

[26]

## THE PERCEPTIONS OF PARENTS TOWARD THE IMPACTS OF USING COMMUNICATION DEVICES ON TEENAGER BEHAVIORS

Siriaphiwanakit A\* and Setchoduk K

*Singapore International School of Bangkok, Thailand*

[\\*eatbananawithjaja@gmail.com](mailto:eatbananawithjaja@gmail.com)

### ABSTRACT

During COVID-19 lockdown, the screen time among children currently exceeds. This study aims to explore the perception of parents toward the impacts of communication device use on the behavior of teenagers. The cross-sectional survey research was conducted online with 542 parents. The results revealed that 53.9% of participants were mothers, 42.8% were fathers (Mean age  $43.7 \pm 7.794$ ). Most children are in grade 9 (21.8%) (mean age  $15.4 \pm 1.485$ ). The Parents responded that their child has increasingly used communication devices during the Covid-19 pandemic for online studying (90.4%), chatting (71.2%), searching (69.9%), social media (69.7%), and games (37.1%), respectively. On average, the children use the device 5 - 6 hours a day (71.4%). The parents have noticed that their child has used the devices in prohibited contexts (28.6%) and dangerous situations (10.9%). Their child has behaviors such as immediately responding to alert messages (64.0%), change in sleep pattern (60.7%). Constant checking of the device (52.8%) caused upset when being forced to stop using devices (54.2%), sleeplessness (51.1%), paying less attention to family (38.2%), and decreased academic performance (37.5%). Thus, in the COVID-19 pandemic, the parents should closely monitor their child while using communication devices and encourage them to do more social activities with family.

Keywords: communication device, teenagers, COVID-19 pandemic, online studying, academic performance, behavior