

ACCEPTING THE CHALLENGE OF INCLUDING DISADVANTAGED RURAL STUDENTS AT TERTIARY LEVEL

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***Abstract:** Every year millions of students are passing out their Higher Secondary Certificate Examinations from different colleges in Bangladesh. A large number of students among them are from rural areas with a lot of disadvantages compared to the urban students. Daffodil International University aims to take the challenge of including these disadvantaged rural students and equip them with Laptops to mitigate the gap between them and the urban students under One Student One Laptop Project initiated by the university. To verify the result of this project, a survey was conducted among two hundred (200) randomly picked students under One Student One Laptop project and from the statistical analysis of the survey data it was found that both rural and urban students have shown similar statistics of using their laptop. This result shows how dramatically can the rural disadvantaged students can be improved through the One Student One Laptop project initiated by Daffodil International University.*

***Keywords:** Tertiary, Education, Challenge, Rural, Disadvantaged.*

Introduction: Each year millions of students from rural areas of Bangladesh is passing out their Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) Examination and come to the capital Dhaka for Higher Education (Tertiary Level). These students are mostly counted as disadvantaged students as a large number of these students never had the opportunity to equip themselves with modern technology for their education. On the other hand urban students mostly have the opportunity to use modern technology in their education because of their parents' financial ability and institutions they studied at. As a result the rural disadvantaged students finds a huge gap between them and the urban students after their admission in a university in Bangladesh. This creates a problem for the teachers too as they have to take separate care for these disadvantaged rural students and still do not find a way to close the gap as it is hard for those students to manage themselves proper equipments required. Therefore, Daffodil International University for the first time in Bangladesh has taken initiative to equip the students with high end laptop computers under "One Student One Laptop" project. Under this project the university has already provided more than four thousand (4000) students with laptop computers. The project also includes special monitoring and grooming sessions for the students under the project.

Objective: The university has recently took a mass survey of two hundred randomly picked students under this project to verify and measure the result of the challenge taken by it and find out whether it is helping out to close the gap between rural and urban students in terms of technology and skills.

Methodology: A special survey form was developed by Human Resource Development Institute (HRDI) of Daffodil International University which then was provided to two hundred randomly picked students from different departments of the university to fill it in. Once the survey was completed the forms were collected and the data from it was placed within SPSS software for analysis.

Survey Form Used: The survey form used to conduct this study is as follows-

Student's Feedback on the Use of the Laptops Provided

Date: _____

Thank you for choosing DIU for your degree! The purpose of this survey is to determine the usefulness of the laptops provided by DIU. The survey is completely confidential. Only statistical use will be made of the data generated. Your name or ID is not stored anywhere. Answering questions is voluntary. You don't have to answer any questions that you feel uncomfortable with. The survey is for feedback purposes only. Please evaluate each statement carefully and circle the response closest to your best judgment.

Department: _____, Subject: _____, Section: _____

Background:

1) Are you? Pls circle your answer:

Male Female

2) Year of Birth: _____

3) Please tell us something about the college that you attended and marks:

a) Name of College: _____

b) Place/Location of College: _____

c) HSC GPA: _____, OR 'A' Level Results: _____, _____, _____

d) Bangla Marks/Grade: _____, English Marks/Grade: _____

4) How long have you lived in Dhaka before admission to Daffodil International University (DIU):

Less than	Around	Around	Around	Over
6 months	1 year	1.5 years	2 years	2 years

5) Does your father have a college or university degree? Yes No

6) Does your mother have a college or university degree? Yes No

7) Who encouraged you to study at university?

No	Father	Mother	Brother	Sister	Uncle	Self
One						

Why? What is the reason? _____

8) Pls circle which of the following Social Media tools you like using in general:

No Use	Facebook	LinkedIn	Twitter	Blogs	Other (Pls mention name)
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9) Pls circle the time for which you use Social Media tools for personal use daily:

Less than 30 mins	Around 1 hour	Around 2 hours	Around 3 hours	Around 4 hours	More than 4 hours
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10) Pls circle the time for which you use Internet on the laptop for personal use daily:

No Use	Less than 30 mins	Around 1 hour	Around 2 hours	Around 3 hours	Around 4 hours	More than 4 hours
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11) Do you enjoy reading? Yes No

12) If you do, please circle what language/s you read:

Bangla English Other, pls specify

13) Pls circle the amount of time you use your laptop daily:

No Time	Less than 15 mins	Around 30 mins	Around 1 hour	Around 2 hours	Over 2 hours
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14) Which date did you receive the laptop? _____

