

## DOUBT OF THE PARENTS TOWARDS THE CHILDREN OF EXCESSIVE USE OF THE INTERNET

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### **Abstract**

**Purpose:** Long stay of children and youth in front of computer is associated with harmful effects on physical development but also in psychological behavior. Our study aimed to verify the parents' doubts about the negative effects of excessive use of internet by their children.

**Study methods and material:** in prospective study conducted from March to August 2016, it has been involved a group of 300 persons that were interviewed, residing in Pristina city and the suburb. In the sample of the respondents were involved people divided into three groups. The first group, children between 10-17 years, the second group, younger people between 18-25 years and the third group of parents who have children aged 10-30 years. For the three groups, data collection was conducted through special questionnaires. Each of the questionnaires contained 15 questions. Questions have been closed, open and alternative with more than one answer. For the analysis of results of the research we have used the comparison method, kauzio-experimental method and the method of observation (research).

**Results and Discussion:** the study comprised 53% male and 47% female. Over 50% of the children were watching fighting games (scary) horror films, pornography and they're talking with strangers. Only about 10% of the children did not talk about fighting movies and upheaval regimes. Over 65% of parents accept that their children use the Internet longer and they are more aggressive, more anxious, more irritable, intolerant, very pathetic, etc.

**Conclusion:** Spending too much time in front of computer on the Internet, besides the physical disorders, it can adversely affect a child's psychosocial development.

**Keywords:** Parent's doubts, scary games, horror movies on the Internet, smart appliances, internet addiction.

## 1. Introduction

The rapid development of information and communication technology (ICT), increase the speed of the Internet, especially monitoring of wireless internet (wifi), has greatly facilitated getting information in real time. Mobile electronic devices known as smart devices such as: Smart Phone [7], notebook-s, laptops, smart table, etc. are enabling distance learning via e-learning and m-learning. Seeing this opportunity, various global agencies, every day and more, they launch different web portals, social networks, chat rooms, and other opportunities of different communication with the world's most valuable of this globe-youth [5]. So: What are they learning?; With whom they communicate for so long?; What are the topics of conversations? And a range of other dilemmas, precisely, more and more parents across the world are concerned in general, in particular Albanian parents.

Today, they are now in dilemma: Are they helping their children to achieve new valuable knowledge and beneficial to society or simply they're just "allowing" their assimilation in one-way street oversetting this society.

For centuries, a saying is known in Albanian: "There is nothing harder than being a parent." Did this dilemma today is even more powerful than ever before. Children stay for hours throughout the week, in front of computer connected to the internet. Through this "surfing" around the world and by talking, even being "socialized" virtually with others without knowing to anything other than what they say. But how they tell the truth? Parents are in dilemmas. Who would say what is the purpose of the various groups that stand for hours and hours "hunting" on internet to get our children into their observation?

But why this entire dilemma raised by parents for their children? Is this a signal of behaviors of their children [8], which varies from day to day, such as their aggressiveness, their strange behavior conform the family culture and the district in which they live, loss of motivation to be close to the broad family, being stuck for hours in cubicles and other rooms of the house, obesity, apathy, loss of interest of the real world and many other indicators, have made the parents to be in great dilemma. This brings up the question: What is the direction of the journey of this generation?

It is the optimal time to set up Albanian team of experts who deal with emotions and behavior studies of children to understand at what stage our children achieved in obviating from the true path of education. In order to remove these dilemmas it has been conducted a research with both children and parents of Pristina and its surrounding.

## 2. Literature review

A range of reviewed manuscripts has commenced this research which as a theme had the consequences of excessive use of the Internet, various abuses of teens such as: sexual, stimulant hatred toward others, deep separations of the people on ethnic grounds, racial, religious, etc.

Here we will mention the manuscript titled "The impact of the use of computers in the development of children and teens" authored by KaveriSubrahmanyam [3], which is available at the following link:

[http://www.cdmc.ucla.edu/Published\\_Research\\_files/spkg-2001.pdf](http://www.cdmc.ucla.edu/Published_Research_files/spkg-2001.pdf). This study shows the impact of the use of computers at home for the children and adolescents in their right development. Various surveys were conducted during research that shows the truth about the use of the Internet, the benefits to academic life as well as negative sides on the impact of young people and teens in their right development. Social changes were also reviewed, violent behavior and aggressiveness that they have gained during their excessive use of computers. The survey concludes with recommendations for new research that positively affect the proper use of the computer in order to have a healthy society with trained and educated youth.

