



ARE CHILDREN MORE INTELLIGENT AND SOCIAL DUE TO THE INTERNET

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ABSTRACT

The internet is a technology that has changed the way we live today. It is one technology that has come to play a active role in the growth and development of any economy in the world.

The explosion of information available at the click of a button when a query is made on any search engine like Google and the like is going into a library without getting up from your seat. Also the ability to communicate with people regardless of distance in a fraction of a moment, has brought us all closer to each other. One could go on the innumerable benefits of the internet, but it has also become a tool available to people of all ages.

In the case of children who are today more adept at using the internet, the impact is a cause of concern for parents and their guardians. The internet though as a tool gives you information that is freely available to all, it would be difficult to monitor the use of the same. Here in the child has a TV with all the channels in the world and can see and read any literature or video with total freedom. Also the new term called cyber bullying where the instrument used for the process is the internet.

While the internet has also been the tool by which children are able to find answers to questions to their inquisitive minds in no time. Also, be able to complete assignments and projects with not much difficulty. In the case of exams have the option of getting all previous papers at the click of a button?

This paper is an attempt to understand the influence of internet and social media on children.

KEYWORDS: Internet, cyber bullying, Information, Depression.

INTRODUCTION:

Internet, which is a large network with the ability to connect a large number of computers around the world. In the process it has become a tool by which information could be shared between professionals on similar topics that they are doing research on around the world.

At the same time the internet has become a tool in the hands of terrorists who could use the same to terrorize the world, with a new term coined as cyber terrorism.

Children who are exposed to the vast benefits of internet of sending e-mails, with an ability to get information on any topic in a short span of time. They have also become ensnared in the hold of the Internet, which they are adept at using. In the process children have come to lose a sense in the value of the beauty in the world around, and are rather being captivated by a small screen whether it is a phone or a laptop.

There have been serious issues like cyber bullying, laziness and also health issues affecting their body. The inquisitive nature of children is something remarkable today, but the desire to learn, appreciate and apply has decreased, in the process, having children where their master and teacher and guide all rolled into one is the internet.

CHILDREN AND THE INTERNET:

The young child at a young age maybe of two or three years of age has already got introduced to the different options of You Tube. An application that shows videos through the internet, in the process the child becoming quite adept in searching for songs, or videos that seems to appease him or her. As the child grows older becoming more aware of the way to operate the computer and use the internet. There is a joy in the child that lingers on for a long time to come. During this time, the inquisitive nature of finding out information on any and every subject is diligently worked on by the child.

While the internet opens the avenues of learning that could better improve the knowledge of the child. It also seeks to dull the very unique and special organ of the child and that is the brain. In the process of discovering the various uses of the internet, some children get so addicted to the internet, and have been referred to as a Geek or Net head, even these names do not do full justice to the vast impact that internet addiction can have on the individual, sometimes leading to an obsessive compulsive disorder in the person.

CHILDREN AND SOCIALIZATION:

The child once drawn into the world of internet, the world in which as we see becomes non-existent. This leads a child to give primacy to the tools that help him access the internet, whether a cell phone or a computer more important than the reality of people around him or her. As technology was meant to serve mankind, but children have a different attitude, by looking on cell phone, computers and the internet as not tools to serve them but their masters to guide them, comfort them and lead them. When a machine replaces the human touch and understanding, all can go wrong. Even today the most advanced robots or cyborg have tried to imitate human feelings and emotions, with partial success.

A child from a young age though allowed to use the various tools of advanced technology available today, should at the same time realise the importance of the human nature in all of us. That is what keeps sanity between us, once that is lost and we become machines, we do not exist but appear to do so. In the process the aspect of socialization becomes a non-entity but that of individuality in all aspects of life take prominence, leading children to become more reclusive, sensitive, emotional and physically weak. The strength of the human race does not rest in the word 'I' but 'We' , a child should learn to express their feelings with others more, than a 3" inch by 5 " screen or a 10 to 17 inch screen meaning cell phones or laptops.

