ISSN: 2645-5498, SSYJ
2023, 14 (49), 9-24

Prediction of Internet dependence, virtual networks and social isolation based on family functioning and religiosity among young girls in Isfahan

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Received 10 April 2023, Accepted 20 July 2023

Abstract

The present study was conducted with the aim of predicting dependence on the Internet, virtual networks and social isolation based on family functioning and religiosity among young girls in Isfahan city. The correlational research method was used and the statistical population of the research was all young girls between 18 and 30 years of age in the first district of Isfahan city, among them 140 people were selected based on the sampling table of Karjesi and Morgan, using a multi-stage random sampling method. became The measurement tools were FAD family functioning questionnaires, Chalapi and Kafi social isolation questionnaire (2013), religiosity status (RSI) and a researcher-made questionnaire including 30 questions, based on the Likert scale, which measures the indicators of dependence on the Internet and virtual networks.

Content validity was used to measure the validity of the measurement tool and its validity was reported as 0.89 based on Cronbach's alpha coefficient for the entire questionnaire. The face validity of the questionnaire was also confirmed by several social science experts. In this research, Pearson's correlation coefficient and multivariate regression were used to analyze the data. The results of the research showed that family functioning had the ability to predict dependence on the Internet ($P<0.01$) and virtual networks ($P<0.05$). Also, dependence on the Internet, virtual networks and social isolation can be predicted based on the components of religiosity (negative perception of God and positive perception of God) in young girls ($P<0.05$).

Keywords: Family Functioning, Religiosity, Social Isolation, Internet, Virtual Networks.

1. Introduction

Currently, the Iranian family is faced with satellite networks, virtual space, modern media, etc. in its cultural portfolio, each of which in turn targets a part of the process of influencing the family. Some satellite networks have specially focused on the family category, and the expansion of virtual space has brought about changes in the relationship between children and parents, including reducing the role of the family as a reference, reducing the relationship

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between parents and children. The generation gap due to technological growth, the loss of privacy between children and parents and standing up to one or both parents can be mentioned (Shakerbigi, 2011).

In the past ten years, various researches have been conducted on the functioning of the family and the user of new technologies such as the Internet, virtual networks and mobile phones, which is one of the most important and noteworthy issues in the field of youth sociology. Among these studies, we can refer to the research of Cao, Yen, Ben, Lin and Yang (2007), who stated that Internet addiction is related to psychological variables such as shyness, loneliness, self-awareness, anxiety, depression, and interpersonal communication. . Park, Kim and Joo (2008) also showed that parental attitudes, family communication, family solidarity and exposure to parental violence are related to Internet addiction. Mech (2005), found that using the Internet is a time-consuming activity, so it can reduce the duration of interaction between teenagers and their families. In another study, Mech concluded that 50% of families are less together when they are online. They talk and 41% of the participants had the desire to learn anti-social behaviors during this period.

In past research, it seems that the effect of using virtual networks based on family performance in girls has been investigated in relation to other variables, but there are gaps in the subject of this research. Therefore, according to the few researches on the subject of this research and the fateful nature of youth, while young people have gradually turned into the main population of Internet, virtual networks and mobile phone users, it seems necessary to investigate this issue. Therefore, the main question of this research is whether dependence on the Internet, virtual networks and social isolation can be predicted based on family functioning and religiosity among young girls in Isfahan city?

2. Review of Literature

One of the human needs is the need for religion, and the first level of religiosity is knowing God and believing in Him. One of the efficient ways to grow and improve this knowledge is to identify God's attributes by people (Davoudi, 2009). The term "concept of God" can be defined as people's emotional recognition of God and is mostly based on the emotional and

emotional experiences of a person (Schap-Junker, Orlings-Bontko Verhagen and Zack, 2000). Indeed, when people think about God What image of God is imprinted in their minds. The idea of God is a complex psychological variable that seems to be a multi-dimensional or multi-variable concept that is under a wider field called religion (Lee and Early, 2000).

On the other hand, as a result of excessive use of social networks, young people are exposed to social isolation (Hawkes and Hall et al., 2002). Social isolation is a reality in which a person feels a lack of attachment and complete separation from the conventional values of society (Benson, Rohlkpertin and Rohde, 2003). Palotzin and Ellison (1998) generally, a person relates to society in two ways; One by creating a connection with other actors in the society and the other by membership in groups, these two opportunities allow a person to connect more with the society and increase his participation in the society (Chalabi, 2015).

