Raffles Institution 1H G6

2011

RE PROJECT FINAL REPORT

How addiction to Facebook games affect RI Sec 2s’ academic performance

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**Facebook. Boon or Bane?**

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In the past few years, ways and methods of communication have improved over the years and social networking sites are on the rise. Why do people go to social networking sites? Does going to social networking sites affect our studies? If yes, then do people know about it? Also, if yes, then why do people still go to social networking sites? As such, our research project aims to investigate if RI Year 2 students’ academic performances have dropped due to going to social networking sites, more specifically, Facebook games and to evaluate the degree of addiction to Facebook, the games that they are addicted to and why Facebook is addictive. Through a social survey, reasonable conclusions were drawn. The results revealed that Facebook games cause a decline in academic performance and Mousehunt was the main game in Facebook that pupils played but Facebook games were not the sole reason that their academic performance had declined.

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**Chapter 1 – Introduction**

**1.1 - Statement of Problem:**

Using Facebook is one of the favourite activities of youths and teens. It is one of the few activities that break all barriers of race, gender, education and culture.

            The popularity of Facebook has increased drastically as more and more youths and teens use Facebook to contact each other after school. However, although it is convenient to use Facebook on the computer or phone, it may bring about problems without careful usage.

             For example, some teenagers’ addiction is getting from bad to worse and the effect is a decline in academic performance. Once there is addiction, teens tend to neglect their school work or do it sloppily. (P. Kirscher 2010).

            For instance, (S.C. 2010) argues that they fail to hand in or complete their homework to their standards on time.

            Furthermore, the temptation to play Facebook game is tough to resist and pupil may find it hard to concentrate on their studies.

**1.2 - Purpose of Study:**

            From our research, we seek to identify if RI Year 2 students’ academic performances have dropped due to addiction to Facebook games. At the same time, we hope to highlight the dangers of addiction to teens. Facebook games are addictive and have a great impact on teens. We aim to create awareness not only among teens but people all around. (Chan) argues that more preventive measures need to be taken as one needs help to stop it.

**Chapter 2 – Methodology**

**2.1 – Social Survey Methodology:**

A social survey was carried out to collect relevant data to our research between 14 February 2011 and 18 February 2011. The objectives were to assess the extent of addiction among RI Year 2’s students and to assess the decline of academic performances in them due to Facebook games.

A structured questionnaire was designed and conducted among 20 RI Year 2 students. The respondents were selected based on random sampling, to ensure the results were a representative of the batch.

       The 10 questions in the survey form were structured with clarity, non-ambiguity and allowance to give comments by the respondents. A pilot survey was conducted with a few people to validate the questionnaire. As pupils are sensitive about their GPA scores, we decided to place that question to the last.

**2.2 - Social Survey Respondents Statistics:**

A response rate of 100% was achieved from the survey.

Age group: 13-14 (RI Secondary 2 students)

Gender: Male

Number of respondents: 20

**2.3 - Interview methodology:**

Also, a interview was carried out with Mr Leo, the school consellor, to collect relevant data to our research on 14 March 2011. The objectives were to get an in-depth understanding of addiction to Facebook games and some ways to curb it.

A structured questionnaire was designed.The 10 questions were structured with clarity and non-ambiguity and after Mr Leo agreed to our request, we interviewed him and made a transcript and before keying in the essential information into the computer.

**2.4 - Information regarding our interview**

**Name of interviewee:** Mr. Leo

**Email:** heekhian.leo@ri.edu.sg

**Date of interview:** 14/03/2011 Monday, 1.45pm.

**Venue(s):** Chat room

**Number of questions in the interview:** 10

**Chapter 3 – Results**

**3.1 – Survey results and analysis**

**Participation in Facebook games**

          Overall 25% of the respondents reported that they played Facebook games for over 10 hours a week. In terms of participation by types of games, *Mousehunt* and *Backyard Monsters* were the most popular.

Playing Facebook games over 10 hours per week:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | Yes | 15 | 75% | | No | 5 | 25% | |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |

**Analysis of time spent on Facebook and Facebook games.(Q1and2)**

**Table 1 – Time spent on Facebook**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 5 hours or less | 3 | 15% |
| 6 - 10 hours | 3 | 15% |
| 11 - 15 hours | 4 | 20% |
| 16 - 20 hours | 5 | 25% |
| 21 - 25 hours | 5 | 25% |
| 26 hours or more | 0 | 0% |

**Graph 1 - Time spent on Facebook**

**Table 2 – Time spent on Facebook games**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1 hour or less | 6 | 30% |
| 1 – 10 hours | 9 | 45% |
| 11 – 15 hours | 4 | 20% |
| 16 – 20 hours | 1 | 5% |
| 21 hours or more | 0 | 0% |

**Graph 2 - Time spent on Facebook Games**

Further analysis reported the majority of pupils using Facebook between 16 to 25 hours and playing Facebook games between 1 to 10 hours. These results shows that RI Year 2’s students like to use Facebook at least once a day for 30 minutes and the spent most of their time playing Facebook Games. Thus, we can conclude that Facebook Games are addictive to RI Year 2’s students.

