

## **An Analysis Study on Correlation between Internet Addiction and Parent Types**

Woochun Jun

*Department of Computer Education, Seoul National University of Education*  
wocjun@snue.ac.kr

### **Abstract**

*One of the representative side effects in current information and knowledge society is internet addiction. Nowadays single-parent families become popular due to various reasons such as increasing divorce ratio and government supports for single-parent family. National research works showed that internet addiction ratio of single-parent family children is higher than that of children of intact families. The research purpose of this paper is to investigate correlation between internet addiction and parent types. For this purpose, extensive and national survey works of NIA(National Information Society Agency of Korea) are collected and analyzed. Based on statistical analysis work, it is concluded that there is no meaningful correlation between internet addiction and parent types*

**Keywords:** *Internet Addiction, Correlation, Parent Types, Single-parent Family*

### **1. Introduction**

In the current knowledge and information society, most people can enjoy benefits of advanced internet and smart technologies. Definitely these advanced technologies provide us tremendous benefits. However, they also give us undesirable side effects. Those side effects include hacking, cyber bullying, copyright protection violation, personal information infringement, etc. It is responsibility of our society to deal with and cure internet addicts. Most countries are now very active in dealing with people suffering from those side effects. In most countries, national treatment centers and council centers have been built and working.

Among various side effects, internet addiction is very destructive and incurs serious social issue. This is because target of internet addiction includes almost everyone regardless of age, sex, and income, etc. Other side effects such as cyber gambling are concerned with a part of class in our society. It is time to concentrate on precaution and treatment of internet addiction. Recent national reports revealed that internet addiction ratio is going higher year by year for every class of our society[1,2,3,4]. Especially, internet addiction ratio of teenagers is going up sharply.

Recently single-parent families have been increasing. Increasing divorce ratio and various national supports for single-parent family are supposed to be main reasons. National reports show that internet addiction ratio of children from single-parent families is higher than ratio of children from intact families. However, it is unknown yet that there is a meaningful correlation between internet addiction and

single-parent family children.

The purpose of this paper is to investigate correlation between internet addiction and parent types. To the best of my belief, there is no research work on correlation between internet addiction and parent types. For this research purpose, extensive national survey works from Korea Information Society Agency(<http://www.nia.or.kr>) are collected and analyzed.

This paper is organized as follows. In Section 2, definition and some representative characteristics of internet addiction are presented. In Section 3, correlation analysis methods are presented, and correlation analysis as well as results is presented. Finally, in Section 4, conclusions and further research works are discussed.

## **2. Related Works**

Although there has been no universal agreement on definition of internet addiction, some representative definitions are introduced in this section.

In [5], internet addiction is defined as “a proposed but unproven disorder that involves excessive Internet use to the extent that it interferes with daily life. Excessive use may be determined by losing track of time, neglecting basic drives such as hunger and sleep, withdrawal symptoms, and negative behaviors including anger, fatigue and social isolation”.

In [6], internet addiction is defined as “internet addiction is characterized by excessive or poorly controlled preoccupations, urges or behaviors regarding computer use and internet access that lead to impairment or distress. The condition has attracted increasing attention in the popular media and among researchers, and this attention has paralleled the growth in computer (and Internet) access”.

On the other hand, in [7], internet addiction is defined as “an impulse control disorder, which does not involve use of an intoxicating drug and is very similar to pathological gambling. Some Internet users may develop an emotional attachment to on-line friends and activities they create on their computer screens. Internet users may enjoy aspects of the Internet that allow them to meet, socialize, and exchange ideas through the use of chat rooms, social networking websites, or "virtual communities." Other Internet users spend endless hours researching topics of interest Online or "blogging". Blogging is a contraction of the term "Web log", in which an individual will post commentaries and keep regular chronicle of events. It can be viewed as journaling and the entries are primarily textual”.

Considering all definitions above, internet addiction means two toxic symptoms, withdrawal symptom and difficulty of daily living. Withdrawal symptom means that internet addiction can go last unless internet addicts are treated. On the other hand, difficulty of daily living means that internet addicts have difficulty in everyday life such as lack of sleep, lack of concentration on work and housework, etc.

