



# INTERNET USAGE IN RELATION TO THE PARENTING STYLES OF THE SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

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**Abstract:** Internet Usage is the prominent feature of 21<sup>st</sup> century because Internet Usage has become an integral part of everybody's life in multiple ways. Even in the field of Education the contributions of Internet are remarkable. Students approach the internet for education but gradually they get lured by the entertaining features of the internet and prefer to use internet for gaming and entertainment purposes than for knowledge purposes. Excessive Internet Use by students of all age groups is a cause of concern for teachers, parents and society at large. The researches have shown that Parents can play an important role in controlling and governing the Internet using behaviour of their children. Therefore the present study has been undertaken to study the relationship between Internet Usage and Parenting Styles and also study the impact of six different parenting styles on the Internet Usage of secondary school students. The study has been conducted on 1000 (500Boys and 500 Girls) selected through stratified random sampling technique from the secondary schools (Class IX and X) of Jalandhar district. The data has been collected through Internet Usage Scale (2016) by Saini and Kaur and Children's Perception of Parenting Scale (2012) by Pyari and Kalra. The findings related to correlation analysis depicted that Autocratic, Over Demanding, Over Protecting and Rejecting Parenting Style have a significant positive relationship with Internet Usage whereas Accepting and Democratic Parenting Style have a significant negative relationship with Internet Usage of the secondary school students. The findings related to regression analysis depicted that Parenting Styles exert a significant impact on the Internet Usage of the secondary school students. The Autocratic, Over Demanding, Over Protecting and Rejecting Parenting Style exerts a significant positive impact on the Internet Usage of the secondary school students whereas Accepting and Democratic Parenting Style exerts a significant negative impact on the Internet Usage of the secondary school students. It indicates that strict, harsh, warmth less and over controlling attitude of parents encourages the children for excessive non essential use of Internet whereas parental warmth, affection, care, concern and appropriate discipline helps in governing the excessive non essential Internet Usage of their children.

**Key Words:** Internet Usage, Parenting Styles, Secondary School Students

## I. INTRODUCTION

Internet Usage is the prominent feature of 21<sup>st</sup> century because Internet Usage has become an integral part of everybody's life in multiple ways be it medicine, manufacturing, tourism, hotel, transportation, films and television. Even in the field of education Internet is contributing a lot to bring about qualitative improvements to raise the standards of the learning outcome through Internet based learning programs, programmed learning, emails, power point presentations, online learning, blended learning, social networking etc. therefore Internet is favoured for school education (Jackson, et. al., 2006 & Wanajak, 2011) whereas negative effects are also recorded (Sirgy, Lee & Bee, 2006). Although there are a lot of benefits of Internet for the society but just as it is said that the excess of everything is bad in the similar manner the excessive non-essential use of Internet is a cause of concern for the students, teachers, parents, and the society (Saini & Kaur, 2017) Beard and Wolf (2001) find in their research that people are getting dependent on the Internet irrespective of their age, socio economic status and gender to such an extent that the risk of Internet addiction has emerged. Researches shows that excessive Internet Usage leads to various psychological problems (Morahan-Martin and Schumacher, 2003; Ko, Yen, Chen, Chen, Wo & Yen, 2006), adverse Physical Health (Yu, Kim, & Hay, 2013; Waldo, 2014; Lin, Zhou, Du, Zhao, Qin & Xu, 2015), deteriorating educational performances (Griffiths, 2000; Morahan-Martin & Schumacher, 2000;), and decreasing relationships with friends and family (Rickert, 2001; Wanajak, 2011 & Vijayanti, Makharam, Afroz & Gajrekar, 2014). Moreover excessive involvement with the Internet by the students is reducing the time available for recreational activities, physical activities and socialization activities. Instead of spending time with friends and family people prefer to spend time on Internet even the adolescence who are at the crucial stage of their growth and development have been reported to be the Internet addict in many researches (Anita, 2013; Vijayanti, Makharam, Afroz & Gajrekar, 2014). With the development, economic growth and advancements in our country facility of Internet access is available even in the remote areas of the country. Moreover the availability of cheap and pocket friendly smart phones has made Internet approachable for majority of the population nationwide. Students can easily access Internet at their homes, school, friends' house, cyber cafes and libraries etc. The luring features rapid innovations and inventions and variety of unique features of Internet such as online gaming, videos, music, chatting, sharing photographs, social networking and even online shopping grab the attention of the students. Students prefer to use Internet for entertainment than for education (Roberto, et.al, 2014) moreover

