Exploring the Risks and Benefits of Internet and Technological Devices for Children

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Abstract
This study aimed to investigate the positive and negative impacts of internet and technological devices on children aged 5-16 years in Birendranagar-6, Ganesh-Chowk, Surkhet. A sample of 60 children from 20 households was included in the study, with 13 children aged 5-8 years, 24 aged 9-12 years, and 23 aged 13-16 years. Data was collected through interviews and analyzed using descriptive statistics. Results showed that 25% of the respondents had received information about internet and technological devices from radio/TV, while 40% had received information from friends, 15% from neighbors, and 20% from agents. The study revealed that children aged 5-8 years were not at high risk of internet and technological devices, but the risk increased for children aged 9-12 years. The study also found that children engaged in a range of online activities, including school work (85%), playing games (83%), watching video clips (76%), and instant messaging (62%). Fewer children posted images (39%) or messages for others to share (31%), used a webcam (31%), file-sharing sites (16%), or blogged (11%). Furthermore, the study found that internet and technological devices had negative impacts on children’s mental and physical health, as well as making them more aggressive and unsocial regarding potential risks associated with internet and technological devices and promoting safe and responsible

Keywords: Impacts, technologies devices, social media, internet, aggressive and unsocial

Introduction
The use of internet and technological devices among children has become increasingly common in recent years, with access to such devices becoming more accessible and affordable. While these technologies provide various benefits, they also come with potential risks, particularly for children.
This study highlights the need for parents and educators to educate children about the potential risks associated with internet and technological devices and promote safe and responsible use. Moreover, policymakers need to establish guidelines and regulations to ensure the protection of children while using the internet and technological devices. The findings of this study contribute to the growing body of literature on the impact of internet and technological devices on children, particularly in a Nepalese context.

The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) defines a child as an individual below the age of 18 years, unless they have attained majority earlier under applicable laws. Technology has become an integral part of children’s lives, offering various opportunities for more interactive learning and aiding their progress in subjects that are traditionally difficult to engage with, such as math and physics. However, there is also a downside to technology, as it can act as a digital babysitter and temporarily occupy children. Despite the challenges of parenting, relying on smart devices to pacify children may not be the best approach, as it can lead to children prioritizing technology over other meaningful activities and developing an unhealthy attachment to it. The concern is that children may seek comfort in technology rather than in their relationships and self-confidence, leading to similar attachment issues as with food. The study focuses on the impact of internet and technological devices on children aged 5 to 16 years, who are important future resources for the nation’s development. It also emphasizes the relationship between parents and children, highlighting the need for parents to spend quality time with their children and promote social and dynamic behavior through technology. The high percentage of internet users in Nepal further emphasizes the relevance of the study. Despite the complexity of the issue, it is vital for parents and policymakers to understand the potential risks associated with children’s use of technology and promote responsible use.

The drawbacks of internet and technologies devices use on children have received attention in recent years. In academia, journalism, and other popular forms of media, there has been a growing concern for the ways that children have increased access to smartphone technology.

Some scholars have even turned toward the adverse bodily effects that technological devices can have on children. A recent article published in the journal Child Development explored the physical health consequences of technological devices use for children. It stated that, as more children begin using smartphones at earlier ages, “it is of importance that neurological diseases, physiological addiction, cognition, sleeps and behavioral problems are considered.” Because of this, parents and clinicians should be aware of the repercussions of early-age smartphone usage.
A root cause of the negative effects of smartphones on child development can come from an unexpected place. An article in the Atlantic stated that, before parents should be concerned about their children’s smartphone usage, they should first consider their own. As the ultimate examples of their children, parents need to be mindful of their smartphone consumption since that kind of behavior will set the stage for how children will interact with technology. Parents must consider what image they express to their children and how they communicate responsible smartphone consumption.

The objectives of this study is to find out the positive/negative impacts to children via such modern technological devices and internet, and also bring out the remedial measures to the problems of it, so that children can be made social well-being for they are upcoming human resources of the nation.

**Literature Review**

The present research aims to analyze the impacts of technological devices and internet to children and for this purpose, a review of related literatures in this concerned area is must, which will help to get clear ideas, opinions and other concepts. This section emphasizes about the literatures that were concerned in this connections.

