



# The Factor Structure of Family Communication Issues and Limits of Using Cyberspace

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## Abstract

The ever-expanding cyberspace has led to individuals spending long hours online each day. From a scientific standpoint, questions arise regarding what constitutes normal daily cyberspace usage and what amount can be considered harmful. Another crucial inquiry pertains to the impact of cyberspace usage on family dynamics. To address these questions, the present study employs an experimental survey method. Specifically, a "Questionnaire of Family Communication Issues" developed by the researcher and the "Cyberspace Checklist" were administered to 240 seminary students and students from Qom University. The collected data were subjected to analysis using descriptive statistics, the Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of sampling (KMO), Bartlett's test, exploratory factor analysis, Pearson correlation, Kolmogorov-Smirnov test, and one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA). The findings reveal that family communication issues can be categorized into five fundamental factors: intra-family relationships, extra-family relationships, family violence, psychological disturbances within the family, and family identity crisis. Furthermore, cyberspace users in the study were grouped based on their usage patterns: half an hour, one hour, two hours, three hours, and more than three hours of daily cyberspace use. The results indicate a significant difference between the fifth

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group (more than three hours) and the first four groups, with the last group exhibiting all forms of family communication disorders. Finally, the findings are discussed and compared with the outcomes of other relevant studies.

**Keywords:** Family, cyberspace, communication issues, factor structure, use of cyberspace

## Introduction

Cyberspace is an expansive and intricate realm inhabited by diverse groups of people with varying inclinations and beliefs. The term "life" is not misused here, as this realm intertwines with the physical world and significantly influences an individual's existence and beliefs. A notable feature of this space is the eradication of spatial barriers, allowing for an unparalleled surge in human capacity to connect and communicate with others. This transformation has had a profound impact on the process of collective identification among individuals.

In recent years, extensive research has been conducted on the issues caused by cyberspace (Parish and Rezvani 1400 Sh, 123). However, it is important to acknowledge that cyberspace also offers numerous positive effects, particularly in the field of education. These include increased access to content, digital libraries, distance education, and electronic learning (Najafi and Vahedi 1398 Sh, 31). Furthermore, cyberspace enables individuals to express their ideas and showcase their creative works, fostering self-confidence (Ataei 1394 Sh, 6). It also facilitates global communication among family members, allowing individuals to connect with friends and relatives around the world (Hertlein and Ancheta 2014, p. 2). Another significant benefit of cyberspace is its contribution to the growth of communities and families through the dissemination and transmission of cultures (Etemadi, Asemi, and Jafari 1395 Sh, 85). Moreover, cyberspace provides users with extensive and diverse information in various fields, leveraging the collective intellectual power of thousands of users from different geographical locations (Soleimanipour, 1398 Sh, 14).

Despite the numerous benefits and applications of cyberspace, concerns have been raised regarding its potential negative impact on religious, economic, political, cultural, social, and family issues (Brun 1398 Sh, 80-107). However, studies focusing on the issues caused by cyberspace often fail to consider the extent of its usage and neglect to explore whether any level of cyberspace usage can lead to these harms or if it is specifically excessive use that poses risks. Furthermore, existing research lacks a clear definition of what constitutes excessive use, leaving uncertainty regarding the number of hours per day that can be considered excessive.

A significant area of research in the realm of cyberspace revolves around Internet addiction, which has garnered considerable attention (e.g., Bahrami et al., 1398 Sh; Rastegar et al., 1393 Sh; Masoudnia 1391 Sh). Internet addiction refers to the excessive, improper, and pathological use of the Internet, which can lead individuals to neglect their social responsibilities, jeopardize their health, and result in psychological and moral deterioration (Jafari 1398 Sh, 4). The duration and extent of excessive cyberspace usage are key factors contributing to addiction. However, the aforementioned studies have not precisely defined this "extent" and have not experimentally or conclusively determined the harmful threshold of cyberspace use. Therefore, it is imperative to conduct further experimental research to investigate this matter in detail.

Cyberspace poses various challenges to families, resulting in detrimental effects. These drawbacks encompass issues such as heightened levels of family dissatisfaction, identity crises, conflicts of values, unconventional relationships among young individuals, generation gaps, instances of sexual abuse, and social isolation (Zeynalipour 1396 Sh, 75-81).

