ABSTRACT

THE RELATIONSHIP OF INTERNET USE TO THE INTERPERSONAL COMPETENCE OF SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN DAVAO CITY

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Objective: This study aimed to establish the relationship of internet addiction to interpersonal competence among senior high school students in Davao City.

Design: Cross-sectional study design.

Setting: Davao City National High School, and Assumption College of Davao

Participants: Cluster sampling was done in selecting the participants, and 87 students gave their consent and parental assent. All questionnaires were filled out completely. There were no drop-outs in the study.

Interventions: Participants filled out three questionnaires: Demographic Profile, Internet Addiction Test (IAT), and the Interpersonal Competence Questionnaire (ICQ-15). The author was blinded in this study.

Main Outcome Measures: Interpersonal competence of senior high school students.

Results: Fifty one percent had a moderate level of internet addiction, while 87.36% had high competence. There was no significant difference in the level of addiction among those with low competence versus those with high competence (p=0.3387). Pearson's R analysis revealed statistically significant weak positive correlation between interpersonal competence and internet addiction (p=0.0091).

Conclusion: There is a statistically significant weak positive correlation between interpersonal competence and internet addiction, suggesting that the more addicted an adolescent is to the Internet, the more competent he/she is interpersonally. However, the study may not be representative of adolescents who may have low interpersonal competence. Because of these, the true relationship of internet addiction to interpersonal competence may not be accurately established.

Keywords: internet addiction, interpersonal competence, senior high school