**Perception towards Facebook. (Q3)**

Next, the respondents were asked whether they agree to the general statements as to why they use Facebook.

**9 pupils answered ‘NO’ and the reasons are:**

1)    It gets boring after a while.

2)    I think it is very childish.

3)    Very lame.

The other 6 pupils did not provide any reasons.

**10 pupils answered ‘YES’ and the reasons are:**

1)    It has many games in it.

2)    (It has) Games and the ability to interact with each other.

3)    I like chatting.

4)    I can communicate with my friends.

5)    Got very nice applications.

6)    The games are nice and you can play with your friends.

7)    It is very cool.

8)    The applications are interesting.

9)    We can interact with our friends.

10)  Because it is fun.

**The last pupil answered: think so. Very cool.**

It was found that 5 out of the 10 positive answers(yes) were due to Facebook games and applications. This shows that the RI Year 2’s students are quite aware that they are addicted to Facebook.

**Pupils who really are addicted to Facebook games. (Q4, 5 and 6)**

19 out of the 20 respondents discussed about games more than twice a week with their friends in class. 11 out of 20 respondents studied their homework less because of Facebook games. 8 out of 20 respondents thought about Facebook during class.

It was found that majority of the respondents are addicted to Facebook games but it did not affect most of their concentration in class.

**Table1- Pupils who are affected in their studies due to Facebook and Facebook Games**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| No. of students who are affected by Facebook and Facebook Games in their studies | 13 | 65% |
| No. of students who are not affected by Facebook and Facebook Games in their studies | 7 | 35% |

The results show that addiction to Facebook and its games is very bad for the RI Year 2’s as it will affects their studies and cause their results to drop rapidly. Thus we recommend others not to get addicted to Facebook Games.

**Analysis of games that most pupils are addicted to. (Q7)**

**Table 1 – The types of games that RI Year 2s students like to play**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Mousehunt** | **14** | **70%** |
| **Backyard Monsters** | **5** | **25%** |
| **Pet Society** | **0** | **0%** |
| **Restaurant City** | **2** | **10%** |
| **Others** | **5** | **25%** |

**Graph 1- The types of games that RI Year 2s students like to play**

Others consisted of none (3), *Ninja Saga* (1) and *Wild Ones* (1). It was found that *Mousehunt* was the main game that attracted pupils.

The graph shows that the games like *Mousehunt* and *Backyard Monsters* are most addictive to RI Year 2’s students. These games have functions like chatting and ‘team-fighting’ as these allows RI Year 2’s students to interact with their friends so that they don’t so feel lonely.

**Analysis of things that affects or helps pupils’ studies. (Q8 and 9)**

**Table 1 – The things RI Sec 2s do on Facebook**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Chatting with friends** | **18** | **90%** |
| **Posting on other people’s walls** | **12** | **60%** |
| **Finding friends** | **9** | **45%** |
| **Others** | **2** | **10%** |

**Graph 1 - The things RI Sec 2s do on Facebook**

It was found that majority of the pupils’ reasons that affected their studies in Facebook was due to chatting with friends. We can infer that the decline in RI Year 2’s students’ academic performance is not solely due to Facebook games. This also tells us that as long as the applications enable the students to interact and chat with one another they will be addicted to it.

**Table 2 – The activities RI Sec 2s does during their free-time**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Watching television** | **9** | **45%** |
| **Playing computer games** | **16** | **80%** |
| **Going out with friends** | **11** | **55%** |
| **Using handphone** | **12** | **60%** |
| **Others** | **0** | **0%** |

**Graph 2 - The activities RI Sec 2s does during their free-time**

(Pupils were allowed to give multiple answers) Although decline in academic performance was not due solely to Facebook games, majority of the other reasons were due to computer games. This shows that RI Year 2’s student also use other technologies to interact with their friends and kill time.

**Analysis of pupils’ GPA score according to time spent on Facebook games. (Q10)**

Those who scored a GPA of 2.8 to 3.2 spent around 21-25 hours on Facebook average a week.

Those who scored a GPA of 3.3 to 3.6 spent around 11-20 hours on Facebook average a week.

Those who scored a GPA of 3.7 to 4.0 spent around 1-10 hours on Facebook average a week.

**Table of RI Year 2’s students’ GPA for End-of-year examintations:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Time RI Year 2's students spent on Facebook | 21—25hrs | 11—20hrs | 1—10hrs |
| RI Year 2's students' Grade Point Average for Year one End-of-Year Examinations | 2.8-3.2 | 3.3-3.6 | 3.7-4.0 |

A general less amount of time spent on Facebook games resulted in a general increment in Grade Point Average (GPA) scores. It can be inferred that Facebook games cause a decline in academic performance. The main causes are: addiction, games, friends to interact with and to kill time.