CHILDREN AND CYBER BULLYING:

One of the negative impacts of the internet is where a child sitting behind a computer can bully a person. This has been seen in thousands of cases, to the point wherein now we have a separate Cyber Police to deal with Cyber crimes. As the tool for the bullying is the internet and in some cases has led to children becoming very depressed to the point of even asking himself or herself the very existence of themselves in the world in they live in. At times when a boy who finds that a girl has broken up with him , can even threaten to unleash her pictures on the net taken when they were in compromising positions.

Cyber bullying is a problem found in countries around the world. Where children adept at the computer are able to cause mental, psychological harm to the mindset of a friend they are angry with or have a grudge against. In the process, the effects have seen children jumping from rooftops with notes left behind saying I cannot take anymore of this bullying. What begins as a prank on the child in question can even end the life of the child. This is where

laws in the world should be made all the serious around the world especially for children, to act as a cautionary note on their notion of free liberty to do as they please because they are children.

Cyber bullying is all the more dangerous as the individual is not in a physical capacity and can be anywhere and everywhere. The applications like Face book and Instagram and other like applications when used to spread false information can cause serious harm. This power with the help of the internet has many a time destroyed the young innocent life of the child, in some cases the bullying was done for fun on the net, but the end result was in a child taking their own life.

CHILDREN AND VIDEO GAMES:

When the mention of video games comes, the fear and concern of parents arises, as one sees the strong addiction of these video games on children. In the process affecting the performance of children in studies and to an extent affecting their physical health. Also one finds that the games available for children on the internet under free download are far from educational but violent. When video games are more violent and use of expletive language is very much found they are more popular among children.

Children with their addiction to games have developed violent tendencies like destruction or harm of another life as something that is a part of life. As the importance and appreciation of values and principles is more debased compared to the new importance given to vile language and aggressive behaviour, a natural basic aspect of all video games. With this the child instead of learning what is good learns to be more bad a sad result that has to be set right. And as the video games are quite entertaining and absorbing they have tendency to dull the mind of the child. Also the duties assigned by parents, discipline and instruction tend to be ignored as the guide, mentor and counsellor becomes the video game. Where a video game taking on a human role can be disastrous for the growth and development in the child.

The video games help improve hand eye co-ordination and make the individual think fast. And also helps the children in handling and operating real-life machinery and objects. This also improves their mental skills where in the fast movement of their fingers and their thoughts in synchronicity, makes them more alert and adept in versatile duties assigned to them. With the games the common inclusion is that of violence a necessary negative effect that disrupts the way of thinking in the child. But if the games available in the market were to

have more fun and values, with less importance to violence, it could do a lot of good to the children.

CONCLUSION

I am not here to present a bleak picture of the internet towards the child. It is a necessary tool for all of us that include children. As the internet has brought the world's largest best libraries right into the laptop or computer or cell phone of any user. Children by nature have very inquisitive minds, and the internet is a great help in answering many of their both serious and silly questions. The internet helps in better communicating with different people over distances ranging from a few kilo meters to thousands of kilo meters. Also the wealth of information available by using the internet is mindboggling.

Many a time there are some helpful aids available on the internet that help children in subjects they dread. As for example science and maths, where the subjects are made easier to learn with helpful aids freely available over the internet. Also the interesting histories of places and people can make absorbing reading. Even in some hobbies like drawing, painting, singing or playing instruments like the piano, the guitar, the drums, flute and the like have free lessons available for one to use and learn through the internet.

Yet a child has to have a discerning mind in being able to use the information that they need and not be influenced and corrupted by a vast ocean of unnecessary information. As I reiterate that the internet has been one of the greatest inventions of mankind and has also been in a direct and indirect way responsible towards mankind losing the human touch. A child who grows dependant on the internet finds their soul partner , and the human soul partner does not exist , leading to a situation where in the child who enters into adulthood and later into matrimony, one sees in today husbands and wives communicating with each other even if they are close to each other by text messages.

This is where the need to realise that technology is there to serve us and not control our emotions, likes, desires and wants. So the internet is there to help the children understand and discover the vast mysteries of science and arts and space, but never to control and possess that vital and precious organ they have which works twenty fours a day, the brain. And if the internet does control the brain, the child grows to be weaker emotionally, socially, lazier and more depressed. A situation every parent, guardian and mostly every child should avoid and realize, if they want a better life for themselves and the world they live in.