



Investigation of Internet Usage and Social Exclusion - Social Inclusion of Individuals Who Diagnosed Orthopaedic Disability

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Abstract: The purpose of this research is to examine the impact of internet usage in the social relations of orthopaedic disabled individuals and to display the impact of internet on social exclusion or inclusion while orthopaedic disabled individuals are going on with their lives. Participants of this study consist of 39 disabled individuals in total, 33% (n=13) of whom are females and 67% (n=26) are males who were determined with criterion sampling methods in Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. The questionnaire developed by Köten and Erdoğan in 2014 was used in order to determine the demographic information of orthopaedic disabled individuals and social exclusion scale was employed to identify their social exclusion status and internet usage features. According to the results obtained from the research, it was found out that orthopaedic disabled individuals who do not use internet for fun, or watch TV, series, movies, music, documentary or entertainment programs, participating in chat rooms and seeking information felt themselves socially excluded. In conclusion studies conducted on individuals with orthopaedic disabilities mention a point in common. Being in working life, doing sports, self-esteem and not living alone are related to the socialization and being among people of individuals with orthopaedic disabilities. This paper displayed that internet usage has a positive impact on individuals with orthopaedic disabilities in terms of social inclusion. Although the topics of other studies are different, results are supporting

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each other and each study display the positive impacts of social inclusion of individuals with orthopaedic disabilities. It is recommended that qualitative studies should be conducted so that different variables which affect the social exclusion levels of individuals with orthopaedic disabilities can be displayed and more in-depth knowledge can be acquired.

Keywords: Orthopaedic disabled, Internet usage, social exclusion, social inclusion, communication

Ortopedik Engelli Bireylerin İnternet Kullanımları ile Sosyal Dışlanma ve Sosyal İçerilmelerinin İncelenmesi

Öz: Bu araştırmanın amacı ortopedik engelli bireylerin sosyal ilişkilerinde internet kullanımının etkilerini araştırmaktır. İnternetin ortopedik engelli bireylerin hayatlarını devam ettirirken sosyal dışlanma ya da sosyal içerilmelerine etkisini ortaya koymaktır. Bu araştırmanın katılımcıları Kuzey Kıbrıs Türk Cumhuriyetinde ölçüt örneklem yoluyla seçilen %33 (n=13) kadın ve %67 (n=26) erkek olmak üzere toplam 39 ortopedik engelli bireyden oluşmaktadır. Ortopedik engelli bireylerin internet kullanım özellikleri ve sosyal dışlanma durumlarını belirlemek için Köten ve Erdoğan (2014) yılında geliştirilen Sosyal Dışlanma Ölçeği ve demografik bilgi formu kullanılmıştır. Araştırmadan elde edilen sonuçlara İnterneti eğlenmek, TV, dizi, film, müzik, belgesel ya da eğlence programları izlemek, sohbet odalarına katılmak ve bilgi aramak amacıyla kullanmayan ortopedik engellilerin kendilerini sosyal olarak dışlanmış hissettikleri sonucuna varılmıştır. Sonuç olarak ortopedik engelli bireyler üzerinde yapılan çalışmalar ortak bir noktaya değinmektedir. Çalışma hayatında olmak, spor yapmak, özgüven ve tek başına yaşamamak, ortopedik engelli bireylerin insanların arasında olmaları ve sosyalleşmeleriyle ilgilidir. Bu makale, internet kullanımının, ortopedik engeli olan bireyler için sosyal içerilme açısından olumlu bir etkisi olduğunu göstermiştir. Diğer çalışmaların konuları farklı olsa da sonuçlar birbirlerini desteklemektedir ve her bir çalışma ortopedik engelli bireylerin sosyal katılımının olumlu etkilerini göstermektedir. Ortopedik engelli bireylerin sosyal dışlanma düzeylerini etkileyen farklı değişkenlerin gösterilebilmesi ve daha derinlemesine bilgi edinilebilmesi için nitel çalışmaların yapılması önerilmektedir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Ortopedik engelli, İnternet kullanımı, sosyal dışlanma, sosyal içerilme, iletişim

Introduction

Development history of technology goes back as far as the history of human development. "When human history is examined it will be seen that there is a change and development. The hunter-gatherer type in the first civilizations reached to today's information society and a constantly renewed technology age as a result of this transformation (Çalık & Çınar, 2009). Internet and internet technologies which are being used in several fields of daily lives of people are providing conveniences to people. The increased interest of people in information and communication technologies results in diversification in communication environments, the power of social media is increasing on a daily basis, and socialization concept gains a new dimension (Vural & Bat, 2010). Lately people are socializing through social networks most famous of which are Facebook, twitter, and Instagram. According to Eijkman, social networks are improving the quality of our daily lives. Professional and social life are becoming more reportable, investigable, shared and learnable through social networks (Cited in Vural & Bat, 2010).

