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# The Factor of Availability Facilities at Home and Compulsive Internet Use among Primary School Students

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**Abstract.** This study was conducted with the aim to identify the relationship availability facilities at home with compulsive Internet use among primary school student in Taiping Perak. This study use quantitative method. The questionnaire were distributed to 2 primary school and involve 100 primary school student in Taiping Perak as a sample in this study. The findings of this study indicates that there is a positive relationship between the availability of facilities at home and compulsive Internet use among primary school students.

**Key words:** Compulsive Internet use; socializing activity; level of accessing information; parenting monitoring; facilities at home.

## 1. Introduction

It is undeniable that we are all living in the modern technology era. The emergence of various technology and communication tools has brought us to the age of modern living. The computer and Internet are just inseparable in our daily life. The prevalence of Internet use has been increasing over the years. Although the Internet offers great experience for communicating and socializing, it also has been accompanied by the development of an excessive and uncontrolled pattern use impacting on our daily life. This phenomena is also called as "compulsive Internet use". Compulsive Internet use is also a problematic phenomenon which occurs due to certain factors.

## 2. Compulsive Internet Use

Initially, many scholars defined compulsive Internet use as Internet addiction due to its' characteristics and similarities. However, the term compulsive Internet use was modified according to its behavioural aspects (Yasser and Anne, 2012). According to Yen and Chun (2013), the pattern of compulsive Internet use was categories according to loss of control, obsession, conflict and withdrawal symptoms. This is because, people whom are diagnosed with compulsive Internet use has a very impulse control disorder where they fail to control their behaviour in using the Internet.

In Yasser and Anne (2012) study, mentioned few highlights of compulsive Internet use, when Internet becomes central to the person's life mood change related to the use, loss of control over the use, withdrawal symptoms, conflict and tolerance. Griffiths (2000) and Young and Rogers (1998) also refer to a dimension of relapse, for example re-establishing behaviour even when one stops it for a long time. According to Sophia and Joel (2012), the young people, specifically the teenage population are most likely to be a compulsive Internet user.



A study was conducted by Khazaal (2012) found out that many teenagers are diagnosed with depression, anxiety and substance Internet use. According to Marulanda-Carter and Jackson's model study (2012), evidence proves that students with compulsive Internet use can lose control over themselves in using Internet where this can negatively impact their lives in both short term (increased levels of stress at school, reduce school life-balance); and the long term (social isolation, depression and anxiety). The individual high reliance on Internet causing many researchers to face the challenge in identifying risk factors that make young people to develop a pattern of compulsive Internet usage and this same goes to Malaysia (Amran, 2016).

In Malaysia, a study was carried out by Kutty (2014) on compulsive Internet use and mental health among young adults in Malaysia. This study found out that young adults mainly university students are suffering from compulsive Internet use because about 60% of the respondents are diagnosed with mental disorder. The factors affects overusing the Internet is socio-demographics factor, for instance the marital status, time and years spent on using the Internet and gender.

Since the existence of digital media, many people around the world are being affected. People around the world can communicate with each other just by using their fingertips. Without realizing, many people are being an Internet dependent. Internet are the backbone of today's technology. Without Internet, no technology could function.

In Lim, Wong, Zolkepli and Rashvinjeet (2012) study revealed the ease in accessing the Internet anytime and anywhere are the major factors of one being an Internet dependent among many Malaysians. They explained in their study on how one could be an Internet dependent just by using their smart phone. This was supported by Niccolle (2016) study where she revealed why many people prefer to communicate through their smart phone rather than face to face. Niccolle (2016) stresses on the Internet convenience. With Internet coverage, it enables everyone to surf and download anything they wants with just a click. Therefore almost everything is possible with the Internet, thus people are getting very dependent on it (Amran, Liew, Abdul and Rini, 2016).

One study done by Gao (2016), stated that some people being very dependent on their smart phones for the sake of socializing can create a phenomena calls "Nomophobia". Nomophobia can happen when one feels anxiety of not using their mobile phones. The Nomophobia term is directly associated with the overuse of mobile phone, meaning that one spent too much time in surfing the Internet using their mobile phones (Gao, 2016). According to Joyce, Carno and Racidon (2016), this situation can increase the Internet dependency that will increase one's time spent using the Internet, where one could overuse the Internet which can result to compulsive Internet use.

