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RESEARCH ARTICLE

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A STUDY ON THE EFFECT OF PARENTAL INTERNET ADDICTION ON CHILDREN'S INTERNET ADDICTIONS

Ebeveynlerin İnternet Bağımlılıklarının Çocukların İnternet Bağımlılıklarına Etkisi Üzerine Bir Çalışma

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ABSTRACT

The relationship between education, society, and technology has roots that trace back to the dawn of human history. From primitive tools to modern defense systems, technology has always allowed humans to shape the physical world to meet their needs and desires, forming the foundation of civilization. Although new technologies have influenced social life throughout history, the rate of change today is unprecedented and has led to significant economic and social impacts.

With the widespread availability of the internet and younger ages accessing it, internet use across all age groups has surged. Among these groups, children and adolescents require special attention. Their time management skills are generally less developed compared to adults, placing a significant responsibility on parents to guide them. Understanding how parental behavior affects children's internet addiction is crucial.

This study aims to shed light on the influence of parental internet addiction on children's internet usage habits. Primary school students and their parents were surveyed, and the data were analyzed using a hierarchical regression method. The findings revealed that, in addition to demographic factors, a mother's level of internet addiction significantly influences her child's likelihood of developing similar habits. Moreover, moderator analysis indicated that this effect remains consistent regardless of the parent's gender or education level. The study highlights the importance of parental involvement in managing children's internet use to prevent potential addiction.

Keywords: Internet addiction, hierarchical regression, moderate analysis, parental effect, addiction in children

ÖZ

Eğitim, toplum ve teknoloji arasındaki ilişki insanlık tarihinin başlangıcına kadar uzanır. Tarih öncesi dönemde kullanılan taş aletlerden günümüzün modern savunma araçlarına kadar tüm teknolojiler, insanların istek ve ihtiyaçlarını karşılamak için fiziksel dünyayı şekillendirme fırsatı sağlamış ve medeniyetin temel parçaları arasında yer almıştır. Yeni teknolojiler tarihin her döneminde toplumsal yaşamı şekillendirmiştir ancak hiçbir dönemde değişim bugünkü kadar hızlı olmamış, ekonomik ve sosyal açıdan bu denli büyük bir etki yaratmamıştır. Günümüzde, internetin yaygınlaşması ve internete erişim yaşının düşmesiyle birlikte, tüm yaş gruplarında internet kullanımı artmaya başlamıştır. Bu yaş grupları arasında özel ilgi gerektiren grup çocuklar ve gençlerdir. Çocukların zaman yönetimi becerileri ebeveynlerine göre daha düşük olduğundan, bu konuda onlara rehberlik edecek ebeveynlere büyük sorumluluklar düşmektedir. Bu bağlamda, ebeveynlerin çocukların internet bağımlılığı üzerindeki etkilerini incelemek önemlidir. Ayrıca, gençler arasında internet kullanım sıklığının artması, yalnızlık, çeşitli zihinsel sorunlar, anksiyete, özgüven eksikliği gibi birçok farklı konuda sorunları beraberinde getirmektedir. Bu çalışmanın amacı, ebeveynlerin internet bağımlılığının çocukların internet bağımlılığı üzerindeki etkisini araştırmak ve ailelerde bu konuda farkındalık ve bilinç oluşturmaktır. Bu amaçla, yapılandırılmış izin formları ile ilkökul öğrencileri ve ebeveynlerinin internet bağımlılığı incelenmiş ve bulgular hiyerarşik regresyon yöntemiyle analiz edilmiştir. Analiz sonucunda, demografik yapının yanı sıra annenin internet bağımlılık seviyesinin çocuğun internet bağımlılık seviyesi üzerinde etkili olduğu sonucuna varılmıştır. Ayrıca, moderatör analiziyle, annenin çocuk üzerindeki bu etkisinin ebeveynlerin cinsiyeti ve eğitim seviyesine göre değişmediği görülmüştür.