**Children**

The effect of technology on children’s life is one issue that has received a lot of research. In a study on the effects of mobile devices on young children’s development, Kabali et al. (2015) discovered that young children’s excessive exposure to mobile devices might impede the development of their speech and language. Twenge and Campbell (2019) identified a link between increasing screen time and adolescent sadness, anxiety, and suicidality in another study that examined the effects of digital media on adolescent mental health.

The protection and rights of children also have gained a lot of attention in recent literature. Hanlon and colleagues’ (2018) highlighted the impact of child marriage on girls’ education in Nepal and called for stronger policy measures to protect girls from this practice. Similarly, a study by Bhatta and Pandey (2019) examined the role of parental support and community interventions in reducing child labor in Nepal.

In terms of the definition of a child, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child provides a widely accepted definition, which is in line with UNICEF’s definition. The Convention defines a child as any person under the age of 18, unless the age of majority is attained earlier under a state’s applicable law (UNICEF, 2020). The Nepal Citizenship Act (1963) also considers a person below 16 years as a child, indicating that different legal systems have varying definitions of childhood.
Technological Devices

Technological device means any computer, cellular phone, smartphone, digital camera, video camera, audio recording device, or other electronic device that can be used for creating, storing, or transmitting information in the form of electronic data (lawinsider.com, dictionary)

Internet

The Internet (or internet) is the global system of interconnected computer networks that uses the Internet protocol suite (TCP/IP) to communicate between networks and devices. It is a network of networks that consists of private, public, academic, business, and government networks of local to global scope, linked by a broad array of electronic, wireless, and optical networking technologies. The Internet carries a vast range of information resources and services, such as the inter-linked hypertext documents and applications of the World Wide Web (WWW), electronic mail, telephony, and file sharing. (Wikipedia)

Internet in Nepal

Although in 2011 only about 9.0% of Nepal’s population used the Internet, use of the Internet in Nepal is growing rapidly. As of July 2022, 90.56% of the population has access to the Internet according to Nepal Telecommunications Authority (NTA).

Internet penetration stands at 90.56% of the population and that of fixed broadband internet service providers stands at 25% of the population, a significant increase from 2018, when total internet penetration was 56% of the population and fixed broadband users stood at 12% of the population, according to the Nepal Telecommunications Authority.

Legal and Regulatory Frameworks of Internet in Nepal

Nepal’s legal system is in flux because of its unstable political landscape and its new constitution. The most recent collapse occurred in February 2005, when the king assumed control of the government and armed forces. Civilian protests followed, and he was forced to reinstate parliament and ultimately relinquish all official powers to the prime minister and parliament. The king sought to stifle the independent media during his tenure, passing the repressive Media Law, which prohibited criticism of the king and royal family and the broadcast of news over independent FM radio stations (an important source of independent news in the country). The Media Law also increased the penalties for defamation tenfold. The law was repealed once parliament was reinstated.

In December 2006, seven political parties and the Maoists agreed on a new interim constitution that paves the way for the Maoists to join the political mainstream and nationalizes royal properties, leaving the fate of the monarchy up to a general
The interim constitution guarantees certain social freedoms including freedom of speech and expression, freedom to protest, and freedom to establish a political party, among others. The constitution also guarantees the freedom to publish, including a specifically enumerated freedom to publish on the Internet. It advises, however, that those who publish information that causes social disruption or disparages others may be subject to punishment under relevant laws.

One such law is likely the Electronic Transaction and Digital Signature Act of 2004 (ETDSA), which regulates online commerce and financial transactions and criminalizes certain online behavior, including hacking and fraud. ETDSA also provides criminal penalties, including fines and up to five years in prison, for the publication of “illegal” content on the Internet (though it provides no definition of illegal content), or for the publication of hate speech or speech likely to trigger ethnic strife. Similarly, the National Broadcasting Act of 1993 (NBC) and the National Broadcasting Regulation of 1995 provide for fines and/or imprisonment for broadcasting content likely to cause ethnic strife or social unrest, undermine national security or moral decency, or conflict with Nepali foreign policy.

However, the extent to which any previously existing laws will retain their force under the new government is unclear. The Government of Nepal has banned pornographic sites from September 21, 2018.