However in Malaysia, the term of compulsive Internet use usually can referred to Internet addiction because most researches carried out in Malaysia uses Internet addiction term in showing the Internet overuse. According to Choi and Lim (2016), "addictive behaviour", for example, smoking and gambling, are formed with repetitive attitude and behaviour that could indicates to disease and social problem. Addictive behaviour also occurs when one decided to continue doing it despite from stopping.

Over the past few years, obvious addictive behaviour that had become a problem in our lives are Internet addiction and excessive use of the Internet for microblogs, blogs or social networking sites (Duggan, 2015). According to Nihat (2016) study, social media is the most widely used by everyone, thus social media addiction term come to known.

However, Duggan (2015) expressed that the younger people, specifically students are considered as the risky group for Internet addiction. Lu (2013), study found that there is a positive interrelation between students' Internet addiction with their behaviours, physical health and psychological well-being. This is because according to Shek (2012), Internet addiction among students are associated with the electronic products such as, smart phones, tablets and computers. Shek (2012), study also revealed about 90.5% of worldwide primary and secondary school students obsessed with smartphones, desktop, computers, tablets and laptops.

### 3. Research Methodology

In completing this study, a quantitative approach will be undertaken, which is a survey in the form of questionnaire. The researcher will use quantitative approach because this research will study on the relationship between availability facilities at home with compulsive Internet use among primary school students.

#### 3.1 Research Population and Sampling

The respondent of the study are primary school students from Taiping, Perak, Malaysia. According to Ministry of Education Malaysia, in year 2017, there are 21 primary schools lies under Taiping area. For this study, the population of respondents will be the primary schools students from Taiping. Researcher will use are Simple Random Sampling technique for this study. Researcher will randomly select 2 primary schools and 50 respondent from each school in Taiping. The sample size for this study is 100 students.

#### 3.2 Research Instrument

In this study, the instrument that will be used is questionnaire. The questionnaire will consists of 6 parts. In the questionnaire, there will be multiple choices and Likert scale form of question.

#### 3.3 Data Analysis

According to Sage (2014), data analysis is applying statistical logics to a set of data that is obtain through data collection. Inferential statistic was used to measure the relationship between availability facilities at home with compulsive Internet use among primary school students. In order to measure the relationship between dependent and independent variable, the analysis will be done by using the Pearson correlation matrix. This is because, according to Thomas (2014), Pearson correlation matrix is used to measure linear and non-linear relationships. Pearson correlation matrix also can measure the strengths of relationship between two associated variables (Chee, 2015). In this study, the researcher wants to identify the relationship between the independent and dependent variable. Thus, Pearson correlation matrix is suitable to use in study.

## 4. Findings

#### 4.1 The Relationship between Availability Facilities at Home and Compulsive Internet Use

Based on the research findings, there is a moderate degree of positive relationship between the availability of facilities at home and compulsive Internet use among primary school students,  $r = 0.613$  and  $p = 0.000$ . The availability of facilities at home are correlated with compulsive Internet use. This indicates that the increase in online facilities at home is associated with the increase of compulsive Internet use among the students.

The research findings revealed that more and more parents install and provides Internet facilities at home with latest gadgets. Based on the findings, very least parents practices parental mediated strategies. According to Livingstone and Helsper (2010), parental mediation is also refers to parental management of the relation between children and media, where it emphasizes parental role in restrictions as well as parental monitoring activities. According to the theory used by researcher in this study that was proposed by Nathanson in year 1999, Parental Mediation Theory, parents' uses interpersonal communication strategies to mediate their children in order reduce the negative effects of media towards their children cognitive development. This research found out that very little parents uses parental mediated strategies to control Internet use among their children. Thus, it can be implied that the weakness in parenting role actually affects compulsive Internet use among the primary school students.

According to Niccolle (2016), the media environment provided by parents for their children at home indeed alarming the Internet use among their children. In our modern households especially, parents provides so many online facilities for their children, for example, personal computers, laptops,

smart phones and iPads (Peter, 2011). And, all these devices could access the Internet. Not only has that, most parents also installed the WiFi network at home for them. Therefore, there is no reason for the children to not use the Internet network provided by their parents at home.

## 5. Conclusion

Due to the availability of Internet facilities at home, students can access to any online applications or games without worrying and this eventually can create a habit among them to use the Internet anytime and every day. The habit of using the Internet everyday can cause students overusing it. Thus, the availability of "24/7" Internet at home will result repetitive using behaviour among students and they will have higher tendencies to use the Internet compulsively. Thus, based on the finding of this study, parent should play their role in monitoring their children while using the Internet.

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