Anahtar Kelimeler: İnternet bağımlılığı, hiyerarşik regresyon, moderatör analizi, ebeveyn etkisi, çocuklarda bağımlılık

INTRODUCTION

Throughout the human history, the desire to do complex tasks in a shorter time has been a spur to the developments in technology. The industrial revolution accelerated this process, and wars continued to be the driving force that always led the development of technology. Especially during the cold war period after the World War II, space exploration was accelerated, the journey to the moon, which human history had dreamed of for centuries, was realized, and many technologies obtained in this process had reflections on our daily lives. How much share countries will receive from the blessings that exist in the world and how much this share will affect daily life is only possible thanks to the superiority in technology and science. The devices produced in this race for superiority have entered our daily lives, many devices from phones to tablets, from computers to game consoles have been produced, and technology has now become indispensable in our lives with the inclusion of the internet in the game. Internet addiction varies according to the geographical region where the individual lives, as well as the cultural and socioeconomic conditions of the place. It is thought that uncontrolled internet use in young people is closely related to the socioeconomic level of individuals and their families, and when this situation is not controlled, it leads to clinical addiction cases (Kayri and Günç 2016). The internet, which has entered the lives and routines of individuals since the 1990s, is becoming a tool that connects its users with each other day by day. Today, internet usage reaches a very high rate both in the world and in Turkey. In many studies conducted in the world and in Turkey, it has been determined that children and young people use the Internet the most (Akıncı and Şanver 2019; Taylan and Işık 2015). The increase in the time spent on the Internet, especially the children and young people becoming internet addicts, is one of the important problems of recent times (Taylan and Işık 2015). Internet addiction is increasing day by day. This increased Internet addiction can neg-

actively affect an individual's mental health because of shopping addiction, isolation, violence (Fook et al. 2020). Internet addiction poses a threat not only to young people but also to adults. Many adults spend time staying online to relieve their stress or distract from their responsibilities. Over time, the current situation leads to internet addiction due to loss of control. The aim of this study is to investigate the effect of parents' Internet addiction on children's Internet addiction and to raise awareness and consciousness in families on this issue.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

When the literature is examined, it is seen that there is a significant relationship between internet addiction and depression. Depending on the excessive use of the Internet, this can lead to depression in the individual (Taş and İme 2019). Although technology comes to the fore with its ability to facilitate modern life, it can be said that technology has some negative effects at the individual and social level. One of these effects, which can be seen clearly in almost every age group, is technology addiction. Of course, mentioning the concept of technology and addiction together was not something that happened a thousand years ago. (March, 2018). Today, the use of the Internet is becoming more and more widespread. Being easily accessible increases the frequency of internet usage. As a requirement of the age of technology, computers and the internet have an increasingly important place in the lives of young people from an early age. The uncontrolled use of the Internet has led to the emergence of a new type of addiction called "Internet addiction", although its purpose is easy and fast access to information. While technology encourages human life as an indicator of development and modernization, it also brings some dangers arising from unconscious use. Especially uncontrolled internet use can have negative psychological and social effects on young people. When used correctly, effectively and efficiently, young people's access to information provided by computers and the internet can be very beneficial (Akıncı and Şanver 2019).

The definition of addiction can be made as the inability of a person to stop using a behavior or substance by will. Considering the negative effects on children who spend a lot of time in digital games, it is very important to use technology consciously. It is believed that self-control and social tendencies are important for the child to use time efficiently, to benefit from technology fully and correctly, and to complete his/her psychosocial development. It is believed that children with self-control can control themselves while playing digital games and actively benefit from technology without entering the addiction cycle. It is seen that digital games have negative effects on children, such as preventing social cohesion, increasing the tendency to violence, worsening school and family relations, and ambiguous attitudes towards goals and ideals (Hussain et al., 2012). Self-control and social tendencies in children and adolescents are thought to be important for digital game addiction. It is a common situation today that digital game addiction is increasing and becoming widespread among children and adolescents (Aksel and Enver 2020). If the internet using desire cannot be stopped, time loses its importance when there is no internet connection, distress, restlessness and aggression occur when

deprived of the internet, and if the daily functioning, social life, school and family life are getting worse this is called as “internet addiction”. The number of people who are addicted, unable to leave the house, drop out of school, and disrupt their daily routines because they cannot leave the electronic devices, is increasing day by day. There must be a way to prevent misuse of the Internet. It is necessary to ensure that parents and their children use the internet correctly (Alyanak 2016).