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities which was accepted by the United Nations defines a disabled person as "a person with long-term physical, mental, intellectual or perceptual disorder which prevents them from attending the society fully and effectively under the same conditions with other individuals (United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2006).

World Health Organization (WHO) offers a definition and classification of the concept "freedom" which emphasises the health dimensions based on the consequences of diseases. Deficiency "in terms of health means a deficiency or imbalance in psychological, anatomic or physical structure and functions." Disability means "the situation which occurs as a result of a deformity or deficiency in health which results in the loss or limitation of functioning capacity compared to a normal person". Disablement "in the field of health indicates a disadvantaged situation which prevents and limits the ability of a person for acting normally according to his/her age, sex, social and cultural status as a result of a deficiency or deformity". (World Health Organization, 2017)

The act no. 5378 on the people with disabilities which was published in Turkey on 1/7/2005, a person with disability is defined as “an individual who is affected by the attitudes and environmental conditions which restrict his/her full and effective participation in the society in equal conditions with other individuals due to losses in physical, mental, spiritual and emotional abilities at certain levels” (25868 numbered Official Gazette, 2005).

Generally orthopaedic disabilities are defined by Ataman (2003) as disabilities related to movement which occur as a result of dysfunctions of muscular, skeletal and joint systems caused by damages to the neural system, diseases, accidents and genetic problems.

The research conducted by Turkish Statistics Institute orthopaedic disabled person is defined as “people with insufficiency, deficiency and loss of function in the muscular and skeletal system. Shortness, deficiency, excess, lack, restrained action, deformity in arms, feet, legs, fingers and spine, muscular weakness, bone diseases, people with paralysis, cerebral palsy, spasticity and spina bifida are included in this group” (Turkish Statistics Institute Research on the Problems and Expectations of People with Disabilities, 2010).

MEB Special Education Services Regulation defines orthopaedic inadequacy as “the situation of the education performance and social harmony of an individual being negatively affected due to a disease, malfunction and disability in skeletal, muscular or joint systems. Disability which occurs as a result of the damage in neural system is defined as “the case where neurological deformation which occurs in growth process negatively affects the education performance and social harmony of the individual” (26184 numbered Official Gazette, 2006).

In the context of disability-related social exclusion concept, two different models are examined to detect the source of the problem. One of these models, “social model” relates the problem to the society whereas the other model, “medical model” argues that the problem is caused by the individual (Ergüden, 2008).

Methodological and conceptual problems/discussions emerge in studies conducted on disability. The topic of disabilities has been discussed from basically two aspects in social sciences. The first model claims that the source of disability should be sought in the individual and thinks that the solution is provided by modern medicine. According to this

approach which is called individual or medical model, the disabled person is different from the normal due to a deficiency or anomaly in his/her body. Individual disability model sees disability as the limitations on the vital activities of a person due to any deformity or disease which is from birth or which occurred later. Therefore, disability is a physical, mental or emotional status caused by the person himself. According to this model, the problems that disabled individuals suffer from are individual" (Giddens, 2004).

Focusing on the impacts of social determination in discussing the topic of disability created the second approach. According to this approach which is termed as "social model" (Oliver, 1990) social impacts that create disability are located in the centre. According to the social disability model, disability is a situation which emerges due to the social obstacles in front of people with loss of bodily functions which prevent them from being fully integrated in the society, and is beyond an individual problem (cited from Oliver by Köten & Erdoğan, 2014). According to the social model, disability occurs not due to inabilities but due to the restrictive, stigmatizing, discriminative and therefore preventive attitudes in the society (Arıkan, 2002).

According to this model which totally reverses the individual disability paradigm which occupies a certain place in the society, disability is not a personal tragedy; instead, it is the result of social pressure, and not the individual but the society lays in its foundations. This approach does not claim that there are biological, bodily, non-changing, given deformities or losses of skill from birth; it underlines that it is the society/structure/system which determines the exclusion or otherisation of the individual. Preventive barriers are experienced by people with disabilities in several fields such as housing, work, education, transportation, culture, leisure activities, health, other social services, civil rights and political rights (Cited in Köten & Erdoğan, 2014).