### 3. Correlation Analysis between Internet Addiction and Parent Types

So far there is no correlation analysis work between single-parent family children and internet addiction. In this chapter, correlation analysis between internet addiction and parent types is presented. First, research methods are introduced. Second, statistical analysis results are presented.

The research purpose of this study is to investigate correlation between internet addiction and parent types. For this research purpose, 4-year(year of 2011 to 2014) national survey works on internet addiction in Korea from Korea Information Society Agency[1,2,3,4] are collected and analyzed. For correlation analysis, Cross Analysis method is used. The Cross Analysis is a very useful method to identify difference verification between groups.

The following Table 1 shows internet addiction ratio of single-parent family children and intact family children. In this paper, internet addiction means two internet users groups, high-risk group and potential-risk group, respectively. According to categorization of internet addiction from Korea Information Society Agency, there are 3 groups depending on internet addiction: high-risk group, potential-risk group, and general user group, respectively.

**Table 1. Internet Addiction Ratio of Two Parent Types**

Year	Single-parent Family	Intact Family	$\chi^2$
2011	10.5%(N=281)	9.8%(N=2512)	.049
2012	11.8%(N=389)	10.6%(N=2949)	
2013	12.0%(N=133)	11.7%(N=3168)	
2014	13.3%(N=186)	12.5%(N=2812)	

In the year of 2011, internet addiction ratio of single-parent family children is 10.5% while ratio of intact family children is 9.8%. Since 2011, internet addiction ratio of single-parent family children is higher than that of intact family children by 0.3% to 1.2% range. However, statistical analysis reveals that  $\chi^2=.049$ . It means that there is no meaningful correlation between internet addiction ratio and parent types. In other words, although internet addiction ratio of single-parent family children is always higher than that of intact family children during 4-year period, single-parent family children have nothing to do with high internet addiction.

### 4. Conclusions

In the current knowledge-based society, everyone can enjoy benefits of advanced internet and smart technologies. Those advanced technologies now become daily necessity. However, they also give us unexpected and undesirable side effects. The representative side effects include hacking, cyber bullying, copyright protection violation, infringement of personal information, etc. Among various side effects, internet addiction is very destructive and causes serious social issue. This is because target of internet addiction includes almost everyone regardless of age, sex, and income, etc. It is responsibility of our society and country to deal with internet addiction and cure internet addicts.

Recently single-parent families have been increasing due to high divorce ratio and various national supports for single-parent family. National reports show that internet addiction ratio of children from single-parent families is higher than ratio of children from intact families. However, it is unknown yet that there is a meaningful correlation between internet addiction and parent types.

The purpose of this paper is to investigate correlation between internet addiction and parent types. To the best of my belief, there is no research work on correlation between internet addiction and parent types. For this research purpose, extensive national survey works from Korea Information Society Agency(<http://www.nia.or.kr>) are collected and analyzed. Statistical analysis results show that, although internet addiction ratio of single-parent family children is always higher than that of intact family children during 4-year period, single-parent family children have nothing to do with high internet addiction.

## **References**

- [1] Korea Information Society Agency, “2014 Internet Addiction Survey Work & Analysis”, Report NIA V-RER-14112, 2015.
- [2] Korea Information Society Agency, “2013 Internet Addiction Survey Work & Analysis”, Report NIA V-RER-13077, 2014.
- [3] Korea Information Society Agency, “2012 Internet Addiction Survey Work & Analysis”, Report NIA V-RER-12082, 2013.
- [4] Korea Information Society Agency, “2011 Internet Addiction Survey Work & Analysis”, Report NIA-RER-11052 2012.
- [5] Techopedia, “Internet Addiction”, <https://www.techopedia.com/definition/15454/internet-addiction>
- [6] M. Shaw and D. W. Black, “Internet addiction: definition, assessment, epidemiology and clinical management”, *CNS Drugs*, Vol. 22, No. 5, pp. 353-365, 2008.
- [7] UnityPoint Health, “What is internet addiction?”, [http://www. Addictionrecov.org/Addictions/index.aspx?AID=43](http://www.Addictionrecov.org/Addictions/index.aspx?AID=43)