The rapid development of technology offers many products that make daily life easier for people. In addition to the life-enhancing benefits these products provide, technology is known to cause problems due to excessive and inappropriate use. In this case, the most common problem, especially among school-age youth, is excessive use of the Internet. It is known that this addiction negatively affects the social relations of young people and reduces their academic success. In the presented paper, it will be focused on whether young people use the internet excessively and its causes. At the same time, the concept of “addiction” will be examined, the scope of this concept and the symptoms of addiction will be revealed. (Cengizhan 2005). It will be tried to determine the factors affecting the addiction levels of young people and to offer solutions to control the situation. Although it has a very short history, the Internet has entered many areas of life today. It is a widely spoken situation that some people who spend most of their time in virtual worlds have problems in social, professional and private areas due to uncontrollable internet use. The reported prevalence of Internet addiction ranges from 1.5% to 8.2%. Differences in prevalence reported in studies can be explained by the various scales used to diagnose internet addiction, differences in study design, target populations, and differences in cultural and social makeup. Cognitive-behavioral approaches are one of the most widely used and effective treatments for Internet addiction (Şenormancı et al., 2010). Behavioral addictions, including Internet addiction, still remain in scientific uncertainty due to difficulties in making an appropriate distinction between normal and pathological behaviors. In the literature, substance addiction has been conceptualized comprehensively, describing behavioral addictions and the resulting abusive behaviors, frequency of use, money spent, needs or difficulties, and possible interventions in their daily lives. Addictions cause people to be unable to fulfill their obligations to life. As a result of the emergence of social networking sites and their wide impact on people, a new concept of addiction, called internet addiction, has emerged. In addition to being attractive and functional, social networks have a high impact on people because they are easily accessible anywhere and anytime. This makes them strong and indispensable, thus forming a breeding ground for addiction (Del Castillo 2013).

In terms of information literacy, young people are generally very proficient in internet tools, but their literacy aspects are weak structurally, especially in understanding how information is used and produced socially (Leung and Lee 2012). The problems associated with the problematic use of mobile phones, which are frequently used by young people today, have not been widely explored. Few tools exist to assess potential technological dependence on mobile phones or to categorize different types of users or usage. The most widely used scale is the Mobile Phone Problem Use Scale (MPPUS), which

is used to study adult populations and has been applied in various ways in international contexts. Users who used mobile phones and who were like their peers in the same possible problems arising from use scored notable in all symptoms covered by the scale used to assess problematic use. (Lopez-Fernandez et al. 2014). Smartphone addiction is becoming more problematic today because most students, whether they are higher education students or younger students, become more addicted to WhatsApp, Twitter, Instagram, Facebook and similar apps (Kibona and Mgaya 2015).

The popularity and ubiquity of smartphones has led to a growing number of studies on the overuse of this new technology. Much literature has focused on teenagers and young adults, who have this mobile technology but lack self-control to counter its harmful effects. All studies in the field of new media technology have shown evidence of addiction symptoms and described possible consequences. However, the significant relationships found between addiction and variables in the current literature may not be compatible with the findings of another study (Liang and Leung 2018). In the study conducted by Fook et al. in 2022, he found that young people in higher education have a moderate level of mobile addiction and interpersonal relationships, and he said that there is no significant difference between mobile addiction and gender. In addition, a significant relationship was found between mobile addiction and interpersonal relationship. The study implies that mobile addiction is associated with interpersonal relationships and that addicted adolescents experience more negative emotions than non-addicts. In addition, it was concluded that people with high levels of anxiety or depression are generally uncomfortable with face-to-face communication and face much more difficulties in interpersonal relationships (Fook et al. 2020).

Multiplayer online role-playing games (MMORPGs) have gained increasing popularity in recent years. Around 20 million people worldwide play MMORPGs, and that number will only increase as online games become more popular. Besides the young gamer stereotype, these virtual worlds are now used by people of all races, age groups and education levels. These virtual worlds reveal a place where people do many things that they cannot comfortably do in real life, and where they can express themselves in ways that can feel natural (Hussain et al., 2012).

Development is a concept that expresses the order, harmony, continuity and change that a person experiences throughout his life. Although individuals show relatively different characteristics, it is acceptable for everyone to reach a certain developmental range according to their age. In the preschool period, which is considered as a critical stage of development, many factors, especially the family, can create positive and negative situations with permanent results. Especially in preschool years, social and emotional development plays a very important role in the development of healthy personality structures and positive interactions with the environment. The quality of social and emotional development is closely related to the interactions of parents with their children. As a result of the parents' behaviors supporting their child's social and emotional development, it is effective in the formation of a harmonious personality structure that has a high sense of trust, is creative, can act freely, knows

how to protect himself against injustice, is inclined to work in groups and can cooperate (Kandır and Alpan 2008).

