

An Exploratory Study of Taiwan High School Students' Problematic Internet Usage: Teachers' Perception and Counseling Experiences

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Abstract

With the advent of network age, the Internet has not only changed people's life in communicating, learning, and entertainment, but also brought unprecedented impacts on schools, teachers, and students.

In reviewing previous related studies, the researcher found that most studies focused on students' overuse or misuse of Internet more than on teachers' perceptions and experiences. Therefore, this research is focus on teachers' own Internet use experiences and perceptions of their students' Internet using. Further, this study intent to collect any effective counseling strategies.

The study was a qualitative analysis, using snowball sampling and in-depth interviews to collect 21 teachers' data in five months. The research results were:

1. The experiences of network usage of teachers: More than half of the teachers have never been to cybercafes, had cyber-relationships, or played on-line games. However, they very appreciated the values of the Internet.
2. Their students' problematic internet usage: Over 70% of the teachers thought that some students were over-involved in using the Internet in general, developing cyber-relationships, and staying in the cybercafes and playing online games.
3. Analyses students' problematic Internet usage scopes: All of the teachers thought that Internet addiction, over-involvement in cyber-relationships and in the on-line games were prevalent among students. Among these problematic behaviors, teachers felt more difficult to understand or recognize students' cyber-relationships than other behaviors.

4. The responsibility share to counsel students' problematic Internet usage: Most of the teachers thought that class tutors and parents should take the most responsibilities for counseling students' problematic Internet behaviors. However, it did not mean the discharge of others' responsibilities.
5. Difficulties in the counseling and assistance needed: The major difficulty in counseling is the lack of students' parents' cooperation. Other difficulties included the lack of students' self-control abilities, teachers' counseling skills, and insufficient time for them to do the counseling tasks.
6. Teachers' counseling experiences on students' problematic Internet behaviors: Many teachers said that although they had no clear idea in doing the counseling work, they still tried their best to do. This study also collected one successful case which can be shared with other teachers.

Keyword: Problematic Internet Usage 、 High School Students 、 Internet Addiction 、 On-line corutship 、 On-line game 、 Internet café 、 Teachers' Perception 、 Counseling Experiences 、 Qualitative Research

