



A Study To Assess The Level Of Knowledge Regarding Internet Addiction Among Parents At Selected Community Area, Puducherry

Mrs. K. Manohari ¹, Induja sivanand², Dr. G. Muthamilselvi ³

¹Assistant Professor in Department of Mental Health Nursing, Sri Manakula Vinayagar Nursing College, Puducherry-605107

²B.Sc., (Nursing)-IV Year, Sri Manakula Vinayagar Nursing College, Puducherry-605 107

³Principal, SMVNC, Puducherry-605 107

ABSTRACT:

Introduction: Internet addiction is an impulse control disorder. Some internet users may develop an emotional attachment to on-line friends and activities they create on their computer screens. Parents regard Internet as a window opening to the whole world and as a tool to attain information. Moreover, parents aware about the positive and negative effects of internet use. **Objectives of the study:** The main objective of the study to assess the level of knowledge regarding internet addition among parents and to associate the level of knowledge regarding internet addition among parents with their selected demographic variables. **Methodology:** A quantitative research approach was adopted for the present study. By using convenient sampling technique 30 samples was selected for the present study. **Results:** The present study revealed that, majority 15 (50%) of them had moderate knowledge, 15 (50%) of them had inadequate knowledge regarding internet addition among parents. There is no significance association between age, gender, educational qualification, occupation, religion, Marital status, family income, types of family, residential area, Type of gadgets usage, using electronic gadgets, Number of children, Previous source of information. **Conclusion:** The study findings concluded that majority of the parents had moderate knowledge regarding internet addition among parents

INTRODUCTION:

Internet addiction is a psychological dependence on the internet, characterized by an increasing investment of resources on internet-related activities, unpleasant feelings when offline, an increasing tolerance to the effects of being online, and denial of problematic behaviors. It is an impulse control disorder, with some users developing an emotional attachment to online friends and activities they create on their computer screens. Internet addiction can lead to poor academic

performance in school and college, impaired functioning at work, and psychosocial consequences such as loneliness, frustration, and depression. Internet addiction has received much attention as it becomes an unseparated part of everyday life. The number of internet users and hours used has grown exponentially among educated people, making it an appropriate tool for worldwide communication, information, and entertainment. Kimberly Young introduced the concept of internet addiction disorder (IAD) in 1996 and recommended including it in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM), 4th ed. However, the presence of IAD as a mental disorder has not yet been adequately recognized.

Internet addiction is typically described as a state where an individual has lost control of the internet use and keeps using it excessively to the point where they experience problematic outcomes that negatively affect life. IA is characterized by a maladaptive pattern of internet use leading to clinically significant impairment or distress. There has been a significant correlation of internet addiction with psychological and interpersonal problems such as inability to relate to other people, loss of control on own behavior, withdrawal from social activities, difficulty maintaining a regular time schedule, and disturbance of sleep and decline in sleep hours.

The internet has brought epidemiological transition in society, with benefits of the internet being uncountable but unwise use leading to several negative issues. Parents regard the internet as a window opening to the whole world and as a tool to attain information, and are aware of the positive and negative effects of internet use.

NEED FOR THE STUDY

According to the Internet World Stats, the Internet users' population worldwide had increased from 360 million (Dec 2000) to 4536 million (June 2019), showing the worldwide internet penetration rate of 58.8%. In India, there were about 560 million internet users in June 2019, as compared to only 5 million in Dec 2000, depicting the rate of internet penetration to be 40.9% of the population, which represents 24.3% of internet users in Asia. Risk factors of internet addictions includes online gaming, use of Internet due to loneliness or boredom, use in Internet café, permanent login status, accessing Internet > 4 h daily, and consumption of tobacco or alcohol by any of the parents.

M. Pushpa Kumari et al. (2022) conducted a Study on prevalence of internet addiction among students of a private medical college, Kanchipuram. Among 220 students, 65(29.5%) students were normal, 108(49.1%) were with mild internet addiction, 27 (12.3%) were moderate internet addiction and 20(9.1%) with severe internet addiction. This study concludes there is a significant association between internet addiction with male gender, place of current stay, mode of internet and using internet for academic, social, communication and gaming purposes.

