

UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU NATAL  
SCHOOL OF NURSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH  
MASTERS COURSE WORK: NURSING EDUCATION

## **RESEARCH TOPIC**

**EXPLORING UTILIZATION OF INTERNET AS AN  
ACADEMIC TOOL AMONG UNDERGRADUATE  
NURSING STUDENTS AT A SELECTED  
UNIVERSITY IN KWAZULU NATAL**

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# INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

- ❑ The internet is rapidly becoming an important learning tool in academic institutions and workplaces. In academic institutions it plays a pivotal role in meeting information and communication needs of students, academics and researchers (Luambano and Nawe, 2004).
- ❑ Despite internet becoming an important information gathering and dissemination tool, literature reflects under-utilization both in academic and in practice settings for a number of reasons (Richwine and McGowan, 2001).
- ❑ This study therefore explored utilization of internet as an academic tool among undergraduate nursing students in a selected University in KwaZulu Natal in order to establish ways of enhancing its utilization.

# AIM OF THE STUDY

- The purpose of the study was to explore utilization of internet as an academic tool among undergraduate nursing students in a selected University in KwaZulu Natal, in order to establish ways of enhancing its utilization.

# RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

- Describe the purpose of using internet among nursing students
- Explore knowledge and skills of nursing students on using internet academically
- Describe the perceived usefulness of the Internet to nursing students
- Explore the frequency of using internet resources among nursing students
- Explore factors influencing effective use of internet as an academic tool

# METHODOLOGY

- ❑ A positivist paradigm and a quantitative, non-experimental, exploratory- descriptive design was used in this study.
- ❑ One hundred and fifteen (115) undergraduate nursing students participated in this study.
- ❑ Data was collected using a structured questionnaire after obtaining ethical clearance from the university and were analyzed descriptively.
- ❑ Ethics principles were observed throughout the study.

# FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

## Socio demographic data

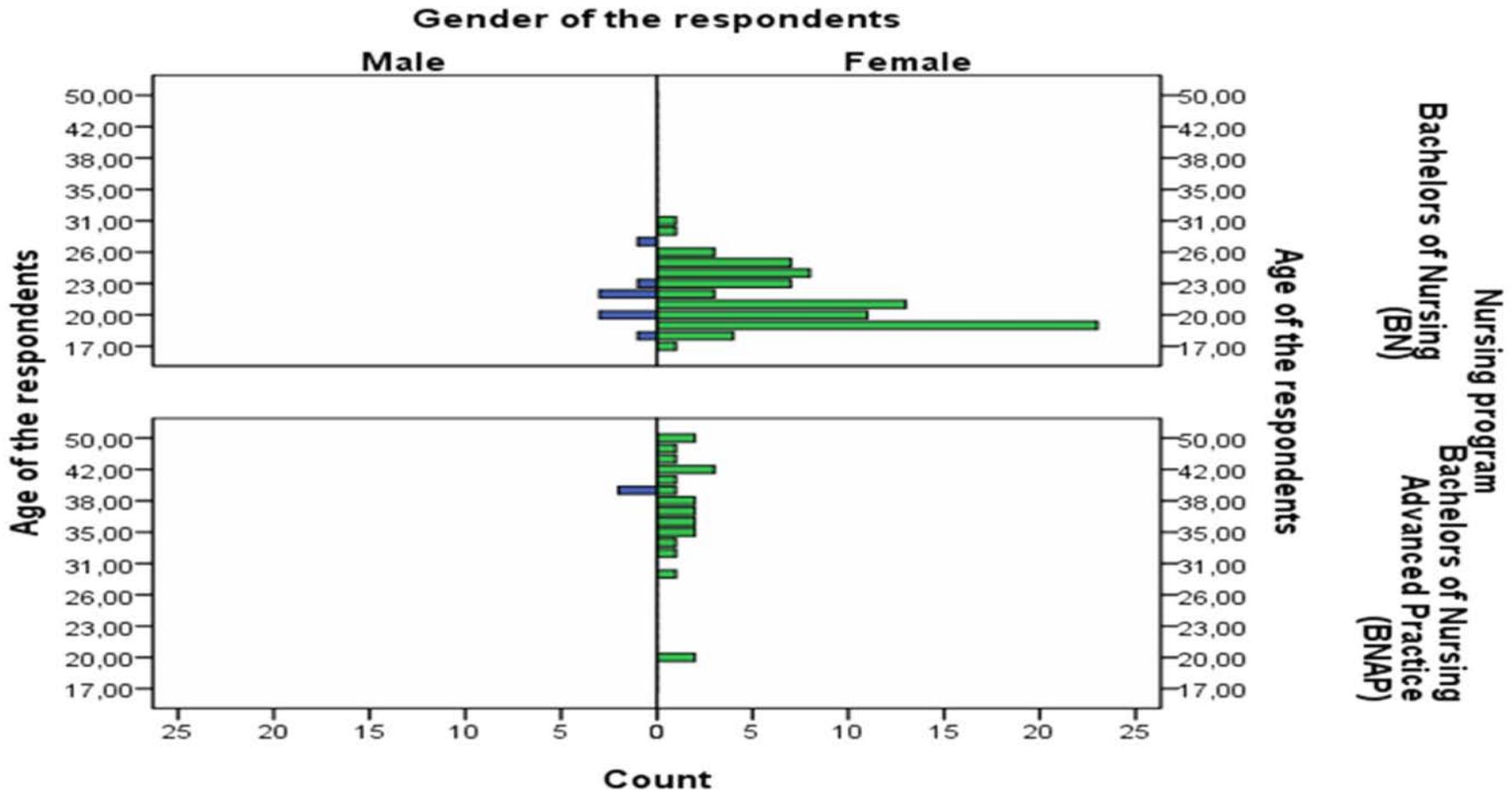


Figure 1: Socio demographic data