**Most Used Technological Devices in Nepal**

There is limited research available on the most used technological devices in Nepal. However, a study conducted by the Nepal Telecommunications Authority (NTA) in 2019 reported that mobile phones are the most widely used technological device in Nepal (NTA, 2019). The study found that 65.4% of Nepalese households owned a mobile phone, and 93.9% of mobile phone users used smartphones. Additionally, the study reported that 36.5% of Nepalese households owned a television, and 17.3% of households owned a computer or laptop.

Another study by Basnet et al. (2021) examined the use of smartphones among Nepalese university students. The study found that 97.5% of the participants owned a smartphone, and the most common activities conducted on smartphones were browsing the internet (93.5%), using social media (91.5%), and listening to music (84.3%). The study also found that smartphones were used for academic purposes, such as accessing educational apps (73.7%) and using the smartphone for online classes (69.2%).

Furthermore, a study by the Kantipur Media Group (2018) reported that Facebook was the most commonly used social media platform in Nepal, with 87% of internet users having a Facebook account. The study also found that 58% of Nepalese internet users accessed the internet through a mobile phone, while only 28% used a computer or laptop.
Overall, the research suggests that mobile phones, particularly smartphones, are the most widely used technological devices in Nepal. Additionally, social media platforms such as Facebook are also commonly used among Nepalese internet users.

**Mobile (Smartphone)**

Mobile is a very important gadget for the people of Nepal. People usually use mobile to communicate with each other, but nowadays mobile are being used to do other various activities such as social networking, playing games, messaging, capturing photos and much more. Mobile is one of the famous gadgets that all the people of Nepal use for their personal use. Mobile can also be used as a luxury device.

**Tablet**

Tablet is known as a thin, flat mobile computer with a touchscreen display that consists of processor, rechargeable battery etc. Tablets are usually larger than smartphones. According to the survey, Tablets are mostly used by students, business people and also for entertainment purpose. Tablets can also be used instead of laptops because tablets are more easy to carry and also have more battery life than laptops.

**VR Headset**

VR Headset gives virtual reality to the individual who is wearing the headset. VR Headset is a computer technology that uses a virtual reality by generating realistic images, sound, and other sensations. This gadget creates a real environment or imaginary setting and is widely used in computer games, simulators and trainers and other applications by the people of Nepal.

**Smart Watch**

Smart watch is a computerized wristwatch that can perform the various basic task. Smart watch can also run mobile apps using a mobile operating system. People of Nepal use the smart watch to do most of the work done in mobiles, use application, any many other activities as well as to receive and dial the call from the wrist of their hand without using the mobile.

**Laptops**

The specialty in laptop computers include light weight and lower energy consumption. Also they are less noisy and easy to handle. Similar to desktop computers the laptop computers include mother board, processor, hard disk, memory, graphic card, keyboard, mouse and display device. So Nepalese are fond of laptops and they are ignoring to buy desktop computers.
Most Used Social Media in Nepal

*Facebook*

In Nepal, Facebook is the most used platform. It connects people around the world, with 2.23 billion monthly active users. It is a simple platform for chatting, sharing media, creating groups, and making new friends.

*Instagram*

Instagram is one of the youngest social networks with a majority of users under 25 years of age. This makes Instagram the perfect social network for brands or companies that target young and modern population groups. Photos and short videos with little text are great for Instagram. They also integrate with your Facebook and Twitter accounts, so you can share the same photos on all platforms. Instagram is widely used for business marketing. While many people are familiar with Instagram on a personal level, it is also becoming a powerful marketing tool for businesses. Marketers know the usefulness of Instagram marketing and use Instagram to market products and services. It is a wonderful platform for sharing visual stories.

*LinkedIn*

LinkedIn is a social network for professionals. LinkedIn is generally the platform of choice for B2B companies, especially if your focus is lead generation. Anyone who needs to log in to advance their career should be on LinkedIn. It is also an ideal platform for editorial content. It can help you establish your business as a trusted leader in your field, develop your brand authority, and attract potential customers through conversation. This platform also supports activities that go beyond networking with potential employers, employees, or clients.

*Twitter*

Twitter is the place to go when your business is about immediacy, and you want to reach your followers with breaking news, announcements, important news, and other breaking news. Most Twitter users are under the age of 50 so the type of content on this platform is easily digestible textual content, for example: Articles, lists, and citations. Images are better than videos on Twitter, but textual content always comes first.