In recent years, in most developed as well as developing countries, "social inclusion" is in the centre of most social policy discussions which handle several problems related to a wide segment of society without observing any class discrimination. Actually social exclusion is a new term, but in terms of its content and the topics it covers; it is not a very new concept. Social exclusion covers and/or is related to poverty, unemployment, social

protection, inequality and discrimination which are basically social policy issues for which reason it became the most important subject of social political discussions and public interventions. Social exclusion and its opposite, social inclusion, which means being accepted by and integrated in the society, have become concepts which are most widely used in terms of resolving inequalities and decreasing their impacts due to the changes which especially affect the class structure of industrialised countries (Sapançalı, 2005). The concept of social exclusion was first introduced in 1960s in France. Later the concept evolved to include excessively poor and was defined as a social problem in 1970s. In the field of social policy, social exclusion as first used by Rene Lenoir in 1974 and included single-parent families, drug abusers, criminals, jobless people who do not receive unemployment benefits, and mentally and bodily disabled people among the socially excluded (cited in Köten & Erdoğan, 2014). These groups show that a rather wide segment of the society is socially excluded; furthermore, the unemployed and the poor were added to these groups in 1980s and the term “social exclusion” was explained with the phenomena of inequality and poverty basically (Çakır, 2002).

Each society has its distinct economic, cultural, legal, historical and political structures. For this reason, the groups of people who feel excluded show differences from one country to another. It is not possible to say who will be excluded every time and everywhere, and it is not possible to tell the opposite, either. As mentioned above, this is due to the relativity of the concept. Individuals with sufficient income and social status may feel excluded, too. At this point the characteristics of the society as well as personal characteristics come to the forefront, and the viewpoints and expectations of individuals gain importance (Sapançalı, 2005).

The social exclusion suffered by the disabled people can be examined in institutional, economic and psycho-social aspects. People with orthopaedic disabilities are excluded from several fields in the society and cannot benefit from opportunities that other segments of the society benefit from. People with disabilities face with institutional and economic difficulties in access to several services and the social exclusion experienced by people with disabilities can be discussed in terms of physical environment, employment, education, rehabilitation

and health services. In psycho-social terms, the impact of media and existing social structure are visible on the disabled individuals (Ergüden, 2008).

As regards internet access of the people with disabilities, the most important legal grounds in terms of international legislations is the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities signed by Turkey. The convention brings governments the obligation of making physical environment, information and communication technologies accessible by the people with disabilities. Particular emphasis is put on the issue of accessibility which is one of the most important obstacles in front of the people with disabilities as regards benefiting from goods, services and information technologies; access to information and accessibility was also widely debated in the convention and emphasised in several clauses (United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2006).

Another important legislation which provides positive discrimination in terms of information services for people with disabilities is the Communication Act no. 5809 (Official gazette 10/11/2008 issue 27050). In the paragraph k of the 4th article of this act, it is provided that special needs of the people with disabilities, the elderly and groups which need social protection, including usage of technological innovation, should be taken into consideration" (Communication Law, 2008).

With the discussed legislations and other following regulations, considerable steps have been taken in terms of developing the information services for the disabled. According to Kaye (2000) "Although the internet access rates of people with disabilities is lower than people without disabilities, some applications and projects are promoting and popularizing internet usage; thus, people with disabilities who acquire access to internet in their homes can benefit from this technology for a number of purposes." (Cited in Köten & Erdoğan, 2014).

The Importance of the Study: The purpose of this paper is to examine whether internet usage of people with orthopaedic disabilities leads to differentiation in social exclusion dimensions of their social relations or not. The basic problem of the study is "is there any difference between different internet usage purposes of people with orthopaedic

disabilities and their level of social exclusion?”vThe following sub-problems based can lead us to the answer of the basic problem:

- Is there a statistically significant difference between usage frequency of internet for fun, TV, series, music, documentaries or entertainment programs and social exclusion levels?
- Is there a statistically significant difference between usage frequency of internet for entering chatrooms and social exclusion levels?
- Is there a statistically significant difference between usage frequency of internet for searching information and social exclusion levels?

Method

This study is a quantitative research which is a descriptive method. In descriptive research model the case is examined as it is. The examined events, phenomena and situations are studied in detail and their relations with previous situations or events are investigated and an attempt is made to describe these relations (Tanrıöğen, 2009). Depending on this research model, quantitative data are collected, and social exclusion or inclusion perceptions of orthopaedic disabled individuals are performed based on their internet usage. Quantitative studies use research techniques which collect and analyse numerical data and reach judgments based on experiments, observations, documentations, researching and investigation (Sönmez & Alacapınar, 2011).

