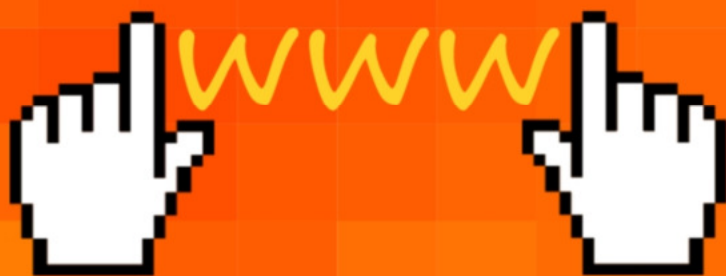


Make the best use of Internet in your education
Avoid the negative effects of the Internet
Get ready for a 21st century career

Become
an

iMature Student



- Raghu Pandey

Become
an

iMature Student

- Raghu Pandey

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Disclaimer –

The information presented in this book is relevant and effective only to the best of author's knowledge. Author does not claim that any chapter contains comprehensive, exhaustive or technically correct information about the subject or topic it covers. Reader's discretion (and a lot of common sense) is advised while applying the tips & suggestions included in this book, especially in the matters of Online Safety and Online Reputation. Author also does not claim any responsibility of outcomes of applying those tips & suggestions.

To Sai Baba
My Guru, the ultimate teacher, and possibly the real
author of this book

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Acknowledgements

I am genuinely grateful to the ~~Big Bang~~ which created our Univ to so many people and things, that the top names need to be mentioned differently. So here it goes...

The award for most patient and supportive family goes to... my family including my parents, wife, sister and son. Their reaction to my ever-extending deadlines to complete this book will surely make Mahatma Gandhi proud (you know... non-violence).

The award for the most instrumental lot of students in creating a book goes to... thousands of students from schools and colleges of central India, with whom I have been interacting since 2005.

The award for the most conducive location for writing a book goes to... the 'Idea Point' at Hotel Lake View Ashoka in Bhopal, where I peacefully gulped more than 1000 cups of tea/coffee in last 18 months.

Finally, I wish, the award for the most curious and benefitted reader of this book goes to... YOU!

Who Should Read? Why? & Why Not?

Who should read this book?

- ✓ School Students (above 13 years of age).
- ✓ College students.
- ✓ Teachers & Parents.

Why you should read this book?

It gives you the ‘License’ to use Internet

If a teenager knows how to drive a bike/car, it does not mean he or she is mature enough to drive on the main roads. Similarly, if a person knows how to operate a computer, does not mean he or she is mature enough to use Internet actively. Becoming iMature makes you **street-smart** and **world-wise** by **21st century** standards.

It is your guide to take the maximum benefit of Internet in education

Internet is the biggest source of knowledge and learning-tools. But majority of people are unaware about their existence. This book will not only make you aware about those resources, it will also tell you the best way to utilize them.

It helps to make your education “complete” by 21st century standards

‘Media Literacy’ has emerged as a critical part of education in 21st century. It includes skills for creating, combining and sharing digital content for various purposes. It also includes skills for finding out relevant & trustworthy knowledge resources from the ocean of information called the Internet. This book ensures that you develop the necessary ‘Media Literacy’ skills in an enjoyable manner.

It is an eye-opener on online safety-risks, legal problems, reputation issues, and addiction problems.

This is another aspect of Internet, about which people are ignorant. This book will tell you about such risks and how you can avoid them.

It helps to create a strong foundation for your 21st century career

Internet is a critical part of professional life in the 21st century. All the points mentioned above are important for becoming a mature professional. You know... **'Survival of the FITTEST'**.

Finally, you must read it because... **it is fun to read!**

What you will NOT find in this book

The purpose of this book is to make you a mature user of Internet, not an expert in Internet technology. It does NOT teach you technical skills for:

- × Operating a desktop, laptop, smart-phone, or tablet PC.
- × Operating web-browsers or technical features of various websites.
- × Networking technology or how Internet works.
- × Creating websites or web applications using HTML, Javascript, .NET, PHP etc.
- × Creating mobile applications (Android, iOS etc).

However chapter-2 includes some basic concepts of browsing Internet for quick understanding.

About the Approach of the Book

I am sure you know that our body can absorb vitamins from natural food better than it can from vitamin-pills. Fruits & vegetables are more efficient carriers of vitamins for our body than artificial supplements.

I believe something similar goes on inside our brain. Our brain can absorb concepts in a much better way from 'stories', than it can from 'pure teachings'. The text books I read as a student were like vitamin-pills... highly distilled, containing concepts in their purest forms. It's not a secret that students find it difficult to absorb and retain those concepts in such pure forms.