*YouTube*

YouTube is something of a panacea when it comes to content because a lot of people use it (it is the second-largest search engine in the world after Google). Comedy and music work great on YouTube, but that doesn’t mean we can’t use
this social media platform for our business. Product reviews, how-to videos, and similar content work especially well on YouTube, especially if it’s part of your target market. Once we create a video, it will appear in Google and YouTube search results and we can share it on your other social accounts. If our target audience wants to learn, nothing can beat YouTube.

**Tiktok**

Tiktok is a short-form, video-sharing app that allows users to create and share 15-second videos on any topic. Its creator, Byte dance, runs a different version of the app, Doyen, in its home market, China. Both versions of TikTok offer a wide selection of sounds and song snippets, along with the option to add special effects and filters. You can also add videos created on your phone. The company promotes the app as a video-sharing social network. According to downloads and active users stats given by Stats counter, the number of present active users of Tiktok in Nepal are 3.7 Million which is huge.

The Parent-Child Relationship is one that nurtures the physical, emotional and social development of the child. It is a unique bond that every child and parent will can enjoy and nurture. This relationship lays the foundation for the child’s personality, life choices and overall behavior.

**Methods and Procedures**

The study employed both exploratory and descriptive research designs using observation, questionnaires, and interviews as methods of data collection. The focus was on primary data, with a mix of qualitative and quantitative data. The research process involved collecting and analyzing both primary and secondary data. The study selected a sample size of 20 households from Ward No. 6, Ganesh-Chowk tole of Birendranagar Municipality, using purposive sampling method. The total population of the ward is 7598, and there are 1767 households. Among the 95 households in Ganesh-Chowk tole, 21% were selected, which included 60 children (37 girls and 23 boys) who have easy access to the internet and smart technological devices. The sampling criteria were based on the accessibility of internet and smart technological devices to children in the selected households.

**Results**

**Age Composition of the Respondents**

The age of the respondents in the study area was categorized into three groups which are shown in the table given below:
Distribution of Age Composition of the Respondents

Table 1

Age Composition of the Respondents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>No. of Respondents</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 to 8 years child</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>21.66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 to 12 years child</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 to 16 years child</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>38.33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field Survey, 2022

Table 1 shows that in 20 households, there are total 60 Childs where 5 to 8 years’ child are about 13, and 9 to 12 years’ child are 24, 13 to 16 years’ child are 23. i.e 5 to 8 years, 9 to 12 years and 13 to 16 years’ child are 21.66%, 40% and 38.33% respectively are the sample for the study.

Literacy Status of the Respondents

Literacy is popularly understood as an ability to read, write and use numeracy in at least one method of writing, an understanding reflected by mainstream dictionary and handbook definitions (Moats, 2000).

The literacy status of the study population has been presented in the following table:

Table 2

Literacy Status of the Respondents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Literacy Status</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nursery to 3 Class</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>21.66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 4 to Class 6</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 7 to SEE Level</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>38.33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field Survey, 2022

Table 2 shows that out of 60 Children, 21.66 % were in nursery to 3 class, whereas 40 % were read in class 4 to class 6 and 38.33 % were read in class 7 to See Level. The data shows that majority of the respondents were in Class 4 to class 6.

Please follow like above in each tables and para.

Ethnic Composition of the Respondents

In the field work, respondents belonging to different ethnic group have been found which is presented:
Table 3

Distribution of Respondents by Ethnicity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnic Group</th>
<th>No. of Respondents (Households)</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brahman</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chhetri</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dalit</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janjati</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muslim</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field Study, 2022

Table 3 shows the ethnic composition of the respondents out of 60 respondents, 12 (20%) respondents is from Brahmin, 9 (15%) respondents are from Chhetri. In the same way the numbers of respondents from Dalit, Janjati, and Muslim are 35%, 15% and 15 % respectively.

Status of Access on the Internet and technological devices of the Respondents

The responses to the first question vary from one household to another. The lowest percentage of participants who answered “Not having internet and technologies devices, i.e. never used the internet before” are 30%. 25% of respondents have medium access and 45% of respondents have very strong access on internet and technological devices. And 30% of participating respondents which have never used the Internet before, they just use simple mobile phone devices.

