A QUANTITATIVE CORRELATIONAL STUDY OF PARENTAL NEGLECT, CONDUCT PROBLEMS AND SOCIAL MEDIA ADDICTION AMONG ADOLESCENTS

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ABSTRACT:

One of the common illnesses among adolescents is conduct disorder. Parental neglect is one of the risk factor for development of behavioral problems in teenagers. Although social media addiction discipline is comparatively new, facts reveal prevalence of social media disorder especially in teenagers. The objective of this research was to find out the relationship of parental neglect, conduct problems and social media addiction among adolescents and to examine role of demographic characteristics (socio-economic status, institution and parental education) in predicting conduct problems. Quantitative study was conducted on 370 adolescent students from different schools of Punjab and KP.Sample size was calculated using Cochran's sample size formula. Multi dimensional Parent Neglect Scale, Social Media Addiction Scale- Student Form and Conduct Problems Scale were used. Purposive sample comprised of social media addicts = 186, non-social media addicts = 184; girls n= 113, boys n= 73; age ranged 11-19 years. Analyses

revealed significant positive relationship of parental neglect with conduct problems and social media addiction. Conduct problems also had significant positive relationship with social media addiction. Age had statistically significant positive correlation with PN, CP and SMA. Social media addicts showed more conduct problems as compared to non-addicts. Socio economic status and mother educational level positively predicted conduct problems. Study recommends intervention strategies for parents to improve their child rearing practices, set boundaries and restrict the use of social media to overcome conduct problems.

THE ORETICAL BACKGROUND:

Parental neglect involves negligence towards fundamental needs of children which include somatic needs, affectionate needs, administrative needs and intellectual needs (Straus, Kinard & Williams, 2011). Parental neglect is defined as inability of the parent to employ adequate actions those are necessary to fulfill growth requirements of the child (Straus, 2001). Parental neglect generates feeling of isolation which serves as a threat and leads to conduct and communal complications.

One of the common illnesses among adolescents is conduct disorder. 7 percent of the children from 9 to 15 years of age suffer from conduct disorder. Conduct disorder is defined as an expressive action displayed in an intense manner which deteriorates productive functioning. It involves hostile actions, such as burglary, deceit and deviation from norms. Other common symptoms involve sexual involvement, alcohol dependence and reduced self –worth (WebMD, 2018).Consistencies in such actions indicate conduct disorder.

Social media refers to system of technological communication used to form virtual societies in order to exchange knowledge, private posts and other content (Merriam-Webster, 2014). Other terms for these addictions are behavioral addictions (Savci&Aysan, 2017) and technological addictions (Kuss& Griffiths, 2013). Teenagers contact network through various means (computers, laptops, mobile phones) for multiple reasons (to relate to friends, gathering based on mutual concern, gossiping, e-mailing, forming pictures / videos, posting, socializing, gaming and betting) (Banyai et al. 2017).Most popular social media websites include Facebook, YouTube, WhatsApp, Facebook Messenger, WeChat and Instagram (Dollarhide, 2019).Forty percent of the world population is internet users. Ratio of internet users has improved worldwide by almost 3 billion 732 million persons (49.6%) in accordance with evidence provided by Internet World Stats (2017). In Pakistan percentage of internet users reported is 47.5 million (Devotta, 2018).

LITERATURE REVIEW:

Relationship between parental neglect and media addiction has been reported (Niaz et al., 2005). Parental neglect approach leads adolescents towards delinquency and the more restricted attitude of parents makes adolescents addicted to social media (as cited in Liu, 2016).Social media addiction is responsible for intensifying problems in various situations such as anxiety from defriending, spoiling, or deceitful attitude of significant other as well as harassment (Hilliard,2019; Jaoude, Naylor & Pignatiello, 2020).

Theoretically following viewpoints have been described to clarify the development of social network dependence (Turel, Serenko & Giles, 2012). According to Cognitive-behavioral model; Excessive social media usage is the product of dysfunctional thoughts, intensified by number of natural conditions thus leading to compulsive social media use. Social skill model states that due

to absence of self-representation abilities persons favor indirect communication to direct communication, thus leading to dependent social media use. Socio-cognitive model states that anticipation of favorable consequences along with ones media adequacy and reduced media self-control finally results in media addiction (Griffiths, 2013).