I have tried to make this book a 'natural carrier' of Internet maturity concepts, by presenting them through a story and dialogue. The story and dialogue sets a context in students' minds for every concept, and ensures that concepts are fed in a logical sequence.

Well, the idea of delivering concepts through stories is age-old, and thus time-tested. Panchatantra is a well known example in India. The most prominent & popular example is Bhagwad Geeta. The wisdom of Bhagwad Geeta (as Krishna himself says) is just a re-packaging of much more ancient knowledge, which is also available in many other scriptures. But the Bhagwad Geeta is still its most popular source... Why? (Hint: Story)

Not coincidentally, the main characters of my book are named Krish and Arjun. However, unlike the Geeta, the mood of discussion between my characters is quite light-hearted. May be, because they talk inside an office... not on a battlefield :)

My appeal to teachers and educationists: Please experiment with using stories for teaching concept-oriented subjects like mathematics, sciences, geography etc. I am sure *'Fiction for Curriculum'* can create a *'Currific'* genre of books, which students would love to read.

My bigger appeal to all readers: Please enjoy reading this book and recommend it to everybody in your circle who uses Internet frequently.

- Raghu Pandey

About The Author

Raghu Pandey is the Founder of iBranch.in – a pioneering web service in India, which provides *Knowledge Sharing Portals* to schools and colleges in an affordable and hassle-free manner.

He did his ~~Nursery from Modern Montessori, Bhop~~ B.E. in Computer Science from Barkatullah University (Bhopal, India) in 2002. For the next one year he was at University of Massachusetts (Dartmouth, USA) to pursue M.S. in Computer Science. Then the entrepreneurship bug bit him (badly). He dropped out and came back to India in the mid of 2003. His next two years were spent at International Institute of Information Technology (Pune, India) for pursuing M.S. Program in Advanced Networking & Telecommunication.

He started his company in 2005 in Bhopal, and launched iBranch.in in 2007. It has been eight years since Raghu is training students and teachers to make the best use of Internet in education. In these eight years he observed that students learn the ABC of Internet very fast, but do not go beyond it's EFG (Entertainment, Fun, & Gossip). They remain unaware of the real benefits of Internet and have limited knowledge of online safety risks and concepts like online reputation. All that has motivated Raghu to write this book.

Raghu is also an innovation consultant with two schools in Bhopal. This he does out of sheer passion of bringing 21st century innovations into educational institutes of India. This is his first book, so be careful! First-time author and first-time surgeon can be equally...

He can be reached at raghu@ibbranch.in. You can discuss your queries with him on forums of www.imature.in.

PART I
INTRODUCTION

1

Introduction

Arjun Wants to Become an iMature Student

Arjun was a student of class 12th in Drona Academy, a great school situated near Delhi, run by a famous scholar Sir Drona Aachaarya. Arjun sincerely studied all the subjects. He was very confident that no other student was as brilliant as him. After the final exams, he went to meet Sir Drona to thank him. He had scored 100% in all the subjects.

.....

Arjun: Sir! With your blessings I have scored 100% in all subjects. With some good luck I shall get admission into a good college. I really owe it to you sir.

Drona: Dear Arjun, it is all because of your hard work and focus. We will award you the title of '*Second Best Student*' of Drona Academy! Congratulations son!

Arjun: Excuse me sir... '*Second Best Student*'?! No other student has scored higher than me in any subject! Then why will I not get the '*Best Student*' award?

Drona: The '*Best Student*' award shall be given to Ekalavya.

Arjun: Ekalavya? Who is he? There is no student by this name in any section of class 12th!

Drona: Actually he was enrolled in our distance learning program. He too scored 100% in all subjects. But there is one extra thing that Ekalavya did, due to which we are giving him this award. He became an **'iMature student'**! I must say that boy is really good at self-learning.

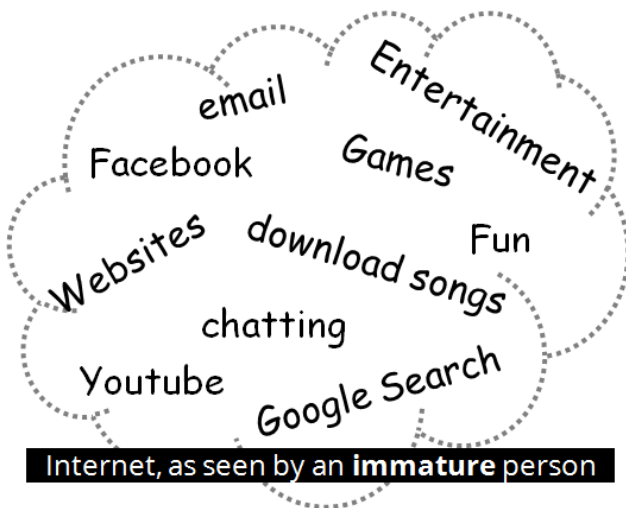
Arjun: **'iMature student'**... What's that sir?

