RESEARCH ARTICLE

ATTITUDES TOWARD THE USE OF INTERNET FOR STUDENTS AMONG SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS ELOBIED SCHOOL IN SUDAN 2024

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ARTICLE INFO

ABSTRACT

This study aimed to examined the prevalence of internet addiction, define its correlating factors and its relationship with their demographic data among secondary school students ,and to recognized prospect intervention strategies that may help to minimize harm of IA(internet addiction). *Material and Methods:* A cross sectional survey, using a self-administered questionnaire, was conducted between January and February 2024, among governmental secondary school students (boys and girls) in Elobied secondery school and Alobied higher secondary school for girls and Alwafa higher secondary school for girls, Sudan, their ages between 13and 19-years-old ,a simple random sampling were collected from students in class two and three, students , the sample size was 303 from total 500 students from tow governmental school which Results: 303 students answered the questionnaire, 141 are males and 162 are females. Prevalence was 53.5%, with female predominance. Internet addiction was associated with those who owned computers and spent more than 8 hours in the internet and absence of parental control. Conclusion: The findings show that the students are having a more positive attitude toward the use of the Internet we recommend that use of Internet should be set under parents control and reviewed regularly by them and their children together.

INTRODUCTION

The Internet and online technologies are integrated into many societies and will likely continue to proliferate in our everyday lives. Using the Internet is not one behavior but can encompass a multitude of activities such as playing games, gambling, and viewing pornography, engaging in social media, shopping, and working. Most of these behaviors are not inherently problematic, however, when overused, these behaviors may interfere with daily functioning, health, and well-being. Although Internet addiction or problem Internet use (PIU) has not been formally recognized as gaming disorder (WHO, 2018) or gambling disorder (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition 2013). The Internet is widely regarded as requisite in people's daily lives globally, serving different purposes such as personal communication, business, education, sports, and

holds the attention and interest. Its passionate impact on global communication and the sharing of ideas and information about culture and society is evident, shaping a connected worldwide community. So it is define as a global binding of computers that allows information convey. Which affirmed in the early 1960s by the U.S. Department of Defence (Schneider, G. P, *et al* 2006), primarily used for military purposes. Since then, the improvement of content of the Internet technology that has provided an costumer level of public accessibility to a wide range of forms of communication, e.g. with in-organizational and inter-organizational email; data storage, management and transfer; social websites like Facebook; text messaging such as Twitter, and so forth. Due to the growth and expansion of crummy and more user-friendly computer technology and software (e.g., portable computers, Microsoft Word etc), the use of the Internet has increased dramatically. In 2010, the world"s Internet use was 28.7% of the population. While this may not look like

a very large portion of the world's population, the growth in the use of the Internet has been dramatic. For example, between 2000 and 2010, the rate of growth of Internet use was 44.8% (Internet World Stats. 2010) Usage of internet growth vigorously worldwide and this is expected to continue with its use becoming an integral part of everyday life. The internet provides immense educational benefits; however, overused of internet use can lead to negative outcomes such as poor school performance and social isolation (Mashhor Al-hantoushi *et al.* 2014) Adolescents are more affected by using this internet and they are gaining so many benefits when using Internet, such as access to needed information, worldwide access to news and events, and interpersonal communication through email. However, along with the phenomenal growth of the Internet and its use, there has been a growing concern worldwide regarding the risks associated with Internet over-use (Buchholz, L. (2009, 4 December. 2009),and because of their more susceptibility than adults to the negative impacts of the Internet world (Jonson-Reid, M *et al* .2001).

Since they are immature, both physically and psychologically, they may develop more serious complications than other age groups regarding the negative impact of the Internet world (Christensen, M. H., *et al* 2001.) .which include lowered concentration, lack of sleep, poor school attendance and performance, vision problems and a wide range of behavioral problems (Black, D. W, et al, 2008.) . In addition, young adolescents are at high risk of being beard by online predators since they are comparatively new to online activities, actively search for attention, isolated, easily deceive to someone by adults, and confound regarding their sexual uniformity (Wolak, J., Mitchell, K. J,*et al* .2003). Internet addiction (IA) has generally can be identified by these standard based which based on dependence and pathological gambling and using the Internet in a similar to a maladaptive preoccupation (American Psychiatric Association. 2004) using the Internet for a longer duration than Expected in being preoccupied with the use of the Internet, causing significant problems, including academic/ professional, social and relationship problems. (IA) is a relatively newly academic inquiry field. There was an empirical studies found that IA, has addictive behaviors like any other well researched, and has an effect on many aspects of a person"s life, which include academic/work performance, relationships, and physical and mental health (Goldberg, I. 2006). Evidence suggested that Internet adductors spent more time online and experience withdrawal symptoms when offline. Those preoccupied with Internet-related activities may neglect exercise, family and social activities (Kim, J. H. Hui, *et al* 2010) Using of internet has been increased while a problems arising from excessive Internet use have been documented worldwide, where the use of the Internet has increased noticeably (National Statistical Office. 2008b). It is a particularly common realization problem among students, This study aimed to assess secondary school students regard attitude use of internet.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