Sample

The universe of the research covers the individuals with orthopaedic disabilities who live in Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC). The research sample was determined with criterion sampling technique which is a purposive random sampling method. This sampling method can be used to create samples consisting of individuals, objects or situations with certain characteristics (Büyüköztürk et al., 2009). Therefore, in terms of

disability group, the criterion is that individuals in sample group would be people with orthopaedic disabilities.

Sampling of the research consists of 39 individuals with orthopaedic disabilities in total, 33% (n=13) of whom are females and 67% (n=26) of whom are males who were determined with criterion sampling method which is a purposive sampling model. The distribution of the sample in terms of gender is given in Table 1.

Table 1. Distribution of the sample according to genders

Gender	N	(%)
Female	13	33,3
Male	26	66,7
Total	39	100,0

33.3% of the people in the sample are females (n=13) and 66.7% are males (n=26). Distribution of the sample group as per their region is given in Table 2, their education status is given in Table 3 and their type of disability is given in Table 4.

Table 2. Distribution of the sample according to the region

Region	N	%
Nicosia	26	66,7
Kyrenia	7	17,9
Güzelyurt	2	5,1
Famagusta	2	5,1
İskele	2	5,1
Total	39	100,0

Of the people who constituted the sample, 66.7% (n=26) live in Nicosia, 17.9% (n=7) live in Kyrenia, 5.1% (n=2) live in Güzelyurt, 5.1% (n=2) live in Famagusta, and 5.1% (n=2) live in İskele.

Table 3. Education status of the sample

Education status	N	%
Elementary school graduate	7	17,9
Secondary school graduate	5	12,8
High school student	2	5,1
Open high school student	2	5,1
High school graduate	19	48,7
University graduate	4	10,3
Total	39	100,0

Of the people who constituted the sample, 17.9% (n=7) are elementary school graduates, 12.8% (n=5) are secondary school graduates, 5.1% (n=2) are high school students, 5.1% (n=2) are open high school students, 48.7% (n=19) are high school graduates and 10.3% (n=4) are university graduates.

Table 4. Types of disabilities of the sample

Type of disability	N	%
Leg	10	25,6
Foot spine and bone	25	64,1
Hips	1	2,6
Other	3	7,7
Total	39	100,0

Of the people who constituted the sample, 25.6% (n=10) are disabled from legs, 64.1% (n=25) are disabled from feet, spine and bones, 2.6% (n=1) is disabled from hips, and 7.7% (n=3) are disabled from other parts of their body.

Data Collection Tools

Social exclusion scale and personal information form are used in the research as data collection tools. Social exclusion scale: it was developed by Köten and Erdoğan (2014). There are 17 positive and 7 negative items in the scale which make up a total of 24 items. The general reliability of the scale was found very high with .885 Cronbach Alpha Coefficient. Exploratory factor analysis was conducted to reveal the structural validity of the scale. As a result of the Barlett test conducted, it was found out that there is a relation between variables which are subjected to factor analysis ($p=0.000<0.05$). While calculating the scale score, after the values assigned to items are added, the total is divided into the number of items (arithmetic mean). The score obtained from social exclusion scale changes between 1 and 3. An increase in social exclusion scale score indicates an increase in social exclusion. It is found out that the average of social exclusion level is 2.008, which indicates the medium level. Personal information form: "personal information form" was used which consisted of the questions as regards the demographic characteristics of the sampling group and questions which evaluate the internet usage habits as per the objectives of the research.

Analysis of Data

For the analysis of the data, percentage transcriptions, t-test, single-way variance analysis (ANOVA) methods were used as per the objectives of the research. The significance level in this study was taken as .05.

Results and Discussion

In this section the findings obtained as a result of the analysis of the research data are provided. As per the objective of the research, the findings obtained as a result of the statistical analysis which was performed with the purpose of responding relevant sub-problems are provided in order. Answer is sought to the question "Is there a statistically significant difference between usage frequency of internet for fun, TV, series, music, documentaries or entertainment programs and social exclusion levels?" which is the first

sub-problem of the study. Findings obtained as a result of the analysis conducted are provided in Table 5.

