

The influence of gadgets towards social development among children below 7 years old from kindergarten teachers' perspectives

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ABSTRACT: This study conducted to identify the the influence of gadgets towards the social development among children below seven years old from kindergarten teachers' perspectives. This present study involved 50 kindergarten teachers where they represent as the respondents. In collecting the data, the researcher adopted questionnaire as the research instrument. In the questionnaire, it includes the aspects related to influence of parents towards the usage of gadgets among the children, impact on the usage of gadgets towards academic and health as well as social development among the children. Referring to the finding reported, the side usage of gadget among the children below 7 years old is due to the influence of the parents where they give freedom towards their children as well as not practicing effective parental style in educating their children. Due to the uncontrollable usage of gadget, it gives great impact towards academic performance and state of health among the children. As reported, the children faced problem in reading and writing. In terms of health, due to high exposure towards gadget, the children faced sensory problem and back pain. Not only that, uncontrollable usage of gadget among the children caused them facing the problem in carrying out their daily activities and tend to rebel. As the conclusion, it can be seen clearly as the usage of gadget among the children below 7 years bring negative impact towards academic, health and social development. Hence, by conducting this study, it gives awareness towards the parents in controlling the usage of gadget among their children.

KEYWORDS -gadget, children, health, academic, social development

I. INTRODUCTION

Technology gives various impact in society's life nowadays. It gives positive and negative impact in human daily life. Due to the advancement of information technology, it encourages all level of society in utilizing the technology includes the children. The wide utilization of technology encourages the children to use the device as well. According to the finding reported by Taha et al., (2019), about 14% from 18.6 million of internet users in this country made up of children and adolescents. The finding clearly showed that the advancement of information technology penetrates the users which comprising of children.

Based on the research conducted by children education expert in Michael Cohen Group, there are about 60% of parents and 12 years-old children always use gadget, 30% of them frequently use the gadget and 36% of the children have their own gadget. Due to the action of the parents by giving the freedom towards their children to have their own gadget, it exposed them towards the negative impacts such as disturbances towards social development, problem related to academic performance and state of health (Farah Aziz, 2020). It is in agreement with the finding reported by Abdul Hadi et al., (2022) where the excessive usage of gadget contributes to the negative influence towards children health and their development. Uncontrollable usage of gadget among the children due to various factors. One of them is limited time of the parents as they are abundantly burden with their profession until they neglect their children. They let their children to use the gadget without monitoring. As the result, the children spend too much time with the gadget. The implication

from this situation caused the development, brain growth and scholastic development among the children affected.

Referring to the study conducted by Naquiah et al., (2017), the usage of gadget among Malaysian children is around 19 hours weekly. Due to the excessive usage of gadget among the children, it gives influence towards the development of motoric nerves towards the children. Not only that, the usage of gadget which is more than 2 hours daily contributes to the losses of vision. In addition, the children used the gadget in the condition of laying down or sitting down for long time caused them having back pain. In terms of socialization and communication, the children have the limitation to mingle and shown uncontrollable attitude. At the same time, the usage of gadget like iPad and tablet among the children especially children below 2 years old caused their muscles becomes weak. As the result, fine motor skills among the children getting disturbed (Siti Aisyah, 2014).

In line with that, the present study conducted to determine the influence of parents towards the usage of gadget among the children who are below 7 years old. Not only that, the researcher would like to determine the impact of the usage of gadget in terms of academic among the children who are below 7 years old. At the same time, the evaluation on the impact of the usage of gadget towards health aspect among the children who are below 7 years take place. The evaluation on the development of social skill among the children who are below 7 years also take place.

II. METHOD

2.1 Research design

For this present study, the researcher conducted the survey using questionnaire. The method adopted is quantitative study. Based on the questionnaire developed, it is comprising four parts where Part A (demographic profile), Part B (the influence of parents), Part C (the implication of the usage of gadget), Part D (The development of social skills among children).

