

## **COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS ON ICT COMPETENCY AMONG UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS: A CASE STUDY OF TWO FACULTIES AT RAJARATA UNIVERSITY**

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In today's fast-paced world, proficiency in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is indispensable for undergraduate students as they transition into the workforce. This research project, conducted using students of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities and Faculty of Technology at Rajarata University, seeks to assess the baseline ICT knowledge and utilization of new technological tools among undergraduate students. The study collected data using Google Forms from 50 students representing various academic years from both faculties through a questionnaire. The primary objectives were to evaluate the students' familiarity with essential ICT competencies, such as efficient utilization of Microsoft Office, harnessing the capabilities of Google Workspace extensions for collaborative projects, and their understanding of artificial intelligence. The findings revealed a significant discrepancy between the two faculties. Students from the Faculty of Technology displayed a markedly higher level of basic ICT knowledge compared to their counterparts in the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities. Additionally, students from the social science and humanities faculty demonstrated a relatively limited grasp of the effective application of cutting-edge technological tools. These results underscore the pressing need to bridge the ICT knowledge gap among students pursuing programs in the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities. To ensure graduates are well-equipped for the dynamic demands of the modern job market, it is imperative that initiatives be put in place to provide these students with a foundational understanding of ICT and the capacity to harness technological innovations effectively. This research serves as a wake-up call for educators and policymakers to design and implement tailored programs aimed at enhancing the ICT skills of students in the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities. Empowering these students with the requisite knowledge and tools will not only improve their employability but also contribute to their ability to excel in an increasingly technology-driven world.

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