"The impact of technology in the classroom of behavior of the students" [2], the author Angeline M. Lavin, has published a comprehensive research which can be found at this link: <http://www.aabri.com/manuscripts/10472.pdf>. The rapid development of information technology has created the need to change the approach of teachers in the classroom. Interference is done in the subject's literatures ICT, publishing a particular supplement which has to do with changes in information and communication technology (ICT), guidelines for the use of smart technology devices as the time imperative. The purpose of this study was to examine if the use of the computers in classroom has an impact on behavior of the students in school and how it affect the increase of the quality of education. Final results concludes that the use of computers has increased the success, the desire to take extra lessons, interest to get more data, the demand for interactive lessons, the highest participation in discussions, etc.

## 3. Materials and methods

During this research there were involved a total of 300 respondents. They were divided into three groups:

- The first group of children aged 10-17 years;
- The second group of young people aged 18-25 years and
- The third group of parents with children aged 10-30 years.

These groups are divided into subgroups: according to gender (male and female), who comes from the city and rural areas.

Parents are selected of those with children aged over 10 years, with aim that they could make the difference in the behavior of children who stays close to the computer connected on internet. Children's behavior after staying online, fighting games [6], chat rooms, social networks, changes in their behavior, withdrawals in their room, unusual requirements and aggressive interventions during conversations with other family members.

For data collection a questionnaire was used as a material which has been unique for the three groups. They included a total of 10 questions. Questions have been closed, open and alternative with more than one answer. The questionnaire was developed in the period of six months starting from March 2016 until August 2016.

The methods used for this study were the following: comparison, kauzio-experimental and the methods of observation (research).

Comparison Method.- Through this method [1], we compare the behavior of children, who comes from rural areas, gender (male and female), age group of 10-17, to those from 18-25 years , length of stay in front of computer those with restrictions and without time limit.

Kauzio-experimental method [4] .- The group of children living in urban centers and that constantly use the Internet and a group of children who use the Internet in a controlled and limited time from 1-2 hours per day.

The method of observation (research) [1] -the monitoring of the children has been made with the reviewing of their behavior after staying for unlimited time online, without checking on what they read and with whom they communicate in social networks or chat rooms or other things, to the children who are restrained in the use of computers in duration and surfing through different portals, in the use of internet to learn from distance e-learning.

### 3.1. Samples

The group of interviewed, as we said, fulfills the number of 300 respondents. They're divided into three groups of 100 people for each group. Children are divided by group age 10-17 years old and 18-25 years old. The group of parents was approximately divided into two subgroups, those that are in urban and rural areas.

### 3.2. Analysis

To lay out conclusions as accurate, the questionnaire was sent to children separately without realizing their parents that they are responding to the research. Since the content of the questions had to do with the need to know that when they first have seen pornographic images, by whom they are instructed to follow, which war games they play, what movies they watch, with which communities they interact, what age are they and what they are attracted to. The analysis of aggressive behavior of the children towards others has been made too, emergence of depression and the increasing trend [9], the early loss of self-control [10], [11], the loss of respect for the elderly, aggressiveness when the electricity was interrupted or the internet duration has expired. While parents who have children aged over 10 years were analyzed their responses that have expressed their concern about the arrogance of the children when they have banned to stay online, when they're asked to say to whom they're talking, from which country are coming their online interlocutors, what topics they discuss and especially when they are asked to show the password (a password) to which they are subscribed on social networks, chat room-e, etc. parents who live in rural areas or those who keep their children under control during the time they spend online. The conversation they make before and after with their favorites online or virtual society. How do they see their life without the Internet and what do they notice when they prohibit their children to stay for long time in the computer connected to the internet. How do the children react when the parents ask them to visit relatives who do not have access to the Internet and when they do not have kids of their age. Analysis is done to learn how is the ratio of girls towards boys who "surf" across the Internet.

### 2.3. Statistics

By respondents there were 45% boys and 55% girls aged 10-17 years; 40% of boys and 60% girls aged 18-25 years. These young people came from urban and rural areas. The interviewed parents were approximately 50% to 50% according to their gender, while 60% of them were from the city and others from the surroundings.

## 4. Results

After collecting the questionnaires, analysis and statistics we achieved the results shown in the Tables 1, 2 and 3.

Table 1. Location, age and the gender of respondents

	Residence		Age		Gender	
	Pristina	Near Pristina	10-17 yrs	18-25 yrs	Male	Female
GroupI (10-17)	48	52	100		60	40
GroupII (18-25)	46	54		100	49	51
GroupIIIparent.	55	45	35 – 55yrs		53	47

Table2. Trials of children Group I (10-17 years) and Group II (18-25)

