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



KANLAYA DARAHA

UUM
Universiti Utara Malaysia

**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY
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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

Kajian menunjukkan penggunaan internet mendatangkan kesan psikososial yang positif dan juga negatif kepada penggunanya. Akan tetapi, sehingga kini tidak banyak kajian yang dijalankan berkaitan dengan aspek psikososial penggunaan Internet dalam kalangan pelajar sekolah menengah di Pattani, Thailand. Tujuan kajian ini ialah untuk meneroka aspek psikososial penggunaan internet dalam kalangan pelajar sekolah menengah di Pattani, Thailand dan mengkaji bagaimanakah aspek psikososial mempengaruhi prestasi akademik pelajar. Kajian ini juga bertujuan mengkaji reaksi pemegang taruh terhadap kesan penggunaan internet ke atas pelajar sekolah menengah dan mencadangkan intervensi kerja sosial untuk mengurangkan kesan isu psikososial. Satu kajian kualitatif telah dilakukan menggunakan 23 orang informan dari empat daerah di Pattani, iaitu Muang, Yaring, Kokpho dan Yaring. Data diperoleh melalui temu bual mendalam dan perbincangan kumpulan berfokus. Kajian mendapati bahawa penggunaan internet telah mendatangkan kesan sosial dan psikologi kepada pelajar sekolah menengah di Pattani. Pelajar yang meluangkan masa melebihi lapan jam sehari di internet lebih berkemungkinan mengabaikan tanggung jawab mereka. Mereka cenderung untuk mengalami lebih masalah perhubungan dengan ibu bapa dan ahli keluarga serta menjadi agresif, mudah marah, muram dan mengantuk di dalam kelas. Pelajar juga berkemungkinan untuk melangkaui waktu makan, berasa tertekan, mempamerkan kesihatan fizikal yang lemah dan menurun dalam prestasi akademik. Walau bagaimanapun, internet juga membantu pelajar di Pattani memperoleh ilmu baru yang membolehkan mereka membuat keputusan yang wajar. Dengan itu, informan mencadangkan Kementerian Pendidikan, Kementerian Kebudayaan, Kementerian Teknologi dan Maklumat, serta Kementerian Pembangunan Sosial dan Keselamatan Manusia berkolaborasi untuk menghalang pelajar mengakses ke laman sesawang yang memburukkan lagi tingkah laku negatif mereka. Informan berpendapat bahawa pelajar dipantau dalam penggunaan internet dan tempoh masa melayari internet. Kajian ini menyumbang kepada pengetahuan tentang teori integrasi sosial dan peranan pekerja sosial sekolah dalam membantu penggunaan internet dalam kalangan pelajar sekolah menengah di Pattani. Sistem Penjagaan dan Sokongan Pelajar (SCSS) yang diperkenalkan oleh Kementerian perlu melibatkan sistem sokongan pekerja sosial sekolah untuk menangani secara berkesan masalah psikososial yang timbul daripada penggunaan internet dalam kalangan pelajar sekolah menengah.

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

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ABBREVIATIONS

ADHD	Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
AII	Asian Institute of Technology
AIT	Asian Institute of Technology
AIDP	Australian International Development Plan
CINIC	China Internet Network Information Centre
CU	Chulalongkorn University
DNFE	Department of Non-Formal Education
ECPAT	End Child Prostitution Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purpose
E-mail	Electronic mail
ETDA	Electronic Transaction Development Agency
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FTP	File Transfer Protocol
ICT	Ministry of Information, Communication and Technology
IDP	International Development Plan
IM	Instant Messaging
IP	Internet Protocol
IRRI	International Rice Research Institute
ISOC	Internet Security Operation Center
IT	Information Technology
MOE	Ministry of Education
MSN	Messaging
MSI	Musculoskeletal Injury
NECTEC	National Electronics and Computer Technology Center's
NITC	National Information Technology Committee
NRCT	National Research Council of Thailand
NTL	Network Laboratory
PSU	Prince of Songkhla University
RSI	Repetitive Strain Injuries
SCSS	Student Care and Support System
SIQSS	Stanford Institute for the Quantitative Study of Society

TAP	Tamaki Achievement Pathway
Th	Thailand
TISA	Thailand Internet Service Provider Association
UCLA	Centre for Communication Policy's Internet, University of California, Los Angeles
UM	University of Melbourne
WAN	Wide-Area Network



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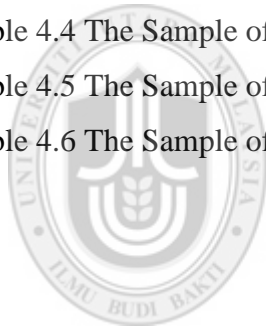
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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

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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