Literature reveals that conduct problems are high among persons who spend substantial amount of time in computer generated settings (Brunborg, Mentzoni, &Froyland, 2014). Using social media for entertainment motive adversely affects student well-being (Khalid, 2017).Excessive, problematic, and pathological use leads to conduct, societal, occupational and learning difficulties among individuals (Griffiths & Szabo, 2014; Rosen, 2017).

Addicted persons are those who devote 8.5 to 21.5 hours per week (Yang & Tung, 2007). Literature review suggests time spent on social media by teenagers is almost 9 hours per day. This indicates almost half of their precious life time getting spoiled. Therefore there is emerging concern to measure occurrence of compulsive practice of social media.In Pakistani context parental neglect is an important issue that leads to various problems among adolescents. Hussein (2010) indicated that 42.30% were rated having conduct problems based on parental report. Parental neglect is shown to foster antisocial behaviors among children (Tingting&Pu, 2017, Kim & Chun, 2018).In the present study social media refers to use of media technology (mobile phones, laptop, and computers) for educational or entertainment purpose. All social media websites such as Facebook, YouTube, WhatsApp, Facebook Messenger, WeChat and Instagram etc. were included. Literature review reveals relationship between parental neglect and behavioral problems as well as social media addiction and conduct disorder.Present study measured parental neglect with respect to negligence of child basic needs. Nowadays social media addiction is very common among adolescents. Parents themselves are preoccupied with media devices which are adversely affecting their children. Therefore there is a strong need to highlight the protective role of parents to reduce the risk of conduct problems as well as media addiction. Main aim of the present study was to examine relationship between parental neglect, conduct problems and social media addiction among adolescents.

RESEARCH METHOD

OBJECTIVES:

The objectives of the present study are given below:

To find out relationship among parental neglect, conduct problems and social media addiction among adolescents.

To compare conduct problems among social media addicts and non-social media addicts.

To find out the role of demographic characteristics (socioeconomic status, institution and parental education) in predicting conduct problems among adolescents.

RESEARCH HYPOTHESES:

The hypotheses of the current study are given below:

H_1: Parental neglect will be positively related with conduct problems and social media addiction also conduct problems will have positive relationship with social media addiction among adolescents.

H_2: Age will have significant positive relationship with conduct problems.

H_3: Adolescents with social media addiction will have more conduct problems as compared to adolescents with non- social media addiction.

H_4: Demographic characteristics (socioeconomic status, institution and educational status of parents) will act as significant predictors of conduct problems among adolescents.

RESEARCH DESIGN:

Descriptive research design was used for this study. Quantitative research method relied ongrouping of quantifiable measures, endorsed assumptions of the hypothesesand formation of relationships. Quantitative measure was more suitable due to extensive and expressive research phenomena.

SAMPLE:

Purposive sampling technique was used to select adolescent's sample. In the present study Cochran's sample size formula was used to estimate sample size which is especially considered appropriate in situations with large populations. Population size was 10000, margin of error 5 %, sample size was N= 370. Sample comprised (Social media addicts=186, Non- social media addicts = 184). Among addicts (girls n= 113, boys n= 73) with age range 11-19years. Socio-economic comprised (low n = 134, middle n = 32 and high n = 19). Institution was categorized as (Gov. = 32, average fee = 135, high fee = 19). Parental education comprised three levels (uneducated, average educated and high educated). The sample was approached from different schools and colleges of Rawalpindi, Havellian, Abbottabad, Mansehra and Shinkiyari.

Inclusion and exclusion criteria of the study are given below.

INCLUSION CRITERIA:

Adolescents between the ages of 11 and 19, who could read English, use social media, and have behavioral issues.

EXCLUSION CRITERIA :

Individuals who are unable to read English and are between the ages of 11 and 19.. Adolescents who did not use social media and did not have behavioral issues were not included in the study.

INSTRUMENTS:

The present research involved following three measures along with demographic sheet.

DEMOGRAPHIC SHEET:

Following demographic information (gender, age, family socio economic status, institution, mother education and father education) was collected from adolescents.

MULTI DIMENSIONAL PARENT NEGLECT SCALE (MPNS)

MNPS was developed by Straus et al. in 1995. It is comprised of 8 items with scoring on four point Likert scale. Item number 1, 5 and 7 are reverse scored. High scores indicate high parental neglect.