Giving option	Completely disagree	Disagree	Undecided	Agree	Completely agree
During my stay in front of computer, I use the fighting games, which I try to apply in the real life (with members of the family, society, street etc.)	G. I. 19 % G.II. 27 %	G. I. 18 % G.II. 27 %	G. I. 10 % G.II. 9 %	G. I. 30 % G.II. 28 %	G. I. 23 % G.II. 9 %
On the Internet I have seen horror movies, pornographic scenes and I chat with lot of strangers	G. I. 7 % G.II. 3 %	G. I. 8 % G.II. 5 %	G. I. 5 % G.II. 22 %	G. I. 35 % G.II. 20 %	G. I. 45 % G.II. 50 %
The conversations on internet have themes: martial movies, for the future that needs to be changed, and religion	G. I. 5 % G.II. 4 %	G. I. 6 % G.II. 5 %	G. I. 5 % G.II. 6 %	G. I. 35 % G.II. 35 %	G. I. 49 % G.II. 50 %
During conversations we're invited to see each other, to travel abroad in the future, to create a society with more members	G. I. 40 % G.II. 41 %	G. I. 45 % G.II. 46 %	G. I. 7 % G.II. 6 %	G. I. 5 % G.II. 4 %	G. I. 3 % G.II. 3 %
Virtual life is more pleasant, it gives me more hope and I prefer the most	G. I. 10 % G.II. 15 %	G. I. 15 % G.II. 18 %	G. I. 3 % G.II. 2 %	G. I. 40 % G.II. 30 %	G. I. 32 % G.II. 35 %
If your parents ask you to show the password of all users, you will not give it to them.	G. I. 1 % G.II. 3 %	G. I. 1 % G.II. 2 %	G. I. 3 % G.II. 2 %	G. I. 40 % G.II. 35 %	G. I. 55 % G.II. 58 %
Now since a long time you're	G. I. 20 %	G. I. 15 %	G. I. 10 %	G. I. 25 %	G. I. 30 %

socializing with someone through the internet. You prefer to be seen and stroll into town to get to know each other better.	G.II. 20 %	G.II. 12 %	G.II. 9 %	G.II. 30 %	G.II. 29 %
Lessons and tasks I obtain from friends on internet.	G. I. 20 % G.II. 21 %	G. I. 27 % G.II. 23 %	G. I. 5 % G.II. 8 %	G. I. 18 % G.II. 20 %	G. I. 30 % G.II. 28 %
I prefer not to meet relatives of the family because they are not "cool".	G. I. 5 % G.II. 6 %	G. I. 7 % G.II. 11 %	G. I. 10 % G.II. 10 %	G. I. 40 % G.II. 40 %	G. I. 38 % G.II. 33 %
Teachers constantly speak to us that we should care of the various frauds that may be offered by the internet	G. I. 45 % G.II. 47 %	G. I. 40 % G.II. 38 %	G. I. 3 % G.II. 5 %	G. I. 7 % G.II. 6 %	G. I. 5 % G.II. 4 %
Educative portals exist that guide us on how to protect ourselves enough from various online abuses	G. I. 60 % G.II. 7 %	G. I. 25 % G.II. 20 %	G. I. 3 % G.II. 20 %	G. I. 7 % G.II. 20 %	G. I. 5 % G.II. 20 %

Table3. Parent's trials regarding behaviors of the children during and after work of computer online

Circle the letter under the given option	Completely disagree	Disagree	Undecided	Agree	Completely agree
During their stay in front of computer children are spending their time and they don't require to go out	11 %	12 %	3 %	30 %	34 %
On the internet, the children see different movies that helps them a lot	10 %	15 %	3 %	40 %	32 %
The conversations that children make on internet help them to learn foreign languages, culture and traditions of their society	20 %	30 %	5 %	20 %	25 %
During the time that children interact with others on the Internet, I request them to know that with whom they're related to and	17 %	13 %	5 %	30 %	35 %

what they're talking about.					
Spending too much time on the Internet has made children aggressive, intolerant, irritable, stressful etc.	17 %	13 %	5 %	30 %	35 %
Once I asked the password and the username to my children, they reacted with the disclosure statement as: "Don't you trust on us?"	12 %	15 %	3 %	35 %	35 %
After talks on the internet, the children insist to go out for a while with their friends. Due to the fear I will not let them go	18 %	18 %	5 %	29 %	30 %
Lessons and tasks they're taking from their mates on internet. This has facilitated our job	10 %	12 %	3 %	35 %	40 %
Recently, children do not come to family visit. This worries me a lot	4 %	6 %	5 %	40 %	45 %
I constantly talk to my children on how to beware of frauds that might be offered by the internet	2 %	2 %	2 %	44 %	50 %
There is a need of educative portals that guide the children to be protected from the abuse on the internet	3 %	2 %	1 %	42 %	52 %

## 5. Discussions

From the Table 1 we understand that:

- The research involved three groups of interviewed, of which two groups are children and one group is parents;
- Children are aged from 10-17 years and 18-25 years;
- The interviewed are from Pristina and surroundings, Republic of Kosovo;