Investigator has personal experience how dangerous is this situation because of dysfunctional and pathological ways of using internet other than educational purpose. Parents should be aware of the physiological and psychological problems due to internet addiction, so that they can guide their children in the right way to future. For that reason, investigator is interested to create awareness and improve the knowledge on internet addiction among parents.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

A study to assess the level of knowledge regarding internet addiction among parents at selected community area, Puducherry

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To assess the level of knowledge regarding internet addiction among parents.
2. To associate the level of knowledge regarding internet addiction among parents with their selected demographic variables.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

A quantitative research approach was adopted for the present study. A descriptive design was selected for the present study. The present study was conducted at in Kalitheerthalkuppam, Puducherry. The population comprised of all the parents. By using convenient sampling technique 30 samples was selected for the present study. The tool consists of demographic data, and knowledge questionnaire. The outcome of the study was evaluated by using descriptive and inferential statistics.

Inclusion criteria:

- Parents in a selected community area, Puducherry.
- Parents who could speak Tamil / English.

Exclusion criteria:

- Parents who were not willing to participate in this study.
- Patient who were not present at the time of data collection.

SECTION A: Demographic variables include Age, educational status, Occupation, Religion, Income per month, area of residence, type of gadgets usage, how long have you been using electronic gadgets, number of children and previous source of information.

SECTION B: The structured knowledge questionnaires consist of 20 items regarding knowledge on internet addiction. Each correct response is graded as “1” and wrong response is graded as “0”.

SCORING INTERPRETATION:

S.NO	SCORE	INTERPRETATION
1	0-50%	Inadequate knowledge
2	50 – 75%	Moderate knowledge
3	75-100%	Adequate knowledge

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

The data collected was analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics. The data was organised as

SECTION A: Description of demographic variables of parents

SECTION B: Assessment of the level of knowledge regarding internet addiction

SECTION C: Association of the level of knowledge regarding internet addiction among parents with their selected demographic variables

Table 4.1: Distribution of Demographic Variable of parents N = 30

S.No	Demographic variables	Frequency	Percentage
1	Age in years		
	a) 21-25 years	10	33.3%
	b) 26-30 years	8	26.7%
	c) 31-35 year	4	13.3%
	d) >35 years	8	26.7%
2.	Education status		
	a) uneducated	1	3.3%
	b) Primary level	9	30%
	c) Higher secondary	7	23.3%
	d) Graduation	13	43.3%
3.	Occupation		
	a) Government employed	5	16.7%
	b) Unemployed	6	20%
	c) Self employed	4	13.3%
	d) Private employed	15	50%
5.	Religion		
	a) Hindu	24	80%
	b) Muslim	1	3.3%
	c) Christian	4	13.3%
	d) Others	1	3.3%
5.	Income per month		
	a) Below Rs. 9000/-	12	40%
	b) Rs. 9001/- to Rs.15000/-	10	33.3%
	c) Rs. 15000/- to Rs.20000/-	6	20%
	d) Above Rs.20000/-	2	6.7%
6.	Area of residence		
	a) Rural	15	50%
	b) Urban	15	50%
7.	Type of gadgets usage		
	a) Mobile phone	26	86.7%

	b) Tablet	1	3.3%
	c) Laptop	3	10%
	d) Desktop	0	0%
8.	How long have you been using electronic gadgets		
	a) < 1 year	6	20%
	b) 1 - 2 years	7	23.3%
	c) > 2 years	17	56.7%
9.	Number of children		
	a) 1	8	26.7%
	b) 2	15	50%
	c) >2	7	23.3%
10.	Previous source of information		
	a) Yes	4	13.3%
	b) No	26	86.7%

Table 4.1: The above table shows frequency and percentage-wise distribution of demographic variable of patients. Regarding the age in years, the majority 10 (33.3%) were in the age group of 21-25 years, 8 (26.7%) were in the age group of 26-30 years and 8(26.7%) were above 35 years. In the aspect of education status, majority 13 (43.3%) were completed graduation and 7 (23.3%) were completed higher secondary. In the aspect of occupation status majority, 15 (50%) were private employed, 5 (16.7%) were government employed and 6 (20%) were unemployed. In the aspect of religion majority, 24 (80%) were Hindu, 1 (3.3%) were Muslim and 4 (13.3%) were Christian. Regarding income per month, the data shows that 12 (40%) come under below Rs.9000 and 10 (33.3%) were come under Rs. 9001/- to Rs.15000/-.