A cross sectional survey, using a self-administered questionnaire, was conducted between December and February 2024, among governmental secondary school students (boys and girls) in Elthawra city, Sudan, their ages between 13and 19-years-old, a simple random sampling were collected from students in class two and three, students under study collected from 5 schools, the sample size was 303 from total 500 students from total governmental school which are 8. The study examine the prevalence of Internet use and its impacts among this students assessing the definition and diagnostic criteria of IA .In addition the amounts of time spend on internet and its effects on their education and find out strategy to minimize prejudice that may grow from bad using of internet .This study differentiated between normal everyday Internet use behaviors and Internet addictive behaviors as well as exploring the impacts of those behaviors that may signify maladaptive use.

Statistical Analysis: Data were analyzed using the statistical package for social science (SPSS) software (version 26). Descriptive analyses were performed on all variables. A Likert scale was used in the questionnaire. Which consists of strongly agree, agree and neutral. disagree, and strongly disagree (Wuensch, 2005). The students have to respond to each state whether they strongly disagree, disagree, neutral, agree, and strongly agree. Correlation between negative and positive attitude and also find relation between their socio demographic data and their attitude. Researcher divided mean range attitude to high 3.oo – 4.6, moderate2.9-2.5 and low attitude 2.4 -1

RESULTS

Self-administered questionnaires were distributed to the students. All questionnaires were completed, of those 303 students, 141 (46.5%) were males and 162 (53.5%) were females, and 181 (59.7%) their age between 13-15 years, and 122(40.3%) their age more than 15 years. Other demographic data are shown in Table 1. 303 internet users, 242 are addictive 36.6 males and 44.2 females, 61 students 33 (10.9%)were male, and 28 (9.2%) were female who were non-addicts, there education level were 113(37.3%) in the second class and 190(62.7%) in the third class respectively .Table 1. Most of them had experience more than 6 month 148 (48.8%), 136 (44.9%)their experience between 6 month -2 years, the rest of students represent 19 (6.3%) of the experience more than 3 years. Table 1.The sample size took from 5 schools Eldigaresecondary school male, Elthawra Elaashra female, Elthamna males, Elthamna females, adamyagoop females, represent 53(17.3%)47 (15.3%) 25(8.1%) 64(20.8%)114 (39.8%) respectively. Table 1.Regard Number of hours per day spent on the Internet the researcher found that most of students use the internet 8 hours per day143 (47.3%), 104 (34.3%) spent 12 hours, 56(18.4%) spent 4 hours. Table (3) presents details of the study's results. There were outlines 8 statements, as positive and negative attitude described by mean and SD and their corresponding attitude levels. Table (3) showed that the respondents report a high-level attitude, which seen by the average mean score of 4.56 on the table. Statement of every statement in table (3) the overall mean score of positive attitude demonstrates a high level of attitude. In Table (4) showed that the respondents report alow level of negative attitude. the average mean score of 2.4on the table. Mean score which is 2.4 and is considered as a low level of attitude.

Table 1. Demographic data n (303)

Variable	Frequency	%
gender		
Male	141	46.5
Female	162	53.5
Age		
13-15 YEARS	181	59.7
Internet user		
Normal user	61	20.1
Addictive user	242	79.9
Education level		
second class	113	37.3
third class	190	62.7
experience of using internet		
more than 6 month	148	48.8
6month -2 years	136	44.9
more than 3 years	19	63
Number of hours spent in the internet		
4 hours	56	18.4
8 hours	143	47.1
12 hours	104	34.3
School name		
Alobied higher secondary school for girls	153	50.4
Alwafa higher secondary school for girls	150	49.6