Also, Keshtiarai and Akbarian (2013) by introducing the new age as the fast era of communication, very simple and fast entry, minimum restrictions for access, establishing communication with the whole world in different ways and the absence of time and place limitations, access to various databases and Participation in economic, scientific, cultural, artistic, religious, etc. activities have been listed as one of its irreplaceable features. Yaseminejad, Azadi and Amoie (2013) in their research reached the conclusion that cyberspace can threaten the social security and social participation of young people and expose them to social isolation. Because the Internet can be used as a powerful tool in the field of information to the extent that it is sometimes referred to as an information explosion, but this modern technology, with all its benefits, has also had threats and dangers for society and humanity. So that nowadays, most of the crimes are related to computer, internet and virtual space. Despite positive aspects such as educational aspects and provision of communication services and things like computers and the Internet, it also has negative aspects. Studies show that the use of modern technology causes feelings of loneliness and distance from the family (Iranlou and Gouderzi, 2019). In past research, it seems that the effect of using virtual networks based on family performance in

girls has been investigated in relation to other variables, but there are gaps in the subject of this research.

3. Methodology

This research is descriptive and correlational in terms of applied purpose and method. The statistical population in the present study were all young girls between 18 and 30 years old living in district one of Isfahan city in 1401. In this study, the participants using the available method based on the sampling table of Morgan and Karjesi (1971), the statistical sample size was estimated to be 144 people. Therefore, the researcher referred to the selected centers in one area of Isfahan city and distributed the questionnaires among the young girls present. Necessary explanations were also given about the method of implementing the questionnaires.

The selected people were evaluated according to the variables of family functioning, religiosity and social isolation Chalapi and Kafi (2013). The dependence on the Internet and virtual networks of these young girls was also measured using a researcher-made questionnaire. Due to the possible fall of the questionnaires, it was distributed among 150 people to answer the questions of the questionnaires. Finally, by removing the incomplete questionnaires, the questionnaires of 140 people were examined. The following tools were used to collect the data required for the research:

1- Family Function Test (FAD)

The measurement tool has 53 questions that were provided by Epstein, Baldwin, Bishop (1983) in order to measure family functioning based on the McMaster model. In relation to the validity of the test, the subscales are reported as follows: problem solving subscale 0.72, communication subscale 0.70, roles subscale 0.71, emotional fusion subscale 0.73, emotional responsiveness subscale 0.71, behavioral control subscale was 0.66, general functioning subscale was 0.82. In this research, the family function scale was used, and the reliability of this scale was calculated using Cronbach's alpha method. Communication subscale 0.70, Roles subscale 0.72, Emotional fusion subscale 0.71, Emotional responsiveness subscale 0.69, Behavioral control subscale 0.76, Questionnaire general functioning subscale 0.86; The internal reliability of this test is good.

2- Religious Status Questionnaire (RSI)

In order to investigate the type of perception of God, the items related to God were adapted and used from the Religious Status Questionnaire (RSI). This test includes 27 questions and three subtests, God's presence in life (questions 1 to 11), God's care (questions 12 to 21) and negative perception of God (questions 22 to 27). The subtests of God's presence in life and God's care were combined and formed the scale of positive perception of God. Therefore, in the end, the questionnaire consists of two main scales: positive perception of God and negative perception of God. In this research, the perception of God scale translated by Khosravi (2003) was used. Considering that the Likert scale (0-1-2-3) was used for scoring.

The maximum score of the subjects could be 81. Klein (1993) obtained the internal reliability of the three subtests of God's presence in life, God's care, and negative perception of God, respectively, 0.86, 0.82, and 0.69, and considers it a sign of good internal reliability of this test. Khaksari (2005) obtained the reliability of the above test using Cronbach's alpha for the factor of God's presence in life 0.60, God's care 0.64, positive image of God 0.61 and negative image of God 0.58. At the same time, the correlation of God's presence in life and God's care (under the scales of positive perception of God) with positive perception of God was 0.77 and 0.72, respectively. In the present study, the reliability of the God perception questionnaire was also calculated using Cronbach's alpha method, and the Cronbach's alpha coefficient was reported as 0.68 for positive perception of God and 0.71 for negative perception of God, and 0.82 for the entire questionnaire.

3- Chalabi and Kafi Social Isolation Questionnaire

Chalabi and Kafi Social Isolation Questionnaire (2003) includes 19 questions and four components of social loneliness, helplessness, social despair and reduced social tolerance.

4-Questionnaire on the use of dependence on the Internet, virtual networks

It was a researcher-made test about the dependence on the Internet and virtual networks among young people. The intended tool is self-assessed and adjusted from the respondents' point of view. Questions with the chosen range

of very high, high, medium, low, very low and scoring by Likert scale (1,2,3,4,5) were used. Questions were made based on research literature and past studies, personal characteristics of users and families. In order to determine content validity, the measurement tool was given to five counseling and psychology experts, and with their opinion, similar questions were removed and the form of some questions was changed. Cronbach's alpha method was used to determine the final coefficient of the whole test or the validity of the measuring instrument (Seif, 2018).

