

Qualitative Research Reporting Assignment

Marie Postiglione-Dupell

Liberty University

Research Question

Is there a correlation between inordinate participation of technology and the increase of addiction and mood disorders among our youth population? Professionals in the helping field such as counselors and school counselors have reservations regarding youths' preoccupation with various technology and using technology as the main resource for communication and interpersonal relationships. Therefore, the researcher's investigated question is: "What are youth's motivations for using technology and how does it impact their daily functioning?"

Study Design

The phenomenology study design is best aligned with this case scenario. Phenomenology examines several different types of experiences such as emotion and social activity. The Phenomenology design is often used with the qualitative method. Researcher's purpose of this case scenario is to investigate current youth's desired increase in participating with various technology and their participation of use perhaps may affect their day to day living experiences emotionally and socially.

Themes

In this case scenario the researchers were seeking to understand the increase trend of participation by youth regarding technology and the effects on their behaviors due to overuse of various technology. Two of the emergent themes identified: (1) youth use technology as their main source of peer connection and (2) youth use technology when it is expected of them.

Regarding theme (1) youth use as their main source of peer connection, participants express they like to socialize with their friends via technology and to participate in this form of socialization everyday as well for long durations of time. For instance, a quote by

Billy self-reported, "I play video games with my friends each day when I get a chance." This addresses the frequency of use of technology as part of the daily living experiences of youth's form of preference regarding socialization with peers. Other youths mentioned the need to want to talk with their friends and duration of time comments self-reported communicating with friends late into the night via technology intervention. The number (2) theme emerged as: youth use technology when it is expected of them. This addresses the motivation of the youths to increase engagement with technology this is made obviously by the youth's reported quotes. Ruth said: "Even when I am with my family, I can't help but look at my phone. There is not a minute that I'm not getting a text or snapchat from my friends." This speaks to the preference of youth choosing digital communication regardless of being present with the option to socialize face to face with intimate others in your presence.

Study Implications and Results.

Concerning the research question: "What are the youth's motivations for using technology and how does it impact their daily functioning?" Motivation is the need of the youth to be able to communicate with their peers. The availability of various technologies provides very accessible means to do so. The implications perhaps may cause undue pressure to consistently be available to be present to communicate regardless of other social daily routines experiences required at times that should take priority. This perhaps could add to increased stress and mood changes.