Table 2. Mean Range for attitude level

Mean range	Interpretation
3.oo – 4.6	High degree attitude
2.9-2.5	Moderate degree of attitude
2.4-1	Low degree of attitude

Table 3. Mean and SD for Positive attitude for respondents

Item	Mean	SD	Rate attitude level
I use the internet toupdate my information	3.5	0.82	High level
I think the internet helps me to solve my problems.	4.1	0.96	High level
1 think the internet helps me to solve my problems.	4.5	0.001	High level
I often read online sample for academic examination	3.6	0.84	High level
total	4.56	0.82	

Table 4. Mean and SD for negative attitude for respondents

item	Mean	SD	Rate attitude level
Visiting porn adult site	3.0	0.45	high
Meeting new friends and chatting	2.3	0.33	low
Happy and excited with videos	2.3	0.33	low
I often use the internet for using social media.	2.0	0.30	low
total	2.4	0.39	

Table 5. The Comparison between Positive Attitude and Negative Attitude

Attitude	Mean	SD	Meaning
positive	4.56	0.82	high
Negative	2.4	0.39	low
total	3.48	o.61	high

DISCUSSION

A dramatic change did take place in the mid-late 1990s and early 2000s. It is the revolution in Information and Communication Technologies. Probably the most notable component of this was the dramatic growth of the internet in world(13). and it usage prevalence is increasing world wide.

Demographic Data: In this study the sample was 153 (50.4%) Alobied higher secondary school for girls and150 (49.6%)were female which at verse with study done by Mashhour Al-hantoushi, Saad Al-abdullateefinsuadia Arabia, male 54.6%and female was 45.4%,and inthesame study the majority of the students own computer 66.2% as in our study 79.5% (Mashhor Al-hantoushi et al. 2014).In this study the age group divided into age from 13-15 which represent 59.7% and more than 15 years which represent 40.3% it came nearly the result of study done in Thialand ,the age above 15 was 43.3% (Kesaraporn W anajak Edith Cowan University. 2011) The researcher selected the group study from second level and third level and from analysis the researcher observed that third group represent the majority of students. Also observed their family economic status were in moderate level while most of them use internet more than six month and spent 8 hours per day in using internet (47.1%) 65% is result done in Saudi Arabia their study group spent more than 5 hours per day. Mashhor Al-hantoushi et al. 2014) and from the analysis found that 71.7% were addictive user 44.2 % who were female and it came at varient with study in Suadia which found that males were twice as likely as females to be internet addicts (Mashhor Al-hantoushi *et al.* 2014). The preferred websites by internet addicts in this study are the communication websites, which are chat rooms and Listening to music and plying games, these findings are at varience to those of Young, who found that non-addicts predominantly used those aspects of the internet which allowed them to gather information (Young K. 1998) .Increasing time spent on internet per day is also a feature of internet addiction; this was also finding of Niemz *et al* and Nalwa and Anand. This is most likely due to inability of adolescents to restrict their time online, especially when they engage in chat and community websites, and the availability of 24 hours internet service at netcafe opposite to finding of our study (68.5%) who get the internet services at net café (Niemz K, Griffiths M, Banyard P. 2005) (Nalwa K, Anand AP, 2003).

In contemporaryyears, the number of Internet users has increased worldwide. In 2011, 30.2% of the world"s population were Internet users (2,095 million). Of those, 44% were in Asia, 22.7% were in Europe and 13% were in North America (2). By comparison, from 2000-2016, population in Sudan total internet users 10,886,813 from total population 41,175,541(Telicommunication Union 2016). From finding respondents possess good positive in area of updating their information and solve their problem while report negative attitude area of visiting porn site, meeting new friends and using social media ,this finding came in same line with (I Wayan Suryasa.2018) where his findings showed that the students are having a more positive attitude toward the use of the Internet.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The findings show that the students are having a more positive attitude toward the use of the Internet we recommend that use of Internet should be set under parents control and reviewed regularly by them and their children together. Parents should discuss and share Internet experiences regularly with their children and educate themselves about the possible risks caused by Internet use. In addition, the researcher suggest that parents be good role models for their children; that is, adhering themselves to any rules set up in the home for Internet use. Moreover, parents should monitor their children, taking note of any changes in behavior, especially if related to online activity, and also suggest that education programs for parents about possible IA, Finally suggest that homecomputers should be at areas where children can be supervised by their parents when using the Internet and computer software.

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