15) Pls mention how you use the laptop:

16) Has the laptop made a difference to your life? Mention how the laptop has benefitted you:

17) Pls circle the amount of time you use browsers like Google to find material you need for study:

No Time	Less than 15 mins	Around 30 mins	Around 1 hour	Around 2 hours	Over 2 hours
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18) Pls circle the amount of time you use your laptop daily for other personal work:

No Time	Less than 15 mins	Around 30 mins	Around 1 hour	Around 2 hours	Over 2 hours
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19) Pls circle the amount of time you use your laptop daily for wordprocessing, emailing, preparing presentations and other university work:

No Time	Less than 15 mins	Around 30 mins	Around 1 hour	Around 2 hours	Over 2 hours
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20) Do you have any suggestions, recommendations for the “One-Student-One-Laptop” facility at DIU?

- 21) Have you sold the laptop you received? Yes No
- 22) Did you have access to a computer before receiving the laptop? Yes No
- 23) What kind of service is the laptop giving?
- a) Very good service
 - b) Good service
 - c) No opinion
 - d) Poor service (breaks down often)
 - e) Very poor service (cannot use the laptop)
- 24) To improve student benefit from the laptop scheme, what recommendations would you make?

Statistical Data Analysis:

Rural or Urban: The chart below shows the percent of rural and urban students among the students participated in the survey.

Rural or Urban	
Rural (%)	Urban (%)
65	35

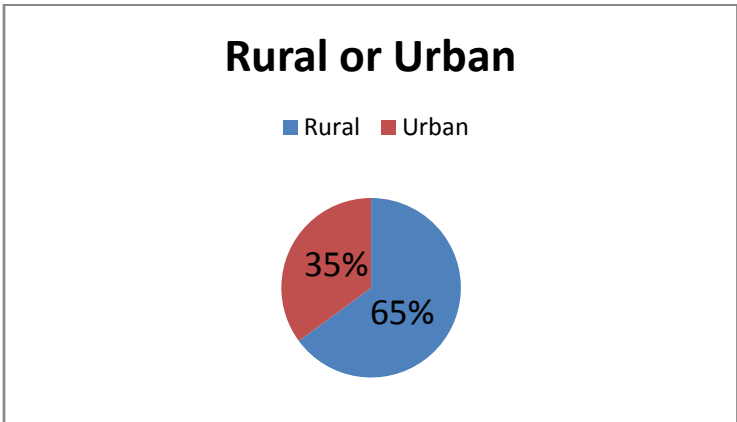


Figure 1 Rural Vs Urban

Use of Social Media: The table and chart below shows the amount of time the urban students spends for social media using their laptops.

Social media use (Urban Students)				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
No use	1	.9	.9	.9
Less than 30 minutes	26	22.8	23.0	23.9
Around 1 hour	40	35.1	35.4	59.3
Around 2 hours	25	21.9	22.1	81.4
Around 3 hours	8	7.0	7.1	88.5
Around 4 hours	10	8.8	8.8	97.3
More than 4 hours	3	2.6	2.7	100.0
Total	113	99.1	100.0	
Missing System	1	.9		
Total	114	100.0		

