Department of Management and Information Sciences

Key words Adolescence, Internet, Online Dating, Internet Fatigue/SNS Fatigue, Developmental Disorders, Internet Addiction

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USEN Corporation, Life Event Media Business Department
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Consultations, Lectures, and Collaborative Research Themes

Internet Use among Young People, Online Dating, Internet Fatigue/SNS Fatigue

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Main research themes and their characteristics

「Internet Use among Young People」

Since the release of mobile phones that can connect the Internet easily in 1999,the use of the Internet among young people has exploded. Many surveys and studies have revealed that young people use their own Internet devices (Cabinet Office 2018). Young people use Internet devices not only to receive information, but also to send information themselves. In addition, they use Internet devices to contact their parents and they also enjoy exchanging emails with school friends and acquaintances and sharing not only messages but also images and videos on Instant Messengers (IM) and SNS (Social Networking Sites or Services).

I would like to research the following two points.

First, I will investigate and analyze from the perspective of social informatics the problems and issues that arise when young people interact with others using their own personal Internet devices.

Second, I will give back to society the findings that have become clear from the investigation and analysis. Furthermore, in the future, I would like to discuss Internet use by young people with developmental disabilities, especially pathological Internet use and social media fatigue.

「Online Dating among Adolescent Girls」

Online Dating is “meeting someone you’ve met through Social Networking Sites such as X (Twitter) or Instagram, or Instant Messengers such as LINE (Chie KATAYAMA 2022) (Figure1).” In Western countries, there is a lot of research on online self-presentation (Ryoji Furukawa 2008) in order to meet attractive partners (Jeffrey Hancock *et al*. 2007). In the past studies, I have clarified the reality of Online Dating among adolescent girls, the difference between girls who realized Online Dating and girls who did not realize it, and thoughts toward Online Dating and the process of realizing Online Dating. As a result, girls who realized Online Dating have actively met someone through their own strong will as a reason of social compensation.

Figure1 Online Dating among Adolescent Girls: Based on interviews with adolescent girls: SEIKYUSHA.

However, Online Dating cannot be social compensation, and girls who have little social support have repeated Online Dating in search of “Strong Ties” (Figure2). If girls do not repeat Online Dating, it is necessary for them to continue efforts in order to ensure that their relationships have connected with the Internet.

The challenge during adolescence is to establish identity through trial and error in a developmental stage. It is important for adolescent girls to find their true identity through relationships with friends and acquaintances, not with their parents. Furthermore, the process of finding true identity is difficult in modern society, where individualization is growing. For example, while people can choose not only which school to attend or which job to get, but also who to marry and where to live and who to live with, there are people who cannot or do not have the ability to make decisions for themselves. Furthermore, Modern society is characterized by people’s freedom to make choices, but also uncertainty and instability. Therefore, even people who can make their own decisions do not know whether their decisions are correct. In unstable situations, when relationships with close family members, friends, and acquaintances are not good for some reason, it is thought that some young people will have high expectations and want to rely on people they connect with the Internet.

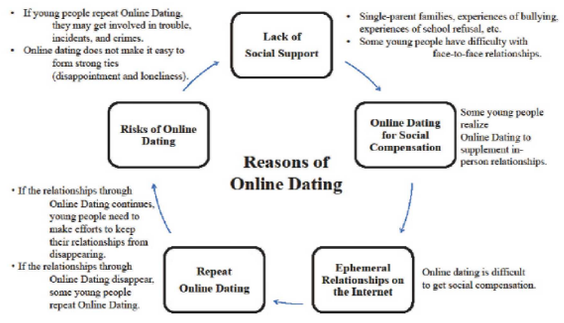

Figure2 Reasons of Online Dating.

Therefore, a research and practical challenge is to create a “Third Place” (Ray Oldenburg 1999) for young people, including adolescent girls.

Major academic publications

KATAYAMA, Chie, 2022, *Online Dating among Adolescent Girls: Based on interviews with adolescent girls*: SEIKYUSHA.

KATO, Chie, 2014, “Possibilities and Limitations about Online Gated Community: Based on Classification of Gated Community on SNS and Comparison with Non –Gated Community,” *The Society of Socio-Informatics*, Vol.3(1), 47-60.

KATO, Chie, 2013, “Reality of Negative Experiences Connected with “ SNS Fatigue”: On Interviews to FifteenHigh School Students,” *The Society of Socio-Informatics*, Vol.2(1), 31-43.

KATO, Chie, 2012, “Reality of Managers of School Informal BBS (Gakko-Ura-Site) as seen from Psychological Aspects: Semi-structured Interviews to Managers of School Informal BBS (Gakko-Ura-Site) and its Consideration,” *Journal of socio-information studies*, Vol. 16 (2), 143-155.