

# Predicted Internet Addiction Students based on their Parenting Style

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**ABSTRACT:** Along with widespread access to the Internet, we are seeing a new type of addiction, as Internet addiction that is the specific problem of the information age. As there are some specific characteristics in familial environments is the underlying of Internet addiction. New technologies such as the Internet to the family also can effect on the quality of family relationships such as parenting style and school needs. According to this, the aim of this study was to Predicted Internet addiction based on parenting style in adolescents. This study was the descriptive correlational. The study population included all female high school students in Babolsar city in year 2015, 1766 is the number of people. Those were selected as sample, cluster sampling, in accordance with the table set volume krejcie and Morgan in a sample of 317 students. The research tool is the Young Internet Addiction Test and Baumrind parenting Style questionnaire. For statistical analysis using statistical software SPSS20, using the Pearson correlation coefficient and multiple regressions. The results show that, with 95 percent confidence at 0.05 fault level, there is a significant relationship between Internet addiction and parenting style among female high school students. Results of two variables correlation analysis also indicates that there is the medium direct relationship between Internet addiction and freeing absolute parenting style with a value of 0.46 and there is the inverse weak relationship between Internet addiction and authoritative parenting style with a value of -0.22 and there is the medium direct relationship between Internet addiction and authoritarian parenting style with a value of 0.28. Multivariate regression analysis showed that among the different ways of parenting style first of all freeing absolute parenting style and ultimately authoritarian parenting style have the highest share in predicted Internet addiction among female students.

**Keywords:** Internet Addiction, Parenting Practices, Adolescents.

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## INTRODUCTION

Internet is one of the most advanced technology tools which is very difficult detecting whether addictive or useful. Although Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-IV) that published by the Association of Psychiatrists America to identify this disorder has introduced some items (Frod & Schroeder, 2010). However, the use of term Internet addiction is widely seen by the famous and renowned researchers (Kandell, 1998; Young, 1998). Rapid growth and bad complications, those are associated with Internet addiction, cause of the disorder is to be remembered as an addiction that excelled all behavioral addictions (Hamidian, 2000).

Researches show for every hour of Internet use in the home reduced half an hour of direct contact of teens with family members; and this escape to an open society and a network causes he will resign from the community (Motamednejad, 2002). The growing volume of research done on the topic of Internet addiction, Indicate that the

disorder is a Social-psychological disorder and it is characterized by tolerance, withdrawal symptoms, affective disorders, and disruption of social relationships (Ferris, 2011).

Developmental psychologists have always been interested in the study and examine the effect of parenting style on children's social development capabilities. One of the most important topics in this area is called "parenting" (Darling and Steinberg, 1993). Parenting is a complex activity involving procedures and special treatment, that effect on child development independently or in interaction with each other. In fact, the foundation of parenting practices as a result of the efforts of parents to control their children's socialization (Baumrind, 1991). It should be noted that in this definition desired the normal methods of parenting and do not include procedures such as abuse of children. Baumrind have distinguished parenting methods based on differences in the control of children (Darling, 1999).

Parenting styles and parental educational practices have significant effects on the incidence of behavioral disorders of children. Quality of parental behavior has been found on academic performance, relationships with peers and adaptation in adolescence (Maccoby, 1983). Different methods have been proposed for parenting; from a parental point of view it is divided into four styles which are based on requests and responses of parents and include: 1. authoritative parenting style; 2.authoritarian parenting style; 3.Permissive parenting style; 4.Negligent parenting style.

Authoritative parenting style is determined by the demand and response of parents. Authoritative parental also guidance and control their children, with the reasoning expressed their purpose clearly and they help and guide their children in achieving their goals that they have set for themselves and they show positive reactions than their success (Baumrind, 1991). Permissive parenting style is determined by low demand and high response of parents. Permissive parents show too much attention to their children and they have low expectations of them. These parents often give their children a lot of independence and freedom. These parents leave their children alone and they are not a good pattern for them (Conger, 1977).

Authoritarian parenting style is determined by the high demands and low response of parents. These parents do not see the need to provide a reason for their orders and they emphasize on obey and the undisputed respect of children. Features of children with authoritarian family are reduce self-esteem, independence and creativity and dealy in moral development (Peterson, 1984; Elder, 1980). Negligent parenting style is determined by low demand and response of parents. These parents do not control and monitor on their children and the warmth and intimacy of these families is very low and negligent parents are often away from their children and they have little regard to the needs and demands (Maccoby & Martin, 1983).

The results showed that in people, who addicted to the Internet, parents do not have the necessary warmth and they were described very rejection and punishment (especially mothers). Research shows that parental attitudes, family relationships, family solidarity and the face of violence associated with Internet addiction (Park, Kim & Cho, 2008). In the study as investigate the relationship between addictions to computer games (the scale of Internet addiction) with parenting styles the results showed that there are differences between the two groups in terms of parenting styles. In authoritarian parenting style, children almost had higher scores on all subscales of Internet addiction (Pan, Yi-Qun & Min, 2006).