# COMPETENCE LEVEL OF THE RESPONDENTS IN USING COMPUTER

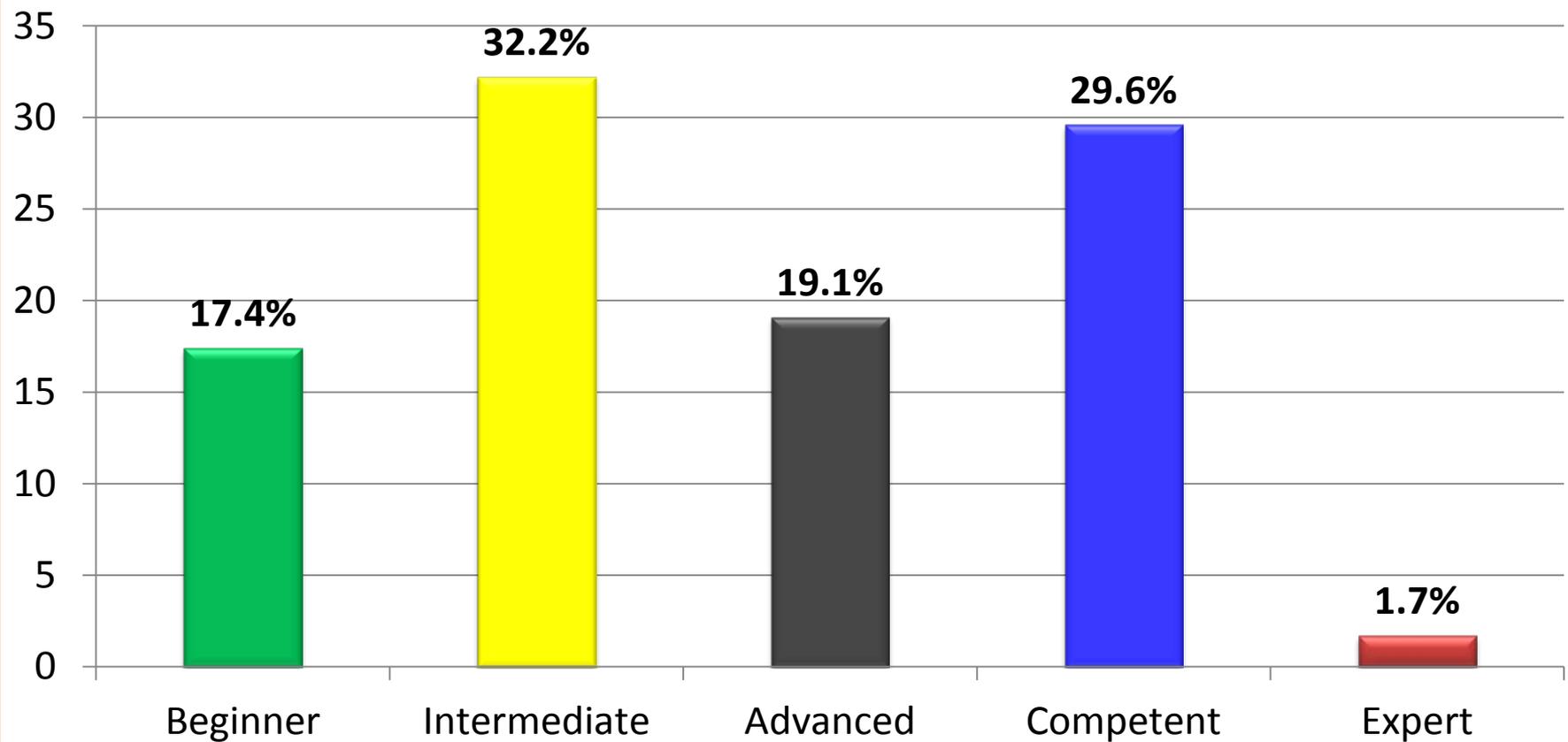


Figure 2: competence level of the respondents in using computers

# REPORTED ABILITY TO USE INTERNET