students hide their online activities from their parents and prefer to use Internet at night when their parents are asleep (Mukund & Malhotra, 2014). The adolescents should be focused towards their education, career and overall personality development so that they can be better adjusted, independent and responsible citizen of the country but the irony is that the adolescents are more inclined towards the Internet Usage and find Internet Usage more enjoyable than academics and spending time with friends and family (Mukund & Malhotra, 2014 & Roberto, et.al, 2014). Parents are vested with the responsibility to fulfil the various social needs, cultural needs, physical needs, mental needs and emotional needs of their children. "A high-quality parent-child relationship must be ensured for the healthy growth and development of the children" (APA, 2018). Parent's role is crucial in determining the life style of the adolescents (Lau Lee & Ransdell, 2007; Mountjoy, 2008). Parents are the first agents of socialization of their children. "Parents and caregivers should equip the children with the cultural values, skills and resources needed to succeed as an adult and become a responsible member of society" (American Psychological Association). Researchers have shown that some social aspect such as the structure of the family, the parental rearing practices, family relationships and family communications plays an important role in determining how the adolescents are going to use the web (Mukund & Malhotra, 2014). Therefore the present study has been conducted to study the relationship between Internet Usage and different Parenting Styles and study the impact of different Parenting Styles on the Internet Usage of the secondary school students.

## II. OPERATIONAL DEFINITION

1. **Internet Usage:** Internet Usage refers to the excessive non essential use of Internet by the respondents that has been determined on the basis of the sum of the scores obtained by the respondents in the Internet Usage scale by Saini S. and Kaur P. (2016)
2. **Parenting Styles:** Parenting Style refers to the six areas of Parenting Styles (Autocratic, Accepting, Democratic, Over Demanding, Over Protecting and Rejecting) identified on the basis of scores obtained by respondents on the Children's Perception of Parenting Scale by Anand Piyari and Raj Kumar Kalra (2012).
3. **Secondary School Students:** Secondary school students refer to the students of class IX and X studying in the senior secondary schools of Jalandhar district.

## III. OBJECTIVES

1. To study the relationship between Internet Usage and Parenting Styles (Autocratic, Democratic, Accepting, Rejection, Over Demanding and Over Protecting)
2. To study the impact of Parenting Styles on the Internet Usage of the secondary school students.

## IV. HYPOTHESES

1. There exists no significant relationship between Internet Usage and Parenting Styles.
2. There exists no significant impact of Parenting Styles on the Internet Usage of the secondary school students.

## V. METHODOLOGY

The present study has been conducted on 1000 secondary school students (Class IX and X) selected in equal proportion on the basis of Gender and Locale from the Jalandhar district. The stratified random sampling technique has been employed and the tools used for data collection are Internet Usage Scale (2016) by Saini and Kaur and Children's Perception of Parenting Scale by Pyari and Kalra (2012). The data has been analysed through Correlation and Regression.

**VI. FINDINGS:** The findings related to the correlation analysis and regression analysis has been presented in the subsections below:

**I. Relationship between Internet Usage and Parenting Styles:** To study the relationship between Internet Usage and the Parenting Styles, the scores attained by the students in their Parenting Style category has been correlated with their Internet Usage scores. It has been done individually for each category individually and the findings have been presented in the Table I below:

**Table: I**  
**Summary of Correlation Analysis**

Variable	N	Mean	SD	'r' Value	p- value
Autocratic Parenting Style	151	24.28	3.92	0.73	.000
Internet Usage	151	67.47	9.94		
Accepting Parenting Style	147	23.06	2.07	-0.63	.000
Internet Usage	147	59.61	7.79		
Democratic Parenting Style	304	20.89	2.63	-0.83	.000
Internet Usage	304	53.38	6.31		
Over Demanding Parenting Style	139	24.91	3.96	0.65	.000
Internet Usage	139	64.27	8.69		
Over Protecting Parenting Style	129	21.06	4.63	0.66	.000
Internet Usage	129	60.19	10.82		
Rejecting Parenting Style	130	24.12	4.51	0.68	.000
Internet Usage	130	66.73	8.34		

