

The Influence of Personal Traits on Internet Addiction Disorder

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ABSTRACT

The twenty-first century is known as the e-generation. The access to information is no longer limited by time, regions and other factors, as the most updated and professional information can be acquired through the Internet. However, extended or excessive use of Internet will bring negative influence upon various aspects of the user, including family, health etc, and increase the possibility of becoming an Internet addictive. There are many factors that lead to internet addiction and personality trait is one of the key factors. Studies combining the internal and external locus of control personality trait with Internet addiction are rare; therefore, this study attempts to combine the internal and external locus of control personality trait theory developed by Rotter (1954) with the factors that affect the Internet addiction to further analyze and discuss their multiple aspects and relations. Another key factor is the ease of Internet accessibility. According to Im's study (2001), it was found that those with less than normal leisure hours would engage them-selves in Internet and video-gaming activities in a higher frequency. Therefore, this study performs the structural equation modeling (SEM) investigation on the personality trait, Internet use behavior, ease of Internet accessibility and Internet addiction in order to understand the relations among the variables in this research model. The study concludes that the senior aged users show more severe Internet addiction than young adults, and juveniles have a more severe Internet use behavior than the young adults. In the aspect of personality trait, the personality of the senior is more of an internal locus of control while that of the young adults is more external. In addition, the research model implemented in this study has excellent basic and overall model compatibility level, the modeling, and the internal qualities for explaining the relations among different variables, the positive relation between personality trait and Internet addiction, and the positive relation shown in Internet use behavior. The Internet use behavior through the Intervening variable, the ease of Internet accessibility, gains maximum overall influence upon Internet addiction.

Keywords : Internet addiction ; Internal and external locus of control personality trait ; Internet use behavior ; ease of Internet accessibility ; structural equation modeling (SEM)

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