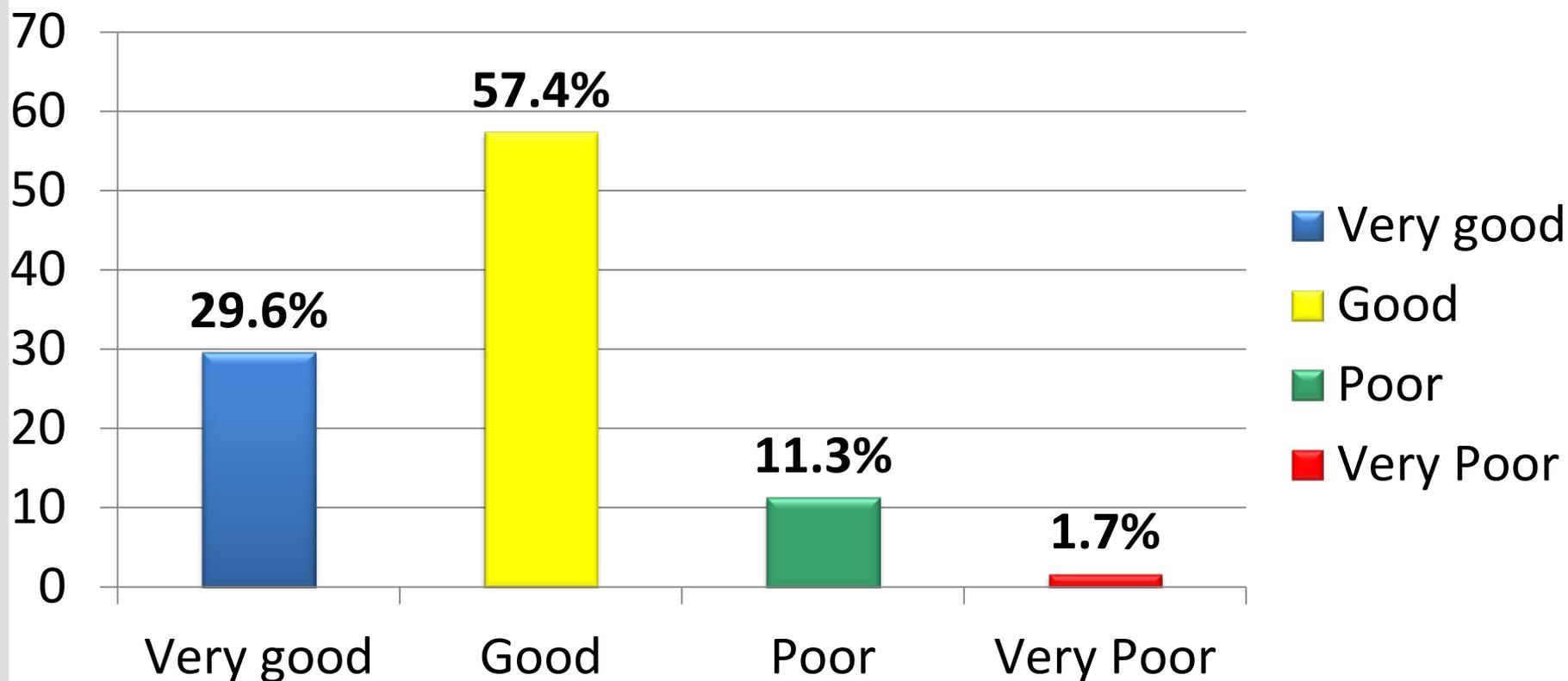


Figure 3: Reported ability to use internet

# REPORTED ACTIVITIES ON INTERNET

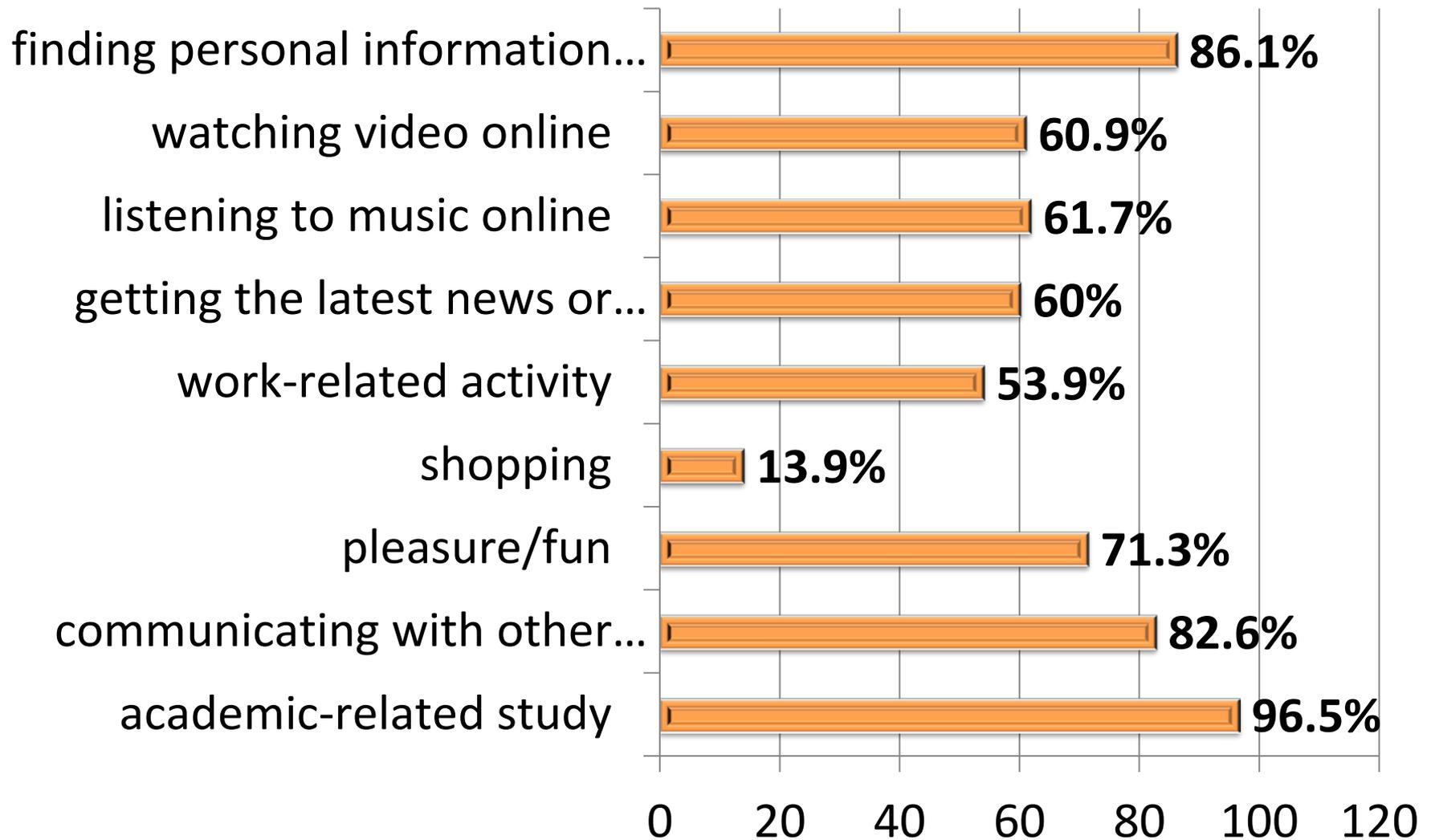


