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INTERNET ADDICTION: IT'S IMPACT ON PROCRASTINATION OF HIGHER LEARNING STUDENTS IN PAKISTAN

Abstract

The study aims to investigate the level of internet addiction and procrastination and their impact on students of four higher learning institutes of Pakistan, including, The Islamia University of Bahawalpur (IUB), Bahauddin Zakriya University of Multan (BZU), University of The Punjab, Lahore (PU) and University of Karachi (UOK). A sample of 400 students was taken, including 200 males and 200 females by using the convenient sampling technique. Two scales were employed to measure variables, first Internet Addiction Test and second Procrastination Assessment Scale for Students (PASS). The findings of the study, exhibit that internet addiction is higher in male students while the level of procrastination is high among female students. The moderate level of internet addiction is more prevalent among the students of PU while lowest among the students of UOK. Procrastination is found highest among the students of University of the Punjab and lowest among students of the Islamia University of Bahawalpur.

Keywords: Internet addiction, academic procrastination, higher learning students, Pakistan.

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Introduction

The internet has become a worldwide medium for research, information exchange, entertainment, business and communication (Byun et al., 2009; Elliott, Bartel, Simonson, & Roukis, 2015; Khatri et al., 2015). According to a report, there are more than 500 million users of the internet (NUA, 2002). Ani (2010) found that there is an excessive use of internet reported in undergraduate students.

Initially internet used for meaningful purposes, especially in early 1960s the US Department established internet primarily for military purposes (Schneider, Evans, & Pinard, 2006), after that there are many demerits of internet appeared, psychologists and educators are concerned with many emotional, social, physical and mental dysfunctions in daily activities which are caused by over or misuse of internet (Yung, Eickhoff, Davis, Klam, & Doan, 2015; Greenfield, 2000). Among these problems, internet addiction is an important one (Murali, & George, 2007) Shapira, Lessig, and Goldsmith et al, (2003) and Young, (1998) also endorsed the same view and identified internet addiction as significant problem.

Use of the internet became an internet addiction because researchers mostly use the term internet addiction for over usage of internet, furthermore its diagnostic criteria were established and first proposed as an addictive disorder (Young, 1998). Ivan Goldberg firstly used the term Internet addiction as an informal phrase to describe the excessive use of internet (Federwisch, 1997). Researchers have explored that excessive internet use is related with many emotional and social problems including decline in social circle, loneliness, social anxiety and depression (Kraut et al., 1998; Weinstein et al., 2015; Yang et al., 2014), lower level of self-confidence (Niemz, Griffiths, & Banyard, 2005; Wu & Cheng, 2007;

Yang & Tung, 2007), antisocial traits and difficulty of external control (Ceyhan & Ceyhan, 2007). According to Ko, et al (2005) internet addiction is characterized by withdrawal, functional impairment, preoccupation, loss of control and decreased decision making.

Kimberley Young (1996) conducted the first study focused on internet addiction. She presented over 600 cases of internet addiction to the American Psychological Association, which was measured by using the criteria of DSM-IV for pathological gambling (Young, 2011). Young (1999) found that about 5-10% of the general population of the world is suffering from internet addiction disorder. Therefore, most researches on internet addiction are conducted on university students because they are on greater risk of internet addiction (Kandell, 1998; Li, O'Brien, Snyder, & Howard, 2015) Nalwa, and Anand, (2003), Niemz et al., (2005) and Young and Rogers, (1998) also identified the significant tendency of internet addiction among university students. Young (2004) investigated behind reasons of internet addiction; she suggested the some possible reasons including (a) students have a lot of unstructured time. (b) Young students of age 18-22 years are first time free to do anything without being monitored by their parents, (c) they get free and unlimited access to the internet in their institutions, (d) when students enter in a university they face a problem of adopting, instead of finding friends, they use different applications on internet for time passing.

In case of Pakistan, Suhail and Bargees (2006) concluded the excessive use of internet effects different life domains of students such as education, physical health, psychological health, and social relationships. Another study conducted by Niaz (2008), he found that internet addiction and mobile use is causing many problems among the Pakistani people such as depression, loneliness, and suicidal obsessions. Similar study conducted in

India by Nalwa and Anand (2003), they identified the excessive use of internet lead to other problems in students like procrastination and loss of sleep.