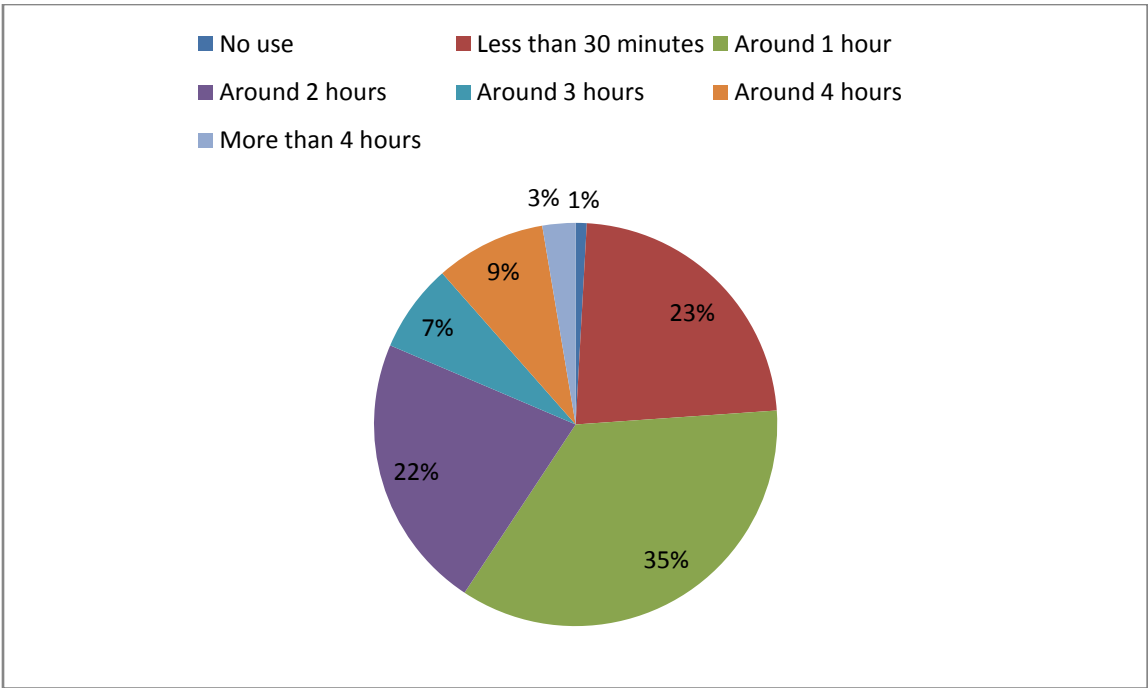


Figure 2 Social Media use (Urban Students)

The table and chart below shows the use of social media for rural students using their laptops.

Social Media Use (Rural Students)				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
No use	3	4.2	4.4	4.4
Less than 30 minutes	18	25.4	26.5	30.9
Around 1 hour	22	31.0	32.4	63.2
Around 2 hours	18	25.4	26.5	89.7
Around 3 hours	4	5.6	5.9	95.6
Around 4 hours	2	2.8	2.9	98.5
More than 4 hours	1	1.4	1.5	100.0
Total	68	95.8	100.0	
Missing System	3	4.2		
Total	71	100.0		

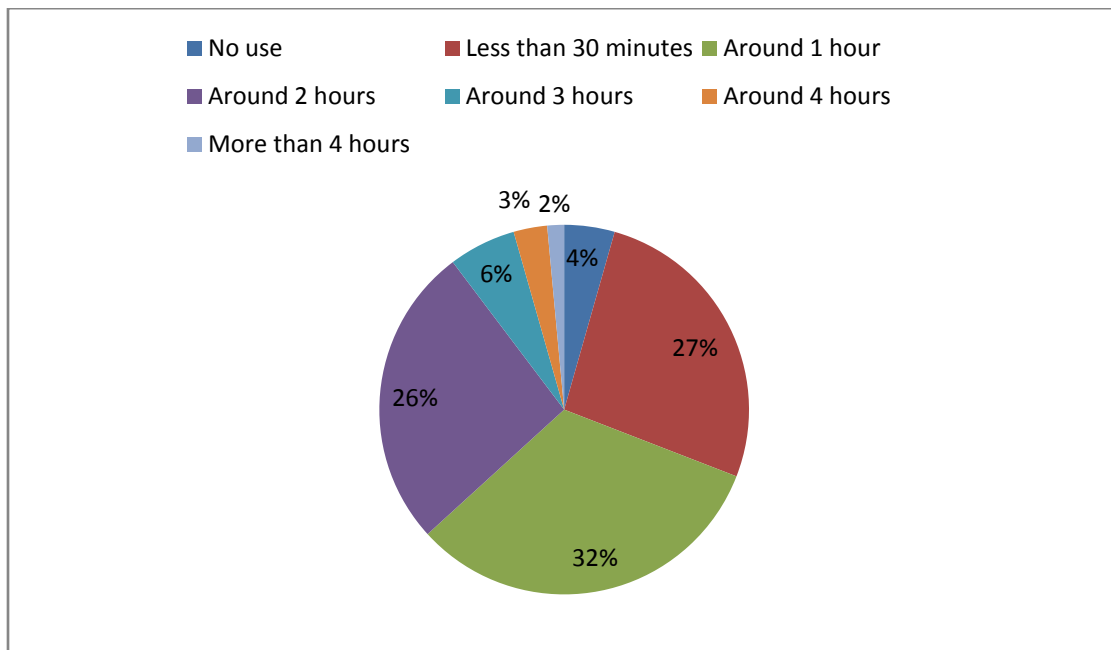


Figure 3 Social Media Use (Rural Students)

Personal Use: The data table and chart below shows the amount of time urban students spends on their laptop for their personal use.