Figure 4: Reported activities on internet

# SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES USED BY THE RESPONDENTS

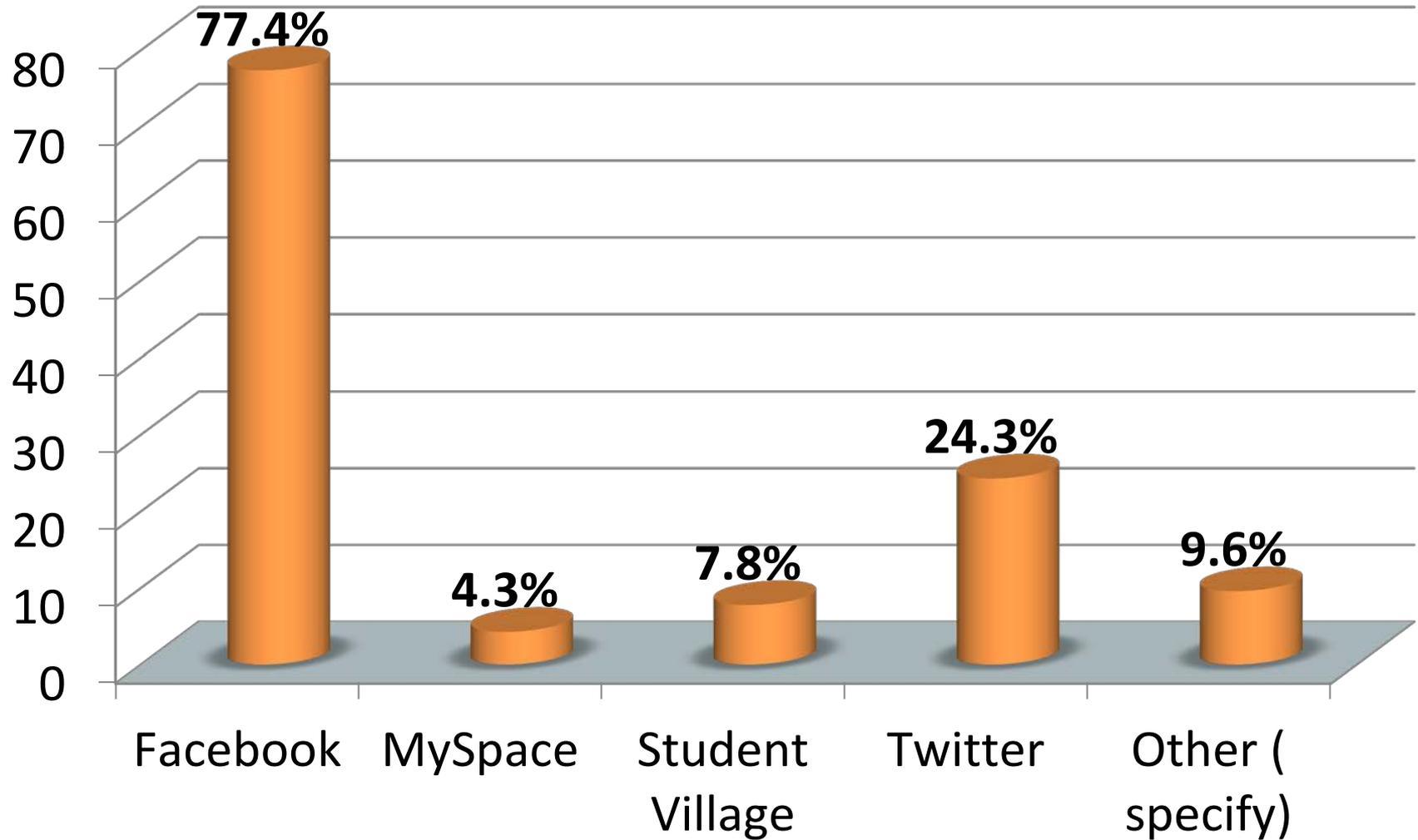