Procrastination

Initially the concept of procrastination considered as favorable, such as procrastination is a kind of protest against the difficulties and duties that are externally imposed to other people. It was comprised of two factors, first it was a challenge to your talent or capability and secondly, it enforces an unwanted demand on your time, capabilities, emotional reserves, or resources (Solomon & Rothblum, 1984). Senecal et al., (1995) describe procrastination in an academic situation as "Knowing that one is supposed to and perhaps even wanting to complete an academic task, but failing to perform the activity within the expected or desired time frame". Academic procrastination means to delay school tasks and responsibilities which are necessary to do at school they do them at the last minute (Haycock, McCarthy, & Skay, 1998).

According to Tice and Baumeister (1997) procrastination is closely related to lower academic performance, such as delay in assignments, lack of motivation for test preparation and lack of participation in academic activities (Beswick, Rothblum & Mann, 1988) Fritzsche, Rapp and Hickson, (2003), Kachgal, Hansen and Nutter, (2001) and McCown, Petzel and Rupert, (1987) showed the relationship of procrastination and poor academic achievement. Moreover, Onwuegbuzie, (1999/2000, 2004), Semb, Glick, and Spencer, (1979) also endorsed the lower level of academic performance and procrastination. Academic procrastination and lower academic performance lead individual to feel guilt and inferiority (Fee &Tangney, 2000) and (Carden, Bryant & Moss, 2004) and Haycock, McCarthy and Skay, (1998) showed the relationship anxiety with procrastination. of academic Onwuegbuzie and Jiao, (2000) and Wang and Englander, (2010)

also identified the significant effect of anxiety on procrastination. Saddler and Sacks, (1993) considered depression as the influencing factor in relation with procrastination. Different researchers identified the factors that influence procrastination such as unpleasant tasks; Solomon and Rothblum, (1984) Moneta, Spada and Rost, (2007) and Thompson and Dinnel, (2001) identified the link between low self-esteem and perfectionism. Various Researches such as (Beswick, Rothblum, and Mann, (1988) and Flett, Hewitt, Blankstein, and Koledin, (1991) suggested that perfectionism and procrastination are significantly related and the students who set their achievement goals of excessively high standards are found to use more procrastination.

Academic procrastination results in lower grades in exams, poor class presentations and delaying study tasks (Semb et al., 1979; Solomon & Rothblum, 1984). Different psychological factors are also related to procrastination such as lack of motivation, lower levels of eagerness for learning (Chu & Choi 2005; Steel, 2007). The inner motivation and eagerness enhance the individual's goal directed activities and prepare individuals to utilize their efforts to fulfill their academic tasks and increase their skills and sense of self confidence (Zimmerman et al. 1992). Individuals who have an excessive fear of failing to fulfill a task and consider the task unpleasant use procrastination due to the unpleasant nature of the task and irrational fear of failing (Clark & Hill 1994; Lay 1994; Solomon & Rothblum 1984). Pintrich and De Groot (1990) identified that students with higher level of anxiety may put more efforts for task accomplishment, but they have poor academic performance as compared to students having lower levels of anxiety.

Thatcher and Goolam, (2005a, b) viewed internet addiction as a factor that influences the academic behavior of university students. Hur, (2006) and Kim et al., (2006), also identified the

effect of internet addiction on academic performance. (Ko et al., 2006, Chou & Hsiao, 2000) and (Lin & Tsai, 2002) evaluated the effect of internet addiction on university students; Tsai and Lin, (2001; 2003) also endorsed the more significant effect of internet problematic use among the students of higher education. Johansson & Götestam, 2004, Griffiths, 1995; 1996a, b; 1997; 2000; Griffiths et al., 1999), (Ferraro et al., 2007) and (Byun et al., 2009, Bayraktar & Gün, 2007) showed the effect of internet addiction among university students. Internet addiction also increases the chances of student's procrastination to a significant level due to spending a plenty of time on the internet without any constructive reason and avoid academic tasks due to internet use (Davis, 2001). Various studies conducted by (Lavoie & Pychyl, 2001; Davis, 2001; Thatcher, Wretschko & Fridjhon, 2008) showed a significant association between procrastination and internet addiction.

Hypotheses

- 1. Internet addiction and procrastination are closely associated among students of the four higher education institutes of Pakistan.
- 2. The students of different (four) universities of Pakistan are remarkably different in their level of internet addiction and procrastination.
- 3. There are significant differences prevail between both genders in terms of internet addiction and procrastination.

Method

Participant Characteristics

The aim of the study was to check the intensity of internet addiction and procrastination among the students of higher education institutes. Participants for the study were selected from four higher learning institutions of Pakistan, including The Islamia University of Bahawalpur, University of the Punjab, University of Karachi and Bahauddin Zakrya University of Multan. 400 students were recruited in the study, including 200 male and 200 female, 50 students from each university. All Participants were undergraduate students that were internet users. The demographic variables also measures, such as name, gender, age, faculty, department, program, semester, CGPA.