Table 5. Comparison of individual usage frequency of internet for fun, TV, series, music, documentaries or entertainment programs and social exclusion levels

Internet usage frequency		n	\bar{X}	ss	sd	F	p
Social exclusion	None	6	2,26	,106	2	6.83	,003*
	At least once a day	28	2,01	,175			
	At least once a week	5	2,16	,114	36		
	Total	39	2,07	,184	38		

*Difference is significant at $p < .05$ level.

As a result of the conducted analysis, statistically significant difference has been found between social exclusion and individuals who do not use internet at all, use internet at least once a day and use internet at least once a week ($p = .003$; $p < .05$). The multiple comparison analysis which was conducted in order to find the reasons of the difference between social exclusion and individual usage of internet for fun, TV, series, movies, music, documentaries or entertainment is provided in Table 6.

Table 6. Multiple comparison of individual usage frequencies of internet for fun, TV, series, music, documentaries or entertainment programs and social exclusion levels

I	J	I-J	p
None	At least once a day	,25185*	,004
	At least once a week	,10629	,529

The Post hoc test which was performed in order to find which comparison provides meaningful difference, significant difference was found in social exclusion dimension between groups who did not use internet at all and who used internet at least once a day ($p = .004$; $p < .05$). It is also seen that this difference is in favour of the individuals who never use internet who suffered more social exclusion.

Answer is sought to the question “Is there a statistically significant difference between usage frequency of internet for entering chatrooms and social exclusion levels?” which is the second sub-problem of the study. Findings obtained as a result of the analysis conducted are provided in Table 7.

Table 7. Comparison of individual usage frequency of internet for entering chat rooms and social exclusion levels

	Internet usage frequency	n	\bar{X}	ss	sd	F	p
Social exclusion	None	14	2,21	,196			
	At least once a day	9	1,94	,058			
	At least once a week	8	2,00	,121	2	5.88	,001*
	At least once a month	6	2,00	,163	36		
	At least once in				38		
	6 months	2	2,15	,054			

*Difference is significant at $p < .05$ level.

As a result of the conducted analysis, statistically significant difference has been found between social exclusion and individuals who do not use internet at all, use internet at least once a day, use internet at least once a week, use internet at least once a month and use internet at least once every six months ($p = .001$; $p < .05$). Multiple comparison was conducted to display the reasons of this differentiation which is presented in Table 8.

Table 8. Multiple comparison table of frequency of usage of internet for entering chatrooms by individuals and social exclusion levels

I	J	I-J	p
None	At least once a day	,274*	,001
	At least once a week	,219*	,019
	At least once a month	,212*	,048
	At least once in every	,065	,978
	6 months		

The Post hoc test which was performed in order to find which comparison provides meaningful difference, significant difference was found in social exclusion dimension between groups who did not use internet at all and who used at least once a day ($p = .001$;

$p < .05$), who did not use internet at all and who used at least once a week ($p = .019$; $p < .05$), and who did not use internet at all and who used at least once a month ($p = .048$; $p < .05$). It is also seen that this difference is in favour of the individuals who never use internet and suffered more social exclusion.

Answer is sought to the question “Is there any statistically significant difference between usage frequency of internet for searching information and social exclusion levels?” which is the last sub-problem of the study and findings are provided in table 9.

Table 9. Comparison of frequency of internet usage for searching information by individuals and social exclusion levels

Internet usage frequency	n	\bar{X}	ss	sd	F	p
Social Exclusion	None	5	2,28	,213	4.56	,017*
	At least once a day	25	2,03	,157		
	At least once a week	9	2,07	,179		
	Total	39	2,07	,184		

*Difference is significant at $p < .05$ level.

As a result of the conducted analysis, statistically significant difference has been found between social exclusion and individuals who do not use internet at all, use internet at least once a day, and use internet at least once a week ($p = .017$; $p < .05$). Multiple comparison was conducted to display the reasons for this differentiation which is presented in Table 10.

Table 10. Multiple comparison of frequency of internet usage for searching information by individuals and social exclusion levels

I	J	I-J	p
None	At least once a day	,251*	,012
	At least once a week	,211	,579

The Post hoc test which was performed in order to find which comparison provides meaningful difference, significant difference was found in social exclusion dimension between groups who did not use internet at all and who used at least once a day ($p = .012$;

$p < .05$). It is also seen that this difference is in favour of the individuals who never use internet and suffered more social exclusion.

As a result of the investigations conducted in the literature, no studies are detected on the internet usage of individuals with orthopaedic disabilities. Nevertheless, it is also noticed that there are only a few studies on the psychological patterns of individuals with orthopaedic disabilities. In this section, the results of the limited number of studies and the findings obtained in this research are discussed.