2.2 Study sample

The study conducted involved kindergarten teachers to evaluate the perception regarding the influence of gadget towards the social development among the children who are less than 7 years old. The study conducted towards 50 kindergarten teachers in Kota Bharu district, Kelantan.

2.3 Data analysis

The data analyzed using Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) Version 23. The data analyzed using descriptive analysis as it is presented in form of mean and standard deviation.

III. RESULTS

Table 1 shows the demographic profile among the respondents. The study conducted towards 50 kindergarten teachers in Kota Bharu, Kelantan. First of all, for age, it was found that 24 (48%) of the respondents in range 21 to 30 years old, 18 (36%) of the respondents in range 31 to 40 years old, 7 (14%) of the respondents in range 41 to 50 years old and 1 (2%) respondent is above 50 years old. Based on the finding reported, it was found that majority of the respondents in range 21 to 30 years old and minority of them is above 50 years old. In terms of race distribution, there are 31 (62%) of the respondents are Malay, 13 (26%) are Chinese, 5 (10%) are Indian and 1 (2%) is from other race. The finding stated that Malay are recorded as the highest and other race is the lowest. For the religion distribution, there are 31 (62%) of the respondents are Islam, 11 (22%) of the respondents are Buddha, 2 (4%) of the respondents are Hindu and 6 (12%) are from other religion. It is reported that the respondents who is Islam is the highest and other religion is the lowest. Regarding the marital status, it was found that 30 (60%) are single, 19 (38%) are married and 1 (2%) is other status. It can be seen that single is the highest whereas other status is the lowest. For the education level, it was found that 15 (30%) of the respondents having SPM, 22 (44%) of the respondents having STPM/Diploma and 13 (26%) of the respondents having bachelor degree. The finding reported that majority of the respondents having

STPM/Diploma and minority of the respondents having bachelor degree. In terms of working experience, the finding reported 17 (34%) of the respondents have 5 years and below, 29 (58%) of the respondents are in range 6 to 10 years of experience and 4 (8%) of the respondents are in range 11 to 15 years of experience. It can be seen that working experience in range 6 to 10 years recorded as highest and working experience in range 22 to 15 years recorded as the lowest. In terms of social development problem, the finding reported that majority of the respondents have problems which made up of 29 (58%) and minority of them do not have problem associated with social development problem which is 21 (42%) of the respondents.

Table 1: Distribution of demographic profile among the respondents

Demography	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Age		
21 to 30 years old	24	48
31 to 40 years old	18	36
41 to 50 years old	7	14
50 years old and above	1	2
Race		
Malay	31	62
Chinese	13	26
Indian	5	10
Others	1	2
Religion		
Islam	31	62
Buddha	11	22
Hindu	2	4
Others	6	12
Marital status		
Single	30	60
Married	19	38
Others	1	2
Education level		
SPM	15	30
STPM/Diploma	22	44
Bachelor Degree	13	26
Working experience		
5 years and below	17	34
6 to 10 years	29	58
11 to 15 years	4	8
Problem associated with the social development		
Yes	29	58
No	21	42

Table 2 tabulated the finding regarding the influence of parents in the usage of gadget among children below 7 years old. The finding gives clear overview that parents give significant influence towards the usage of gadget among the children. All the statements show high mean value which is more than 3.67.

Table 2: The influence of parents in the usage of gadget

Statement	Mean	Standard deviation
Parents have heavy workload.	4.20	0.832
Parents do not control the usage of gadget.	3.98	0.958
Parents give freedom towards the children.	4.72	0.536
Parents do not practice effective parenting style.	4.64	0.631
Parents practice neglection in educating the children.	4.54	0.734

Table 3 presented the impact on the usage of gadget towards academic among children below 7 years old. Similarly, all statements show high mean value which is more than 3.67 as it gives impact towards academic.

