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THE PSYCHOSOCIAL ASPECTS OF INTERNET USE AMONG
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN PATTANI, THAILAND

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY
UNIVERSITI UTARA MALAYSIA
2015
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Abstract

Studies have shown that internet use has both positive and negative psychosocial effects on its users. However, there are few studies on the psychosocial aspects of internet use among high school students in Pattani, Thailand. This study aims to explore the psychosocial aspects of internet use among high school students in Pattani, Thailand and to investigate how the psychosocial aspects influence students’ academic performance. The study also aims to examine the stakeholders’ reactions on the effect of internet use on the high school students and to recommend social work interventions to reduce the effect of psychosocial issues. A qualitative study was conducted using 23 informants from four districts in Pattani, namely Muang, Yaring, Kokpho and Saiburi. Data was collected through in-depth interviews and focus group discussions. The study found that internet use has affected the Pattani high school students socially and psychologically. Students who spent more than eight hours a day on the internet were more likely to neglect their responsibilities. They tend to have more relationship problems with parents and family members and inclined to be aggressive, easily upset, moody and sleepy in class. Students were also likely to skip meals, get depressed and exhibit poor physical health and showed a decline in academic performance. Nevertheless, internet use has helped the Pattani’s students gain new knowledge, which enable them to make informed decisions. Thus, informants suggested the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Information and Technology, and Ministry of Social Development and Human Security collaborate to block websites that aggravate negative behavior among students. Informants opined that students need to be monitored on the internet use and internet surfing time. This study contributes to the understanding of knowledge on social integration theory and the role of school social workers in assisting Pattani’s high school students’ internet usage. The Students’ Care and Support System (SCSS) introduced by the Ministry needs to include social workers’ support system to effectively solve psychosocial problems arising from the internet use among high school students.

Keywords: Internet use, High school students, Psychosocial, Stakeholders, Social work intervention.
Abstrak


Kata kunci: Penggunaan internet, Pelajar sekolah menengah, Psikososial, Pemegang taruh, Intervensi kerja sosial
Acknowledgement

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## ABBREVIATIONS

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<tr>
<td>ADHD</td>
<td>Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AII</td>
<td>Asian Institute of Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIT</td>
<td>Asian Institute of Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIDP</td>
<td>Australian International Development Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CINIC</td>
<td>China Internet Network Information Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CU</td>
<td>Chulalongkorn University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNFE</td>
<td>Department of Non-Formal Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECPAT</td>
<td>End Child Prostitution Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purpose</td>
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<tr>
<td>E-mail</td>
<td>Electronic mail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ETDA</td>
<td>Electronic Transaction Development Agency</td>
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<tr>
<td>FGD</td>
<td>Focus Group Discussion</td>
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<tr>
<td>FTP</td>
<td>File Transfer Protocol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICT</td>
<td>Ministry of Information, Communication and Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDP</td>
<td>International Development Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IM</td>
<td>Instant Messaging</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IP</td>
<td>Internet Protocol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IRRI</td>
<td>International Rice Research Institute</td>
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<tr>
<td>ISOC</td>
<td>Internet Security Operation Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IT</td>
<td>Information Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOE</td>
<td>Ministry of Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>MSN</td>
<td>Messaging</td>
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<td>MSI</td>
<td>Musculoskeletal Injury</td>
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<td>NECTEC</td>
<td>National Electronics and Computer Technology Center’s</td>
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<td>NITC</td>
<td>National Information Technology Committee</td>
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<td>NRCT</td>
<td>National Research Council of Thailand</td>
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<tr>
<td>NTL</td>
<td>Network Laboratory</td>
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<td>PSU</td>
<td>Prince of Songkhla University</td>
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<tr>
<td>RSI</td>
<td>Repetitive Strain Injuries</td>
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<tr>
<td>SCSS</td>
<td>Student Care and Support System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIQSS</td>
<td>Stanford Institute for the Quantitative Study of Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abbreviation</td>
<td>Full Form</td>
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<tr>
<td>TAP</td>
<td>Tamaki Achievement Pathway</td>
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<td>Th</td>
<td>Thailand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TISA</td>
<td>Thailand Internet Service Provider Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UCLA</td>
<td>Centre for Communication Policy’s Internet,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>University of California, Los Angeles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UM</td>
<td>University of Melbourne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WAN</td>
<td>Wide-Area Network</td>
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1.1 Background

In the age of globalization the internet has contributed to human knowledge, development, organizational management, business and leisure activities. Technology is gaining significance among its users (Horrigan & Rainie, 2006) as it creates new ways for citizens to communicate, congregate and share information of a social nature (Kedem, 1999). People worldwide can now communicate and respond instantly via the internet. Tele-conference accelerates project completion while open and distant learning provides worldwide learners with convenience and affordable education. In Boston, telemedicine allows medical specialists to diagnose and treat patients in California (Kedem, 1999). All these are the advancements induced by the World Wide Web (WWW), which provides access of global resources to millions.

Technology also enables users to collect, store, transmit and retrieve information from individuals, private companies, government agencies, academic institutions and research institutes. In brief, the internet has been rapidly and radically transforming the character of life and work. These changes will affect the conduct of our society, business, government, education and private lives (Kedem, 1999). The purpose of this chapter is to identify the inherent psychosocial issues of internet use among high school students.
The contents of the thesis is for internal user only
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