

Investigation of Family-Child Internet Addiction in Terms of Different Variables

Aile – Çocuk İnternet Bağımlılığının Farklı Değişkenler Açısından İncelenmesi

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ABSTRACT

Internet usage is increasing in every subject today. The duration of use of people in different living areas from entertainment to education is increasing. Users have difficulty in limiting the Internet usage time. That's why internet use has become addictive for many people. Studies in this sense gain importance every day. When the related literature is examined, there are few studies on internet addiction in terms of family-child internet addiction. The aim of this study is to determine the internet addiction of families and their children. Family-child Internet Addiction Scale adapted by Eşği (2014) was used in the study. The reliability coefficient (cronbach's alpha) for the adaptation scale was 0.91 and Spearman Brown value was 0.89. The validity and reliability analyzes for the adaptation of the Family-Child Internet Addiction Scale were evaluated and it was seen that the values obtained were within the expected limits. Participants' views on family-child internet addiction were analyzed. In addition, this research was carried out according to family-child internet addiction and the variables of age, gender, profession, education level and place of residence. According to the results of the research, a significant difference was found according to age distributions.

Keywords: Internet Addiction, Family- Child, Internet Use.

ÖZ

İnternet kullanımı bugün her alanda artış göstermektedir. Eğlenceden eğitime insanların farklı yaşam alanlarında kullanım süresi artış göstermektedir. İnternet kullanım süresine kullanıcılar sınırlama getirmekte zorlanmaktadır. Bu yüzden internet kullanımı birçok insan için bağımlılık halini almıştır. Bu anlamda yapılan çalışmalar her geçen gün önem kazanmaktadır. İlgili alan yazın incelendiğinde internet bağımlılığı konusunda aile – çocuk internet bağımlılığı açısından az sayıda çalışmaya rastlanmıştır. Bu çalışmanın amacı aileler ile çocuklarının internet konusunda bağımlılıklarını tespit etmektir. Çalışmada Eşği (2014) tarafından uyarlaması yapılan Aile – Çocuk İnternet Bağımlılık Ölçeği kullanılmıştır. Uyarlama ölçeğine ilişkin güvenilirlik katsayısı (cronbach alfa) 0,91 ve Spearman Brown değeri 0,89 olarak bulunmuştur. Aile-Çocuk İnternet Bağımlılığı Ölçeği'nin uyarlamasına yönelik yapılan geçerlik ve güvenilirlik analizleri değerlendirilmiş ve elde edilen değerlerin beklenen sınırlar içerisinde olduğu görülmüştür. Aile – çocuk internet bağımlılığı konusunda katılımcıların görüşleri incelenmiştir. Ayrıca aile – çocuk internet bağımlılığı ile yaş, cinsiyet, meslek, eğitim durumu ve yaşanılan yer değişkenlerine göre bu araştırma gerçekleştirilmiştir. Araştırma sonucuna göre yaş dağılımlarına göre anlamlı farklılık bulunmuştur.

Anahtar Kelimeler: İnternet Bağımlılığı, Aile – Çocuk, İnternet Kullanımı.

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1. Introduction

Internet usage is increasing day by day. This increase is happening among children, young people, even parents. It is seen that internet usage is preferred especially in the field of social media. In recent days, this increase has been seen in areas such as Covid 19 pandemic epidemic and distance education and electronic commerce. Internet use allows people to move freely. It offers a space where they can share their thoughts and achievements.

The age that people are in is the age of information. It definitely brings with it some disadvantages such as the advantages of the technology used. When the Internet is used correctly by the users, it provides important skills such as problem solving and accessing information. In its uncontrolled and unconscious use outside of its purpose, it causes some negativity in attitude and behavior. Internet addiction is the most modern form of addiction and belongs to behavioral addictions (Karaman & Kurtođlu, 2009; Ayas & Horzum, 2013; Capetillo–Ventura & Juarez–Trevino, 2015; Kassiani etc., 2018; Yayan etc., 2018).

With the use of the internet, data can be spread to masses on a global scale. The Internet also provides opportunities for social interaction in public and private spheres. Social media usage, which has become an addiction especially by virtual media users, responds to the social demands of large masses. The development of new communication environments, the increasing interest in information communication technologies from all segments, increase the power of social media and add a different dimension to the concept of socialization. The internet, which comes up with new updates every day, is living its golden age with social media. Social media and internet touch people's lives (Vural & Bat, 2010; Solmaz, Tekin, Herzem & Demir, 2013; Sađbař, Ballı & řen, 2016; Baz, 2018). All these developments reveal that people create certain problems, especially in their family-child internet addiction levels.

In the studies conducted in the literature, the situation of internet addiction has been revealed, especially due to the use of social media tools (Kuss & Griffiths, 2011; Kara, 2012; Nakaya, 2015; Kūçūkali, 2016; Őngen, 2017). The fact that people use the internet from a young age increases internet addiction (Turan, 2015).

