The Mechanism of Parenting of Our Parents to Youth Internet Addiction

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Abstract. At present, youth Internet addiction has become a social problem that shall not be ignored. This article adopts qualitative research methods and collects research data through unstructured interviews to discuss the social mechanism of Parenting of Our Parents to Youth Internet Addiction. This study concludes that: discipline of parenting, such as spoiling a child, putting high pressure on a child, beating a child, etc. plays a basic role in forming young peoples’ bad habits and personalities, and directly or indirectly causes the youth Internet Addiction.

Introduction Of The Question

At present, the internet has permeated into the very aspect of the lives in China, the 29th statistics report of development of internet in China issued by China Internet Network Information Center (CNNIC) shows [1], by December, 2012, popularity rate of internet in China had been up to 38.3 percent with five hundred and thirteen million netizens, and the 69.4 percent popularity rate for teenagers of age group from 10 to 19 due to their steadily high growth of internet usage. With the popularity of internet and the growth of the people surfing on the internet, various problems result from extreme addiction to the internet has increasingly drawn the attentions from the society, among these problems, the youth addiction to internet has been shown as the center of attention. For the moment, the proportion of the youth addiction to the internet even accounts for 14.1 percent. The excessive use of internet has caused youth a series of symptoms and harmful social behaviors in the physiology and psychology. In physiology, addiction to internet will trigger the disorder of neuroendocrine of youth and cause various diseases such as cardiovascular diseases, tension headache, anxiety neurosis and melancholia, etc. and for psychology, the youth addiction to internet is usually manifested as the deviation of cognition thinking and emotion, the descent of intelligence and self-control capacity as well as the abnormal personality and behavior; the addiction also results in multiple social troubles such as teenagers’ neglect in their schooling, the difficulty in adapting to the socialization and clash of interpersonal relation, etc, and the worse youth will lead to the immoral, transgressed and illegal with criminal behaviors. Therefore, the youth addiction to internet has become the social problems that shall not be ignored.

Research method

This research adopts qualitative method. From the angle of studying question, this research made an attempt to go deeper to the place that the internet abdication youth live in and probe into the forming mechanism of youth addiction to the internet through an all-round way of the situation of the place, so that such problems can be prevented and solved more efficiently. In the process of actual research, the subject investigated shall be offered much space and more opportunities of expressing themselves, and we shall have a good knowledge of their daily lives and what they thinking to understand and explicate their speeches and behaviors from the social cultural backgrounds and environments that they are under. As a wholness research in the social phenomenon under natural circumstance, the qualitative research is an activity that acquires explanatory understanding of the subject investigated through the interaction with them, so it is more suitable for this research [1].
In the process of collecting information, author randomly extracted individual cases with 60 persons (including their parents) from Internet Addiction Treatment Center under the No.4 people’s hospital of Lin yi and obtained the firsthand data through the unstructured interviews respectively conducted to the subject. The interview mainly centers on the following three contents: First, the background information of individual cases, including the basic information, growth experience, home environment, etc. Second, the forming process of internet addiction, including how they are infatuated with the internet, is there any impressive event? What contents of internet they are indulged in? What feeling do they have? and so on. Third, the relationships status of individual cases, families, schools and society, it includes education ideologies and methods, daily emotional communications, interactions, expectations and pressures, etc.

Adverse education modes of parents and the youth internet addiction

The parents’ education modes refers to the methods and forms that are usually utilized by parents in the activities of educating and raising their sons and daughters, it is the summarization of the characteristics of parents’ various education behaviors and the relatively stable behavior mode. At present, scholars at home and abroad have made some research on the relationships between parenting modes and youth internet addiction, the research conducted by Li Dong-xia indicates that there is sharp difference in parenting modes between the persons with tend to internet addiction and the persons without internet addiction tend [3]. The similar conclusion also is acquired in the research carried out by Peng yang and Xi Zhen-fang, etc. [4] Author has classified the adverse parenting modes that lead to youth internet addiction as the blow in accordance with the interview data.

A. Spoiling parenting mode

This kind of parents gives their sons and daughter’s top priority, spoils them excessively and caters to their demands, including the unpractical ones. They take care of everything about their children and solve the problems that should have been faced with by themselves. This parenting mode will develop a self-centered, selfish and capricious personality, lacking the sense responsibility and independence frequently. When being faced with the social environment and competition completely different from that of their families, they fail to undertake the setback and pressure and it is more likely to reply on and be indulged in the internet for them.

B. High-pressure parenting

The parents of this kind hold high hopes for their children, but they often don’t think of their children’s actual conditions and abilities and request the children to come out in front, especially in the examinations. These hopes bring tremendous pressure to the children, depriving of the naivety and liveliness that they should have at that age, under this circumstance, the pessimistic, study weariness and world weariness psychology is prone to occur, especially for the children fail to meet parents’ expectation with weak adapting capacity, they will more likely to become self-abased, lost and addicted to the internet. The parents mainly impose undue pressure on the children, for some parents, it is because they keenly wish the children to be a talent, especially for the male child, some parents pin their hopes on the children because they failed to realize their own dreams, some is just out of vanity and the so-called face. The high pressure imposed by the parents will lead to different kinds of problems in psychology and behavior.

