

The Use of Smartphones on Children Social Interaction

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ABSTRACT

This study discusses the uses of smartphones on children that have a positive and negative impact on the development of children's social interaction. Today's generation is also experienced significant lifestyle changes due to the influence of modern technology by today. Children in this century are less likely to interact with people around them because parents have revealed to children smartphones for daily use. This study aims to identify whether smartphones impact usage on social interactions over five years old and to identify the development of children's social interaction at home. This study case uses a qualitative method involving five respondents that involve parents of five years children at the University College of Yayasan Pahang Kindergarten. Data instruments will be applied such as interviews with parents or guardians of the children as a sample of the study and observation will be made while children are in the classroom. The researcher will record the results of the observations on the checklist provided. A predicted result of the study is smartphones will have a negative influence on children's social interactions. However, if the use of smartphones is restricted by parents can also have a positive effect on children.

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1. Introduction

1.1 Background of Study

According to Farah Aziz (2020), she says that the results of a study by child education experts at Michael Cohen Group found that as many as 60% of parents with 12-year-olds often use gadgets, 30% use them very often, and 36% of the children have their own gadgets. Still, there are a handful of parents who may not know the long-term effects of excessive smartphone use among children will cause them to take a shortcut by giving smartphones to children as their replacement. According to Putri Afzan Maria, she said that the effect of excessive use of smartphones on children will also have an impact on the health and development of children, especially children who are still in the process of neuronal development. This will cause the child's development to be stunted because too long and excessive use of smartphones can disrupt balanced development that involves physical, emotional, mental (cognitive) and social. Smartphones in the modern era are now very easy to find and almost every group of society has a smartphone. The use of smartphones today is not only in adults but also in children, even the use of smartphones in the current era is also to newborns. Most parents introduce gadgets too early to babies. For most parents, exposing them to a smartphone at an early age is a common occurrence. Smartphones at an early age can interfere with a baby's development. Parents feel that smartphones can reassure their child from breastfeeding or supporting the baby. The use of smartphones to children depends on how parents control it. Some parents also use smartphones as an entertainment medium for children. Excessive use of smartphones will also have a detrimental impact on the health and development of children.

Most studies have been done to examine the effects of smartphone use among children. According to Naquiah (2017) explained that, children in Malaysia have spent a lot of time surfing the internet for an average of 19 hours a week. Meanwhile, nine out of ten children in Malaysia are also exposed to negative experiences while surfing the internet. Furthermore, the use of smartphones will have a negative impact on the development of children's motor nerves, namely gross motor and fine motor. According to Siti Aisyah (2014), stated that the findings of a study from the United States explain the use of smartphones such as iPad and tablet use among children aged two years and above is inappropriate because it can weaken the muscles of their fingers and hands needed to write. For example, excessive activity of touching the screens of phones and tablets and gadgets causes fine motor skills, i.e. their finger movements to be less developed. This will cause the child's fine motor skills to be impaired if the child is not trained to use their finger movements.

According to Shima Dyana and Siti Marziah (2018), saying that excessive use of wireless gadgets can cripple a child's immune system as a result of exposure to high radiation where the use of gadgets is too long exposed since infancy. Smartphones will also cause users who frequently play held video games can cause spinal problems due to frequent bending or duk for long periods of time. This will cause the development of motor skills and sensory skills of children can not develop and can affect their physical development as adolescence increases. According to Karow (2014), in his study also found that 75% of children do not get enough sleep and rest due to the use of electronic gadgets. Children are exposed to gadgets that can interfere with their sleep. This can disrupt children's growth process and affect their development.

According to Al Mazmi, Aslam and Rajan (2013), have concluded that the negative effects on children's social development include poor language proficiency and lack of social skills including the inability to understand body language. This is because, at this stage children are supposed to learn something based on the observations they make. If a child is frequently exposed to gadgets it will result in the development of developmental problems in the child. In addition, the existence of application content, advertisements and information in gadget technology that is not suitable for children due to the presence of extreme or pornographic scenes that can affect children's thinking and behavior.

1.2 Research Objectives

- 1) To identify the impact of parent's involvement in their children education and development.