The aim of this study is to determine family-child views on internet addiction. In addition, it was aimed to reveal whether variables such as age, gender, employment status, place of residence, education status of the participants made a difference in their views on the subject.

In line with the purpose of the study, it was tried to find an answer to the following problem.

"What are the opinions of internet users on family - child internet addiction?"

In addition, the sub-problems of the study can be listed as follows:

1. *Do the participants' views on family-child internet addiction differ according to the age variable?*
2. *Do participants' views on family-child internet addiction differ according to the gender variable?*
3. *Do participants' views on family-child internet addiction differ according to the variable of working status?*
4. *Do participants' views on family-child internet addiction differ according to the variable of place they live?*
5. *Do participants' views on family-child internet addiction differ according to the educational level variable?*

When the literature is examined, there are not many studies that examine family-child internet addiction. In this sense, the study is thought to be important.

2. Method

The model of this research was designed according to the general scanning model. General survey models are scanning arrangements made on a sample or sample with the idea of making a general judgment about the whole universe or a group to be taken from the universe in a universe consisting of many elements. In the sample of the study, purposeful sampling method, which is not random, was preferred. This method is the selection of information-rich situations in order to conduct in-depth research (Karasar, 2009; Büyüköztürk, 2012).

In the research, a scale was applied to collect data. The scale consists of two parts. In the first part, items related to personal variables (age, gender, employment status, place of residence, education level) are included. The measurement tool used in the second part of the scale was developed by Eşği (2014) in order to determine families' evaluations of their children about internet addiction. The scale used is the Turkish adaptation study of the Family - Child Internet Addiction Scale (Parent-Child Internet Addiction Test, PCIAT20). The reliability coefficient (cronbach's alpha) for the adaptation scale was 0.91 and Spearman Brown value was 0.89. In the study, exploratory factor analysis was used for construct validity, and confirmatory factor analysis was used to test the accuracy of the obtained factor structure. As a result of the analysis, it was seen that 20 items were gathered under 4 factors.

The data obtained from the scale results used in the study were analyzed through the SPSS 25.0 program. Descriptive statistics, t test for independent samples and one-way analysis of variance were used in the analysis of the data. In the study, the arithmetic averages together with the frequency percentage distribution of the opinions of the parents about their children's internet addiction were calculated with the descriptive statistics method.

3. Findings and Discussions

The findings obtained from the statistical solutions of the data obtained in the study are included in this section. The distribution of the opinions of the participants on the internet addiction is given in Table 1.

Table 1. Frequency Percentage Distribution and Arithmetic Average of Participants' Opinions on Internet Addiction

	Never		Rarely		Sometimes		Often		Usually		Always		X
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	
1. How often does your child prefer to spend time on the internet instead of spending time with family members?	9	5,92	16	10,52	44	28,94	51	33,55	14	9,2	18	11,84	2,65
2. How often does your child neglect daily chores to spend time online?	17	11,18	24	15,78	44	28,94	39	25,65	13	8,55	15	9,86	2,34
3. How often will your child be defensive or mysterious when you ask what they are doing online?	65	42,76	35	23,02	20	13,15	21	13,81	5	3,28	6	3,94	1,23
4. How often does your child look tired and exhausted than before using the internet?	48	31,57	25	16,44	34	22,36	29	19,07	7	4,60	9	5,92	1,66

13. How often do you find your child secretly connecting to the Internet, even if you say otherwise?	12. How often does your child cause tantrums to your warnings about how long he/she has been online?	11. How often does your child check their e-mail before doing anything else?	10. How often does your child not abide by the time limit you set to stay connected to the Internet?	9. How often does your child stay away from other people since they've discovered the internet?	8. How often does your child's grades drop due to time spent online?	7. How often do you complain about the time your child spends on the internet?	6. How often does your child spend time alone in their room playing computer games?	5. How often does your child make new friends with users on the Internet?
53	45	92	38	45	67	19	51	79
34,86	29,60	60,52	25	29,60	44,07	12,5	33,55	51,97
31	32	16	32	29	20	21	29	29
20,39	21,05	10,52	21,05	19,07	13,15	13,81	19,07	19,07
20	28	15	23	23	20	34	20	23
13,15	18,42	9,86	15,13	15,13	13,15	22,36	13,15	15,13
28	24	12	31	30	27	35	25	13
18,42	15,78	7,89	20,39	19,73	17,76	23,02	16,44	8,55
10	11	9	11	10	9	16	16	3
6,57	7,23	5,92	7,23	6,57	5,92	10,52	10,52	1,97
10	12	8	17	15	9	27	11	5
6,57	7,89	5,26	11,18	9,86	5,92	17,76	7,23	3,28
1,61	1,73	1,03	1,97	1,84	1,46	2,58	1,73	0,99