In this questionnaire, the value of Cronbach's alpha coefficient for the 30 investigated questions is equal to 0.894, which is a very high and good value, which indicates the high internal consistency of the questionnaire. Also, the Half Galtman split coefficient, which is obtained by dividing the test into halves, is equal to 0.775, which indicates the very good reliability of the questionnaire. Descriptive statistics (including frequency distribution, percentage, average, median and central tendency indicators such as standard deviation and variance and drawing tables and charts) were used to analyze the questionnaire data. At the level of inferential statistics, first the assessment necessary to fulfill the statistical assumptions of parametric tests, including the Kolmogorov-Smironov test, was performed to check the normality of the distribution of scores, and Pearson's correlation coefficient and (multivariate regression) were used.

4. Findings

Table 1: Age distribution of the investigated young girls

Age	Frequency	Percent
18-20	41	29.3
21-23	48	34.3
24-26	27	19.3
27-30	24	17.1
Total	140	100

According to the above table, it can be seen that 41 girls (equivalent to 29.3 percent) are 18 to 20 years old, 48 girls (equivalent to 34.3 percent) are 21 to 23 years old, 27 girls (equivalent to 19.3 percent) are 24 to 26 years old, and 24 girls are (equivalent to 17.1 percent) were 27 to 30 years old.

Table 2: Descriptive statistics of the components

Components	Subscales	Mean	Median	Standard Deviation	Minimum	Maximum
Dependency components	Internet	22.65	21	7.56	10	48
	Virtual networks	21.59	21	7.03	10	40
	Cellular phone	26.42	26	8.69	3	46
Components of family functioning	Problem solving	11.63	10	4.07	6	23
	Relationship	15.19	14	5.66	7	28
	Roles	16.43	16	5.72	2	33
	Emotional fusion	96.15	16	5.41	5	28
	Emotional response	15.47	15	5.83	6	33
	Behavioral control	21.07	19	7.03	11	48
	Family functioning	95.74	94	16.99	68	174
Components of spiritual well-being	connection with God	35.22	34	7.89	16	50
	Communication with yourself	27.93	27	7.89	3	48
	Connection with nature	28.16	29	6.20	12	47
	Communication with others	38.37	39	5.33	22	50
	Spiritual well-being	129.67	129	12.48	107	160
Components of religiosity	Negative perception of God	17.71	18	2.74	11	26
	Positive perception of God	83.81	83	7.67	64	100

In the following table, the results of checking the normality of the distribution of the variables are presented:

Table 3. Kolmogorov-Smirnov test results (normality of distribution of variables)

Components	Subscales	Test	Sig
Dependency components	Internet	1.297	0.069
	Virtual networks	1.069	0.203
	Cellular phone	0.744	0.638
Components of family functioning	Problem solving	2.128	0.0001
	Relationship	1.538	0.018
	Roles	1.245	0.090
	Emotional fusion	1.165	0.132
	Emotional response	1.666	0.008
	Behavioral control	1.883	0.002
	Family functioning	1.503	0.022
Components of social isolation	Social loneliness	1.169	0.130
	helplessness	1.188	0.119
	Social despair	1.080	0.194
	Decreased social tolerance	1.512	0.021
	Social isolation	0.555	0.918
Components of religiosity	Negative perception of God	1.416	0.036
	Positive perception of God	0.744	0.638

As can be seen in the table above, the assumption of normality of the variables has been accepted in all the dependence components (Internet, virtual networks and mobile phones) because the values of the significance level were greater than 0.05. In all components of family functioning (except for the two components of roles and emotional fusion), the assumption of normality of the variables has been rejected, and only in these two components (roles and emotional fusion) the assumption of normality has been accepted. In all components of social isolation and religiosity, the assumption of normality of the variables is accepted. Considering the strength of parametric tests against the violation of this assumption and considering the high sample size in the present study, the use of parametric tests for the present data is unimpeded.

First hypothesis: dependence on the Internet, virtual networks and mobile phones can be predicted based on family performance in young girls.