Figure 5: social network used by respondents

# CONSTRAINTS ENCOUNTERED WHILE USING INTERNET FACILITIES ON CAMPUS

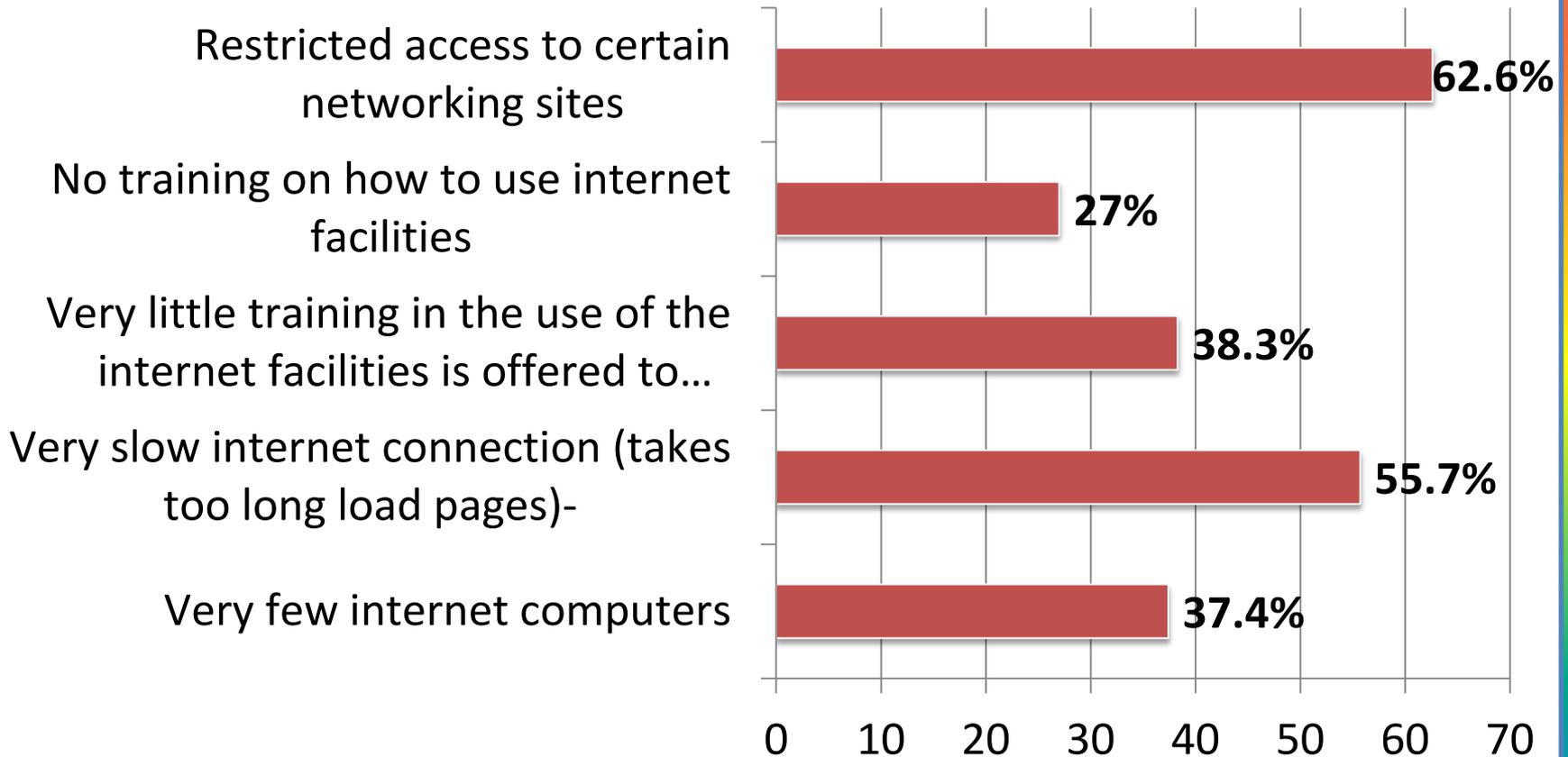


Figure 6: Constraints encountered while using internet on campus

