Problematic Internet Use and wellbeing during adolescence

J. Ortuño-Sierra, A. Pérez-Albéniz, A. Ciarreta, A. Díez Gómez and E. Fonseca Pedrero

Introduction: PIU has not yet been recognized by diagnostic classification systems, but it has received increasing research and clinical attention. It is defined as a generalized and compulsive use of the Internet associated with a loss of control and negative consequences for the individual.

Objectives: The main goal was to analyze the relation between problematic Internet Use and wellbeing in adolescents.

Methods: The sample included a total of 1059 adolescents (47% were males). Age range was between 14 and 18 years old (M = 15.12; SD = 1.03). We used the Compulsive Internet Use Scale to assess Problematic Internet Use and the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire to screen for psychological difficulties and prosocial behaviour.

Results: The results found in the ANOVA revealed that problematic internet use was statistically significant associated with psychological difficulties and prosocial capabilities (λ = 0.475, F (3,83,000) = 25.569, P ≤ 0.001, η² = 0.215). Adolescents with higher levels of Problematic Internet Use revealed more emotional and behavioural difficulties. In addition, those adolescents with higher levels of prosocial abilities were at a lower risk for Problematic Internet Use.

Conclusions: Previous research have revealed that the use of Internet has almost doubled in the last decade among adolescents across different European countries. Results revealed statistically significant correlations between Problematic Internet Use and indicators of well-being such as emotional difficulties and behavioral problems, as well as prosocial behaviours. Prevention strategies should focus on detecting problematic internet use among adolescents, as it is a variable related with different psychological difficulties that are diminishing adolescents’ well-being.

Disclosure: No significant relationships.

Keywords: Suicidal; Emergency Department; e-mental health; secondary prevention.

EPP0534

Implications of Covid-19 Pandemic on School-age children with Autism Spectrum Disorders

I. Farmakopoulou, C. Efstratiou, A. Dokos, E. Lepsioutsii and M. Theodoratou

Introduction: The Covid-19 pandemic has caused multilevel changes worldwide. Everyday life of all people has been altered drastically. Children with ASD seem to face difficulties due to their heightened sensitivity to unpredictable and complex changes in their lifestyle. Our presentation aims to reveal the effects of Covid-19 on school-age children with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

Objectives: The main thematic areas of this research, concerning the social workers’ questionnaire, focused on the routine, psycho-emotional field, school performance, sociability and school environment of children with ASD.

Methods: Between June 22nd and August 16th, 2021, social workers (n = 38) and parents (n = 25) administrated a questionnaire - through google form platform- which investigated issues around routine, psycho-emotional field, school performance, sociability, school and family. Descriptive statistics were used for statistical analysis of the data.

Results: The routine and psycho-emotional conditions of children with ASD were found to have a negative shift. Moreover, the degree of change on school performance was moderate, while sociability change was minimal. The significance of the school’s contribution and the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the family functionality was highly observed. Another interesting finding was that children with ASD did not display discomfort for the mandatory social limitations or fear for the virus transmission.

Conclusions: Lastly, it is important to implement appropriate practices for the protection of children with ASD, through the mobilization of the responsible parties and thus, social policy transformations are vital for this vulnerable population.