In the table below, using multivariate regression, the prediction of the components of dependence on the Internet, virtual networks and mobile phones based on family performance in young girls has been investigated. In this regression, the variables of dependence on the Internet, virtual networks, and mobile phones are entered into the model as dependent variables, and the family function component is entered into the model as an independent variable, the results of which are as follows:

Table 4. The results of predicting the components of dependence on the Internet, virtual networks and mobile phones based on family performance in young girls

Components	Dependent Variable	M.S	F	Sig	Coefficient	Beta
Dependency components	Internet	392.319	7.130	0.009	0.755	-0.10
	Virtual networks	287.791	6.031	0.015	0.684	-.09
	Cellular phone	25.049	0.329	0.567	0.088	0.03

According to the table above, it can be seen that the family function has the ability to predict the dependence on the Internet at the level of 0.01 and the dependence on virtual networks at the level of 0.05 in young girls. According to the results, it can be seen that family functioning did not have the ability to predict mobile phone addiction in young girls. The regression equations of the mentioned relationships are as follows:

Dependence on the Internet = 0.10 – 19.32 * family functioning

Dependence on virtual networks = 29.74 - 0.09 * Family functioning

Dependence on Cellular phone = 24.08 + 0.03 * family functioning

The second hypothesis: Dependence on the Internet, virtual networks and mobile phones can be predicted based on the components of religiosity (negative perception of God and positive perception of God) in young girls.

In the table below, using multivariate regression, the prediction of the components of dependence on the Internet, virtual networks and mobile phones based on the components of religiosity (negative perception of God and positive perception of God) in young girls has been investigated. In this regression, the variables of dependence on the Internet, virtual networks and mobile phones have been entered into the model as dependent variables, and religious components have been entered into the model as independent variables, the results of which are as follows:

Table 5. The results of predicting the components of dependence on the Internet, virtual networks and mobile phones based on the components of religiosity in young girls.

Independent Variable	Dependent Variable	M.S	F	Sig	Coefficient	Beta
Negative perception of God	Internet	18.579	0.323	0.570	0.087	-0.14
	Virtual networks	6.591	0.131	0.718	0.065	-0.08
	Cellular phone	87.738	1.158	0.284	0.188	-0.30
Positive perception of God	Internet	175.115	3.049	0.083	0.411	-0.15
	Virtual networks	15.401	0.306	0.581	0.085	0.04
	Cellular phone	0.785	0.010	0.919	0.051	0.01

According to the table above, it can be seen that none of the components of religiosity (negative perception of God and positive perception of God) can predict dependence on the Internet, virtual networks and mobile phones at the level of 0.05 in girls. They have no young. Because all values of the significance level were greater than 0.05. The regression equations of the mentioned relationships are as follows:

Dependence on the Internet = 0.14 - 37.60 * Negative perception of God - 0.15 * Positive perception of God

Dependence on virtual networks = 0.08 - 19.32 * negative perception of God + 0.04 * positive perception of God

Dependence on mobile phone = 30.78 - 0.30 * negative perception of God + 0.01 * positive perception of God

Third hypothesis: Social isolation can be predicted based on family functioning and religiosity in young girls.

In the table below, using multivariate regression, the prediction of social isolation components based on family functioning and religiosity in young girls

has been investigated. In this regression, the variable of social isolation was entered into the model as dependent variables, and family function and religiosity were entered into the model as independent variables, the results of which are as follows:

Table 6. Results of predicting social isolation based on family performance and religiosity in young girls

Independent Variable	Dependent Variable	M.S	F	Sig	Coefficient	Beta
Social isolation	Family functioning	163.181	2.877	0.002	0.792	-0.09
	religiosity	11.522	0.232	0.010	0.877	-0.02

According to the table above, it can be seen that family functioning and religiosity had the ability to predict social isolation at the level of 0.05 in young girls. Because all the values of the significance level were smaller than 0.05. The regression equations of the mentioned relationships are as follows:

Family functioning = 34.13 - 0.09 * Social isolation

Religiosity = 18.55 + 0.02 * Social isolation

5. Conclusion

In the investigations carried out by the researcher, several studies were obtained that are consistent with the present result, which can be mentioned in the shoemaker's study (2008). In his research, he showed that there is a difference between access to the Internet, an interactive environment, a space of intimacy, emotional relationships, the participation of students in group discussions, the feeling of satisfaction from being anonymous on the Internet, the level of family information about the use of Internet environments by children and There is an inverse statistical relationship with family values. Kamibipo and Sugira (2006) show that these people with dependence on mobile phones believe that they cannot live without using mobile phones. These findings support the negative effect of excessive use of mobile phones and its negative effect on the physical and psychological health of young people. Also, we can refer to Pourshahriari's research (2006) which was conducted under the title "comparison of depression, social isolation and family relationships of teenage girls who are Internet users and non-users" and concluded that there was a significant difference between the two groups in all three variables; The result is in line with the results of the aforementioned

studies and the present study, which showed that problem solving from the components of family functioning can predict dependence on virtual networks and dependence on mobile phones, and the component of emotional response can predict dependence on the Internet.

