Hearing Impaired Children’s Problematic Internet Usage: A Case from Turkey

Kerem Kilicer, Graduate School of Education Sciences, Anadolu University, Turkey, kkilicer@anadolu.edu.tr
Onur Donmez, Graduate School of Education Sciences, Anadolu University, Turkey, onurdonmez@anadolu.edu.tr
H. Ferhan Odabasi, Graduate School of Education Sciences, Anadolu University, Turkey, fodabasi@anadolu.edu.tr
Umit Girgin, Applied Research Center for the Education of Hearing Impaired Children (ICEM), Anadolu University, Turkey, uginin@anadolu.edu.tr

Abstract: Problematic internet use (PIU) was operationally defined as internet use that is uncontrollable, markedly distressing, time-consuming or resulting in social, occupational or financial difficulties and non-solely present during hypomanic or manic symptoms. Despite youngsters’ straightforward access to the Internet, it is pretty naïve to think their Internet use to be unchallenged. On the contrary, related literature regards youngsters as the risk group for internet originated problems. Moreover disabled youngsters were shown to be more open to internet originated problems than their normal counterparts. This survey study aimed to put forward the views of hearing impaired children’s parents on their children’s PIUs whom are believed to be disadvantaged groups both as children and families. A questionnaire examining hearing impaired children’s parents’ views on their children’s PIUs was prepared by benefiting from prior scales and an elaborative literature review. Questionnaire was employed to parents of 71 hearing impaired K-12 student studying at a research center in one of Turkey’s mega universities. Parents reported little problematic internet use for their hearing impaired children. In line with suggestions of related literature, family support and restraintment are found to be effective factors for preventing youngsters’ PIUs.