With regards to area of residence majority, 15 (50%) were in rural area and 15 (50%) were in urban area. With regards to type of gadgets usage majority 26 (86.7%) were using mobile phone, 1 (3.3%) were using tablet and 3 (10%) were using laptop. In the aspect of number of children majority 15 (50%) had 2 children, 8 (26.7) had 1 children and 7 (23.3%) had more than two children. Regarding previous source of information majority 26 (186.7%) had no previous information and 4 (13.3%) had previous information.

SECTION B: Assessment of the level of knowledge regarding internet addiction among parents.**Table 2: Distribution of the level of knowledge regarding internet addiction among parents.**

N = 30

S.NO	LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE	FREQUENCY (n)	PERCENTAGE %
1.	Adequate	0	0%
2.	Moderate	15	50%
3.	Inadequate	15	50%

Table 2: The above table reveals the frequency and percentage-wise distribution of level of knowledge regarding internet addiction among parents. The finding shows that, majority 15 (50%) of them had moderate knowledge, 15 (50%) of them had inadequate knowledge regarding internet addiction among parents.

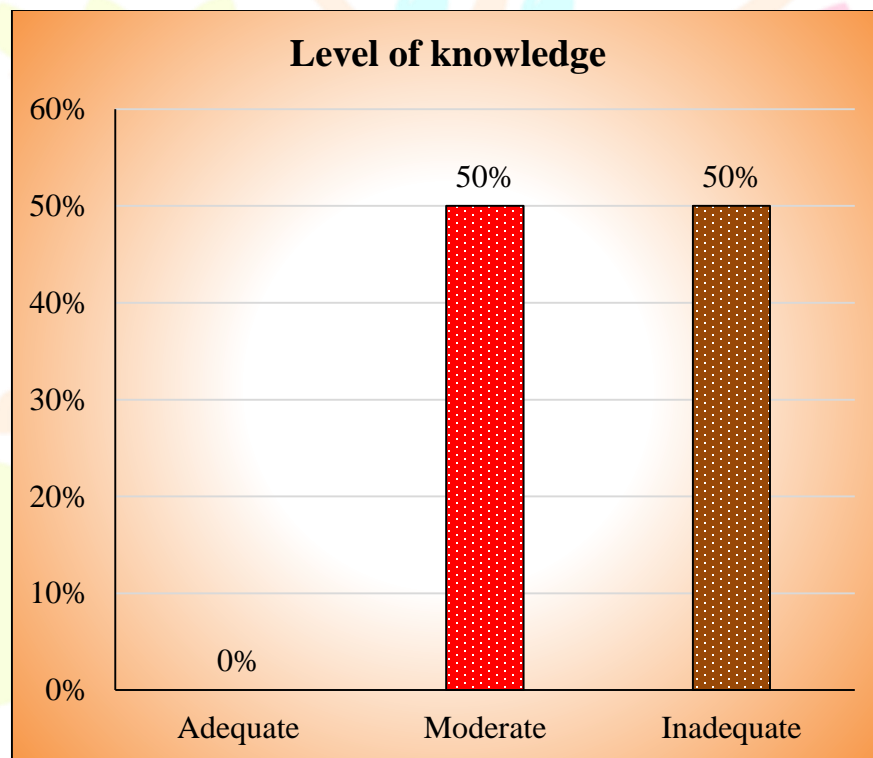
**Figure 1: Percentage wise distribution of level of knowledge regarding internet addiction among parents.****SECTION C: Association of the level of knowledge regarding internet addiction among parents with their selected demographic variables**