Personal Use (Urban Students)				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
No use	8	7.0	7.2	7.2
Less than 30 minutes	9	7.9	8.1	15.3
Around 1 hour	34	29.8	30.6	45.9
Around 2 hours	26	22.8	23.4	69.4
Around 3 hours	14	12.3	12.6	82.0
Around 4 hours	13	11.4	11.7	93.7
More than 4 hours	7	6.1	6.3	100.0
Total	111	97.4	100.0	
Missing System	3	2.6		
Total	114	100.0		

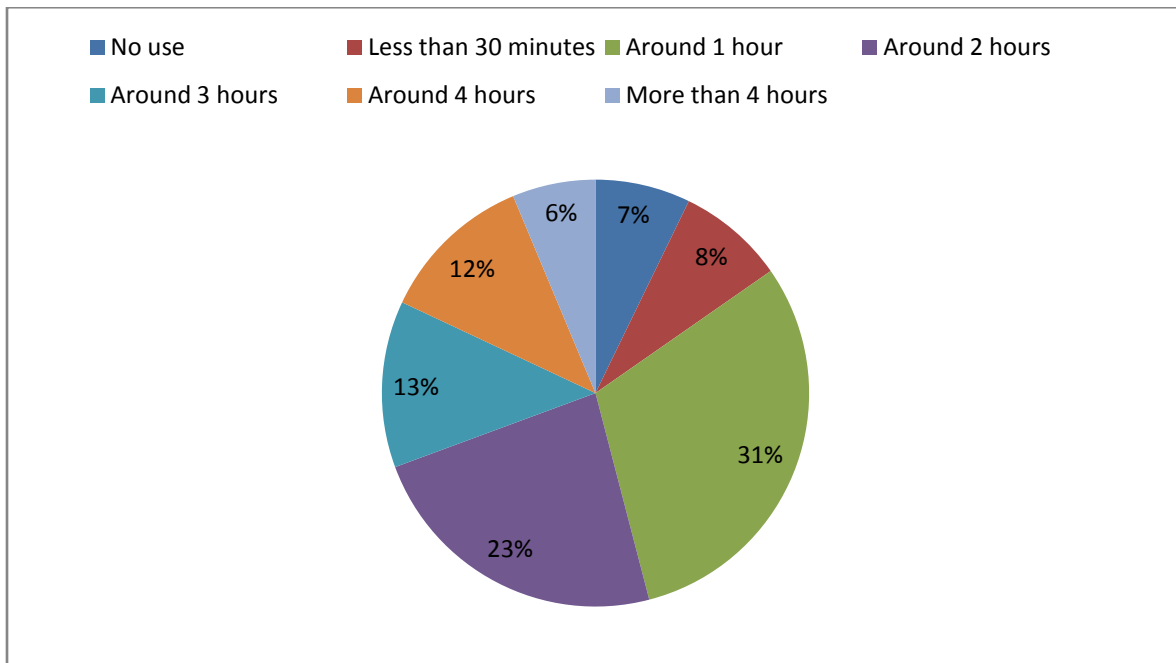


Figure 4 Personal Use (Urban Students)

The data table and chart below shows the amount of time rural students spends on their laptops for personal use.

Personal Use (Rural Students)				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
No use	4	5.6	5.7	5.7
Less than 30 minutes	8	11.3	11.4	17.1
Around 1 hour	17	23.9	24.3	41.4
Around 2 hours	23	32.4	32.9	74.3
Around 3 hours	9	12.7	12.9	87.1
Around 4 hours	7	9.9	10.0	97.1
More than 4 hours	2	2.8	2.9	100.0
Total	70	98.6	100.0	
System	1	1.4		
Total	71	100.0		