Considering the effect of parental attitudes on the development of the child, it is inevitable that positive or negative attitudes and behaviors will reflect on the child. When the literature is examined, no study has been seen in literature that deals with internet addiction in primary and secondary school children and internet addiction of their parents. The motivation of this study is to reveal the effect of parents' internet addiction on children. As a result of this, it was aimed to review the attitudes of the parents and to raise awareness on the subject. There are many studies on children's internet addiction, but there is no study on the effect of parents' internet addiction on their child. This constitutes the original value of the current study on mothers and fathers, who are role models in children's lives.

According to these results, we will investigate two hypotheses that can explain the connection between the internet addiction 1-12th student and internet addiction of their parents.

H1. Child's internet addiction depends on mother's internet addiction

There is a positive correlation between a child's internet addiction and a mother's internet addiction. For example, a study conducted in 2017 examined the relationship between 958 children and adolescents and their 958 parents in South Korea. The study found a positive relationship between a mother's internet addiction and a child's internet addiction (Lee et al,2017). Furthermore, as the level of a mother's internet addiction increased, the level of a child's internet addiction was also found to increase. Similarly, another study conducted in 2018 measured the level of internet addiction of 384 children and adolescents and 384 mothers in Iran. The study found a positive correlation between a mother's internet addiction level and a child's internet addiction level (Mohammadi et al,2018). These studies support the notion that there is a positive relationship between a child's internet addiction and a mother's internet addiction.

H2. Child's internet addiction depends on father's internet addiction

The hypothesis that a child's internet addiction is related to their father's internet addiction is a new proposition. There is not enough scientific research on the relationship between a child's internet addiction and their father's internet addiction. Therefore, there is no definitive evidence regarding the existence or absence of such a relationship. The motivation of the study is to test this hypothesis, for this reason investigations have been conducted.

METHOD

In the method section, information is given about the model of the study, its universe, and the scales used. Later, the results obtained in the application were shared. The research model, universe, sample, and measurement tools constituting the method of the research were presented below.

Basic statistics such as percentage, frequency, mean, standard deviation regarding variables are presented. In addition, Cronbach alpha value is performed for scale reliability and factor analysis is performed for validity. In addition, regression models are used for effect.

Research Model

The aim of this study is to examine the effect of family on internet addiction of elementary school students 1-12th. For this purpose, it is aimed to statistically model the relationship between parents and children's internet addictions after demographic information. In this context, linear regression models were established. A hierarchical regression model was established by considering demographic information as a control variable. In addition, a moderating analysis was conducted for the effect of the child's gender knowledge on the interaction between the child and the parent. Ethics committee approval of the study was obtained from Istanbul Medipol University Social Sciences Ethics Committee with the decision numbered E-43037191-604.01.01-12660.

Sample

The population of the research consists of the students from the 1st to the 12th student in Kartal District of Istanbul in the 2021-2022 academic year and the parents of these students. It is recommended in the literature to reach at least 5 times the number of expressions in the scale for the sample size. In this context, the required sample size for the scale with 33 statements was calculated as 165 (Alpar, 2011). As a sample, 3 different public schools were determined in Kartal District and a scale was applied to a total of 167 students and their parents.