Table 3: The impact on the usage of gadget towards academic

Statement	Mean	Standard deviation
The children do not show satisfying performance in academic.	3.90	1.073
The children have problem to read.	4.42	0.758
The children do not have interest to learn.	4.30	0.788
The children do not pay attention during learning process.	4.02	0.891
The children have problem to write.	4.22	0.84

Table 4 presented the impact on the usage of gadget towards health among children below 7 years old. The finding stated that all the statements show high mean which is more than 3.67 which represent all the statements gives impact towards the state of health among the children.

Table 4: The impact on the usage of gadget towards health

Statement	Mean	Standard deviation
The children complaint they have vision problem.	4.04	0.832
The children have sensory problem.	4.42	0.702
The children complaint they have back pain problem.	4.02	1.186
The children have obesity problem.	4.00	1.010
The children have growth problem.	4.06	0.818

Table 5 tabulated the social development among children below 7 years old. The finding stated that the usage of gadget gives influence towards social development among the children.

Table 5: The social development

Statement	Mean	Standard deviation
The children do not have ability to communicate appropriately.	3.24	1.152
The children tend to rebel.	3.90	1.015
The children show aggressive attitude.	3.66	1.022
The children have problems to do daily activities.	2.36	1.138
The children have problem to mingle with others.	3.40	1.087

IV. DISCUSSION

The discussion conducted according to the objectives. As the result, it could determine either the objectives achievable or vice versa.

i. The influence of parents on the usage of gadget among children less than 7 years old

Based on the finding reported, it shows that the children less than 7 years old widely utilize the gadget. It happened due to the significant influence among the parents who encourage them to use gadget. It happened due to the freedom given by the parents towards the children in using gadget. As the result, the children used the gadget without control and monitoring from parents. Not only that, the parents do not practice effective parenting style in educating the children. Hence, the situation caused uncontrollable the usage of gadget among children below 7 years old.

ii. The impact on the usage of gadget among children less than 7 years old

In terms of the impact on the usage of gadget, it can be seen through the aspect of academic and health. For academic, excessive and uncontrollable usage of gadget caused the children have the problem to read. It happened as most of the time used for gadget compared to study. Not only that, the children also had the

problem to write. It is due to lack of stimulation towards hand sensory which caused the children have the problem to write and lack of skills to write as most of the time spend for gadget. The finding reported in agreement with the finding reported by Siti Aisyah (2014) as the excessive stimulation on the telephone screen and tablet give influence towards fine motor skills and ability to move the finger getting lower. As the result, it gives influence towards the ability among the children to write due to lack of fine motor skills.

Not only that, uncontrollable usage of gadget give influence towards health. Excessive usage of gadget caused the children have sensory problem and back pain. It happened due to long exposure towards the gadget due to improper body posture. This situation caused the children suffered back pain. The situation getting worst as the excessive usage of gadget caused the children have problem related to vision. It is proven when there are many children are wearing spectacles even still in early age. It happened due to long exposure towards the gadget which caused vision problem. As reported by Naquiah (2017), the usage of gadget negatively affects the development of motoric muscles towards children. Uncontrollable usage of gadget among children as the report claimed that Malaysian children spend 19 hours per week towards the usage of gadget.

iii. The social development among children less than 7 years old

In terms of social development, the usage of gadget tends to cause the children have problem in conducting daily activities. For example, the children do not master independent skills. In addition, the children tend to rebel. It can be seen if their desire does not fulfill, they tend to rebel until it is fulfilled. Not only that, the children show aggressive attitude. It happened due to the exposure from video game as it gives impact towards the cognitive development, attitude and aggressive behavior (Shima Dyana & Siti Marziah, 2018). Based on the finding reported, it clearly proved that the usage of gadget gives negative influence towards social development among the children. It is supported by Abdul Hadi (2022) as the excessive usage of gadget caused the disturbance towards physical, emotional, cognitive and social development.

V. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, it can be seen that the parents play important role in controlling and monitoring the usage of gadget among children. It is important to make sure it do not negatively affect the academic, health and social development among the children. Based on the finding reported, it could provide great awareness towards the parents in controlling the usage of gadget among the children.

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