Procedure

A sample of 400 undergraduate students was selected from four higher learning institutes of Pakistan, including The Islamia University of Bahawalpur, University of the Punjab, University of Karachi and Bahauddin Zakrya University of Multan. A convenient sampling technique was used to collect the data. Participants were equally divided into 200 males and 200 females. Participants were instructed to fill two questionnaires that measure level of internet addiction and procrastinated behavior.

Sample size, power, and precision

A-priori sample size was calculated online by using anticipated effect size (r2) = 0.15, desired statistical power level = .95, number of variables = 02, and probability level = 0.02. The minimum sample size was calculated 127. To minimize the risk of attrition bias, 34 respondents of male and female were taken additionally from each university.

Measure and co-variates

The two instruments were employed to measure variables.

- 1. Internet Addiction Test (IAT) developed by © Kimberly Young (1998).
- 2. Procrastination Assessment Scale for Students (PASS) by © Solomon and Rothblum (1984).

Internet Addiction Test (IAT) consists of 20 items and the scoring can be done by simply adding the options. Procrastination Assessment Scale-Student includes total 52 items which measure level of procrastination, fear of failure, aversiveness of task, difficulty making decisions, dependency, lack of assertion, risk taking, and rebellion against control. To get the total score to measure self-reported procrastination by participants, the first two items of each of the six procrastination areas are added (1+2+4+5+7+8+10+11+13+14+16+17). The possible score was 12 to 60. The higher score indicated more self-reported procrastination.

Both of the scales had good reliabilities. The reliability of IAT on Cronbach's Alpha was found at 0.894 and the reliability of PASS was 0.686 on Cronbach's Alpha which indicates good reliability of both of the scales.

Research Design

The nature of the study is quantitative so, the quantitative cross-sectional research design was employed. The data were analyzed through SPSS, construct graphs and tables.

Statistical Analysis

The results were furnished by using SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences, 21.0). Cronbach's Alpha was tested as a coefficient of reliability of sales and for internal consistency. t-Test was employed to compare mean differences of both genders. The correlation and regression were also used to predict the relationship between variables and impact of one variable to another variable.

Ethical considerations

Informed consent was taken from the participants and their participation was solely on volunteer basis. The confidentiality and anonymity of the participants were also taken care.

Operational definitions of variables

Internet addiction

Internet addiction is defined as "poorly controlled urges or behavior regarding use of internet that causes an individual to procrastinate important tasks of daily life causing low performance of the addicted person in academic and job settings" (Shaw & Black, 2008; Wretschko, 2006).

Procrastination

Procrastination can be defined as "tendency to delay activities or putting off doing something especially out of habitual carelessness or laziness to postpone needlessly" (Knaus, 2000; Niermann & Scheres, 2014).

Results

Table 1 Relationship between Internet Addiction and Procrastination among students

R Square	Correlation Co.	Regression Co.	T-Score	P-value
0.073	0.271	0.271	5.618	0.000
D < 0.05				

P < 0.05

Note. The table shows the regression analysis of the internet addiction and procrastination among the overall population. The value of R-square is 0.073 which shows that the variation of both variables is affected by each other. The value of correlation coefficient is 0.271 which shows the positive relationship between both of the variables. The value of the regression coefficient is 0.271 with P-value 0.000 shows the significance of regression at 5% level of significance.

Table 2 Institute vise Effect of Internet Addiction on Procrastination among students

Institute	R Square	Correlation Co.	Regression Co.	T-Score	P-value
IUB	0.088	0.297*	0.297*	3.075	0.003
UOK	0.183	0.427*	0.427*	4.680	0.000
BZU	0.045	0.212*	0.212*	2.144	0.034
PU	0.028	0.167	0.167	1.679	0.096

P < 0.05

Note. The table shows the university vise comparison of effect of internet addiction on the procrastination of the students. For IUB the value of the regression coefficient is 0.297 which shows the positive relationship and significant at the 5% level of significance. For UOK the value of the regression coefficient is 0.427 which shows the positive relationship and significant at the 5% level of significance. For BZU the value of the regression coefficient is 0.212 which shows the positive relationship and significant at the 5% level of significance. For PU the value of the regression coefficient is 0.167 which shows the positive relationship and significant at the 5% level of significance. By the comparison, the researcher concludes that the procrastination of students of UOK is greatly affected by the internet addiction as compared to all other institutes.

