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RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PERCEIVED PARENTING STYLE, SMARTPHONE ADDICTION AND PROBLEMATIC INTERNET USE IN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

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ABSTRACT

Mobile phone addiction refers to the psychological dependence leading to dysfunction and imbalance in daily life which results from the excessive mobile phones usage. Since many aspects of the internet are being shared by mobile phones, research suggests that addiction to the mobile phone is very likely to cause internet addiction as well. Young (1998) describes internet addiction as an impulse control disorder that causes damage to interpersonal relationships. Models of mobile phone addiction and problematic internet use specify the importance of parenting styles as a significant variable that affects mobile phone addiction and problematic internet use.

The current study has been conducted to understand the relationship between perceived parenting styles, smartphone addiction and problematic internet use and to check if the difference between perceived paternal and maternal parenting styles resulted in higher proneness for developing mobile phone addiction and problematic internet use. A cross sectional research design was used to study a sample of 110 undergraduate and postgraduate students from colleges across India using three scales including the Parental Authority questionnaire (1991), the Mobile phone addiction scale (2012), and Problematic Internet Use Scale (2008).

The results suggested a significant positive correlation between mobile phone addiction and maternal authoritarian parenting style while no other parenting styles showed significant relationship with either mobile phone addiction or problematic internet use. However, a significant positive correlation was reported between the mobile phone addiction and the problematic internet use. Also, it could not be established that the difference between perceived paternal and maternal parenting styles results in higher proneness for developing mobile phone addiction and problematic internet use.

Keywords: mobile phone addiction, problematic internet use, internet addiction, perceived parenting style.