Studies have shown that social support plays the role of moderator on the physical symptoms reported by people due to the pressures of life which are not chronically (Mark & Andrew, 2005). The results indicated that Internet usage is a time-consuming activity, so the Internet can reduce Time interaction time of teenagers with their family. They believe that friendships and virtual communities will bring social isolation and separation (Mesch, 2005). Studies showed that people who are addicted to the Internet compared with non-addicted individuals have very different parenting styles. So that in the family environment of Internet addicts there were most intervention, the extreme punishment and willingness to defy (Li and Zhang, 2010).

The results stated that parents with authoritative parenting styles reduced the risk of dependence of their children on computer games by creating and developing the skills of self-control and time management in them (Zamani & Abedini, 2013). The results showed that there is a significant relationship between Internet addiction with compatibility with the family, the family connection, family familiarity with the Internet, family structure, birth order, and number of siblings, parents' education and family finances (Ahmadi et al., 2011). The researchers found in their studies that There is a relationship between the emotional vacuums in the family and tend to chat rooms so that the richness of the family emotional environment, positive and effective parenting relationships with children, having the patience individual at home, understand and be understood teenagers at home and so on, Preventing adolescents emotional vacuum and thus Search emotion by their in virtual environments such as chat rooms (Manteghi, 2010). The results indicated that there is a positive relationship between the subscales of family dissociation, high conflict, and authoritarian family style and Internet addiction (Khosravi & Alizadeh Sahraee,

2011). The main hypothesis of this study is that there is a significant relationship between Internet addiction and parenting styles.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

This study is descriptive correlational. The study population included all female high school students in Babolsar city about 1766 participants who were studying in these schools in 2014-2015. Of the population, according to the Krejcie and Morgan table, 317 individuals were selected by randomly cluster sampling method. A questionnaire was used for data collection. Research tools are the Internet Addiction Test, and Baumrind Parenting Style questionnaire.

Internet Addiction Test is one of the most prestigious testing to measure Internet addiction which was prepared in 1998 by Kimberly Young and consists of twenty multiple-choice materials that is designed to Likert scale (Alavi et al., 2010). The method of scoring the five options is as follows: Rarely (1), sometimes (2) often (3), most of the time (4), Always (5). So as to obtain an overall score of questionnaire gather together sum of the scores given by the respondents to each question, obtained score is the overall score of questionnaire. It is clear that the higher the score represents the higher a person's addiction to the Internet and vice versa. Total scores between 20 and 49 show lack of Internet addiction, Total scores between 50 and 79 show at risk of Internet addiction, Total scores between 80 and 100 show Internet addiction (Young, 1998). Evaluating the reliability of the questionnaire indicated the numbers 0.72 (Dowling & Quirk, 2009), 0.72 (Siomos et al., 2008), and 0.71 of Cronbach's alpha. Widyanto and Murran in their studies on evaluating the psychometric properties of the Yang Internet addiction questionnaire mentioned the formal validity of the questionnaire. Also, they proved the internal consistency and validity of this questionnaire (Widyanto & Murran, 2004).

Baumrind Parenting style questionnaire responded is an adaptation tool of The theory of parental authority that based on the theory of "Baumrind" it was made of three patterns of parents as Permissiveness, authoritarian and authoritative parents To study the influence patterns and parenting styles. The basic form of the questionnaire contains 30 articles, which designed and made by Diana Baumrind (1973). 10 subscales of that is related to absolute permissiveness Style, 10 subscales of that is related to authoritarian style and 10 subscales of that is related to rational authority style of parents in child rearing. The reliability of this questionnaire was to do in 1991 by Buri, with test-retest method, which reported 0.81 for permissiveness, 0.85 for authoritarian and 0.92 for rational authority of fathers. He also reported following results about the validity of the questionnaire as authoritarian of father has inverse relationship with permissiveness 0.50 and 0.52 logical authority. At the Institute of Psychiatry in Iran Esfandiari (1995) translated the questionnaire original form and made necessary amendments in it. The reliability of this questionnaire was to do by Esfandiari, with test-retest method, which reported 0.69 for permissiveness, 0.77 for authoritarian and 0.73 for logical authority. In this test, mothers' participants with the study of each matter specify their idea by Mark  $\times$  in terms of a scale of 5 degrees which scored from zero to 4 (strongly disagree = 0 to strongly agree = 4) and the sum of the scores obtained, three separate score on the absolute permissiveness, authoritarian and logical authority achieved for each subject. Ten words on a scale of permissiveness: 1- 6- 10-13-14-17-19-21-24-28. Ten words, the authoritarian scale: 2-3-7-9-12-16-18-25-26-29. Ten words of logical authority: 4-5-8-11-15-20-22-23-27-30 (Saatchi et al., 2010).