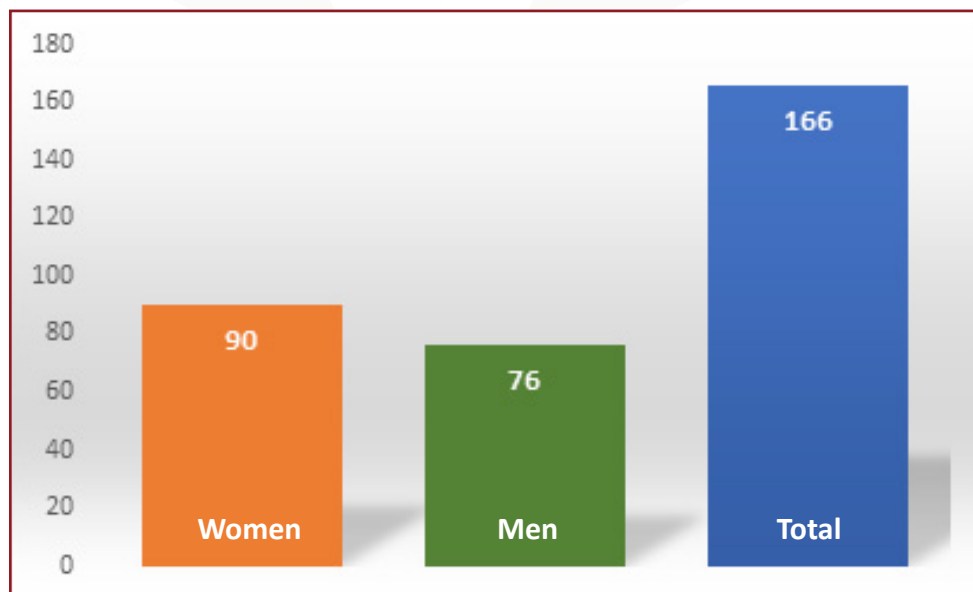


Figure 1. Distribution of Participants by Gender

The distribution of the students by gender is given in Figure 1. The study was conducted with a total of 167 (one participant did not specify gender information), 90 women and 76 men, and the parents of these 167 participants. The participants were asked whether their parents were alive, and all participants answered that their parents were alive. In another question, the question of whether the parents were divorced and with whom they lived, 2 participants said that their parents were divorced and lived with their mother, while 164 participants said that their parents were married and living together.

Table 1. Educational Status of Parents

			N	%
Education Level	Mother	Primary School	16	10%
		Middle School	21	13%
		High School	54	32%
		Associate Degree	20	12%
		Bachelor's Degree	44	26%
		Master's Degree	12	7%
		Doctorate	0	0%
	Father	Primary School	7	4%
		Middle School	13	8%
		High School	63	38%
		Associate Degree	14	8%
		Bachelor's Degree	49	29%
		Master's Degree	19	11%
		Doctorate	2	1%

In Table 1, the educational status of the parents is given, it is seen that 33% of the mothers and 41% of the fathers have a bachelor's degree or higher education.

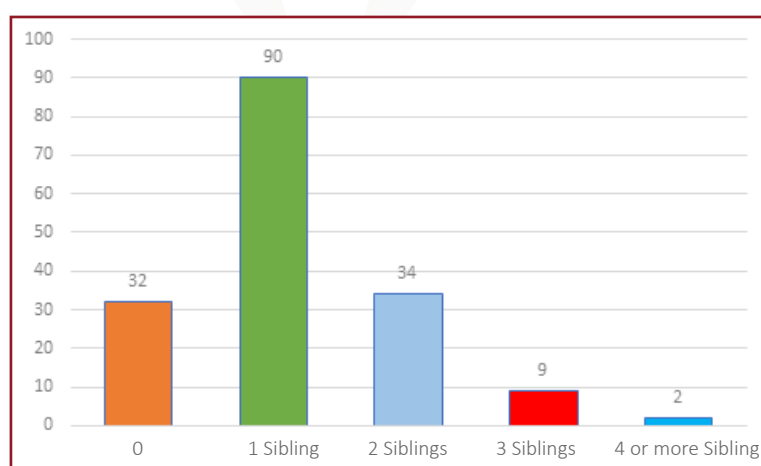


Figure 2. Number of Siblings of Participants Graph

In Figure 2, the number of siblings the participants had was examined and it was seen that there were 135 people with at least one sibling.

Data Collection Tools

In this study, “Personal Information Form” was used to obtain the demographic information of the student. The form prepared to learn the personal data of the students was developed by the researchers. After the necessary permissions were obtained from the official authorities, a parent approval form was prepared and the necessary permissions were obtained from the students’ parents and the students were allowed to participate in the study. Students were asked about their class, gender, school type, whether their parents were alive, whether their parents were divorced, with whom they lived, and the number of siblings. In addition, the Smartphone Scale (Demirci et al. 2014) consisting of 33 questions developed by Demirci et al. in 2014 was used in the study, and the results were examined by applying the scale to both the students and the parents of the student. The scale in question consists of seven sub-dimensions. In the study of Demirci et al., the reliability coefficient of the sub-dimensions ranged between 0.572 and 0.915, while the reliability of the main dimension was calculated as 0.947. In addition, factor validity and discriminant validity were performed, and it was stated that internet addiction could be addressed at the first level, except for the sub-dimensions.