Table 3: Association of the level of knowledge regarding internet addiction among parents with their selected demographic variables. N = 30

S.No	Demographic variables	LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE						X ² value
		Inadequate		Moderate		Adequate		
1	Age in years	N	%	N	N	%	N	X ² = 1.400 p = 0.706 (NS)
	a) 21-25 years	6	20	4	13	0	0	
	b) 26-30 years	4	13	4	13	0	0	
	c) 31-35 year	1	3	3	10	0	0	
	d) >35 years	4	13	4	13	0	0	
2.	Education status							X ² = 1.331 p = 0.722 (NS)
	a) uneducated	0	0	1	3	0	0	
	b) Primary level	5	17	4	13	0	0	
	c) Higher secondary	4	13	3	10	0	0	
	d) Graduation	6	20	7	23	0	0	
3.	Occupation							X ² = 1.467 p = 0.690 (NS)
	a) Government employed	2	7	3	10	0	0	
	b) Unemployed	2	7	4	13	0	0	
	c) Self employed	2	7	2	7	0	0	
	d) Private employed	9	30	6	20	0	0	
4.	Religion							X ² = 6.167 p = 0.104 (NS)
	a) Hindu	13	43	11	37	0	0	
	b) Muslim	1	3	0	0	0	0	
	c) Christian	0	0	4	13	0	0	
	d) Others	1	3	0	0	0	0	
5.	Income per month							X ² = 2.600

	a) Below Rs. 9000/-	5	17	7	23	0	0	p = 0.457 (NS)
	b) Rs. 9001/- to Rs.15000/-	7	23	3	10	0	0	
	c) Rs. 15000/- to Rs.20000/-	2	7	4	13	0	0	
	d) Above Rs.20000/-	1	3	1	3	0	0	
6.	Area of residence							X ² = 1.352 p = 0.509 (NS)
	a) Rural	8	27	7	23	0	0	
	b) Urban	7	23	8	27	0	0	
7.	Type of gadgets usage							X ² = 1.333 p = 0.513 (NS)
	a) Mobile phone	13	43	13	43	0	0	
	b) Tablet	1	3	0	0	0	0	
	c) Laptop	1	3	2	7	0	0	
	d) Desktop	0	0	0	0	0	0	
8.	How long have you been using electronic gadgets							X ² = 0.202 p = 0.904 (NS)
	a) < 1 year	3	10	3	10	0	0	
	b) 1 - 2 years	3	10	4	13	0	0	
	c) > 2 years	9	30	8	27	0	0	
9.	Number of children							X ² = 0.710 p = 0.701 (NS)
	a) 1	3	10	5	17	0	0	
	b) 2	8	27	7	23	0	0	
	c) >2	4	13	3	10	0	0	
10.	Previous source of information							X ² = 1.154 p = 0.283 (NS)
	a) Yes	1	3	3	10	0	0	
	b) No	14	47	12	40	0	0	

***p<0.05 - Significant; p<0.01 - Highly Significant**

Table 3: The above table shows that there is no significance association between age, gender, educational qualification, occupation, religion, Marital status, family income, types of family, residential area, Type of gadgets usage, using electronic gadgets, Number of children, Previous source of information

MAJOR FINDING OF THE STUDY

The study reveals that, majority 15 (50%) of them had moderate knowledge, 15 (50%) of them had inadequate knowledge regarding internet addiction among parents. There is no significance association between age, gender, educational qualification, occupation, religion, Marital status, family income, types of family, residential area, Type of gadgets usage, using electronic gadgets, Number of children, Previous source of information.

CONCLUSION

The present study assessed the level of knowledge regarding internet addiction among parents at selected community area, Puducherry ". The study findings concluded that the parents had moderate knowledge regarding internet addition. There is no significance association between age, gender, educational qualification, occupation, religion, Marital status, family income, types of family, residential area, Type of gadgets usage, using electronic gadgets, Number of children, Previous source of information.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Same study can be conducted with large samples.
- Same study can be conducted in community area among public.

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