The extent of cyberspace usage within families has a significant impact on their value system. Empirical research indicates that Internet usage contributes to a decline in religious values among families (Zanjanizadeh and Javadi 1384 Sh, 121), resulting in the fading of traditional and religious values while new values emerge. The proliferation of cyberspace has brought about cultural value shifts in many contemporary societies, prominently exemplified by the rise of secular as well as existential or liberating values (Hakiminia and Ahmadi 1395 Sh, 29). The prevalence of pop music among young individuals serves as a notable illustration of how media has influenced the values of the current generation (Motahhari Kalur et al., 1396 Sh, 61).

Cyberspace significantly contributes to the decline of intimate relationships among family members. Even when physically present in the same room, individuals often retreat to their own virtual spaces, diminishing direct interactions. The prevalence of social networks further reduces face-to-face communication, resulting in reduced quality time spent between family members. This pattern can evoke negative reactions from others, leading to

a breakdown in communication (Eslami and Jahangir, 1396 Sh, 7). Extensive global research supports the notion that cyberspace has a strong adverse impact on people's in-person relationships (Norman et al., 2002, 151).

One of the detrimental effects of cyberspace within the family is the stimulation of sexual instincts among young individuals. Sometimes, users may initially intend to visit websites for entertainment or to access educational content. However, inadvertently, they may stumble upon immoral websites, unintentionally exposing themselves to sexual content. Three factors contribute to the stimulation of online sexual tendencies: availability, as there are countless websites accessible to individuals at any time of day; affordability, as one can access multiple websites with minimal cost over the Internet; and anonymity, as individuals are aware that their online interactions can remain anonymous (Cooper, 1388 Sh, 8).

Engaging in excessive cyberspace activities can have a detrimental impact on marital relationships. Couples who spend excessive time online may experience a decreased desire for physical intimacy. This can arise from feelings of mistrust or unrealistic comparisons with the physical appearances of movie actors/actresses and sexually stimulating images found in cyberspace. Research indicates that sixty-eight percent of couples who are addicted to the Internet have reported a decline in their sexual desire, with some experiencing extended periods without engaging in sexual activity, spanning months or even years. Moreover, the decline in quality of marital relationships should also be acknowledged. Individuals addicted to pornographic websites often struggle to find satisfaction with their spouse and fully enjoy sexual experiences. Those addicted to Internet images may develop a habit of comparing their partners to an idealized imaginary woman in terms of appearance, attractiveness, and a range of sexual behaviors. Both the addicts themselves and their partners have reported the emergence of such comparisons (Cooper 1388 Sh, 43).

The negative impact of cyberspace on family extends beyond marital issues and also affects the overall intimacy between spouses. Intimacy is a fundamental aspect of marital relationships, encompassing various dimensions that involve sharing private

thoughts, emotions, feelings, and beliefs. In normal circumstances, it is expected that couples maintain open communication and nurture a high-quality relationship that fosters an intimate atmosphere (Taghvaei and Abkar 1396 Sh, 129). Families with children who are heavily dependent on the Internet often experience a range of problems such as strained relationships, conflicts, divorce, and challenges related to education and employment (Khodamoradi, Saadat, and Khodamoradi 1393 Sh, 155).

One of the prevalent harms associated with cyberspace today is commonly referred to as the "internet widow" phenomenon, which applies to the spouses of individuals who are addicted to the Internet. The term highlights the significant impact of internet addiction, as it can leave the spouse feeling emotionally neglected and the children deprived of parental attention. The addicted individual's constant engagement in online activities leads to a lack of quality time spent together and can result in feelings of boredom and dissatisfaction when they are offline. Consequently, the addicted person's presence as a spouse becomes overshadowed by their continuous involvement in internet-related pursuits, causing distress to their partner (Morrison and Krant 2001, 156).

One of the detrimental effects of cyberspace is the proliferation of indecency in sexual relations. The presence of explicit images, movies, and relationships that exist outside the Islamic framework serves as a catalyst for obscenity and illicit sexual behaviors. Research conducted by Kimberly et al. (2005) highlighted that the use of pornography was identified as the most significant internet-related issue among families seeking counseling at treatment centers (Kimberly et al., 2005, 506). Furthermore, studies indicate that individuals who engage in relationships with the opposite sex in cyberspace have a higher likelihood of experiencing illicit sexual relations compared to those who do not (Daneback et al., 2005, 326).

The aforementioned harms experienced by couples have created a conducive environment for divorce. Online infidelity, as highlighted by the president of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, is identified as one of the significant factors contributing to the rise in divorce rates (Cooper 1388 Sh, 83). A study conducted in England revealed that approximately one-third of divorces in the country were linked to issues arising

from the use of the Facebook social network. The findings of this study indicated that one of the parties typically utilized Facebook in a manner that resulted in dissatisfaction for the other party (Motahhari Kalur et al., 1396 Sh, 43).

