

Investigation of Elementary School Teacher Candidates' Problematic Internet Usage In Terms of Some Variables

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Summary

INTRODUCTION

In recent years, while internet utilization increased drastically, it has also brought many risks. One of the fundamental problem is problematic internet usage behavior. Problematic internet utilization is described as, because of usage of internet, individuals develop problems in work, school or some dysfunctional behaviors in family life, has difficulty in controlling their internet utilization and obsessive usage of internet (Kim and Davis, 2009). When it was seen from this perspective, problematic internet usage cause problems in academic, social and financial dimensions of individual life (Ceyhan, 2010). Because the age of utilization of computers and communication devices are decreasing, it is important to know the elementary school teacher candidates position about this matter. There is no research found about elementary school teachers' problematic internet usages. Therefore, this research aimed at identifying the contribution of education about conscious and controlled internet usage, sex, educational level and daily consumption to the conscious internet utilization.

METHODS

The study was conducted in the academic year of 2015-2016, in Abant İzzet Baysal University. The participants were 294 students enrolled in elementary school teacher program. Internet addiction scale (Şahin and Korkmaz, 2011) and demographic information form are used. Internet addiction scale composed of 19 items and 3 dimensions those are; "losing control", "desire to stay more online" and "problems in social relationships". Statistical analysis were done with SPSS 20.0 package program. Kruskal Wallis and Mann Whitney-U non-parametric tests and frequency analysis are done for data analysis.

FINDINGS

The results show that sex did not cause any difference in problematic internet usage. As far educational level, upper class students demonstrated less problematic internet usage, which was statistically significant. Students who use internet longer daily had higher problematic internet usage than the less users. Students who reported controlled and conscious usage demonstrated less problematic internet utilization than those not reported being controlled and conscious users. For those who identified themselves in need of education about internet usage, has demonstrated more problematic internet usage behavior than who identified themselves no need for education.

DISCUSSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

There were no difference in problematic internet usage between male and female students, this is may be both male and female students has equal opportunity to reach the internet. Nowadays, male and female students are able to reach phone and internet equally.

While some literature reports more problematic internet usage for male students, and other female students. Similar to this research, in some other previous research reported no significant gender differences. For those who spend longer hours in internet manifested more problematic behavior than those used less internet. This proves that, spending more time on internet somehow cause more problematic behaviors. As the education level increased, the problematic internet utilization decreased. This may be due to the fact that senior students were studying for Public Personnel Selection Exam (PPSE). The PPSE is very strict and requires serious preparation when senior students are preparing this exam; they had to reduce their daily internet consumption. The results reveals that some of the elementary school teacher candidates do not use information and communication devices in an appropriate manner. Furthermore, a significant portion of teacher candidates (%36) reported that they need education about usage of communication and information tools in conscious and controlled manner which will function as a protective factor.

Further research may focus on other variables when investigating elementary school teachers' internet usage habits and trends. Besides that, especially young generations born in digital age and the teachers involve in their education should be educated about internet utilization on. Educational programs and seminars gears toward conscious and controlled utilization of internet are imperative for being healthy and functional users.