20. How often will your child be angry or quarrelsome when you set limits on how much time he/she spends online?	41 26,97 38 25 25 16,44 16 10,52 14 9,21 18 11,84 1,85	19. How often does your child feel unhappy, sad or nervous when not on the internet and relax when he or she is online?	49 32,23 34 22,36 22 14,47 23 15,13 8 5,26 16 10,52 1,70	18. How often does your child receive phone calls from friends he or she just met online?	103 0,67 25 16,44 13 8,55 8 5,26 2 1,31 1 0,65 0,57	17. How often does your child choose to spend time with friends instead of going out?	51 33,55 26 17,10 28 18,42 22 14,47 14 9,21 11 7,23 1,70	16. How often does your child choose to spend time on the internet rather than a hobby and / or outdoor activity?	46 30,26 28 18,42 26 17,10 29 19,07 11 7,23 12 7,89 1,78	15. How often does your child appear to do something online when not connected?	83 54,60 16 10,52 22 14,47 15 9,86 9 5,92 7 4,60 1,15	14. How often does your child lose control, shout or act as if they are disturbed while on the Internet?	54 35,52 32 21,05 20 13,15 20 13,15 12 7,89 14 9,21 1,64
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When Table 1 is examined, participants say "How often does your child prefer to spend time on the internet instead of spending time with family members?" It is seen that they agree with the proposition ($x = 2.65$). "How often do you complain about the time your child spends on the internet?" proposition was another item that the students agreed with ($x = 2,58$). Again, some of the students participating in the research ($x = 2.34$) "How often does your child neglect daily chores to spend time online?" They state that they agree with the proposition. In addition, the students said, "How often does your child not abide by the time limit you set to stay connected to the Internet?" also expresses his opinion. When the data of the participants were evaluated in terms of internet addiction, "How often does your child receive phone calls from friends he or she just met online?"

It is seen that they agree with the proposal at the lowest rate. A second suggestion that students agree with at a low rate on internet addiction is "How often does your child make new friends with users on the Internet?" is the proposal. "How often does your child check their e-mail before doing anything else?" is another low rate suggestion made by students.

Findings regarding the difference of the participants' views on internet addiction according to the gender variable:

Whether there is a significant difference between the opinions of the participants about internet addiction and their gender was determined by independent t-test. The result of whether the opinions of the participants on internet addiction differ according to the gender variable is given in Table 2.

Table 2. T Test Results of Participants' Opinions on Internet Addiction According to Gender

Gender	N	x (SS)	sd	t	p
Female	72	1,59 (1,14)	148,15	-0,737	0,462
Male	80	1,72 (1,13)			

As seen in Table 3, the average of female participants ($x = 1.59$, $sd = 1.14$) on internet addiction is lower than the mean of male participants ($x = 1.72$, $sd = 1.13$). The relationship between family-child views on internet addiction and gender was analyzed and no statistically significant difference was found [sig. $p > .05$]. Based on these data, it can be said that the gender factor is not important in the opinions of the participants regarding family-child internet addiction.

Findings regarding the difference of the participants' views on internet addiction by age variable:

It was investigated whether there is a significant difference between the views of the participants on family-child internet addiction and the age variable.

Table 3. One-Way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) Results of Participants' Opinions on Internet Addiction According to Age Distribution

Variable	Age Range	N	X	SS	
	21 – 30	57	1,925	1,197	
	31 – 40	62	1,291	0,908	
	41 – 50	23	2,043	1,329	
	51 - over	10	1,625	1,042	
Age Range	Source of Variance	KT	sd	F	p
	Between Groups	15,843	3	4,358	,006
	Within Groups	179,341	148		
	Total	195,184	151		

When Table 3 is examined, it is seen that the highest average is in the 41-50 age group ($x = 2.043$) when the participants' internet addiction is compared according to their age levels. It is observed that the 21-30 age group ($x = 1.925$), the 51-over age group ($x = 1.625$) follow this. The lowest average is seen to be in the 31-40 age range ($x = 1,291$).

When Table 3 is examined, the mean total scores of the participants' opinions on internet addiction scale showed a significant difference according to age [$F = 4,358$; $p < ,05$]. Tukey test, one of the Post Hoc tests, was used to test the source of difference. The direction of the difference (21 - 30 years old) - (31 - 40 years old) was found.

Findings regarding the difference of the participants' views on internet addiction according to the educational level variable:

It was investigated whether there was a significant difference between the views of the participants on family-child internet addiction and the educational status variable.