Cyberspace not only contributes to physical divorce but also increases emotional divorce among couples. The process of divorce often commences with emotional detachment, where the husband and wife become emotionally distant and attempt to cope with the deterioration of their relationship. However, their efforts prove futile, leading to a practical drift apart. Subsequently, legal issues arise, which typically involve aggression and hostility (Goldenberg and Goldenberg 1396 Sh, 43). Addiction to sexual relationships in cyberspace plays a significant role in both actual divorce and emotional divorce. Research indicates that twenty-two percent of individuals who engage in internet-based sexual relationships end up divorced or seriously consider separation (Cooper, 1388 Sh, 43).

However, it is important to note that the aforementioned research fails to investigate the correlation between the extent of cyberspace usage and the issues experienced within family relationships. Specifically, it does not address whether the mere usage of cyberspace leads to detrimental effects on individuals and families, or if these issues are influenced by the amount of time spent engaging with cyberspace. Independent studies exploring this aspect are lacking, leaving a gap in understanding. The present study aims to address this gap by examining the relationship between the extent of cyberspace usage and the issues appearing within family relationships. Additionally, the study seeks to identify which specific issues in family relationships are associated with the level of cyberspace usage. To achieve these objectives, an experimental research methodology has been employed in the current study.

### **Research Method**

The present research adopts a practical approach with a focus on the application of knowledge. To collect data, an experimental descriptive survey method was utilized. The statistical population of this study comprises all students enrolled in the Seminary of Qom, including both male and female students, as well as students from

University of Qom during the academic year 2018-2019. Using JPower software, a sample group of 240 individuals (120 seminary students and 120 university students) was selected from this population, which is estimated to consist of over 10,000 individuals. To determine the sample size, it was necessary to assess the "power of analysis." To accomplish this, a questionnaire was initially distributed among sixty individuals (thirty seminary students and thirty university students), and the effect size (ES) in the two groups was evaluated using the mean t-test.

The research employed two data collection tools: the "checklist of using cyberspace" and the "questionnaire of relationship issues." The checklist of using cyberspace (Vejdani 1397 Sh) consisted of eight multiple-choice questions, each with varying numbers of response options. It assessed various aspects related to cyberspace usage, including the frequency and duration of cyberspace usage, the extent of engagement in computer games, common activities performed in cyberspace, types of social networks utilized, preferred locations for cyberspace usage, and the timing of cyberspace engagement.

The "questionnaire of family relationship issues" was specifically developed by the researchers for this study. Initially, thirty-six items were generated to assess various aspects of family relationship issues, drawn from existing studies. Subsequently, the researchers sought expert opinions and conducted content validity checks to refine the questionnaire. Through this process, a final set of twenty items was selected for inclusion in the questionnaire.

To establish formal validity, the questionnaire was administered to a sample of sixty individuals from the target population. Exploratory factor analysis with varimax rotation was employed to examine the construct validity of the questionnaire. The analysis revealed that the items related to relationship issues could be classified into five independent factors.

The internal consistency of the questionnaire was assessed using Cronbach's alpha, which yielded a value of 0.88, indicating a desirable level of internal consistency. The questionnaire utilizes a five-point Likert scale for scoring, ranging from "I completely agree" (5) to "I completely disagree" (1). Notably, items 7 to 20 correspond to issues, while items 1 to 6 indicate the absence of issue. Therefore, the scoring for the first six questions



should be reversed when computing the total score.

Data analysis for this study involved descriptive statistics, exploratory factor analysis with principal component analysis and varimax rotation, and one-way analysis of variance with Bonferroni's post-hoc test. The data were analyzed using G\\*Power and SPSS v24 software.

## Research Findings

The findings of the current research are reflected in two types of descriptive and inferential findings.

### Descriptive Findings

Descriptive findings include age, sex, and marital status.

Table 1: Description of Research Participants

Group	variable	frequency	percentage
gender	male	105	45
	female	135	55
	total	240	100
age	17-30	159	66.3
	31-40	59	24.6
	50 and above	22	9.2
	total	240	100
Marital status	Single	121	50.4
	married	113	47.1
	divorced	6	2.5
	Total	240	100

Table 1 displays the demographic distribution of the participants. Among the participants, 45% were male, while 55% were female. Regarding age, 66.3% were under 30 years old, 24.6% were between 30 and 40 years old, and 2.9% were over 50

years old. In terms of marital status, 50.4% were single, 47.1% were married, and 2.5% were divorced.