Procrastination among Students								
Variables	Gender	N	Mean	Std. Devi	Comparison			
Internet	Male	200	45.84	15.202	T-score	D.F	P-value	
Addiction	Female	200	43.49	18.771	1.379	398	0.169	
Duoquostinotion	Male	200	34.49	5.765	T-score	D.F	P-value	
Procrastination	Female	200	35.03	6.417	-0.885	398	0.377	

Table 3 Gender wise comparison of Internet Addiction and Procrastination among Students

P < 0.05

Note. The table shows the comparison of the male and female in case of internet addiction and procrastination. The average internet addiction of male is 45.84 and the average internet addiction in females is 43.49. By comparison, it is inferred that male students are more addicted of internet as compared to female. The p-value is 0.169 shows the test is not significant at the 5% level of significance. The average procrastination of male is 34.49 and the average procrastination in females is 35.03. To compare, it is concluded that female students have a greater level of procrastination as compared to males. The p-value is 0.377 that shows the test is not significant at the 5% level of significance.

Discussion

The study was conducted at four universities of Pakistan, including The Islamia University of Bahawalpur, Bahauddin Zakariya University Multan, University of Karachi, and University of the Punjab Lahore. The purpose of this study was to find the ratio of internet addiction and procrastination and the impact of internet addiction on Procrastination of students of four different higher learning institutions of Pakistan.

According to the hypothesis a positive correlation exists between internet addiction and procrastination. According to Table 1 the value of correlation and regression coefficient is found at 0.271 with P-value of 0.0000 which shows that there is a strong positive correlation between procrastination and internet addiction. In an old study by Scherer (1997) found that internet addiction affected the academic work and professional performance of 13% of his research participants, which show that there is a correlation between internet addiction and academic performance and procrastination level of participants.

According to the second hypothesis, there is a significant impact of internet addiction on Procrastination of students of higher learning institutions of Pakistan. Table 1 shows that internet addiction has impacted on Procrastination of students. The study found that internet addiction has greatest impacts on students of the University of Karachi as compared to the remaining three other universities of Pakistan. Nalwa and Anand (2003) found that internet addicted people use the internet for a long time, which results in personal behavior problems and procrastination related behaviors in them. It is proved that the hypothesis of present research is consistent with the literature.

Procrastination is significantly affected by internet addiction by the difference of area of higher learning institutions of Pakistan. Table 2 shows that a positive association between internet addiction and procrastination. In strongest effect of internet addiction on the Procrastination of the students is found in the students of the University of Karachi (UOK) with the regression coefficient of 0.427. After UOK it comes the number of IUB, BZU and PU with the regression coefficients as 0.297, 0.212 and 0.167 respectively, which also shows that there is a weak relationship between internet addiction and procrastination among the students of PU. Thatcher et al., (2008) said that "If a person is in a

state of flow while avoiding work related tasks, this is more likely to result in Problematic Internet Use". According to the previous researches non-addicted internet users have higher grades in studies as compared to those who are addicted to the internet. A significant positive correlation was found between total time spent on studying and test scores reflecting that procrastination can ultimately lead to lower academic performance (Chen, & Peng, 2008; Beck, Koons, & Milgrim, 2000).

In hypothesis number three it was assumed that males are more addicted to the internet and show more procrastination as compared to females. According to Table 3 the results show that the average internet addiction of males is 45.84 while the average internet addiction of females is 43.49. While in the case of procrastination the average procrastination in males is found at 34.49 and in females it is 35.03. It shows that the level of internet addiction is higher in males as compared to females, though in the case of procrastination females show more procrastination as compared to males. Siomoset al., (2008) conducted a research on Greek adolescents of age 12-18 years. They found that 8.2% of the adults were addicted to the internet, including 6.2% of males and 2% of females. According Lee, Ko, & Chou, (2015), Internet exhibit large impact on boys as compare to girls. These studies supports the hypothesis and results that Internet addiction was more in males as compared to females.

Limitations

- 1. In the current study, the four higher education institutions, including three from Punjab and one from Sindh are taken. But, universities from Baluchistan and KPK are not included.
- 2. All recruited students belonged to undergraduate level. Master and M.Phil students are not included in this study.

3. All students were taken from public sector universities, private sector universities are excluded from this study.

Suggestions

- 1. The study can be elaborated by taking a large sample of all levels of students from higher learning institutions of Pakistan.
- 2. For more generalizable results, the data should be taken from both public and private sector universities from all over the Pakistan.
- 3. For further research, many other aspects/contexts of internet addiction should be included.

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