Data Analysis

Before the analysis of the data, reliability and validity analyzes of the scale were applied. The variable obtained by factor analysis was subjected to analysis. Then, the missing values in the data set were examined and it was determined that there was no missing value. Then, mean scores for each scale were calculated. Hierarchical regression analysis was used for the effect of parents’ internet addiction on their children. In addition, moderator analysis was used to look at the role of the child’s gender in this effect. The obtained data were analyzed in SPSS 22.0 program and the results were interpreted.

FINDINGS

The expressions in the scale developed for smartphone addiction were adapted to internet addiction. For language and expression suitability, expert opinions were taken and included in the questionnaire. In addition, internet addiction was considered as a single dimension and analyzed. Separate factor analysis structures for the child, mother and father, and the suitability of the factor structure at each level were also tested. Factor analysis and Cronbach’s alpha values were used for the reliability and validity of the scale. For construct validity, it was examined both at the individual (child, mother, father) level and in general, and it was examined whether the scale changed on an individual basis. In Table 2, factor analyzes of internet addiction responses in child, mother and father questionnaires are given separately, and the factor analysis results obtained by combining the answers of all participants are shared.

Table 2. Reliability and Validity Results of Internet Addiction Scales

	All	Child	Mother	Father
İB1	0.694	0.658	0.694	0.727
İB2	0.607	0.505	0.679	0.679
İB5	0.633	0.555	0.726	0.656
İB7	0.609	0.631	0.564	0.589
İB8	0.671	0.664	0.694	0.627
İB10	0.803	0.846	0.790	0.734
İB11	0.775	0.814	0.762	0.700
İB12	0.778	0.776	0.801	0.732
İB13	0.802	0.793	0.823	0.788
İB14	0.758	0.785	0.729	0.736
İB15	0.824	0.824	0.835	0.807
İB16	0.832	0.812	0.866	0.819
İB17	0.753	0.830	0.700	0.672
İB18	0.698	0.665	0.718	0.717
İB21	0.609	0.473	0.753	0.733
İB22	0.749	0.757	0.749	0.755
İB23	0.631	0.543	0.715	0.703
İB24	0.589	0.648	0.659	0.639
İB28	0.640	0.705	0.604	0.591
İB29	0.736	0.794	0.726	0.657
İB30	0.806	0.829	0.782	0.793
İB31	0.758	0.713	0.776	0.788
İB33	0.721	0.675	0.810	0.692
Explained Variance (%)	51.898	51.400	54.841	50.854
KMO	0.954	0.930	0.938	0.928
Bartlett's Tests	8324.604	2909.540	3412.092	2703.475
Cronbach's Alpha	0,96	0,96	0,96	0,95

The skewness and kurtosis coefficients were examined for the distribution of the expressions required for the factor analysis. Since the skewness and kurtosis coefficients calculated from the expressions were in the range of ± 2 , it was seen that the assumption of normal distribution was met (Kim, 2013). In addition, residuals were examined for regression analysis. It has been observed that the distribution of error terms is in accordance with the normal distribution and does not contain variance problems.

The factor analysis and reliability results of internet addiction are given in Table 2. In Table 2, first all individuals (child-mother-father) were subjected to factor analysis separately and then together, analysis procedures were carried out, thus it was examined whether there was a factor difference on the basis of the group. The created size was found to be appropriate in both cases. According to factor analysis, factor loadings are over 0.4 and the variances explained at each level are over 50%. In addition, the smallest of the KMO values, which is an indicator of the sample size, is 0.928, and it

can be said that the sample is at a sufficient level with this value. For reliability, the Cronbach’s Alpha value, which is the internal consistency coefficient, should be higher than 0.6. The relevant value of the scale is above 0.9 at all levels and it can be said that its reliability is high.