### Inferential Findings

The primary objective of this research was to examine the relationship between the extent of cyberspace usage and family relationship issues. As the factors contributing to family relationship issues were not previously identified, factor analysis was employed to extract these factors. One assumption of factor analysis is that there should be minimal "partial correlation" among the items. To assess this assumption, the Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) test was used, with a cutoff point above 0.6 considered acceptable. Additionally, the correlation between the items should meet a certain threshold to avoid the "unity matrix" problem, which was evaluated using Bartlett's Test of Sphericity.

Table 2: Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) and Bartlett's Tests

Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) sampling adequacy test		0.87
Bartlett's Test of Sphericity	square	1848.87
	degrees of freedom	190
	significance level	0.0001

The results presented in the table indicate that the Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) coefficient exceeds 0.6, indicating its suitability for factor analysis. Additionally, Bartlett's test is highly significant at the 0.0001 level, demonstrating that factor analysis can be effectively conducted on the collected data.

In factor analysis, the pebble diagram serves as one criterion for determining the appropriate number of factors. In the present study, the pebble diagram indicates that the data is conducive to extracting five factors.

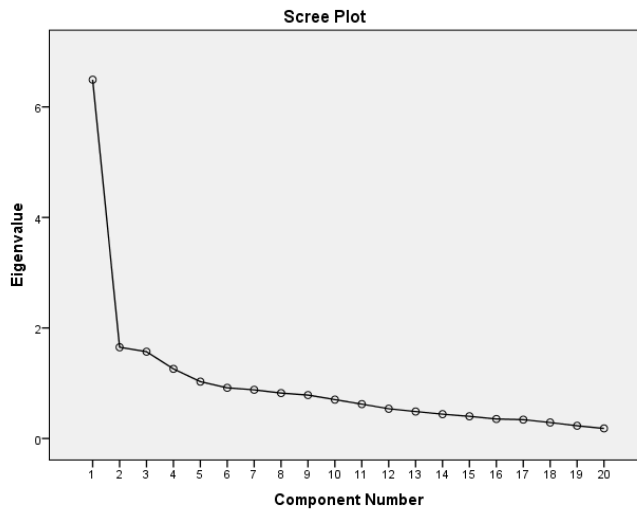


Figure 1: Pebble diagram for identification of the number of factors

As depicted in Figure (1), the presence of five factors is evident, with each factor displaying an eigenvalue greater than 1. This indicates that extracting these five factors would sufficiently explain a substantial portion of the variance in the data.

The table below presents the eigenvalue, variance explained by each factor, and Cronbach's alpha for each factor, pertaining to the issues:

Table 3: Eigenvalue, Variance Explained, Cronbach's Alpha, and Number of Items in Each Factor

factor	Eigenvalue	percentage of variance	compressed variance	Cronbach's alpha	number of items
1	6.49	32.46	32.46	0.84	6
2	1.65	8.25	40.71	0.83	5
3	1.57	7.85	48.57	0.51	3
4	1.26	6.30	54.87	0.65	3
5	1.02	5.14	60.01	0.49	3
Total	-	60.01	60.01	0.87	20

As shown in Table (3), the first factor has an eigenvalue of 6.49, explaining 32.46% of the variance in family issues, with a Cronbach's alpha of 0.84. The second factor has an eigenvalue of 1.65, explaining 8.25% of the variance, and a Cronbach's alpha of 0.83. The third factor has an eigenvalue of 1.57, explaining 7.85% of the variance, with a Cronbach's alpha of 0.51. The fourth factor has an eigenvalue of 1.26, explaining 6.30% of the variance, and a Cronbach's alpha of 0.65. The fifth factor has an eigenvalue of 1.02, explaining 5.14% of the variance, with a Cronbach's alpha of 0.49. Collectively, these factors account for 60% of the variance in family issues, and the overall Cronbach's alpha for the questionnaire was 0.87.

