

# Literature Review on Internet Benefits, Risks and Issues: A Case Study for Cyber Parenting in Malaysia

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## ABSTRACT

Internet has become an amazing potential for learning, entertainment and socializing gizmo. It has encouraged teenagers and children to participate and express themselves for extraordinary source of information and self-improvement. Understanding the responsibility that comes with technology is a key to safety. The study is useful because it enabled contrast between the views of children and the parents with regard to online risks and threats. Therefore, a literature review has been simplified and produced a proposed scope of this field which covers the benefits, risks and issues of on internet which combine, replicate and modify 2 surveys done by Sau et.al, (2014) and Wong and Lee (2017) who examined the issues of parental self-efficacy in controlling and monitoring technology. Estimated to be organized in December 2018 this research will also consist of a survey and a total of 12 tape-recorded semi-structured interviews with children and parents to discover how often children encounter disturbing or harmful content on the web and what kind of prevention and solutions made by parents.

## Keywords

Cyber Parenting

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Internet has profoundly influenced our lifestyle thus making digital literacy as one of the prominent elements of today's children's development. By having the Internet, it has become a wonderful resource for children in order to do research for their school works, socialize, play interactive games, access their favorite songs and movies and many more. In Malaysia, the number of internet users is increasing fast, equivalent to other developed countries. According to the research made by Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) in 2017, 24.5 million (76.9%) from 32 million people in Malaysia had an access to the Internet and 83.2% of them were children and teenagers between the age of 5 to 17. Parallel with this rapid growth of internet use, parents have started to show more interest in the benefits and risks of their children getting exposed to the Internet. While some online misbehaviors received global attention and crossed national level, most governments have started to regulate policy in relation to content which primarily engage a range of filtering techniques to monitor and limit access to the Internet. Children cannot fully comprehend the scope of the Internet. Parents should be predominantly attentive of their children's internet activities. Thus, it has been decided that this survey is to be done at the end of 2018 in order to distinguish the role of parental self-efficacy in controlling and monitoring their children's internet use among rural and urban parents.

## 1.1 Problem Statement

It can be seen that the anonymous, instant, and far-reaching communication capabilities have brought a new dimension to children protection issues. Any unethical behaviours sometimes can be considered on a spectrum from relatively harmless to very damaging. Without censors, children are uncovered to the world of infinite potentials by transforming the way they communicate, learn and live, without being aware of the vulnerabilities that prowl within. Being easily accessible to inappropriate content such as violence, pornography, bullying and scam render them to other tribulations affecting their health, physical, emotion and behaviour. Although some parents recognize the risk and danger of the Internet, only a handful apply preventive steps and actions in enhancing knowledge regarding cyber safety. As parents and guardians, it is a noble duty to take precautionary measures in order to guide and ensure that children can securely access the Internet and its resources without fear of falling to immoral predators in infobahn.

## 1.2 Research Objectives

RO1. To explore the type of technologies and internet applications used by children,

RO2. To identify potential dangerous risks, issues and threats available online

RO3. To investigate the relationship between the approaches adopted by parents to control children's internet technology use and children behavioral as well as health problems.

## 2. METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Survey

This exploratory quantitative survey will combine, replicate and modify 2 surveys done by Sau et.al, (2014) and Wong and Lee (2017) that examined the issues of parental self-efficacy in controlling and monitoring technology as well as internet usage among children. It is proposed to be conducted in 4 states of Malaysia namely Selangor and Kuala Lumpur for urban data sampling besides Melaka and Negeri Sembilan for rural area sampling. This study seeks to investigate associations of multiple factors among 120 parents or guardians of children between the age of 7-12 years old. The questionnaire will emphasise four dimensions of perspectives covering demographic data, the technology usage and pattern, parental style in controlling the technology, internet use, behaviors and health problems related to children's internet technology utilization. Multiple regression analysis will be applied as the main data analysis technique to analyze the results using SPSS.

teaching (Sangrà & González-Sanmamed, 2016; Abdelrahman, 2015; Saravanan, 2012).

## **2.2 Focus group discussion**

On top of the survey, there will be a series of focus group interviews and observations exploring children's use of the Internet. The study is useful because it enables comparison of the views of children and the views of parents with regard to online risks and threats. A total of 20 tape-recorded semi-structured interviews will be carried out with the children (5 interviews per state) as an imposition to explain about the pros and cons on using the Internet while providing them the correct way to do so. It will start with video sessions showing the negative and positive impacts of the Internet and technology with the purpose of data capture aside from field notes and observation on their expressions, verbal and non-verbal.

## **3. LITERATURE REVIEW**

Based on the statistics given by MCMC in 2017, cyber bullying among students occurred almost daily with 338 cases reported in 2016 and increased by 20-30 percents in 2017. The statistics also show that 145 cases of fraud online purchase involving a loss of RM653,187 were reported. Furthermore, cases of Nigerian scams, love scams or also known as virtual love were recorded to an increase of 65 cases in 2017 (Brown, 2017).