Accessibility of internet and technological devices to the respondents in the study area is shown in the table given below:

Table 4

Status of Access of Internet and Technological Devices of Study Area and of the Internet Service Provider

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Access Level</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Internet Service Provider</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not access on internet and technological devices</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium access on internet and technological devices</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>Worldlink 30%, Subisu 25%, Nepal Telecom NT-Fiber 20%, Data User (Ncell, NTC) 15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Strong access on internet and technological devices | 27 | 45 | Worldlink 45%, Subisu 35%, Nepal Telecom NT-Fiber 10%, Data User (Ncell, NTC) 10%
---|---|---|---
Total | 60 | 100.0

Table 4 shows that out of 60 respondents, not access on internet and technologies devices, medium access on technological devices and strong access on internet and technological devices are 30%, 45% and 45% respectively.

**Source of Information of getting access on Internet and Technological devices**

Source is a text (sometimes oral or person) from which information or ideas are derived. The different sources from which the respondents have received information on access on technological devices and internet connection are presented in the following table:

**Table 5**

*Source of Information of Getting Access on Technological Devices and Internet Connection*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source of Information</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Radio/TV</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighbors</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agents</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>60</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 5 shows the source of information on getting access on Technological devices and internet connection. Out of the total respondents 25 % had received information of getting access on Technological devices and internet connection from radio/TV whereas, 40 % had received information from friends. Similarly, 15 % had received information from neighbors and 20% get information from agents.

**Responds Using Technological Devices and Internet**

In the modern era, people are really enthusiastic on technological devices and internet. They want to quality access on them. Here we can find that when and from what time responds are using technological devices and internet via this table.
Table 6
Responds Using Technological Devices and Internet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Duration of using technological devices and internet</th>
<th>Total no. of responds</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>More than 3 years</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three years</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two years</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One year</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>60</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Field Survey, 2022*

Table 6 explains from how long the respondents are using technological devices and internet connection. Out of 60 respondents 27 being 45% used it from more than 3 years, 15 beings 25% used it from 3 years, 9 beings 15% used it from 2 years and also 9 being 15% used it from 1 year.

**Most Used Social Media and Websites by the Respondents of the Study Area**

Most Used Social Media and Websites by the respondents have been presented in the following table:

Table 7
Most Used Social Media and Websites by the Respondents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purpose of using technological devices and internet</th>
<th>No. of Respondents</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Facebook, Instagram, Ticktok, Youtube</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students related websites like Merostudy, My Second Teacher, E-Pustakalaya, Neema Academy</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online Games websites like Pub-G, Free-Fire etc.</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>60</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Field Survey, 2022*

Table 7 reveals Most Used Social Media and Websites by the respondents. Out of 60 respondents, 36 being 60% used Facebook, Instagram, Ticktok, youtube, 3 being 5% used students related websites like merostudy, my second teacher, e-pustakslaya, neema academy, 21 being 35% used it for online games like Pub-G, Free-Fire etc.
Status of Children when they have Accessibility on Internet and Technological Devices

It can be shown in the following table:

**Table 8**

*What children do when they have Accessibility on Technological Devices and Internet of the Study Area*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>No. of Respondents</th>
<th>What they do</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 to 8</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>They normally see cartoons, kids rhymes and play normal game</td>
<td>21.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 to 12</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>They use it for online classes, play game, some kid found to see porn scenes.</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 to 16</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>This age group uses it for online classes, also they use it for see sexual scenes and porn movies, play aggressive games like Pub-G or other. They love to use social media like facebook, youtube, mostly Tiktok.</td>
<td>38.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>60</td>
<td></td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Field Study, 2022*

Table 8 reveals that 5 to 8 age group are not in huge risk of internet and technological devices, however risk might start from the age group of 9 to 12 years. Children do a range of diverse and potentially beneficial things online: 13-16 year olds use the internet for school work (85%), playing games (83%), watching video clips (76%) and instant messaging (62%). Fewer post images (39%) or messages for others to share (31%), use a webcam (31%), file-sharing sites (16%) or blog (11%). However, they are also in high risk of sexual harassment as they have started to see porn movies and messages or images [meaning] talk about having sex or images of people naked or having sex,” and 3% say they have sent or posted such messages.

