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### **FBM INSIGHTS**

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### **RECTOR'S MESSAGE**



I would like to extend my gratitude for your visit to FBM Insights Volume 8, a publication brought forth by the esteemed Faculty of Business and Management, UiTM Kedah Branch. This bulletin endeavours to present a concise and beneficial collection of important insights and research findings derived from the domain of social sciences.

FBM Insights aims to simplify complex social science concepts into easily digestible bullet points, making valuable knowledge more accessible to a wider audience. In this bulletin, each article provides a glimpse into the diverse and dynamic world of social sciences, including psychology, sociology, economics, finance, and other pertinent fields. Through concise and informative summaries, the intention is to promote a deeper understanding of human behaviour, societal trends and the multifarious factors that shape our world.

My heartfelt appreciation is proffered to the dedicated researchers and scholars whose works form the foundation of this bulletin, contributing significantly to the ever-changing landscape of knowledge in social sciences. In navigating the modern era's challenges and opportunities, the intrinsic value of social science research in guiding policy decisions and fostering social cohesion cannot be overstated.

I sincerely hope that this bulletin will spark readers' curiosity and inspire them to delve deeper into the myriad facets of human society and behaviour. Irrespective of whether you are a student, educator, or policymaker, I firmly believe that this publication will serve as an invaluable resource in your quest for knowledge.

Once again, thank you for embarking on this journey of discovery with us. Together, let us explore the captivating world of social sciences and its profound impact on our lives.

Thank you.

Prof. Dr. Roshima Haji Said

Rector Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Cawangan Kedah

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# PARENTAL STRESS AND CHILDREN'S GAME ADDICTION: A BRIEF OVERVIEW

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### **ABSTRACT**

Concerns about the potential negative effects on children's well-being have been sparked by the advancement of technology and the growing popularity of video games. Parental stress has been identified as a significant factor that can influence the behavior and development of children. This paper briefly overviews the relationship between parental stress and children's video game addiction, shedding light on the connection and potential interventional implications.

**Keywords:** Parental stress, children, game addiction

### CONTENT

More than ever, children today adore video games. Gaming is a big part of their generation and how they interact with their friends. Whether it is a recent release or an old favorite, the child may discuss gaming with their friends, compare strategies online, and play for what seems like hours. Furthermore, a child's gaming habits might be influenced by family dynamics, parental attitudes regarding gaming, and the existence of parental supervision. Gaming addiction can arise from a lack of parental monitoring or encouragement to participate in other hobbies. This can happen due to parental stress.

What is parental stress? Parental stress is the term used to describe the emotional and psychological strain that parents go through as a result of numerous circumstances like work pressure, financial hardships, marital issues, and parenting obstacles or challenges (Gwen Dewar, 2020). It is crucial to understand that parental stress can significantly impact parent-child relationships and children's general development (Brown, 2022). Moreover, parents and their children may both suffer from excessive parental stress. For parents, it could result in fatigue, problems with their physical health, and mental health problems. This includes anxiety and depression, and strained relationships with their kids and partners. Additionally, high levels of parental stress can also influence parenting behaviors, such as inconsistent discipline or disengagement. For children, they have emotional problems, including behavior issues, aggression, anxiety, and depression, affected by parental stress (Fields et al., 2021).

Video game addiction, also known as problematic gaming or gaming disorder, is defined as excessive and compulsive play that severely impacts a child's development in several areas (Mohammad et al., 2023). A few examples are poor academic performance, less social engagement, disturbed sleep patterns, and emotional issues (Malik & Kumra, 2016; Tur-porcar, 2017). Besides, video game addiction prevents self-identity development since the "ideal self" in the game cannot be integrated with the "real self" in reality. This leads to identity diffusion over time and impairs one's ability to know oneself and others objectively (D.H. Liu et al., 2014). Moreover, children's activity impacts their capacity to use their imagination, creativity, and logical

thinking. Most video games feature violence, murder, and pornography, making them incredibly bad role models for children with immature morals and poor judgment (Y.N. Liu et al., 2014).

According to Bozoglan and Kumar (2022), children's game addiction and parental stress are significantly related. Children may be more prone to turn to video games as a coping method or escape from a stressful environment if parents are stressed. Children's game addiction might emerge due to challenging family dynamics, such as tense interpersonal connections or inconsistent parenting. The connection between parental stress and children's game addiction is mediated by a few factors. One of them is self-control. The self-control of young gamers can be improved by strengthening parent-child attachment ties, which can restrict their online gaming habits (Malik et al., 2020). Parenting techniques and styles are vital since authoritative parenting, characterized by love, support, and firm boundaries, has been linked to reduced levels of game addiction. A pleasant emotional environment at home and effective parent-child communication can help reduce the likelihood of excessive gaming (Lei et al., 2018).

Understanding the connection between parental stress and children's game addiction affects intervention techniques. Offering parenting education and support programs focusing on stress management, successful parenting techniques, and wise technology use can be helpful. Children's chances of developing gaming addiction can be decreased by promoting change in hobbies such as family hiking and advocating balanced screen time. Additionally, a psychologist warned that removing gaming consoles from children who exhibit symptoms of gaming addiction could lead to physical violence (Chadwick, 2023). Some strategies for parents are to explain to children that their gaming has become excessive, and as a parent, we are concerned about it. Next, parents should set gaming limits. For example, a child's gaming time is one hour on school days and no more than three hours on weekends. Furthermore, parents can use gaming as a reward. For instance, a child's gaming time could be contingent on other responsibilities, such as chores or excellent grades (Moonpreneur, 2023).

In conclusion, there is a strong correlation between parental stress and children's game addiction. Having a better understanding of this relationship can help initiatives that work to reduce the harmful impacts of excessive gaming and encourage healthy technology use. Moreover, the likelihood of game addiction in children can be decreased by treating parental stress and promoting positive parent-child relationships, ultimately improving the children's general well-being.

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