Status of Internet Addiction among College Students: A Case of South Korea

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Abstract

Presently South Korea is a world leader in web connectivity and roughly more than 45 million Internet users out of 49.5 million population with annual 8% growth is reported. Consequently it shows how the people of South Korea specifically college students are involved in web activities with technologically advance devices. Thus it is important to understand the level of Internet Addiction among the college student who are very involved in web activities. The current status of internet Addiction among college students of South Korea was studied. Data was collected from 426 Korean university students using a modified survey instrument developed previously by Young (2009) for this purpose. The collected data was validated. Results showed a higher level of Internet Addiction (10%) compared to the previous studies. It was also noted that the Internet Addiction is not gender specific since both, young boys and girls showed almost equal level of Internet dependency. Similarly, the logistic regression analysis showed that among the factors, education, emotion, time management, and mood index are all significantly associated with IA for the Korean college students. Thus it is recommended that the South Korea's government widens efforts to prevent Web and digital addiction. It is recommended that future comparative studies be conducted between the Internet dependent group and those students whose Internet use does not turn out to be problematic, to understand this issue better.