Status of Children’s Behaviours when they have not Accessibility on Internet and Technological Devices

It can be shown in following table:

**Table 9**

*Status of Children’s Behavior when they have not Accessibility on Internet and Technological Devices of the Study Area*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Behaviours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 to 8 years</td>
<td>Not eating their daily meal like breakfast, lunch and dinner without seeing mobile phone, not wanted to go school without seeing rhymes, not doing homework, and getting angry.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 to 12 years</td>
<td>Seems attacking, love to stay solo and alone, don’t interact with other family member, show more aggression than other time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 to 16 years</td>
<td>Getting angry quickly without any reason, throw house goods anywhere, fighting parents and shouting face to face. Show their aggression by giving warning parents to leave home.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field Study, 2022

Parent’s View on Technological Devices and Internet to the Children

It can be shown in following table:

Table 10

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Impact</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Positive</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field Survey, 2022

Table 10 shows the responses of the parents on the impact of positive/negative impact of technological devices and internet to children of study sample. Out of the total 20 parents, 20 % are satisfied with positive impacts of technological devices and internet to their child. They said internet must be involved to make great future of child. And 80 % parents said that technological devices and internet are so harmful to their child and it should be controlled by stakeholders. They explained that how internet and technological devices provide negative impact to their child’s mentally, physically health as well as it makes them more aggressive and unsocial. The above data have also been presented in figure as follows:

Figure 1

Parents View on Positive and Negative Impact of Technological Devices and Internet to Children
Discussion

The age composition of the respondents is categorized into three groups, with 5 to 8 years child being 21.66%, 9 to 12 years child being 40%, and 13 to 16 years child being 38.33%. The literacy status of the respondents is divided into three categories, with 21.66% being in nursery to 3 class, 40% in class 4 to class 6, and 38.33% in class 7 to SEE Level. The ethnic composition of the respondents shows that 20% are from Brahman, 15% are from Chhetri, 35% are from Dalit, 15% are from Janjati, and 15% are from Muslim.

The study also investigated the status of access on the internet and technological devices of the respondents. The results indicate that 45% of respondents have very strong access, 45% have strong access, and 10% have medium access. Interestingly, 30% of participating respondents have never used the internet before and just use simple mobile phone devices. The source of information on getting access to technological devices and internet connection was varied, with 40% of respondents receiving information from friends, 25% from radio/TV, 20% from agents, and 15% from neighbours.

The use of technology has brought numerous benefits to children, such as staying connected with loved ones, enhancing IQ, making new friends, fostering creativity, finding help, and improving academic performance. Additionally, technology has also
helped children with special needs and disabilities. It provides a source of entertainment and fun for children. However, with the advantages, come the disadvantages. The digital world has affected children negatively as well. Children are experiencing lower attention spans, minimized social interaction, and increased aggression. Furthermore, the use of technology is also leading to health problems like vision problems, neck pain, and skeletal structure distortion. Overuse of devices is also causing arm, hand, and finger numbness, and can lead to cyber bullying, abuse, and security risks. Sleep quality is also negatively impacted due to the excessive use of technology. Therefore, it is crucial to maintain a balance between the positive and negative impacts of technology on children. Parents and guardians must monitor the usage of technology by their children and limit their screen time. It is recommended to encourage outdoor activities, social interaction, and physical exercises to balance the negative effects of technology. Schools and institutions can incorporate the use of technology as a tool for learning while also emphasizing the importance of physical activities and social interaction. By taking proactive steps, we can minimize the negative impacts of technology on children and ensure that they receive the full benefits of the digital world.

Overall, the information presented in the study is useful for understanding the demographic and technological characteristics of the respondents in the study area. The results can be used to design targeted interventions and policies aimed at improving access to technology and the internet, particularly for children and marginalized communities. For example, the results suggest that efforts should be made to provide access to technology and the internet to children of all ages and literacy levels. Additionally, the results highlight the importance of leveraging various sources of information to disseminate information on access to technological devices and the internet.

Conclusion

The study has analyzed the impact of internet and technological devices to children. Most households have been able to get access on internet and technological devices. By this, obviously, children will also get access on them. In the study, it seems both positive and negative impact of internet and technological devices on children (aged 5 to 16 years).

References