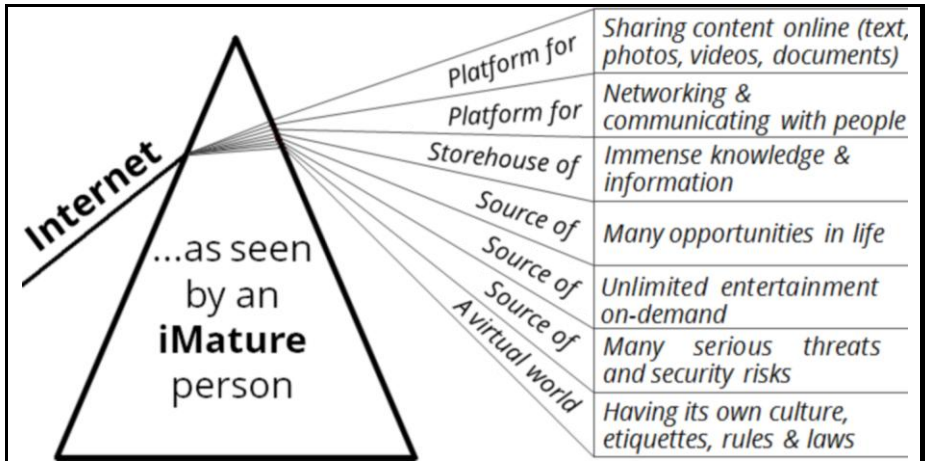
Drona: Read this document...

 Handout no. 1.1

What is iMature?

iMature means **'Internet Mature'** – a person who is mature user of Internet. An iMature person knows how to make the best use of Internet in personal & professional life. He or she also knows how to avoid all the negative effects of Internet. In 21st century, Internet has become a very important part of EVERYTHING that we do in life. Therefore in today's world we can say that **iMature is the opposite of immature.**





A person who is immature in using Internet, wastes a lot of time, loses good opportunities, and misses the real benefits of Internet... just like an ignorant tourist who goes to Agra but does not see Taj Mahal!

Why do students need to become iMature?



Reason #1

If you do not become iMature, your education would be 'incomplete' by 21st century standards.



Reason #2

If you become iMature you can take the maximum advantage of Internet in your education in school and college.



Reason #3

If you become iMature, you can attract great career opportunities through Internet.

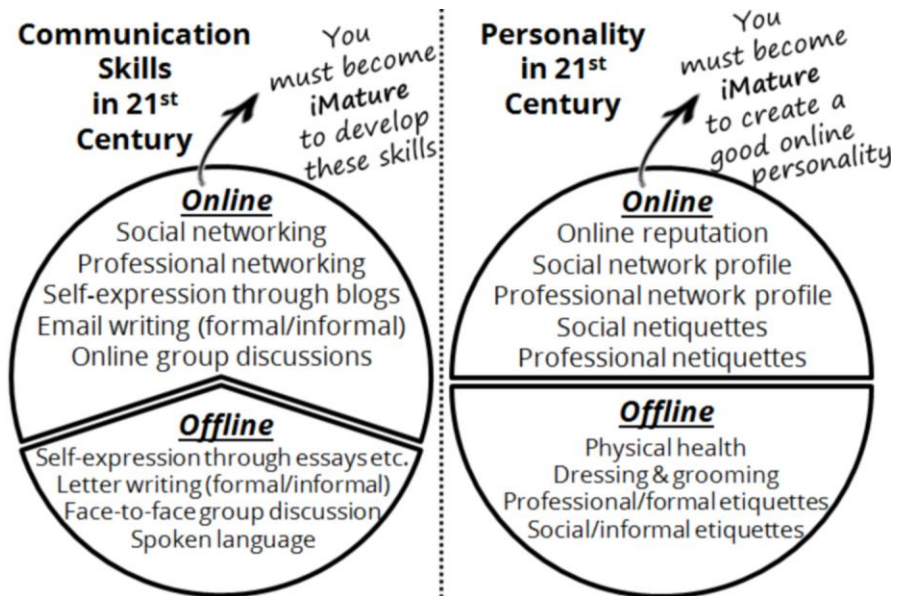


Reason #4

If you become iMature, you can protect yourself from the harmful effects of Internet.

Why will your education be incomplete, if you don't become iMature?

It is well known that along with academic knowledge of science, arts, commerce etc, students must develop Good Communication Skills, Self-Expression Skills and a Good Personality. These things are VERY important for becoming successful in professional and personal life (unless your goal is to meditate in Himalayas).