According to the information obtained, the results of this hypothesis from the present research are consistent with the study conducted by Chamani (2005), Sajjadian and Nadi (2005), Nowrozi and Esadi (2013), Kaao and Su (2006). Chamani (2006) concluded that family disputes, depression and social isolation of teenage Internet users are the consequences of excessive use of virtual space and use of the Internet. Nowrozi and Esadi (2013) showed that students who use the Internet too much have many problems in social, physical, mental and emotional interactions, and the level of depression is also high in these people. Ying and Tung (2004), Wong, Lee and Cheng, 2003), Nelva and Anand (2003) and Chek and Leung (2004) have conducted research on Internet addiction. showed that constant use of the Internet is associated with depression and social isolation of adolescents. Lavasani et al. (2013) showed that procrastination has a positive and significant relationship with internet addiction. Yelani and Yazdan Panah (2013) the results showed that the amount of using computer games and spending free time on media are correlated with social isolation. Zhu et al. (2009) found that social networks may enable access to others with different thoughts and perspectives and even connect others who are similar. The result of the present study is consistent with the results of the aforementioned studies.

Based on this finding, it can be said that problem solving is a variable that is influenced by various factors and many factors such as cultural, social and economic factors affect it, and in order for people to be able to solve problems, they must create a context that includes the necessary factors. To develop the ability to solve problems. Perhaps the reason for this result is that teenagers use more virtual networks and mobile phones with the greater ability of the family to solve problems; This means that if the use of virtual networks and mobile phones is controlled and at an optimal level, it can have a positive effect on trust in solving the problem. In a relatively open and warm environment, not

only children are exposed to challenging issues, but they are also encouraged to discover new beliefs and make decisions without fear.

Therefore, the children feel that they are accepted by the family and when facing various issues, their opinion is considered as one of the pillars of decision-making in the family, as a result, they have the ability to solve problems and have proper self-confidence. Considering the similarity of communication between virtual networks and mobile phones to the real world, they come to the conclusion that the problem can be solved with effort. In fact, this issue is somehow related to the retroactive situation (using knowledge in a real situation). One of the applications of mobile phones is the ability to connect to the Internet, which is very common among Iranian users. Mak-Kenna and Bareq (2008) found that regular and continuous use of e-mail and mobile phone SMS and participation in the user group improved their lives, especially those who experienced problems in the field of face-to-face communication (people who are socially They are confused or lonely or have isolated and marginalized identities.

Using the Internet causes social isolation, loneliness, distance from the family and generally reduces mental health. This distance from family and friends becomes a kind of mental state of the family and generally reduces mental health. Internet friendships very quickly take the importance and place of family relationships and old friends. In most cases, this addiction leads to instability in family relationships. The more the internet user feels that he is accepted in the internet environment. It probably affects family values more. And the more users enter into group discussion and debate, the less they raise their issues with the family. And it makes the educational values of the family less important for the individual. And with the creation of an atmosphere of intimacy on the Internet, users can take their example from that environment. And this can affect the educational values of their family.

The level of acceptance on the Internet makes more people enter the intimate space. And it has a negative impact on family values. People who use the Internet more have increased loneliness and isolation, and Internet use has been associated with increased depression and withdrawal from real life. For this reason, internet addiction can be predicted based on the emotional response

component in young girls. Religious beliefs increase self-confidence and lead to the formation of a constructive point of view in relation to the surrounding world and oneself. Believing in spirituality will give meaning to life and feelings of hope and optimism. In the emotional field, spirituality satisfies emotional needs, and as a result, with the intervention effect of beliefs, it reduces negative emotions such as depression and hopelessness, anxiety and feelings of emptiness. In the behavioral field, by shaping many behaviors, it reduces the harmful effects of stress and leads to the formation of a healthy lifestyle based on correct and rational behaviors.

The main reason for the effect of spirituality in reducing harmful health behaviors can be attributed to a healthier lifestyle, avoiding many harmful behaviors (dependence on the Internet, virtual networks, and mobile phones) and relaxation. Believing that self-harm is forbidden and as a result parallel behaviors with religious beliefs play an effective role in reducing the tendency to depend on the Internet and virtual networks in religious people. Therefore, it is suggested that cultural institutions (such as educational centers, mass media and education) pay attention to the correct use of this technology to families and young girls. It is also suggested to strengthen the level of religiosity of young people in universities and educational centers in order to reduce the social isolation of young people.

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