### **3.1 Parental style**

Parental style can be defined as a learning process for children by copying and adopting behaviour and instruction stimuli by their parents for their similar behaviour (Wu et al., 2014; Weems & Rogers, 2007; Berger & Riojas-Cortez, 2012). Physical activities during the early childhood of 0–5 years old are said to influence numerous health and developmental outcomes such as psychosocial health, social skills, and vigor for their readiness towards better mental wellbeing (Hinkley, Brown, Carson, & Teychenne, 2018). As young children learn new skills by imitating their parents, parental style should exhibit appropriate behaviors and act as an important feature to control their children and to use internet technology safely (Van den Bulck & Van den Bergh, 2010; Livingstone & Helsper, 2008; Zhao, 2009; Wu et al., 2014).

As an essential de facto in children's growth and education, parents are also responsible for providing adequate education other than daily needs for their children. Thus, parents are playing a very important role in the formation of society and future human civilization.

### **3.2 Education**

Through the use of Information Communication Technology (ICT), any teaching and learning process for children will be easier. With the use of ICT in classrooms, the level of achievement and student understanding will be higher. Students tend to quickly process what teachers are saying and it will be easier for them to understand the subject matter (Ul-Amin, 2010). This is because ICT can portray more precise and realistic view through the use of colored photographs, voice clarity, video and mind maps. Aside from that, the use of various colors, sounds and various visuals attract students to study in the classroom (Ahmed, 2010; Daniels, 2002). The integration of ICT is able to create a fun learning experience for students, making learning session to be more engaging. The use of ICT also increases the students' focus on what the teacher is teaching. The desire to learn becomes is greater and students are more ready to learn more about what teachers are

## **3.3 Risk and danger**

According to Santos, et al. (2017), internet usage can intensify a social structure. A competitive online game for instance will produce one's strong individual motivation to succeed as well as satisfaction when the opponent fails, making players accept their win or loss (Santos et al., 2017; Kohn, 1992). Cooperative games and activities are claimed to inspire sharing, trust building, and denial or failure acceptance as a way for children to learn and practice positive social behaviours (Finlinson, Austin & Pfister, 2000; Santos et al., 2017). Since the configuration of cooperative games is based on common interdependence, cooperative games do train children in encouraging and helping others (Bay-Hinitzet al., 1994)

However, problems can occur when children are exposed to internet technology without regulation and control. These children tend to be hooked on the computer for the amusement offered by the Internet. Since children have high curiosity, they will continue surfing to find out what else is available and can be offered online. Songs, movies, games and chatting sessions with online friends can be addictive, resulting in the children not being able to achieve growth activities that they are supposed to accomplish according to their developmental stages. According to Finkelhor, 2014 and Dowell et al., 2009, their interpersonal intelligence will be stunted in which they only think about internet applications solely and establish the selfishness of the child's emotional and emotional nature and do not want to give it up. This negative nature is not appropriate in children. By simply using any online entertainment applications, the level of self-confidence in children with the community might also be eliminated as they are not directly involved with the community for outdoor activities. This will also have a big impact on children as they enter adolescence and adulthood.

## **3.4 Eating disorders**

Furthermore, the Internet also has a detrimental health impact on children such as vision problems (far-sightedness and short-sightedness) and malnutrition issue which may be caused by being too engrossed in the games making them ignore proper eating habits. In addition to that, if they also have the tendency to resort to fast food to have more time to browse the Internet which will lead them to obesity problems as mentioned by Smahel, Šmahelová and Čeveliček, 2017 as well as Skårderud, 2003.

## **3.5 Mishaviors**

Uncontrolled internet use causes children to know things that are beyond their age limits such as pornography that is so widely spread on the Internet. Since children have a very curious nature, they have a tendency to explore pornography further which consequently heightens the inclination to imitate the actions demonstrated on those pornographic materials. This can affect their thinking. Aside from pornography, they can also mimic the rugged and violent actions shown on the Internet or on televisions. Rugged acts such as cruelty, robbery, raping, and killing will affect their behavior in the future (Orhan Çınara & Fatih Karcioğlu, 2015). From the linguistic aspect, most internet users ignore the appropriateness of language use when they write (Li & Chung, 2006). They often use self-designed terms that would be misleading for children. If there is no monitoring by parents, the children will continue to use these inappropriate

language expressions throughout their life. The most feared consequence is that this linguistic concern goes beyond the incorrect language use where the children start taking slurs and malicious language expressions as a norm.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the influence of ICT in modernity and current life is inevitable and has a huge impact on life especially on the younger generations. It has become a part of today's modern life and its use and influence will continue to grow over time. Therefore, parents must take action to better control the use of the Internet among children so that they are not inclined to be a part of social problems. In fact, government policies related to education and culture must also address the issue of misuse and the negative impact of the Internet as an essential part of Malaysia's modernization and development. Undeniably, the Internet will produce generations that are able to be creative, innovative and think dynamically. However, a misconduct of the Internet and ICT will surely bring damage. Using the Internet without monitoring and proper guidance from parents and caregivers will affect children negatively since it can either flourish or demolish the future of a child. As mentioned previously, addictions, language deterioration, health problems and misleading behaviors are the major results of unrestrained use of the Internet.

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