**Interpretation:** Table above depicts that there exists a significant relationship between different Parenting Styles and the Internet Usage of the secondary school students. Since all the 'p' values are less than .05 it indicates that all the correlation values are significant. The correlation analysis of each Parenting Style with the Internet Usage of the secondary school students has been discussed below individually:

- i. **Internet Usage and Autocratic Parenting Style:** The 'r' value of Internet Usage to the Autocratic Parenting Style is 0.73 which depicts a strong positive relationship between Internet Usage and the Autocratic Parenting Style. The more Autocratic the parents will be towards their children the more their children will be inclined towards excessive nonessential usage of the Internet.
- ii. **Internet Usage and Accepting Parenting Style:** The 'r' value of Internet Usage to the Accepting Parenting Style is -0.63 which depicts a significant negative relationship between Internet Usage and the Accepting Parenting Style. It signifies that the warm and the affectionate attitude of parents have toward their children reduces their excessive Internet Usage.
- iii. **Internet Usage and Democratic Parenting Style:** The 'r' value of Internet Usage scores to the Democratic Parenting Style is -0.83. And the mean Internet Usage scores of the children having Democratic parents is 53.38 which is the least average in all six types of Parenting Styles. The 'r' value is strong significant and negative which indicated that there is negative relationship between Democratic Parenting Style and Internet Usage of the secondary school students. Thus it signifies that the parents with Democratic Parenting Style are quiet successful in monitoring and controlling the Internet Usage of their children.
- iv. **Internet Usage and Over Demanding Parenting Style:** The 'r' value of the Internet Usage and Parenting Style scores of Over Demanding Parenting Style is 0.65 which is significant too. It indicates that there exists a significant positive relationship between Over Demanding Parenting Style and the Internet Usage scores of the secondary school students. The increase in the Over Demanding attitude of the parents towards their children will result in more dependence of their children on the excessive non essential use of the Internet.
- v. **Internet Usage and Over Protecting Parenting Style:** The 'r' value of the Internet Usage and Parenting Style scores of Over Protecting Parenting Style is 0.66 which is significant too. It indicates that there exists a significant positive relationship between Over Protecting Parenting Style and the Internet Usage scores of the secondary school students. The increase in the Over Protecting attitude of the parents towards their children will result in more dependence of their children on the excessive non essential use of the Internet.
- vi. **Internet Usage and Rejecting Parenting Style:** The 'r' value of the Internet Usage scores and Rejecting Parenting Style is 0.68 which is significant too. It indicates that there exists a significant positive relationship between Rejecting Parenting Style and the Internet Usage scores of the secondary school students. It signifies that a non cooperative, non supportive and non affectionate attitude of the parents towards their children encourages the children to approach the Internet to fill their isolation and forget their sorrows.

**II. Impact of Parenting Styles on the Internet Usage of the secondary school students:** To study the impact of Parenting Style on the Internet Usage of the secondary school students, the regression analysis has been calculated for each category of Parenting Style individually and the summary of the same has been presented in the Table II below:

**Table: II**  
**Summary of Regression Analysis**

Variable	Mean	N	R	R <sup>2</sup>	f- value	t- value	p- value
Autocratic Parenting Style	24.28	151	0.73	0.53	165.54	+12.87	.000
Internet Usage	67.47						
Accepting Parenting Style	23.06	147	0.63	0.40	96.98	-9.86	.000
Internet Usage	59.61						
Democratic Parenting Style	20.89	304	0.83	0.69	698.35	-26.08	.000
Internet Usage	53.28						
Over Demanding Parenting Style	24.91	139	0.65	0.42	99.14	+9.96	.000
Internet Usage	64.27						
Over Protecting Parenting Style	21.06	129	0.66	0.43	96.99	+9.85	.000
Internet Usage	60.19						
Rejecting Parenting Style	24.12	130	0.69	0.46	113.26	+10.64	.000
Internet Usage	66.73						

**Interpretation:** Table II above depicts the regression analysis of Internet Usage of the secondary school students on the basis of six different Parenting Styles.

- i. **Internet Usage and Autocratic Parenting Style:** The findings related to Internet Usage of the students having Autocratic Parents depicts that the R square value is 0.53 and the t value is +12.87 with significant p value. It implies that the Autocratic Parenting Style exerts a significant positive impact on the Internet Usage of the secondary school students.

