

Parental Perception on Adolescents' Personality in Context of Use of Electronic Media during Lockdown in COVID-19 Pandemic

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Abstract: *The impact of the COVID-19 lockdown on childrens' and adolescents' well-being in general, and on the effects of increased electronic media use in particular, has been raised as a major concern to everyone. A study was carried out to know the parental perception on adolescent's personality in context of use of electronic media during lockdown in COVID-19 pandemic. A cross sectional survey was carried out among parents who were having children in adolescent's age group by using a rating scale. The study conducted among 200 parents who were having children between the age group of 10 to 19 years. The findings of the study shows that most of the parents (64%) have good perception on adolescents' personality, 26% of parents have very good perception whereas 10% parents have poor perception regarding adolescents' personality in context of use of electronic media.*

Keywords: Parental perception, Adolescents' personality, Electronic media

1. Introduction

Adolescence is considered as one of the most critical developmental periods in human life and is a period of heightened risk for psychosocial problems. Adolescence is the period of transition between childhood and adulthood. During this period in life, adolescents strive for autonomy from parents and seek to spend more time with friends, which is why socializing with peers and engaging in social activities is critical to their psychosocial development. The COVID-19 outbreak has paralyzed the entire world. The impact of the COVID-19 lockdown on children's and adolescents' well-being in general, and on the effects of increased electronic media use in particular, has been raised as a major concern by the World Health Organization and UNICEF. Due to school closures, social distancing and reduced opportunities for stress regulation, critical effects of the lockdown on children's and adolescent's mental health have been reported. For instance, studies have reported increased irritability, boredom anxiety, depression or even self-harm and suicidal behaviour while media use may represent a helpful coping strategy in the times of the COVID-19 pandemic and a potential method to remain socially connected with peers.

The attraction towards electronic media has created several physical, psychological and social changes in children and parents are concerned about the increased usage. Children will use electronic medias so excessively that it tends to change their behaviour. So this study was carried out to know the parental perception on adolescent's personality in context of use of electronic media during lockdown in COVID-19 pandemic.

2. Literature Survey

A study was conducted by Ray Munni on effect of mass media on children and the result showed that the effects of the mass media have been found to be far-reaching and potentially harmful in influencing the health-related behaviours of children and adolescents, many of whom are not yet mature enough to distinguish fantasy from reality, particularly when it is presented as "real life." This is particularly important for very young children who developmentally think concretely and are unable to distinguish fantasy from reality. Furthermore, time spent with media decreases the amount of time available for pursuing other healthier activities such as sports, physical activity, community service, cultural pursuits, and family time.

A study was conducted by Varghese et.al to assess the teenager's usage of social networking media in a South Indian State. The study was conducted in the city of Trivandrum, the capital of Kerala. The respondents were high school and higher secondary students of class 8th to class 12th. A structured questionnaire was used to obtain data from 556 students from Government and Private schools. 292 boys and 264 girls participated in the survey. Results show that the favourite activity for the Kerala teenagers even today in the Social Networking Era is watching television when they are alone at home. More time in internet is spent on Social Networking sites compared to the time they spend for educational needs.

A study was conducted by Liju D and Sujith to assess the usage of social media and its perceive impact in social life of the college students and the results showed that the 36.7% of respondents are using social media more than two hours in a day. 18.3% students are using social media from one hour to one and a half hour in a day. 9.2% students were strongly believed that they were addicted in using social media. 29.2%

students were believed that they were addicted in using social media and the same time 15.8% of students responded that they are not addicted in social media. But a majority of 42.5% are natural in their opinion. Majority of the students firstly check the social media platforms before engaging into something. Students feel that their academic productivity suffers when they spent more time surfing the media sites which as an alternative could be used for other productive activities. When students spent more time on social media their personal relations suffer as social media has been linked to higher levels of loneliness, anxiety and depression.

Statement of the problem

A study to assess the Parental perception on adolescent’s personality in context of use of electronic media during lockdown in COVID-19 pandemic

Objectives

- 1) To assess Parental perception on adolescent’s personality in context of use of electronic media during lockdown in COVID-19 pandemic
- 2) To find association between parental perception and selected demographic variables.