SOCIAL MEDIA ADDICTION SCALE- STUDENT FORM (SMAS-SF)

Sahin in 2018 developed a measure to access social media addiction. It is comprised of 29 items with scoring on five point Likert scale. Higher scores indicate high social media addiction.

CONDUCT PROBLEMS SCALE (CPS)

CPS wasdeveloped by Goodman in 1997. It includes 5 items with scoring on three point Likert scale. Item number 2 should be reverse scored. High scores indicate high prevalence of conduct problems.

PROCEDURE:

Adolescent sample was selected from different cities of Punjab and Khyber PakhtunKhwa (Rawalpindi, Havelian, Abbottabad, Mansehra, Shinkiyari). Study was initially reviewed and approved by Institutional Review Board on Research at Department of Psychology; Hazara University Mansehra. Prior permission for data collection was taken from heads of respective departments. Researcher personally approached coordinators of respective schools and briefed them about purpose of research. With the assistance of coordinator and teachers students were approached in classrooms. Students using various media devices (cell phone, computer, laptop, and tabs) and having behavioral problems were requested to fill out the questionnaires. Three questionnaires (PNS, SMAS and CPS) along with the demographic sheet which include (age, gender, family system and socio-economic status) were distributed among the sample of adolescents along with informed consent form. All participants were briefed about the study purpose and informed of their rights as participants through informed consent form (American Psychological Association, 2010).After screening 370 adolescent's forms were selected for analysis out of which 184 were non- social media addicts and 186 were social media addicts.

STATISTICAL ANALYSES:

To test the hypotheses appropriate statistical analyses were conducted on data by using SPSS 26.0. Descriptive statistics (mean and standard deviation) on each variable under investigation was carried. In order to examine the relationship between the variables under investigation measured at interval level inferential statistic including Pearson Product Moment Correlation coefficient was used. Multiple regression analysis was used to figure out predictive role of demographics.

RESULTS:

Results of current study are presented in following tables.

Table 1: Correlation Coefficient of Age with Parental Neglect Scale, Conduct Problems Scale and Social Media Addiction Scale among Adolescents (N=370)

Scales	I	II	III	IV	M	SD
I. Age	-	.15**	.17**	.11*	15.78	1.29
1I.PNS	-	-	.27**	.43**	22.38	5.45
III.CPS	-	-	-	.35**	3.63	1.76
IV.SMAS	-	-	-	-	78.62	16.13

Note. PNS = parental neglect scale; CPS = conduct problems scale; SMAS = social media addiction scale; M = mean; SD = standard deviation.

**p<.01, *p<.05.

Parental neglect scale had statistically significant positive relationship with conduct problems scale and social media addiction scale. Social media addiction also had significant positive relationship with conduct problems. Age had statistically significant positive correlation with all three scales (Table 1).

Table 2: Mean, Standard Deviation and t scores of Social Media Addicts (N = 186) and Non- Addicts (N = 184) on Conduct Problem Scale

Variable	Social media addicts (186)		Non-addicts (184)		t(368)	P	95%CI		Cohen'sd
	M	SD	M	SD			LL	UL	
CPS	6.84	1.17	3.25	1.69	-2.62	.01	-3.79	-.53	2.47

Note. M = mean; SD = standard deviation; CPS = conduct problem scale; CI = confidence interval; LL = lower limit; UL = upper limit.

Results indicated statistically significant difference in conduct problems of social media addicts as compared to non-social media addicts as shown in table 2.

Table 3: Demographic Characteristics (Socio Economic Status, Institution, Mother Education and Father Education) as Predictor of Conduct Problems among Social Media Addicts

Predictor	R	R^2	B	B	F	SE
SES	.15	.02	-.27	-.15*	4.24*	.13
Institution	.00	.00	.00	.00	.000	.17
Mother Education	.15	.02	-.34	-.15*	3.98*	.17
Father Education	.04	.00	-.08	-.04	.25	.16

Results of table 3 indicated socioeconomic status as a statistically significant predictor of conduct problems among social media addicts.Table depicts significant relationship between socioeconomic status and conduct problems {β = -.15, t = -2.06, p = .05} where the former explained about 2.3% variance in the later {ΔR^2 = .023, ΔF (1, 184) = 4.24, P = .05}. Mother education also appeared as significant predictor in development of conduct problems among teenagers {β = -.15, t = -1.99, p = .05} explaining 2.1% variance. However, role of institution

and father education did not appear as significant predictors of conduct problems among social media addicts.