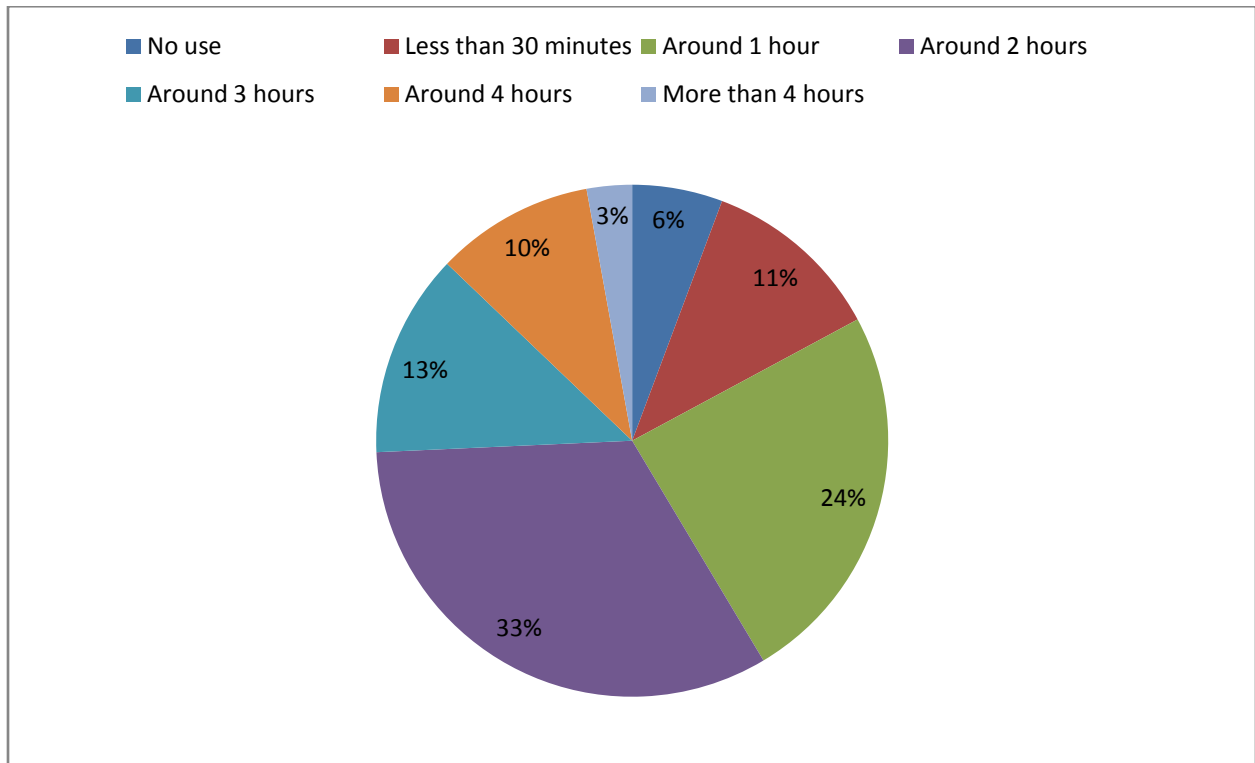


Figure 5 Personal Use (Rural Students)

Laptop use for study: The data table and chart shows the amount of time urban students spend on their laptop for their study purpose.

Laptop use for Study (Urban Students)					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
	No Time	5	4.4	4.5	4.5
	Less Than 15 mins	7	6.1	6.3	10.8
	Around 30 mins	23	20.2	20.7	31.5
	Around 1 hour	39	34.2	35.1	66.7
	Around 2 hour	13	11.4	11.7	78.4
	Over 2 hour	24	21.1	21.6	100.0
	Total	111	97.4	100.0	
	Missing System	3	2.6		
Total		114	100.0		