2. Literature Review

Bronfenbrenner's Ecological Theory has several elements that can affect the development of an individual, namely microsystems, mesosystems, ecosystems, macrosystems and chronosystems. The first element of the microsystem involves the immediate environment in which children have direct interaction and spend the most time such as parents, siblings, friends, neighbors and teachers. While the mesosystem involves the relationship between microsystems, that is, anything that happens in a mesosystem can affect the interaction with other microsystems. For example, the home environment can influence an individual's behavior and social interactions at school. Next, ecosystems involve experiences with environments that do not directly involve students, but decisions taken from those environments affect students and adults involved with those students (Mohd, Marina, Afrah Salwani, & Mohd Zain, 2014). This is linked to the importance of development and interaction between children and the people around them. Nowadays smartphones have controlled every movement and development for every age group of society. With the advent of smartphones, children will be less communicative and will indirectly interfere with their social, emotional, physical and cognitive development processes. For example, socially, children will socialize less with their peers because they are too busy with gadgets. This can be attributed to mesosystems in which children interact less two-way and more to one-way communication. While for the emotional development of children can be associated with a microsystem where children from an early age need adequate love from parents, siblings or people around. Gadgets cannot give love to children. This is because parents give exposure to gadgets too early so that children become complacent and can result in lack of love until adolescence.

Research from child education experts at Michael Cohen Group reveals that touch screens have taken over all other forms of joy for children. 60 percent (%) of parents with children aged 12 and under report that their child frequently uses mobile screens, while 30% use them very frequently. And it's interesting to note that 36% of these kids have their own devices. According to Prof. Dr. Princess Afzan Maria Zulkifli (2015) says that Studies show that children under the age of 2 who are allowed to watch shows on television will experience long-term negative effects on language development, reading skills and short-term memory. The effects of watching television at the age of the first 2 years will also disrupt children's sleep and concentration as they grow into adulthood.

Based on Limelight Networks Inc, which is one of the firms that conducts research on the state of the digital lifestyle has released a data on the use of gadgets, namely smartphones by Malaysians. Based on the data, more

than 69 percent of Malaysians cannot stop using their smartphones even for a day. Malaysians are the most addicted to digital devices and are followed by India. Limelight Networks in a statement has revealed that laptops and desktop computers are the second most important technology for respondents. Malaysia with 34.4 percent of them cannot live without it. (News Media Corp., July 28, 2018).

3. Method

The results of the study are determined by the method as well as the design of the study. The design of the study is determined by the purpose of the study. A study can use several different study designs. According to Kerlinger (1970) he said that study design is a procedure of data processing collected based on specific and systematic planning of the concept of the formation of a network of relationships between the variables involved in a study. Whereas according to Mc Millan and Schumacher (1984) say that it also refers to the way researchers conduct research and the procedures or techniques used to answer research questions. The purpose of the study design was to control for the causes of bias that could interfere with the study findings. The study design is also an action plan that shows in detail how a study is conducted. As stated by Ita Warliani (2017), the design of this study acts as a guide to the researcher in the process of collecting data, analyzing, and subsequently summarizing the results of the research conducted.

The design for this study was a case study using a qualitative approach. According to Chua (2006), qualitative research is a study that cannot be explained by numerical data, where there are certain things that require careful observation in terms of emotional, motivational, and empathy (understanding others) related to human, group certain or natural conditions. Qualitative data is obtained by observation, interviews, document analysis or any other means to obtain complete data. Among these studies are action research, case studies, field studies, and document analysis.

For this study, the researcher used qualitative data. Qualitative data will be obtained by way of interviews. Researchers use a qualitative approach in this study is to explore the impact of smartphone use on kindergarten children aged five and six years and in identifying smartphones affect social interaction and children's development. In my opinion, the design of this study is appropriate to explore this field in providing a more detailed understanding of the phenomenon to be studied. Data obtained by the researcher through interviews to the sample or the entire population will be reviewed after all the documents of the study findings are carefully analyzed.

Instruments are an important element in a study to help researchers to obtain accurate and useful information for the study. The instrument acts to ensure that the results obtained from the study do not deviate from the original objectives of the study. In this study the instruments produced by the researcher are referenced and modified based on the objectives and questions of the study.

There are two instruments used in this study, the first is the interview questions for the in-depth interview method with the child's parents and the second, the checklist used for the researcher's observation method on the development and social interaction shown by the study subjects. According to Yin (2003) interviews are one of the most important data for qualitative research. Merriam (1998) says interviews are very important because we cannot know only in terms of behavior, feelings and how a person interprets the world around them through observation. Interviews are also important for researchers to reflect on children's development at home.

4. Results and Discussion

4.1 Evaluate the Impact of Smartphone Use

Smartphone use among children has an impact both positively and negatively. Analytical information is collected in the table below.

