. As well, the rate of having a personal web site of high school students is closely related to their attitude toward following technology. Also, students may use their personal web pages in order to share information with themselves (Downes). In turkey, there are several attempts to give support for and attach importance to designing web sites for high school students. For example, several institutions, universities and high schools organize web site design competitions. It's also provided by these attempts that high school students can develop their skills of following technology as well as that they learn how to create web sites. In this content, having a personal web site may be a criterion for the skill of following technology and using it in order for personal needs. According to the results of some researches that have been done in United States of America (USA), the followings have been recorded: More than 2 million students from 6-17 ages have a personal web site; every 4 student out of 10 has a personal web site or plans to have one; the rate of having a personal web site is 12,2 % for female students and that is 8,6 % for male students; 68 % of the students having a personal web site update their web sites at least once a month (Tüzüm). These results give us information about the rate of using technology of the students in USA. As well, the information about the rate of using technology for high school students in Turkey may be gained by researching on having a personal web site of them.

The most attractive activity among those about information and technology for students is Web site design competitions. For example, Informatics Technologies Organization (BİTEK-O) has accepted many projects of information and technology but 70% of those were Web Site design projects (Tüzüm, 2004). This entails that high school students in Turkey follow especially Web Technologies. So, a study on following Web technologies of high school students may be a criterion for understanding their interests in technology and how well they follow technology.

In this study; it's been tried to answer the following questions:
1. What is the number of students knowing web page design?
2. What is the number of students wanting to know web site design?
3. What is the number of students having a personal web page?
4. What is the number of students wanting to have a personal web page?
5. What is the number of students wanting to learn web site design at school?
6. What is the number of students wanting to have a personal web page if web site design is learnt at school?

METHOD

Participants

The study has been carried out at four high schools in Beşiktaş during the 2005/6 Spring Semester. The participants are 170 students of different classes from those high schools. Participant characteristics are shown in Table 1A, Table 1B and Table

1C.

Table 1A: Participants according to their school types

Participants	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Public school students	121	71.0
Private school students	49	29.0
Total		

Table 1B: Participants according to their classes

Participants	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
9	64	37.5
10	86	50.5
11	20	12.0
Total		

Table 1C: Participants according to their sexuality

Participants	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Female	92	54.0
Male	78	46.0
Total		

Apparatus

As the data collecting tool in the research, a questionnaire consisting of 18 questions about whether they have a personal web site or not, whether they wish to have a personal web site or not, and whether they take any courses about web site design at school or not has been used.

Procedure

The answers of the students to the questions in the questionnaire are examined and evaluated by using quantitative data analysis methods.

RESULTS

The results are the followings at the end of the evaluation session.

In the questionnaire, there is a question about whether students know web site design not. According to the results, 36 students out of 170 have given the answer yes to this question. As in the Table 2, the rate of knowing web page design among high school students is 21.0 %.

Table 2: Participants' status at web page design knowledge

Participants	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Yes	36	21.0
No	134	79.0
Total	170	100

In the questionnaire, there is a question about whether students want to know web site design not. According to the results, 88 students out of 134 (who don't know web page design) have given the answer yes to this question. As in the Table 3, the rate of knowing web page design among high school students is 65.5 %.

Table 3: Participants' willing of web page design knowledge

Participants	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Yes	88	65.5
No	46	34.5
Total	134	100.0

In the questionnaire, there is a question about whether students have a personal web page or not. According to the results, 25 students out of 170 have given the answer yes to this question. As in the Table 4A, the rate of knowing web page design among high school students is 15.0 %.

Table 4A: Participants' status at having a personal web page

Participants	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Yes	25	15.0
No	145	85.0
Total	170	100.0

The question about whether students have a personal web page is the important one. It's been researched in detail. According to school types of students, 18 students out of 121 from public schools; 7 students out of 49 from private schools have given the answer yes to this question. As in the Table 4B, the rate of having a personal web page among both public and private high school students is 15.0 %.

Table 4B: Participants having a personal web page; according to their school type

Participants	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Public school students	18	15.0
Private school students	7	15.0
Total	25	15.0

According to classes of students, 7 students out of 64 from the class 9; 10 students out of 86 from the class 10; 8 students out of 20 from the class 11 have given the answer yes to this question. As in the Table 4C, the rate of having a personal web page among the class 9 students is 11.0 %; among the class 10 students is 11.5 %; among the class 11 students is 40.0 %.

Table 4C: Participants having a personal web page; according to their classes

Participants	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
9	7	11.0
10	10	11.5
11	8	40.0
Total	25	15.0

According to sexuality of students, 13 students out of 92 female students; 12 students out of 78 male students have given the answer yes to this question. As in the Table 4D, the rate of having a personal web page among female students is 14.0 %; among male students is 15.5 %.

Table 4D: Participants having a personal web page; according to their sexuality

Participants	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Female	13	14.0
Male	12	15.5
Total	25	15.0

In the questionnaire, there is a question about whether students want to have a personal web page. According to the results, 92 students out of 145 (who don't have a personal web page) have given the answer yes to this question. As in the Table 5, the rate of wanting to know web page design among high school students is 63.5 %.

Table 5: Participants' willing of having a personal web page

Participants	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Yes	92	63.5
No	53	36.5
Total	145	100.0

In the questionnaire, there is a question about whether students want to learn web site design at school. According to the results, 108 students out of 170 have given the answer yes to this question. As in the Table 6, the rate of wanting to learn web page design at school among high school students is 63.5 %.

Table 6: Participants' willing of learning web page design at school

Participants	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Yes	108	63.5
No	62	36.5
Total	170	100.0

In the questionnaire, there is a question about whether students wanting to have a personal web page if web site design is learnt at school. According to the results, 79 students out of 108 (who want to learn at school) have given the answer yes to this question. As in the Table 7, the rate of wanting to have a personal web page learning to design web page at school among high school students is 73.0 %.

Table 7: Participants' willing of having a personal web page under the condition of learning at school

Participants	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Yes	79	73.0
No	29	27.0
Total	108	100.0

DISCUSSION

In the study, it's been resulted that both the rate of knowing web page design and that of having a personal web page among high school students are quite low. This is unfortunately unfavorable for high school students to follow and interested in technology. On the other hand, the rate of having a personal web page among high school students is almost the same for both female and male students and students from public and private schools. This is very hopeful for the future. Also, there is another hopeful result that the rate of wanting to learn web page design and that of wanting to have a personal web page is very high. It's been also noticed that students are very eager if they would be taught about web page design at school.

In conclusion, there is a need for teaching high school students to design web page and for encouraging them to have a personal web page. This is so important that they would be aware of developing technology and follow technology.

Further, this kind of surveys may be performed at any other high schools from different cities in Turkey and much more participants may subjected to this kind of surveys in order to have more detailed information about following technology level among high school students in Turkey.

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