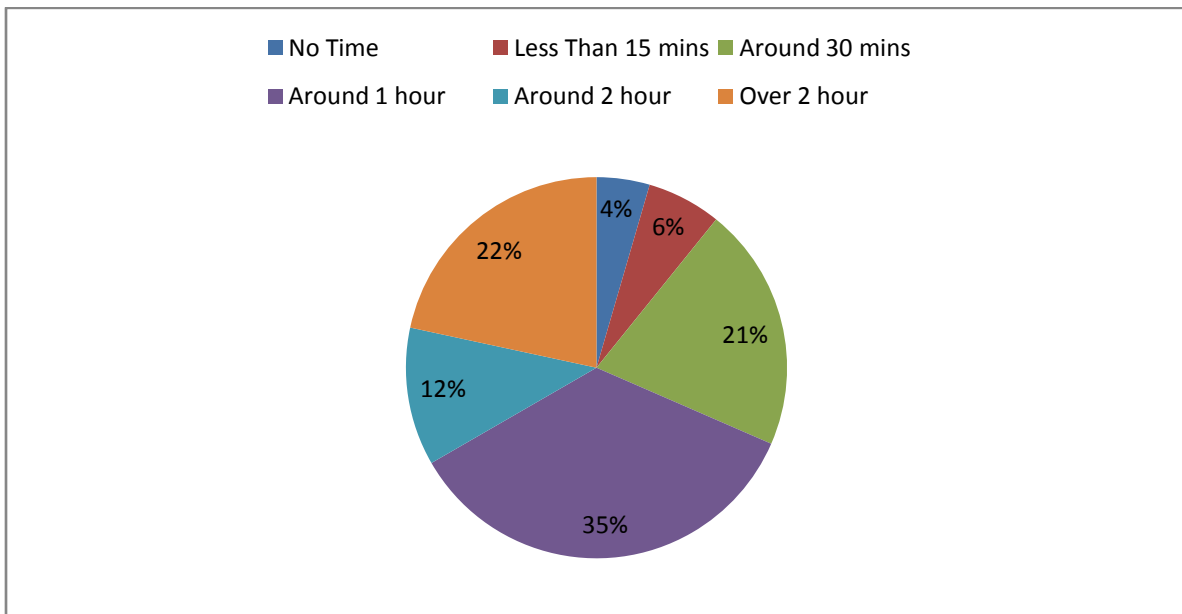


Figure 6 Laptop use for Study (Urban Students)

The following data table and chart shows the amount of time rural students spend on their laptop for study purpose.

Laptop use for Study (Rural Students)					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
	No Time	3	4.2	4.3	4.3
	Less Than 15 mins	2	2.8	2.9	7.2
	Around 30 mins	21	29.6	30.4	37.7
	Around 1 hour	21	29.6	30.4	68.1
	Around 2 hour	16	22.5	23.2	91.3
	Over 2 hour	6	8.5	8.7	100.0
	Total	69	97.2	100.0	
	Missing System	2	2.8		
Total		71	100.0		

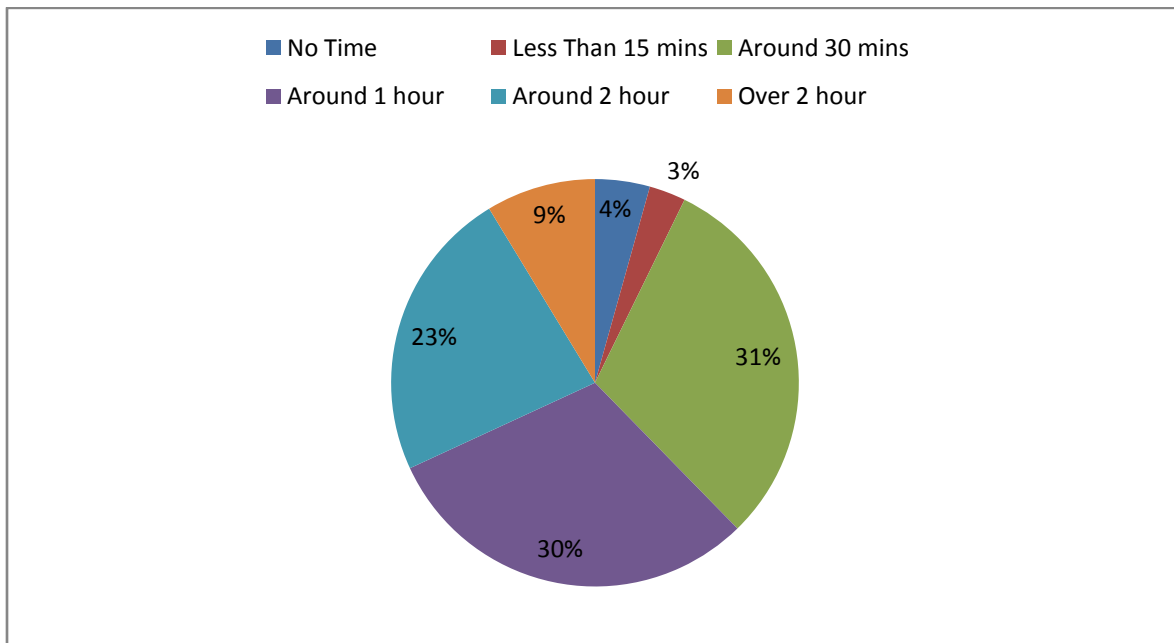


Figure 7 Laptop use for Study (Rural Students)

Study Result: From these three criteria based on the use of given laptop for social media, personal use and study purpose we found that there is very little gap and in some cases the result is similar. The result thus confirms that the "One Student One Laptop" project initiated by Daffodil International University is playing a major role in modernizing the rural disadvantaged students by minimizing the gap between rural and urban students in terms of technical skills and knowledge which will later on play a necessary role for their career after graduation.

Conclusion: Daffodil International University through its "One Student One Laptop" project has been successful in taking in the challenge of urbanizing the disadvantaged rural students at tertiary level.

References:

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