# THE NEED FOR AN ORIENTATION FOR INTERNET UTILIZATION AS AN ACADEMIC TOOL

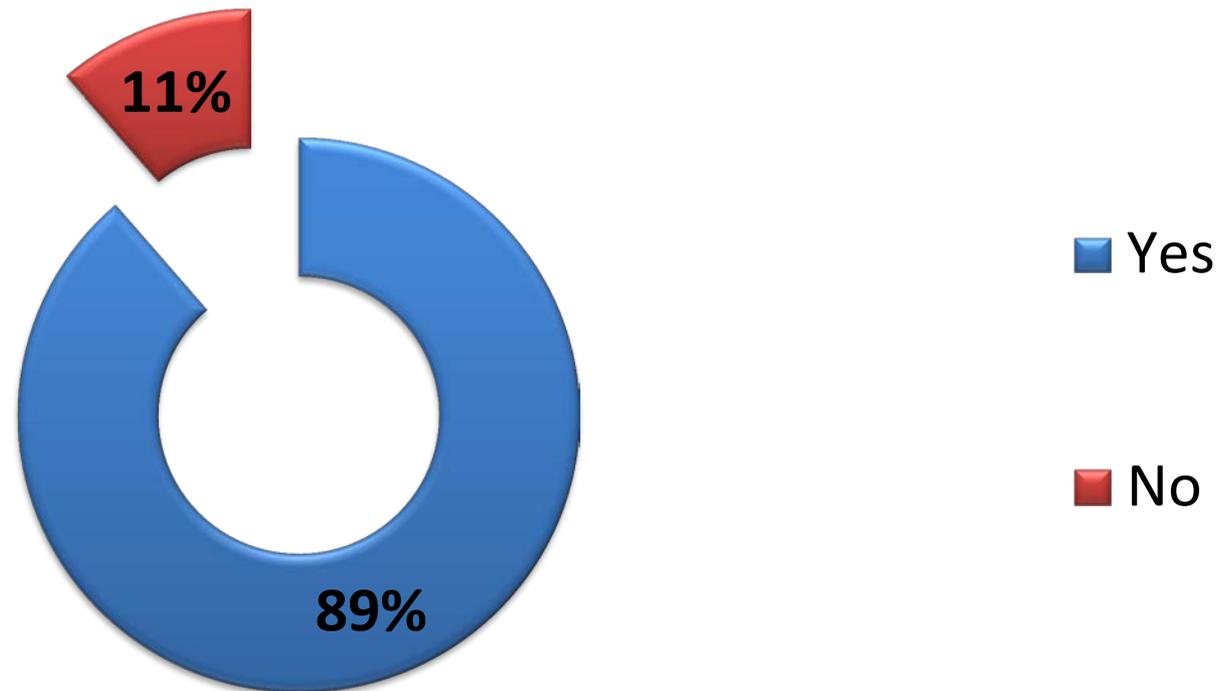
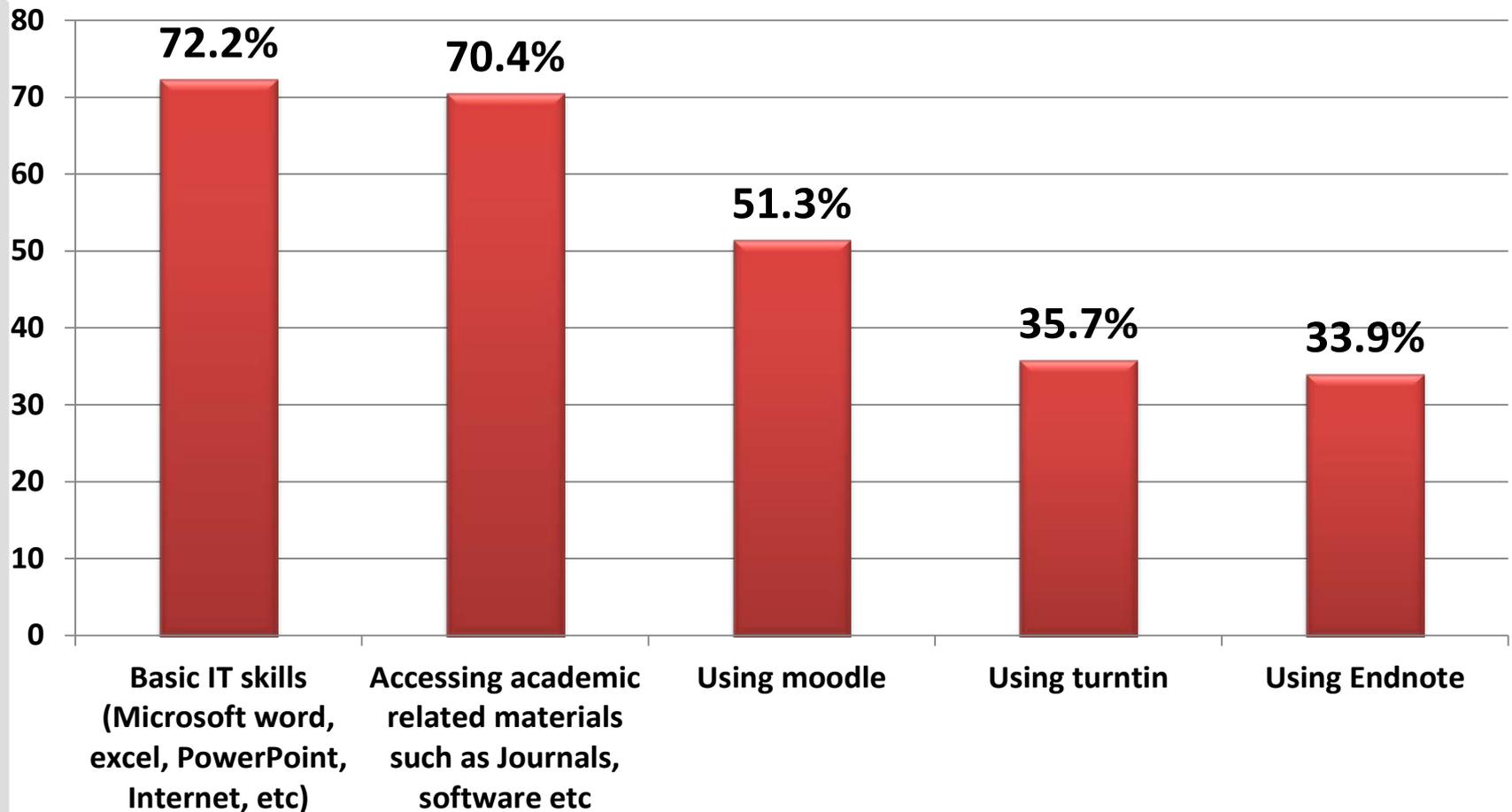