Table 1. Respondents' Profiles

Profile	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5
Age	5	5	5	5	5
Gender	F	F	M	M	M
Number of siblings	2	4	3	2	3
Hobby	Gaming	Play Bike	Read a book	Play a ball	Watching television

This part will be determining whether the hypotheses tested were supported by the findings of the analysis. Based on table 1 shows that 5 children from the same class were randomly selected to be respondents in the observation process for the study of Smartphone Use Affects Social Interaction of Alpha Generation Children. is supported or not supported. The hypotheses were constructed to test the relationship on the significance level of $p < .05$.

Table 2. The Impact of Smartphone Use in the Classroom

Theme	Conclusions of Observations
Do children have trouble speaking slowly in class?	According to the results of observations. 3 out of 5 children having difficulty responding to teacher questions when teachers ask questions.
Do children have social problems in the classroom?	The results of the observation found that 3 out of 5 children have problems with socialization and interaction in the classroom when using gadgets in the classroom.
Do children like to be alone?	2 out of 5 children are not alone and can communicate gadgets with other friends, Manakla 3 children, on the other hand, prefer to sit alone while using gadgets.
Children act aggressively in class	2 children acted positively when the teacher asked returned the smartphone, while 3 children showed aggressive behavior because it was difficult to return the smartphone to the teacher,
Does the use of smartphones for too long have a negative impact on social interaction?	Overall, 3 children showed a negative effect on social interaction when smartphone use was too long, while 2 children showed a positive effect on smartphone use,
Based on Table 2, shows there are 3 children who have problems in the use of smartphones while 2 children show a positive response.	

Table 3. Parents' Profiles

Profile	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5
Age	28	42	37	33	32
Gender	Female	Female	Male	Male	Male
Jobs	Lecturer	Housewife	Kindergarten teacher	Housewife	Business

Based on Table 3 shows 5 respondents from mothers were selected for the researcher to conduct interviews on the level of development of children's social interaction at home.

Table 4. Effects of Smartphone Use on Children's Social Interactions at Home

Theme	Conclusions of Interviews
How long is the time smartphone use at home?	According to the results of the interview. 3 out of 5 people, the mother stated that, 'the use of smartphones at home is too long, while 2 others, use smartphones with a set time limit.
Do children regularly interact socially with their families as usual?	The results of the interviews found that 3 of the mothers stated that the children had less social interaction at home, while 2 mothers stated that the children interacted socially as usual.
Children lack recreation outside with family	2 of stating that children, they rested as usual in the evening, while 3 mothers stated their children preferred to play smartphone games at home.
Do parents limit consumption smartphone at home?	2 mothers limit telephone use, smart at home to children, while 3 mothers did not limit the use of smartphones at home.
Do parents have access satisfactory/unlimited internet at home?	Overall, all respondents, have satisfactory internet access. ,

Based on Table 4, it shows that 3 out of 2 children have social interaction problems at home. This is because there is no limit to the use of smartphones at home

4.2 Discussion

Results from the interviews (see Table 4) showed that the majority of children had less social interaction with family at home. This shows that smartphones play an important role in the lives of children. Smartphones can

affect the daily lives of children. This can have a negative effect on children that they do not interact and socialize with their families. Children can experience slow speech and anti-social problems as a result of using gadgets too often in their daily lives.

The results of the interviews (see table 4) for the use of smartphones at home show that, the majority of parents do not limit the use of smartphones at home. Only 2 parental respondents limited the use of smartphones at home. As a result of excessive smartphone use, children can experience smartphone addiction problems at home. When a child is addicted this will make the child less interact and constantly use the smartphone. Children will have developmental problems in terms of socializing and can cause them to like being alone rather than socializing.

The results of the observations (see table 2) in the classroom showed that there were children who had difficulty speaking in the classroom. The results of the observations also found that children with speech problems are due to the use of smartphones. Children can have stunted speech development as a result of the use of smartphones. This is because they are less interactive and social. They are more focused on playing smartphone games than interacting and socializing with peers.

As a result of the interviews conducted in this study, we found that there are negative effects of smartphone use on children. Furthermore, if children use smartphones excessively it will have a negative impact in terms of social development and will experience speech problems.

5. Conclusion

This study focuses on the use of smartphones influencing the social interactions of children of the Alpha generation. The results of the study found that smart phones have an influence on children's social interactions. Parents also play an important role in influencing the use of smartphones in the daily lives of children. Frequent use of smartphones can have a negative impact on children's social interactions. However, if the use of smartphones is restricted by parents can also have a positive effect on children. Based on the observations conducted, it was found that three out of 5 children gave a negative response to the use of smartphones. The findings of this study hope that parents control the use of gadgets on children so as not to influence social interaction, idealized influence, inspirational motivation, individual consideration, and intellectual stimulation as main practices to foster the preschool teacher's spirituality to achieve the preschool vision and mission.

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