C. Beating and scolding parenting

This kind of parents has a simple and rude educating mode and pursues the principle of "dutiful sons generated from the cudgel". They often beat and scold their children or take other punitive measures for the errors and faults made by the children. Under this education mode, children often show the characteristics of fear, oppression, indifferent feeling and strong sense of inferiority, and forming the rude, hostile, unfeeling or stubborn, neurotic and evading personality step by step, children don’t only suffer from the pain of the flesh, but also bear the spiritual depression and insult, in this situation, the children are extremely prone to escape from this family for internet and make the internet as the outlet of unbosoming themselves and resisting.
D. Enclosed parenting mode

These parents don’t have a good knowledge of the skills of getting along with their children, they are bad communicators and are not familiar with the expression, and this is a high risk for the estranged relation between parents and their children. Children have various questions and the timely and positive instructions and assistances can not be offered due to lack of the emotional support from the family members, and they will turn to the internet and pin their emotion on the virtual world, acquire much space and more targets to pour out and seek for the mental satisfaction that is hard to be realized in real life, finally they are indulged in the internet and can not stop.

E. Autocratic parenting mode

The autocratic parents, only according to their subjective wills, force their children to do things as per their wishes, from major event like choosing school, making friends to minor matters like dressing, and rarely care about the feeling and desires of the children. The educating mode is simple with rigid manner. The consequence of this mode is that the children are in the nervous status constantly without sense of safety, therefore, they turn timid and weak-willed, lonely, self-abased and depressive or run to the other extreme, forming unfeeling, savage and strong traitorous personality. The internet addiction for this youth is a measure of relieving anxiety, it is mostly because that they despair of the reality and their resistance to external forces that bound them.

The induction and classification has been conducted in the adverse parenting modes that lead to the youth internet addiction in the above paragraphs, it just indicates some parenting mode will play a leading role in the formation of the youth internet addiction. Actually, the mentioned modes will overlap with others to some extent, playing a cooperative effect to the addiction, and it is true under many circumstances. For example, some parents spoil their children much on the lives, but impose high pressure on the studies, and it often has the character of exchange, namely, parents arrange everything for the children on the lives instead and the children shall rebound on their parent with excellent performance in the studies; some parents restrict their children autocratically, and it is attached with the punitive measures like beating and scolding and so on. In addition, if a father and a mother in a family have different education concept and parenting modes, it has a mixed impact on the emergence of youth internet addiction.

In Summary, the adverse parenting modes under the family circumstances will play a fundamental role in the youth internet addiction. And the basic role can be viewed from the two aspects: on one hand, it will directly boost the youth to be indulged in the internet, for example, the beating and scolding, the requirement of their study on the children imposed by their parents, these will usually be beyond the tolerance of the youth, so they turn to the internet to evade the high pressure and make the internet as the outlet of their emotions, and the internet addiction forms in the process little by little; on the other hand, this is quite important, adverse parenting modes has an unconscious influence on the children’s harmful personalities and behaviors in the long-term family life, these adverse characters will lead the youth to fail to endure the external forces like study pressure, and they can not withstand the temptation of the internet and finally are indulged in it.

Conclusion of research

Parents are the first and fundamental executors of youth cognition and social development, the authority status of parents has taken shape naturally in the process of raising and educating the children. In the parent-child relationship, parents take the leading role while the children are subordinated to their parents, this leads to the outstanding inequality [5]. The social knowledge, values, social norm and behaviors of the youth has been initially acquired from the words and deeds of parents, the standards and attitudes of parents towards the object assessment will be embodied in the parenting modes. The youth has indentified, accepted and transformed the standards and attitudes as the ones of their own gradually in the long-term and frequent contacts with their parents, the kinds of adverse parenting modes impede the youth socialization and personality sound development to some extent, and the kinds of undeniable habits and personalities, developed with the persisting in that way, will be the direct or indirect reason of youth internet addiction.
First, parents have the rights and duties of raising, educating and protecting immaturity children, it is allowable and necessary to take some punitive measures began with the love and respect as the staring point in the process of parents’ guardianship and parenting in many a family in China. However, punishment has deviated from the education purpose, transformed into the discipline. When being faced with the children’s disobedience, the most immediate reactions of parents are to restrain them strongly, and only adopt measures of force to solve the problems. In fact, this punishment is not educational, it is only an authority imposed on the children by the parents and make the children obey their wills through restraining and punishing the bodies of children, which is the continuity and reflection of the parenting modes of patriarchal system in our traditional society[6]. in addition, the children of many families are always under the parents’ supervisions due to the special status of parents and the resources they control, especially the authority of parents granted by the Chinese traditional ethics and morality, the children’s lives are often well arranged by the parents, they should obey the parents, comply with the rules. But the parents take the control as the responsibility, any failure to meet their wishes will be deemed as disobedience, which is the challenge to the authority. The subtle authority tension has taken on between the parents and child in this way, of which supervisions and anti-supervisions are carried out in the name of education. Furthermore, parents show very concern for their children such as feeding a child who can eat by himself for long time and dressing a child who can well dress himself. Although the original intention is the love for children and obtaining the gratification from the demands and attachment of the children, but actually, the children has not been placed in the independent and equal position to be trained under parents’ protection and lost the fundamental independence capacity. children are restrained in the name of love and got harmed due to the love.

It is to be observed that the value orientation in modern society, like utility, supremacy of intelligence and education background, has resulted in the dissimilation phenomena of function replacement in modern home educations as the dependency of the schooling. The most families have spent more time and efforts on the children’s studies or other educational items with strong utility. The discipline has been carried out centering on the children’s studies and their performances in the school. The school-orientation of home education has caused the deformity of the education accepted by children, the serious deficiency of personality, moral character cultivation with the troubles in psychology and behaviors to different extent, and moreover, family has not only failed to work as the refuge harbor and source of power when youth are faced with the study pressure and challenge, but as the accomplice of the examination-oriented schooling instead. The youth can not endure the double high pressure from home and school and are likely to be indulged in the internet.

References