

How can Parents Support Their Children to Not Depend upon Technological Gadgets?

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Abstract

This study takes technological gadgets as being mobile digital media such as smart phones, tablets and games. These gadgets are often part of daily life, for parents as well as for children. Regardless of age, people often use gadgets for digital play and to interact with others. Some children become very attached to their gadgets and can become distressed when they cannot use them or if they do not have them. However, researchers have also noticed that there are children who are unaffected by the presence of gadgets around them, even though their friends use the latest devices. This paper seeks to support parents to educate their children so that they are not addicted to gadgets.

This study uses qualitative-descriptive approach. Primary data collection techniques are observation and interviews. Secondary data was obtained from a study of relevant documents including a literature review. Researchers used two main criteria to select the interview participants: parents who have children in the 9-15 age range who believe that their children are not addicted to gadgets. Data validity was supported by contribution authenticity and through triangulation of data sources. This study uses the concepts of media consumption, media usage, and media education.

The researchers anticipate that this study will provide benefits for parents and educators in teaching children to use gadgets wisely while also helping children develop digital media literacy.

Key words: media usage, digital literacy, children not-dependent on gadget, parents, children.