- Group I comprises of 48% of children interviewed from Pristina and 52% of the Pristina district, 60% are males and 40% females;
- Group II consists of 46% of children interviewed from Pristina and 54% of the Pristina district, 49% are males and 51% females;
- Group III (parents) consists of 55% of children interviewed from Pristina and 45% of the Pristina district, 53% are males and 47% females;

During the observation of the Table 2, we conclude that:

- Over 50% of children use fighting games (scary) of which are motivated to apply them with friends. This statement is very concerned, because they become aggressive in the real life. They are not tolerant and they think that the real life is a game, where even after injuries and the wounds, they can raise him or his friend (friends);
- Over 50% of the children are watching the horror movies, pornography and interacting with people whom they don't know at all;
- Only about 10% of children do not have to theme the fighting movies and upheaval regimes;
- Over 80% of children do not accept invitations to meet people whom they don't know;
- Over 65% of children like the virtual life, for they think it is good and that gives you more hope, towards the real life which we enjoy;
- Over 90% of children refuse to show the password (the password) to their parents. This gives you an impression that they still have secret conversations; they're surfing through various blogs, which they would not want their parents to know. And they find "excuses" such as: Don't you believe on us?;
- Only 1/3 of children do not prefer to continue their socializing in the city (Pristina) with those who converse for hours in chats or social networks.
- Nearly half of the children prefer to receive the lessons that are ready from others, to describe them and to continue with the games and other favorite conversation.
- National concern is the avoidance of the children from their relatives. Recently, parents have great trouble to persuade children to go to visit their relatives even when they do not like for them to come to their homes to stay with guests to dialogue and to hear about the family tree.
- Over 80% of children complain that their teachers do not talk about the carefulness that must be from different frauds that can be offered in internet. For such lessons only 10% of respondents say they have had the opportunity to hear from their teachers, who have to talk about these risks amongst other things permanent enclosure.

- Also over 80% of children have not encountered in educational portals that instruct them on how to protect themselves from abuse on the internet.

If we analyze the data expressed in the Table 3 of this study, we conclude that:

- Over half of the surveyed parents say that their children spend more time indoors and they seek less to go outdoors to play;

- However, parents think that their children watch different movies from which they can take lessons that can be educating. Although 1/3 of them suspect that they watch movies with educational character;

- In the trial that, during the conversation that the children do online to help them learn foreign languages, culture and traditions of others are ambivalent;

- Over 60% of parents admit that they know or try to control their children conversed with whom they are, what are their subjects and how long do they know them;

- Over 65% of parents admit that their children, when they use the internet for long time they become more aggressive, more stressful, more irritable, intolerant, very pathetic, etc .;

- Also over 65% of parents conclude that their children refuse to give them the password or tell them about the portals they're visiting. This means that they hold within moderation secrets which they don't like for their parents to know;

- Over 50% of parents refuse to allow their children to go into town with friends that they've "met" virtually online;

- Over 75% of parents are concerned that their children never bothers of solving tasks, answer questions that they have received from their teachers at school. They simply copy from one another, carrying through social networks. This fact proves the case during tests that the students do in semi-graduation or graduation at the end of their cycle of education.

- Over 85% of parents have another family concern. Their children are being very lazy to visit their relatives and also can hardly stand as host when the guests come in their homes. This is very worrying because this will intersect with the relationship followed by different consequences.

- Over 95% of parents insist that they always talk to their children about the risks that the internet is likely to bring, such as abuse, fraud, misuses, theft, call for illegal acts temptation to join dangerous formations through the world, etc .;

- Over 90% of parents would like to have educational portals that will help educate children to take care of many frauds the Internet that can offer. We know that the violence acts of children have come precisely because the incentives they've done through the Internet.

## 6. Conclusions and Recommendations

### Conclusions

- Excessive use of the Internet of children and young people causes stress, fatigue, laziness, obesity;
- Children who stays sitting next to the computers are more aggressive and can easily fall prey to abuses;
- Confirmed suspicions that parents have fears about the pitfalls that may come to their children as a result of a protracted internet use;
- With the exaggeration use of the internet it can be caused physical bodily injuries;
- Standing for long time in front of computer connected to the internet creates an unreal world for the child, which otherwise is known as virtual world (false, imaginary, not real);
- After a period of time (monthly, yearly) of the continued use of the internet, the children lose their sense of family closeness and the kinship fades;
- Educational institutions do not provide sufficient care of education for the use of the internet;
- There's a lack of educational portals for the education of children to protect them from various abuses across the Internet.

### Recommendations

- Schedules must be checked for the children and youth spending time on internet
- After a long stay in internet it is recommended that children and youth to spend time in physical activities;
- To intervene in the teaching of ICT curricula to establish educational themes for Internet use, effects, and various abuses
- Local and central governments to finance companies for the creation of educational portals which serve to protect children from abuse as a result of various conversations with stakeholders of virtual crimes.

### Literature:

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