Figure 7: The need for an orientation for internet utilization as an academic tool

# AREAS IN WHICH RESPONDENTS THINK THEY SHOULD GET AN ORIENTATION IN



**Figure 8: areas in which respondents think they should get an orientation in**

# CONCLUSION

- ❑ Contrary to other studies, this study reflected that students do use the internet for a number of reasons including academic (96.5%); communication (82.6%), pleasure (71.3%), work related activity (53.9%) and shopping (13.9%).
- ❑ The findings from this study showed that respondents reported different constraints in using internet. Including slow internet connection (takes too long load pages), very little training in the use of the internet facilities is offered to students, few internet computers, or no training on how to use internet facilities.
- ❑ The majority of the participants (89%) requested a training on internet use as priority with specific focus on basic IT skills (72.2%), accessing academic related material (70.4%), using Moodle (51.3%), Turnitin (35.7%) and endnote (33.9%).

# RECOMMENDATIONS

The findings from this study clearly indicate the need ICT skills developments among nursing students. Therefore the following recommendations can be made.

- Training students in basic computer skills
- Facilitators must be equipped with the required knowledge and skills to educate students on safe Internet practices
- Students must be tutored in safe Internet practices
- Adopting internet technologies in nursing education

# LIMITATION TO THE STUDY

- Time and Financial Resources
- Length of a Questionnaire
- Access to the participants

***THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
ATTENTION AND YOUR  
SUPPORT***