Both questionnaires were presented to subjects and were asked to answer the questionnaire on their own as much as possible, and then completed questionnaires, after completing the questionnaires data were obtained using SPSS version 19 right statistical method and were analyzed (descriptive statistics: graphs, frequency, frequency percentage and inferential statistics, multiple regression and Pearson's correlation coefficient).

## RESULTS

The following table describes the status of Internet addiction and their parenting style among high school female students.

**Table 1.** The average and standard deviation scores of Internet addiction and their parenting style.

Variables Statistics	Internet addiction	Parenting style		
		absolute permissiveness	authoritative style	authoritarian style
Number	317	317	317	317
Average	54.79	15.27	29.68	14.32
Standard deviation	8.313	3.72	5.16	3.63

The results of the above table show that Internet addiction scores of students is in average 54.79, which shows that female students in Babolsar city are at risk of Internet addiction. The highest scores of parenting style are for authoritative style too.

To test for normality of variable distribution, we operate in the following order:

H0: Intended factors have normally distributed .

H1: Intended factors have not normally distributed.

If a significant level in the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test is more than 0.05, it can be assumed that normalized data with high confidence, otherwise it cannot be said that the distribution can be normal with a good chance. In other words, if the significance level is greater than the error, we conclude that the null hypothesis and if the significance level is less than the error, we conclude that the alternate hypothesis.

**Table 2.** The result of normality test for data distribution.

Variables	df	Sig.	Error level	Hypothesis confirmation	Conclusion
Internet addiction	317	0.06	0.05	H0	Normal
absolute permissiveness	317	0.08	0.05	H0	Normal
authoritative style	317	0.11	0.05	H0	Normal
authoritarian style	317	0.09	0.05	H0	Normal

According to the table 2 because the significant level of all variables greater than error level as 0.05, we conclude the null hypothesis; so the variables of Internet addiction and Parenting style, are normally distributed. After ensuring normal and non-normal distribution of the examined factors, it can be necessary to review the assumptions, In order to analyze the correlation between the two variables, the Pearson correlation coefficient is used, that in the following will be discussed separately to test hypotheses.

First hypothesis: there is a significant relationship between Internet addiction and Parenting style. To find out the correlation between Internet addiction and Parenting style of female students, the following hypothesis will be tested using Pearson's correlation coefficient that the result is as follows:

**Table 3.** The correlation between Internet addiction and Parenting style.

Statistic	absolute permissiveness	authoritative style	authoritarian style
	Pearson's correlation coefficient	-0.46**	-0.22*
Internet addiction probability value	0.002	0.036	0.021
Total	317	317	317

\*\*Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (two domains)

\*Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (two domains)

As can be seen from Table 3, at the level of 99%, the medium direct relationship exists between Internet addiction and absolute permissiveness with a value of 0.46 and at the level of 95%, the weak inverse relationship exists between Internet addiction and authoritative style with a value of -0.22 and there is the weak direct relationship between Internet addiction and authoritarian style with a value of 0.28, we concluded that the null hypothesis (H0) is rejected and the test hypothesis (H1) is accepted. According that, there is the relationship between internet addiction and students' parenting style.

## DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

In explaining the results on the relationship between Internet addiction and parenting style in this study may be pointed out that factors such as the richness of the family emotional environment, positive and effective parenting relationships with children, having the patience individual at home, understand and be understood teenagers at home and so on, Preventing adolescents emotional vacuum and thus Search emotion by their in virtual environments such as chat rooms (Manteghi, 2010). In fact, people use the Internet as a way of escape from the disorganized and usual situation of family or change their own mood (Moeedfar et al., 2007).

These results are related with findings of Pan, Yi-Quan and Min (2006) based on there is the meaningful relationship between addiction to computer games (the subscale of Internet addiction) with parenting styles, thus that in authoritarian parenting style, children almost in all subscales of Internet addiction earn a higher score, and the results are related with findings of Manteghi (۲۰۱۰) based on that there is a relationship between the emotional vacuums in the family and tend to chat rooms, and they are related with findings of Park et al (2010) based on that in people, who addicted to the Internet, parents do not have the necessary warmth and they were described very rejection and punishment (especially mothers), and they are related with findings of Park, Kim and Cho (2008) based on that parental attitudes, family relationships, family solidarity and the face of violence associated with Internet addiction, and the results matches with findings of Li and Zhang (2004) based on that people who are addicted to the Internet compared with non-addicted individuals have very different parenting styles. So that in the family environment of Internet addicts there were most intervention, the extreme punishment and willingness to defy.

### Conflict of interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest

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