DISCUSSION:

Results revealed statistically significant positive relationship of parental neglect with conduct problems and social media addiction among adolescents which confirmed first hypothesis of the present study (see table 1). Present findings are supported by previous researches which reported neglectful parenting leads to adverse outcomes across a range of domains (Jonson-Reid, Kohl & Drake, 2012). Connection between parenting practices (neglected) and excessive social media use was reported (Woo, 2013; Andangsari, Gumilar& Godwin, 2013; Lee, Moon &Park, 2019).Findings revealed that obnoxious parenting practices significantly increase attitude towards media addiction (Kim & Chun, 2018).

Statistically significant association was found between conduct problem and social media addiction, which proved second part of first hypothesis of the present study (shown in table 1). Previous studies report adolescents who spend more time on social media are more prone to face adverse effects on their behavior (Contreras, 2016; Jaoude, Naylor &Pignatiello, 2020).

Age had statistically significant positive correlation with social media addiction (table 1). Results are in accordance with second hypothesis of the present research. Study demonstrated that increase in adolescent's age had significant positive association with social media addiction (Andreassen, Pallesen & Griffiths, 2016).

Present study reported significant differences in conduct problems among social media addicts and non-social media addicts. Conduct problems were high in adolescents having social media addiction as compared to non-addicts (table 2). Results confirm third hypothesis of present study which stated that conduct problems will be high in social media addicts as compared to non-addicts. These results are aligned with previous researches (Kuss& Griffiths, 2013; Brown, Jane, Bobkowski & Piotr, 2011; Al-Menayes, 2015; Galica, Vannucci, Flannery &Ohannessian, 2017) which confirmed prevalence of conduct disorder among social media addicts.

Demographic characteristics including socio economic status and mother education played key role in determining behavioral complications among teenagers as shown in table 3. Results of the present study support first half of fourth hypothesis which stated that socioeconomic status (low, middle and high), and educational status of mother (uneducated, average, high) will significantly predict conduct problems among adolescents. Literature review revealed low parental education was related to greater use of social media and behavioral problems (Kim & Chun, 2018). Also, low socio-economic status was found to correlate with conduct problems. High scores on media addiction strongly correlate with low monthly income and lower educational level (Contreras, 2016). Nature of institution (government, average fee and high fee) and father educational status were found to be non-significant predictors of conduct problems.

LIMITATIONS:

Present research was confronted with following limitations. Generalizability of results to other cities of KPK and Punjab is limited due to small sample size. To acknowledge variations among other cultures prevailing in Pakistan future research should be conducted with large sample from different provinces of Pakistan. Secondly demographics were not equally approached, especially

institution and parental education. Future research should encompass all these to get broader perspective. It is further suggested if parent's media use was examined it would have provided better insight into the study.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Despite of these limitations present study provides useful knowledge by clearly indicating relationship of parental neglect with conduct problems and social media addiction. Teenagers are more vulnerable to media addiction because of certain biological changes as well as inadequate parenting practices. Excessive use of social media in some instances may lead adolescents towards unsocial communication patterns thus deteriorating their family relations, which in turn disrupts their mental health. Parents as well as teachers can play protective role, they can set time limit according to child age for media use and should regularly monitor their children. Additionally, special attention should be paid to balance child basic needs (physical, emotional, managerial and mental) to overcome adverse consequences caused by parental neglect. Instead of direct restriction on media usage interventions must involve refining parent child bonding to enhance healthy family functionality. For future research it is suggested to investigate the role of institution as well as father education in development of social media addiction, conduct problems, physical as well as mental health issues.

CONCLUSION:

Present study concludes significant positive relationship of parental neglect with conduct problems as well as media addiction among adolescents. Age had significant positive relationship with parental neglect, social media addiction and conduct problems.Adolescents with social media addiction had more conduct problems as compared to non-social media addicts. Socio economic status and mother education were significant predictors of conduct problems among teenagers.

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