

Parents' Awareness about Positive and Negative Impact of Internet Use

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Abstract

Objective: To assess the internet addicted teenagers' parents' awareness about positive and negative impact of internet use.

Methods: A survey was conducted to find out the parents' awareness about positive and negative impact of internet use by distributing a questionnaire to the parents of those teenagers already identified as internet addicted.

Results: 70.3% mothers of internet addicted teenagers agreed that internet is useful to support in education and 78.7% mothers agreed that internet is useful for attaining information whereas 100% fathers agreed that internet is very useful to supports education and attaining information, 49% mothers and 71.4% fathers believed internet is useful for individual development whereas 78% mothers and 97.4% fathers believed that internet is very useful for communication and entertainment, 57.6% mothers of internet addicted teenagers believed that internet somewhat facilitate easy access to child unfriendly contents whereas 100% fathers of the internet addicted teenagers believed that internet very much facilitate easy access to child unfriendly contents, 70.3% mothers and 65.3% fathers had the opinion that internet somewhat has negative effect on individual's life, 64% mothers believed that internet somewhat puts negative impact on human psychology on the other hand 100% fathers believed that internet somewhat puts negative impact on human psychology, 76.3% mothers and 64.2% fathers agreed that internet somewhat has negative impact on physical health.

Conclusion: Though teenagers' parents have some knowledge about the positive and negative impact of internet, they have poor control over their children or, they don't know the strategic management for prevention and management of internet addiction.

Keywords: Parents' awareness; WHO; Positive; Negative; Impact; Internet; Use

Introduction

Internet has brought epidemiological transition in the society. Benefits of internet are uncountable but unwise use leads to several negative issues too [1-8]. Though people of all the age groups were found addicted to internet as shown by several studies [9-20] in which teenagers also suffering from such addiction, Parents regard Internet as a window opening to the whole world and as a tool to attain information. Moreover, parents aware about the positive and negative effects of internet use. Determining the views of parents about children's Internet use is of great importance for parents to carry out their responsibilities [21]. Therefore parents need to know the strategic management for prevention and management of internet addiction. The present study was conducted to assess the internet addicted teenagers' parents' awareness about positive and negative impact of internet use.

Materials and Methods

A survey was conducted to find out the parents' awareness about positive and negative impact of internet use by distributing a questionnaire to the parents of those teenagers already identified as internet addicted. Questionnaire printed in both English and local language. The questionnaire is a 5-point likert scale that measures the parent's opinion about the positive and negative use as 1= never, 2= sometimes, 3= not sure, 4= often, and 5= always. It is a reliable tool with test-retest reliability coefficient 0.86 value. The tool is a 34-item questionnaire, measures parent's opinion about positive and negative impact of internet use. The questionnaire contains both positive and negative statements. The study was approved by the Ethics Committee at MGM Institute of Health Sciences and Permission obtained from the principals of the schools, also written consent taken from the parents of

the teens as well as assent taken from the teens.

Result

Depicts 70.3% mothers of internet addicted teenagers agreed that internet is useful to support in education and 78.7% mothers agreed that internet is useful for attaining information whereas 100% fathers agreed that internet is very useful to supports education and attaining information, 49% mothers and 71.4% fathers believed internet is useful for individual development whereas 78% mothers and 97.4% fathers believed that internet is very useful for communication and entertainment (Table 1).

57.6% mothers of internet addicted teenagers believed that internet somewhat facilitate easy access to child unfriendly contents whereas 100% fathers of the internet addicted teenagers believed that internet very much facilitate easy access to child unfriendly contents, 70.3% mothers and 65.3% fathers had the opinion that internet somewhat has negative effect on individual's life, 64% mothers believed that internet somewhat puts negative impact on human psychology on the other hand 100% fathers believed that internet somewhat puts negative impact on human psychology, 76.3% mothers and 64.2% fathers agreed that internet somewhat has negative impact on physical health (Table 2).

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Received October 22, 2018 **Accepted** November 21, 2018; **Published** November 28, 2018

Citation: Begum F (2018) Parents' Awareness about Positive and Negative Impact of Internet Use. Int J Pub Health Safe 3: 170.

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Positive effects		Not useful	Somehow useful	Useful	Very useful
		n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
Support education	Mother	0 (0)	64 (14.1)	320 (70.3)	71 (15.6)
	Father	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	455 (100)
Attaining information	Mother	0 (0)	71 (15.6)	358 (78.7)	26 (5.7)
	Father	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	455 (100)
Individual development	Mother	17 (3.7)	104 (22.9)	223 (49)	111 (24.4)
	Father	0 (0)	14 (3.1)	325 (71.4)	116 (25.5)
Communication and entertainment	Mother	0 (0)	0 (0)	100 (22)	355 (78)
	Father	0 (0)	0 (0)	12 (2.6)	443 (97.4)
		n=455			

Table 1: Awareness on positive effects of internet use among parents of internet addicted teenagers.

Negative effects		Not at all	Rarely	Somewhat	Very much
		n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
Easy access to child unfriendly contents	Mother	0 (0)	170 (37.1)	262 (57.6)	24 (5.3)
	Father	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	455 (100)
Individual's life	Mother	0 (0)	61 (13.4)	320 (70.3)	74 (16.3)
	Father	0 (0)	76 (16.7)	297 (65.3)	82 (18)
Human psychology	Mother	2 (0.4)	134 (29.5)	291 (64)	28 (6.2)
	Father	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	455 (100)
Physical health	Mother	20 (4.4)	69 (15.2)	347 (76.3)	19 (4.2)
	Father	1 (2)	68 (14.9)	292 (64.2)	94 (20.7)
		n=455			

Table 2: Awareness regarding negative effects of internet use among parents of internet addicted teenagers.

Discussion

70.3% mothers of internet addicted teenagers agreed that internet is useful to support in education and 78.7% mothers agreed that internet is useful for attaining information whereas 100% fathers agreed that internet is very useful to supports education and attaining information, 49% mothers and 71.4% fathers believed internet is useful for individual development whereas 78% mothers and 97.4% fathers believed that internet is very useful for communication and entertainment. Fifty seven point six percent mothers of internet addicted teenagers believed that internet somewhat facilitate easy access to child unfriendly contents whereas 100% fathers of the internet addicted teenagers believed that internet very much facilitate easy access to child unfriendly contents, 70.3% mothers and 65.3% fathers had the opinion that internet somewhat has negative effect on individual's life. Sixty four percent mothers believed that internet somewhat puts negative impact on human psychology on the other hand 100% fathers believed that internet somewhat puts negative impact on human psychology, 76.3% mothers and 64.2% fathers agreed that internet somewhat has negative impact on physical health. The study has its support from the previous study conducted by Isil Kabakci that reported [21].

Conclusion

Though teenagers' parents have some knowledge about the positive and negative impact of internet, they have poor control over their children or, they don't know the strategic management for prevention and management of internet addiction. Therefore parents should be sensitized about the strategic management of positive and negative impact of internet use.

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