How can Internet help in your education?

Think of Internet as a Super Teacher!

- It never sleeps and never goes on vacations – Always ready to answer your queries 24x7.
- It is an ocean of information – Articles, videos, documents, etc. on almost every subject and topic in the world.
- It gives individual attention to each student and yet it can teach millions of students at the same time.
- It is very helpful to the students who are shy and hesitate to ask questions in the classroom.

So, even at 12 o' clock in the night if you want to learn how '*photosynthesis*' works, Internet can teach you. If you cannot find information on '*International Space Station*' in text books, you can find it on Internet. And whether you take 5 minutes to understand a topic or 5 hours, Internet will never ask you to hurry up. You may ask as many questions on a topic as you like, and Internet can patiently answer them all.

Why you must become iMature to take the maximum advantage of Internet in your education?

Although Internet can teach everything to everyone, it has some weaknesses...

- It cannot advise what information is relevant or irrelevant for you.
- It does not know whether the knowledge contained in an article or video is correct or not.
- It cannot stop you when you get distracted towards harmful information or activities.

Let's say you want to know "*how Newton discovered gravity*". When you search for this information on Internet, you may also find detailed information on "*apples*". You may also find an article which says "*Newton was hiding in an apple tree. When he fell on the ground, he discovered gravity*". You may also find a video which shows "*how to make a bomb which looks like an apple*". In this example it is easy to know which information is unnecessary, false, or harmful. But in many other cases it is difficult for an average person to decide how trustworthy an article, video, or website is.

An iMature student knows how to filter out the bad information and take the useful one. In other words he or she knows how to interact with the super-teacher called Internet.

Why you must become iMature to protect yourself from the harmful effects of Internet?

There are many students who are completely ignorant about the harmful effects of Internet on their lives. Some, who are aware about the online dangers, think that all the problems can be avoided by using an antivirus and firewall. But in addition to external threats like viruses and hackers, lot of other problems are caused by CARELESS USE of Internet. For example *Identity theft, Bad Online Reputation, Intellectual Property issues, Internet Addiction problems, Information Overload* etc. Plus, there are other threats like *Cyber Bullies* and *Online Predators*. Therefore students must become iMature to understand and avoid all these problems of 21st century life.

How can a student become iMature?

To become iMature, a student must...

1. Be comfortable in browsing Internet on all types of devices.
2. Understand What is 'Web 2.0'.
3. Be comfortable in creating digital content and sharing it online.
4. Be mature in Social Networking.
5. Know basics of Professional Networking.
6. Know how to discuss on Online Forums.
7. Know smart Blogging techniques for self-expression.
8. Know how to Find useful knowledge on Internet.
9. Know about 'Open Courseware' & 'Online Courses' for self learning.
10. Follow online safety rules.
11. Be a law abiding Netizen.
12. Know how to manage his or her Online Reputation.
13. Become a MASTER of Internet tools... not a SLAVE!

 Handout no. 1.1

Arjun (*after reading the document*): Sir, why didn't you give this to me before? I could have practiced these skills too!

Drona: It was there on our school website, Arjun! What do you do on Internet?

Arjun: I was always busy with my studies! Sir, I am really desperate to get the '*Best Student*' award. It has been my dream since the day I was born! Please do something.

Drona: Alright, Alright. See, the award will be given after one month. So, if you can master the skills required to become an iMature student before that, I shall recommend your name for the award. There is a friend of mine who can guide you really well. His name is Mr. Krishna Kumar. Note down his mobile number.

Arjun: Thank you very much Sir! I'll call him right now and take an appointment.

(Arjun goes to meet Mr. Krishna Kumar)

Arjun: Good morning Mr. Kumar.

Mr. Kumar: Hi Arjun. You can call me Krish. Tell me how can I help you?

Arjun: I wish to become an iMature student to get the '*Best Student*' award. But the problem is that I must learn all those skills in one month. For that I need your help.

Krish: Okay! So, fame is the motivation for learning! No problem, I'll guide you to learn all the skills required to become an iMature student. But remember, if you try to learn these skills only to get the '*Best Student*' award, you won't be able to master them. You must understand that in 21st century, these skills are required for a good quality education... and also for a successful career. After going through this exercise you will realize that Internet is much more than a fun-place to share

jokes & photos with friends. It is already an important part of our lives and its importance is growing day-by-day. So dear Arjun, you must become an iMature student... **to lead a successful life in the 21st century!**

We shall start your training from tomorrow. Good Luck!



Do -

- Discuss the reasons for becoming iMature with your parents, teachers and friends.

Think -

- Are you comfortable with browsing Internet on different devices, such as desktop, laptop, mobile phone, or tablet PC?



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Share this on LinkedIn >



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