Digital Family

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Abstract

Families are affective units that eat, work, relax, and participate in social activities together. Technology is not only becoming omnipresent for many families, it is also increasingly invisible. Although much is known about digital technologies, this paper briefly addresses the impact of digital technologies on media-rich homes.

Keywords: *digital family, family literacy, digital home*

1. Introduction

The use of digital technology including the Internet and mobile devices has outpaced what doctors and other healthcare professionals understand about them. Digital technologies should support family life and people's emotional needs. They are there to satisfy the needs for information processing and communication that arise in our life [1].

A family is a collection of people who are related to one another. It is a place of security from the outside world. It is a place where you feel at home and can afford to be just yourself. Digital families communicate with each member using different means - talk in person, talk using mobile devices, send text messages, send emails, or use social media. Parents intentionally select which technology to use in communicating with their children and stay in touch [2].

Parental engagement in using digital technologies is important since it could provide a solid foundation for learning in school. Digital literacy practices are embedded in children's daily lives. They owe a range of digital games and artifacts related to their popular cultural interests.

Young adults are heavy users of technology. They are the most digitally connected members of our society. They use technology to maintain relationships, communicate, entertain, seek information, and social network. They have been described as "digital natives." Although they may be more tech-savvy than their parents, the parents must stay in charge since they are still the experts in the children's well-being. As soon as possible, parents should provide computer and Internet access for their children

2. Digital Technologies

Computer and Internet technologies have facilitated the way people stay in touch with those they care about. Communication technologies used at home include telephone, mobile phone, television, email, instant messenger, and paper notes. New technologies such as digital camera, digital camcorder, video chat, blogging software, and social networking sites have broadened the way for growing and maintaining social ties. Watching television is a social activity for the family, especially with the children. Emailing has become ubiquitous. Instant messaging has become widely adopted. Some families have started using digital calendars to coordinate and share information about coming events [3].

While digital technologies have become integral part of many families, it has not invaded some homes. Reasons for non-adoption of technology include apprehension, expense and technical problems. Some claim that digital media such as video games are addictive and that they detract from the time one should spend with the family.

3. Digital Home

A digital family may likely have a digital home. The term "digital home" or "smart home" refers

to a residence that has all appliances that are capable of communicating with one another and can be controlled remotely. Things one can set up and control include lighting, heating, air conditioner, TVs, computers, appliances, security systems, thermostats, sprinklers, intercoms, and robots. Home automation technologies include X10, ZigBee, Z-wave, Universal Powerline Bus (UPB), Smarthome, Arduino microcontroller, and Wi-Fi. The main objectives of a smart home are to improve quality of life, increase automation, reduce cost, and facilitate energy management. However, cost and work required for installation present major challenges.

4. Digital Parenting

Parents play a key role in e-mature child development. They are responsible for keeping their children safe in the modern world, including keeping them safe online.
Children should be aware of privacy and security threats.

Digital parenting involves mediation of children's use of digital and mobile media. It deals with how parents appropriate Internet and smartphones in relation to their household's moral economy.

Parenting styles depend on social class, gender, and ethnicity. Children use Internet most when their parents are permissive, while they use it least when their parents are authoritarian. Families have different ways of discharging their responsibilities as digital parents. Parents have to face the problematic issues of ethics and privacy. They keep their children from unwisely sharing personal information and prevent their computer from viruses and malware or put themselves at the risk of identity theft. Parents should be aware of hardware and software for content filtering and virus checking and be willing to buy them.

5. Aging Adults

A growing problem in developing nations is taking care of the elderly. Aging adults are often stereotyped as deliberately masking any decline in their abilities. Studies show that old people tend to isolate themselves from others, which may have negative impact on their health, and that they prefer staying in their own homes. With the worldwide development of aging societies, there is a need form technologies providing independence, productivity, and quality of life among elderly people. These technologies will help the elderly maintain their independence at home [4].

6. Conclusion

As home is the place where children spend most of their time, cultural values are transmitted through their parents. Parental mediation of digital technology shapes the physical, cultural, and mental development of their children. Parents are free to use available resources of information to ease their parenting tasks. The use of technology at home may support the development of digital literacy of all family members, especially the elderly. While children should be made aware of the potential risks involved in going online, they should be allowed to make full use of the technology. Children must develop digital communication skills if they are to be successful citizens in the digital age.

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