Table 4. One-Way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) Results of Participants' Opinions on Internet Addiction According to their Educational Status

Variable	Education Status	N	X	SS	
	Postgraduate	18	1,494	1,340	
	Bachelor degree	88	1,735	1,083	
	High school	25	1,450	1,326	
	Primary school	21	1,769	0,944	
Education	Source of Variance	KT	sd	F	p
	Between Groups	2,348	3	0,601	,616
	Within Groups	192,837	148		
	Total	195,184	151		

When Table 4 is examined, it is seen that the highest average of participants belonging to the primary education group ($x = 1,769$) when the participants' internet addiction is compared according to their education level. It is seen that the undergraduate group ($x = 1,735$) followed by the graduate group ($x = 1,494$). The lowest average is seen in the high school group ($x = 1,450$).

The relationship between family-child internet addiction views and educational status was analyzed and no statistically significant difference was found [$p > ,05$].

Findings regarding the difference of the participants' views on internet addiction according to the variable of occupational status:

It was investigated whether there is a significant difference between the opinions of the participants on family-child internet addiction and the variable of occupational status.

Table 5. One-Way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) Results of Participants' Opinions on Internet Addiction According to Occupational Status Distributions

Variable	Occupation	N	X	SS	
	Civil Servant	34	1,357	1,130	
	Worker	14	1,971	1,433	
	Retired	9	1,611	0,914	
	Unemployed	63	1,750	1,028	
	Others	32	1,703	1,255	
Occupation	Source of Variance	KT	sd	F	p
	Between Groups	5,069	4	0,980	,421
	Within Groups	190,115	147		
	Total	195,184	151		

When Table 5 is examined, it is seen that participants belonging to the worker group have the highest average ($x = 1,971$) when the Internet addiction of the participants is compared according to their occupation status. It is observed that the non-working group ($x = 1,750$) and the other group ($x = 1,703$) followed this. The lowest average is seen in the civil servant group ($x = 1,357$).

The relationship between family-child internet addiction views and occupational status was analyzed and no statistically significant difference was found [$p > ,05$].

Findings regarding the difference of the participants' views on internet addiction according to the variable of the place they live in:

It was investigated whether there is a significant difference between the views of the participants on family-child internet addiction and the variable of the place they live in.

Table 6. One-Way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) Results of the Opinions of the Participants on Internet Addiction According to the Distribution of Their Living Area

Variable	Living place	N	X	SS	
	Metropolitan	69	1,696	1,244	
	City	42	1,608	1,182	
	Town	31	1,651	0,882	
	Village	10	1,720	0,992	
Living place	Source of Variance	KT	sd	F	p
	Between Groups	0,252	3	0,064	,979
	Within Groups	194,932	148		
	Total	195,184	151		

When Table 6 is examined, it is seen that the highest average of participants belonging to the village group ($x = 1,720$) is compared to the participants' internet addiction according to their place of residence. It is seen that the metropolitan group ($x = 1.696$) and the district group ($x = 1, 651$) follow this. The lowest average is seen in the city group ($x = 1, 608$).

The relationship between family-child views on internet addiction and the place they live in was examined and no statistically significant difference was found [$p > , 05$].

3. Conclusion

In this study, the opinions of the participants about family-child internet addiction were determined. The effect of internet addiction was examined according to the gender, age, occupational status, place of residence and education of the participants and some results were obtained. When the studies are examined, it is possible to come across many studies on internet addiction. Especially in recent years, studies on internet addiction and social media addiction have been encountered with students.

The highest participation rate in the answers given by the participants in the research is How often does your child prefer to spend time on the internet instead of spending time with family members. The proposition "How often do you complain about the time your child spends on the internet" was another item that the participants agreed. In this sense, it can be said that the participants have a problem with their children to spend time with them and they complain about this. Again, some of the participants participating in the research stated that they agree with the proposition "How often does your child neglect daily chores to spend time online". In addition, the participants expressed the view that "How often does your child not abide by the time limit you set to stay connected to the internet". When the participants' data were evaluated in terms of Internet addiction, it was seen that they agreed with the recommendation "How often does your child receive

phone calls from friends he or she just met online” at the lowest rate. A second suggestion that participants agree with at a low rate on internet addiction is “How often does your child make new friends with users on the internet”. “How often does your child check their e-mail before doing anything else” is another low-rate suggestion participants expressed. In this sense, it can be said that children use the internet less functionally in daily life. Similar results can be found with regard to Internet addiction (Kuss, Griffiths & Binder, 2013; Alican & Saban, 2013; Gholamian, Shahnazi, & Hassanzadeh, 2017).

With this research, family-child views on internet addiction were examined. It was determined that the participants' views on internet addiction did not differ significantly when considering the variables of gender, education level, profession and place of residence. Despite this, there is a significant difference between the age variable and the views on family-child internet addiction. In the following similar studies, the researcher can compare the findings obtained from this study with his own sample. It may be suggested to carry out studies on internet addiction by considering different variables.

Especially, studies are carried out by institutions on family - child internet addiction. It may be recommended to provide trainings on family-child internet addiction together with the associations serving the public.

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