The study conducted by Genç and Çat (2013) on the "relation between the employment of the people with disabilities and social inclusion" displayed that professional rehabilitation resulted in positive developments on the psycho-social structures of people with disabilities. It has been displayed that the most desired situations by people with disabilities are working, producing, being part of the society, generating income, creating a family environment, being taken serious, being beneficial to others, using their capacity and skills, going out, developing friendly relationships and being self-sufficient. It was concluded that the workplace and general employment areas where the research was done offered by the people with disabilities this opportunity and opening of employment areas would make considerable contribution to their social inclusion level. In our study, it is displayed that individuals with orthopaedic disabilities feel more socially included when they use internet for fun, TV, series, movies, music, documentaries, entertainment programs, entering chatrooms and searching information. The study conducted by Genç and Çat (2013) and this study support each other. Both studies conclude that socialization has a positive impact on individuals with orthopaedic disabilities.

As regards other studies conducted on the psychological patterns of individuals with orthopaedic disabilities, the study titled "the impact of sports on the socialization of people with orthopaedic disabilities" displayed that there is a significant difference between the socialization levels of individuals with orthopaedic disabilities who are interested in sports at professional or amateur level (wheel-chair basketball players) and those who are only viewers (non-athletes). This finding led to the conclusion that sports play an effective role in the socialization of individuals with orthopaedic disabilities (Akçalar, 2007). One study on

the anger expression styles, self-esteem and life satisfaction of individuals with orthopaedic disabilities concluded that their constant level of anger, expression of anger, self-esteem and life satisfaction was a function of some factors such as education, economic status and social security (Şahin & Akpınar, 2016). Yumşak (2004) conducted a study to examine the relationship between self-esteem level of adolescents with visual and orthopaedic disabilities and their perception of social attitude towards themselves. The findings of the study showed that there is a positive relationship between self-esteem levels of adolescents with disabilities and their perception of social attitude towards themselves. According to the results of the study, it was found out that the possibility of suicide in individuals with orthopaedic disabilities showed differences depending on living alone or not. It is displayed that the suicide possibilities of individuals with orthopaedic disabilities who live alone are higher compared to individuals who do not live alone.

In all these studies conducted on individuals with orthopaedic disabilities mention a point in common. Being in working life, doing sports, self-esteem and not living alone are related to the socialization and being among people of individuals with orthopaedic disabilities. This paper displayed that internet usage has a positive impact on individuals with orthopaedic disabilities in terms of social inclusion. Although the topics of other studies are different, results are supporting each other and each study display the positive impacts of social inclusion of individuals with orthopaedic disabilities.

Conclusion

This paper sought an answer to the question “Is there a difference between usage purposes of internet by individuals with orthopaedic disabilities and their social exclusion levels?” the following conclusions are reached as a result of the analysis conducted.

It has been concluded that there is a statistically significant difference between usage frequency of internet for fun, TV, series, music, documentaries or entertainment programs and social exclusion levels of individuals with orthopaedic disabilities. It is found out that

individuals who do not use internet for fun, TV, series, music, documentaries or entertainment programs feel themselves more socially excluded.

It has been concluded that there is a statistically significant difference between usage frequency of internet for entering chatrooms and social exclusion levels of individuals with orthopaedic disabilities. It is found out those individuals who do not use internet for entering chatrooms feel more socially excluded compared to individuals who use internet for this purpose at least once a day, at least once a week, at least once a month and at least once every six months.

It has been concluded that there is a statistically significant difference between usage frequency of internet for searching information and social exclusion levels of individuals with orthopaedic disabilities. It is found out those individuals who do not use internet for searching information feel more socially excluded compared to individuals who use internet for this purpose at least once a day and at least once a week.

As a result, individuals with orthopaedic disabilities who use internet for fun, TV, series, music, documentaries or entertainment programs, entering chatrooms and searching for information feel more socially included. It is concluded that individuals with orthopaedic disabilities who do not use internet for fun, TV, series, music, documentaries or entertainment programs, entering chatrooms and searching for information feel more socially excluded.

In this research, quantitative data were collected and displayed on the internet usage purpose of individuals with orthopaedic disabilities and their social exclusion levels. It is recommended that qualitative studies should be conducted so that different variables which affect the social exclusion levels of individuals with orthopaedic disabilities can be displayed and more in-depth knowledge can be acquired.

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