Table 3. Hierarchical Regression Results

Variable	Step 1				Step 2			
	Coefficient	Beta	t	p	Coefficient	Beta	t	p
Class	0,101	0,214	2,429	0,016	0,072	0,153	2,212	0,029
Gender	0,189	0,329	2,017	0,046	0,100	0,173	1,355	0,178
With whom does the child live	0,738	0,124	1,400	0,164	0,779	0,131	1,892	0,060
Mother Father Divorce	-0,666	-0,188	-1,232	0,220	-0,359	-0,101	-0,85	0,396
Number of siblings	0,183	0,160	1,888	0,061	0,070	0,061	0,922	0,358
Mother Educational Status	0,046	0,069	0,735	0,463	0,074	0,111	1,518	0,131
Mother Working Status	0,036	0,052	0,599	0,55	-0,084	-0,121	-1,74	0,084
Father Educational Status	0,011	0,007	0,082	0,935	0,027	0,017	0,260	0,795
Father Working Status	0,172	0,064	0,820	0,414	0,238	0,088	1,448	0,150
Mother’s internet addiction					0,727	0,584	8,155	0,000
Father’s internet addiction					0,095	0,069	0,993	0,322
R	0,408				0,709			
R ²	0,166				0,502			
F	2,949				12,267			
p	0,002				<0,001			

When Table 3 is examined, in step 1, the child’s internet addiction was examined in the light of demographic information. Class and gender were found to be effective in this model ($p < 0.005$). In other words, it is statistically seen that the internet addiction levels of boys are higher than girls, and that internet addiction increases as the grade level increases. In step 2, the internet addictions of the parents were added to the model. In step 2, it is seen that there is a positive correlation between the level of the child’s class and the level of internet addiction. In addition, it was observed that there was a positive and significant effect between the mother’s internet addiction and the child’s internet addiction ($p < 0.005$). In other words, it can be interpreted that student’s internet addiction is increased by the mother’s internet addiction. There was no significant relationship between father’s internet addiction level and child’s addiction level ($p > 0.005$). In addition, in Table 3, when the demographic variables of the children were entered, there was a significant change in the internet addiction of children with $R^2 = 0.166$ and $R^2 = 0.502$ with the addition of the parents’ internet addiction variables. The source of this change can be interpreted as the higher tendency of children to take their mothers as role models.

Table 4. Moderate Analysis Results of Gender

Variables	Coefficient	Beta	t	p
Mother's internet addiction	0,726	0,586	5,049	0,000
Gender	0,064	0,107	0,252	0,801
Mother's internet addiction X Gender	0,011	0,059	0,132	0,896
R	0,643			
R2	0,414			
F	38,345			
p	<0,001			

In Table 4, it was examined whether the mother's internet addiction varies with the gender of the children, and it was concluded that there was no significant difference. In other words, it can be said that the effect of the mother's addiction level on internet addiction in girls or boys is similar.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

Nowadays, the expansion of the internet and the decrease in this technology is accessible, the frequency of use has started to increase gradually. Since children's skills to manage time are lower than their parents, they have great responsibilities for parents who will guide them. Starting from the pre-school period, the quality of the interactions between the parent and the child is very important for the social and emotional development of the child, and parents need to be a role model with all their behaviors to an example for their children. Internet addiction, which can be seen as the outbreak of internet use, can be seen at any age. The internet use of the parents who will guide children can also be effective in internet addiction in children.

The results are similar to the results of the study by Lopez-Fernandez et al. (2014). Internet and technological product addiction are becoming more widespread among family members, especially parents. Similar to the studies by Kibona and Mgaya (2015) and Liang and Leung (2018), it is seen that social media use is increasing in children.

With this study, it was found that there was an increase in internet dependence levels as the class levels of children increased. It is seen that there are increasing internet addictions at these ages, when today's children began to socialize. In addition, it can be said that boys are more disadvantageous than girls about their predisposition to internet addiction. It is thought that men's dependence levels are high because the internet content produced is mostly directed towards men. In addition, the quality time spent with children affects the child's role modeling level. The mother, which children see more often, comes to the forefront than the father in a role model. Study has shown that mothers with internet addiction have more influence on their children than fathers with internet addiction.

In addition, it was seen that the education level of the mother and father has no significant impact on the child's internet addiction. Parents who spend quality and sufficient time with their children, transfer their social experiences, follow the questions of their children with interest, give satisfactory answers to their questions and follow their development closely and provide all the necessary stimuli, parents who support the social and emotional development of their children.



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