3. Research Methodology

Research approach and Research design

A quantitative research approach with a descriptive cross sectional survey design was used for the study

Variables

Research variables: - Parental perception

Socio – demographic variables: Baseline data of parents including age, gender, education, occupation, type of family, number of children and Baseline data of adolescents including age, gender, class, internet access, purpose of internet use, and total hours spent in media

Sample and Sampling technique

Sample size: 200 parents who have adolescents between the age of 10-19 yrs who were using electronic media during lockdown through non probability sampling technique (Purposive sampling)

4. Results and discussion

Section I: Analysis of baseline data of parents, N=200

S. No:	Variable	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
1	Age(yrs)		
	30-39	78	39
	40-49	94	47
	50-59	28	14
2	Gender		
	Male	58	29
	Female	142	71
3	Education		
	Upto secondary	54	27
	Higher Secondary	93	46.5
	Graduation and above	53	26.5

4	Occupation		
	Govt employee	28	14
	Pvt employee	89	44.5
	Unemployed	83	41.5
5	Type of family		
	Nuclear	158	79
	Joint	42	21
6	Number of children		
	1	24	12
	2	124	62
	3	46	23
	>4	6	3

Section II: Baseline data of adolescents, N=200

S.No:	Variable	Frequency	Percentage
1	Age(yrs)		
	10-12	65	32.5
	13-15	67	33.5
	16-18	68	34.
2	Gender		
	Male	123	61.5
	Female	77	38.5
3	Class		
	5-7	67	33.5
	8-10	72	36
	11-12	61	30.5
4	Internet access		
	Yes	180	90
	No	20	10
5	Purpose of using internet		
	Educational	175	87.5
	Recreational	25	12.5
6	Total hrs spent in internet use		
	< 4	63	31.5
	4-6	90	45
	>6	47	23.5
7	Time spent in media for educational purpose		
	<4	110	55
	4-6	67	33.5
	>6	23	11.5

Section III

Analysis of parental perception on Adolescents’ personality, N=200

S. No.	Grading of perception score	Score	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
1	Very good perception	105-140	52	26
2	Good perception	70-105	128	64
3	Poor perception	35-70	20	10
4	Very poor perception	<35	0	0

Range, Mean and Standard deviation of Perception score, N=200

Range	Mean	Standard Deviation
54 – 145	94	17.5

Section IV: Association of parental perception with selected demographic variables

S.No.	Variables	Chi square value	df	p value
1	Education of parents	7.263	6	.297
2	Type of family	6.01	3	.111
3	No. of children	13.27	9	.151
4	Age of child	9.09	9	.429
5	Class of study	5.6	6	.469
6	Gender of child	2.04	3	.564
7	Hours spent in media	15.95	6	.01*

The results of the study highlighted that most of the parents (64%) have good perception, 26 % have very good perception where as 10% of people have poor perception about adolescents' personality in context of use of electronic media in lockdown period. It is also noted that the variable such as the time spent in media is associated with parental perception on adolescent's personality.

5. Conclusion

As COVID-19 pandemic paralyzed the entire world in many aspects, people of all age groups have affected in different ways. It was a necessity to switch on to online platform to meet the educational needs of students. Adolescence is considered as one of the most critical developmental periods in human life and is a period of heightened risk for psychosocial problems. The use of media for long hours by adolescents either for educational or recreational purpose have affected their creativity, psychosocial functioning thereby their personality. Adolescent groups must be made aware on the effective and healthy use of media thereby their life becomes more productive and effective in all aspects.

6. Future Scope

Use of electronic media especially internet use has significant influence in the daily functioning of everyone's life. It is unavoidable in all dimensions of life viz education, occupation, recreation, social functioning and so on. The lives of many children and adolescents are today increasingly influenced by new technological devices and means of communication (smartphones, tablets, social network) As our younger generation spent much of their time in internet specially for educational purpose and tendency to engage in social media during lockdown period, prospective researches are needed to identify its impact in their academic performance, psychosocial functioning and personality development.

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