- ii. **Internet Usage and Accepting Parenting Style:** The findings related to the Internet Usage of secondary school students having Accepting parents depicts that the R square value is 0.40 and the t value is -9.85 with significant p value. It implies that the Accepting Parenting Style exerts a significant negative impact on the Internet Usage of the secondary school students.
- iii. **Internet Usage and Democratic Parenting Style:** The findings related to the Internet Usage of secondary school students having Democratic parents depicts that the R square value is 0.69 and the t value is -26.08 with significant p value. It implies that the Democratic Parenting Style exerts a significant negative impact on the Internet Usage of the secondary school students.
- iv. **Internet Usage and Over Demanding Parenting Style:** The findings related to the Internet Usage of Secondary school students having Over Demanding parents depicts that the R square value is 0.42 and the t value is +9.96 with significant p value. It implies that the Over Demanding Parenting Style exerts a significant positive impact on the Internet Usage of the secondary school students.
- v. **Internet Usage and Over Protecting Parenting Style:** The findings related to the Internet Usage of Secondary school students having Over Protecting parents depicts that the R square value is 0.43 and the t value is +9.85 with significant p value. It implies that the Over Protecting Parenting Style exerts a significant positive impact on the Internet Usage of the secondary school students.
- vi. **Internet Usage and Rejecting Parenting Style:** The findings related to the Internet Usage of Secondary school students having Rejecting Parents depicts that the R square value is 0.47 and the t value is +10.64 with significant p value. It implies that the Rejecting Parenting Style exerts a significant positive impact on the Internet Usage of the secondary school students.

**VII. TESTING OF HYPOTHESES:** In the light of the findings of the study, the hypotheses have been tested and the findings have been presented below:

**Hypothesis 1: There exists no significant relationship between Internet Usage and Parenting Styles:** The findings of the correlation analysis depicts that all the p values for relationship between Internet Usage and different Parenting Styles are significant. Therefore the Hypothesis stating that there exists no significant relationship between Internet Usage and Parenting Styles stands rejected.

**Hypothesis 2: There exists no significant impact of Parenting Styles on the Internet Usage of the secondary school students:** The findings of the regression analysis depicts that all the p values for the impact of Parenting Styles on the Internet Usage are significant. Therefore the Hypothesis stating that there exists no significant impact of Parenting Styles on the Internet Usage of the secondary school students stands rejected.

**VIII. CONCLUSION:** Internet has become an integral and unavoidable part of everyone's life these days. Internet is very beneficial for all of us but it's our duty to use it for important tasks only and at the cost of personal health and social relationships. The internet has gained popularity amongst students of all age group that they have forgot the proprieties of their life and are becoming internet addicts gradually. Parents along with teachers can help in governing the excessive non essential use of internet by their children. Researchers have shown that Sound Parent child relationship will help in keeping the children protected from various addictive behaviours. Therefore the present study has been conducted to study the relationship between and impact of six different Parenting styles on the Internet Usage of the secondary school students. The findings related to correlation analysis depicted that Autocratic, Over Demanding, Over Protecting and Rejecting Parenting Style have a significant positive relationship with Internet Usage whereas Accepting and Democratic Parenting Style have a significant negative relationship with Internet Usage of the secondary school students. The findings related to regression analysis depicted that Parenting Styles exert a significant impact on the Internet Usage of the secondary school students. The Autocratic, Over Demanding, Over Protecting and Rejecting Parenting Style exerts a significant positive impact on the Internet Usage of the secondary school students whereas Accepting and Democratic Parenting Style exerts a significant negative impact on the Internet Usage of the secondary school students. These findings are consistent with the findings of Ihmeidh and Shahwareb (2014) who found a significant relationship between Internet use of children and authoritative parenting style. Moazedian et. al (2014) also revealed that problematic internet use differs significantly with the parenting styles. Dogan, Bozgyikili and Bozdas(2015) also reported that adolescents internet addiction differs significantly with the parenting style and democratic parenting style have a significant negative relationship with the internet addiction of the adolescents. The study concludes that neglectful, non affectionate, strict, harsh, warmth less and over controlling attitude of parents encourages the children for excessive non essential use of Internet whereas parental warmth, affection, care, concern and appropriate discipline helps in governing the excessive non essential Internet Usage of their children.

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