The following table presents the results of the exploratory factor analysis conducted using principal component analysis and orthogonal varimax rotation:

Table 4: Factor Loadings Obtained from Factor Analysis with Varimax Rotation

Number of item	Text of item	First factor	second factor	third factor	fourth factor	fifth factor
4	I have a good emotional relationship with my family	0.803				
3	I communicate easily with my family	0.803				
13	I have less communication with my family	0.687				
14	I have less verbal communication with my family	0.671				
6	I participate and cooperate with my family	0.643				
18	I hide my relationships from my family	0.473				
1	I enjoy life		0.809			

15	Life is meaningless to me		0.716			
2	I feel less alone		0.700			
20	I feel less happy		0.637			
5	I have a definite plan for the future		0.617			
10	I have disturbed dreams at night			0.655		
19	I have high expectations from my family			0.617		
11	Sometimes I think I am delusional			0.495		
9	I do not often attend family parties				0.844	
8	I do not hang out with friends and family much				0.823	
12	Most of the time, I like to be alone				0.372	
7	I do not follow the restrictions of communication with the opposite sex					0.734
17	In family discussions, I never fall short of my word.					0.616
16	I easily get angry					0.599

Table (4) displays the factor loadings for the items corresponding to each factor. The first factor is represented by 8 items with factor loadings ranging from 0.47 to 0.80. The second factor comprises 5 items with factor loadings between 0.61 and 0.80. The third factor consists of three items with factor loadings ranging from 0.49 to 0.65. The fourth factor includes three items with factor loadings between 0.37 and 0.84. Lastly, the fifth factor comprises 3 items with factor loadings between 0.59 and 0.73.

The following table presents the titles of each factor, along with their respective selection and correlation with other factors and the total score.

Table 5: Factors of Family Communication Issues and Correlation with Total Score

	total score	First factor	second factor	third factor	fourth factor	fifth factor
Factor 1: communication issues within the family	0.837**					
Factor 2: communication issues outside the family	0.844**	0.861**				
Factor 3: family violence	0.630**	0.356**	0.432**			
Factor 4: Mental turmoil in the family	0.653**	0.432**	0.445**	0.329**		
Factor 5: family identity crisis	0.519**	0.320**	0.308**	0.316**	0.146*	0.100**
** The coefficients marked with two stars are significant at the 0.01 level. * Coefficients marked with one star are significant at the 0.05 level.						

The significance of the relationship between the five factors and the total score is evident from Table (5). This indicates a high level of internal consistency within the questionnaire, suggesting that all these factors are interconnected and related to the same underlying construct. However, it is important to acknowledge the possibility of factor redundancy, where the combination of all factors may converge into a single factor.

**Family Communication Issues and the Amount of Use of Cyberspace**

The following are five subscales of family communication damages within groups. To compare these subscales across different groups, the appropriate statistical analysis is a one-way

analysis of variance (ANOVA). One of the underlying assumptions of this test is the normality of the data. To assess the normality of the data in the current study, the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test was employed.

Table 6: Normality Assessment of Data using the Kolmogorov-Smirnov Test

		total score	First factor	second factor	third factor	fourth factor	fifth factor
number		240	240	240	240	240	240
Normality parameters	Average	4.955	38.12	28.11	93.6	8.07	27.7
	standard deviation	12.44	4.76	4.44	51.2	91.2	34.2
Maximum differences	absolute	0.08	0.13	0.11	0.11	0.10	0.10
	Positive	0.08	0.13	0.11	0.11	0.10	0.10
	negative	-0.05	-0.09	-0.08	-0.08	-0.08	-0.07
Statistical test score		-0.09	0.13	0.12	0.11	0.10	0.10
Significance level		0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001	0.0001

Based on the results presented in Table (6), it is evident that the scores of all variables, including the total score of communication damages and the scores of each factor, fall within the normal range. Consequently, the assumption of normality has been satisfied. With this confirmation, it is appropriate to proceed with the analysis of variance test using this data.

To investigate the relationship between cyberspace usage and family damages, the sample group was initially divided into five groups based on their daily cyberspace usage. The first group represents individuals who use cyberspace for half an hour a day, the second group for one hour a day, the third group for two hours a day, the fourth group for three hours a day, and the fifth group comprises individuals who use cyberspace for more than three hours a day. Subsequently, a one-way analysis of variance was conducted to examine the differences among these groups concerning family communication damages. The outcomes of this analysis are presented in the table below.

Table 7: Group Differences in Family Communication Issues using One-Way Analysis of Variance

Variable	Type of variance	sum of squares	sum of squares	average of squares	F	significance
total score	intergroup	6433.91	4	160.477	1.362	0.0001
	intragroup	30559.66	235	130.04		
	Total	36993.58	239			
Intra-familial damages	intergroup	823.16	4	205.79	10.50	0.0001
	intragroup	4603.79	235	19.59		
	Total	۵۴۲۶/۹۶	239			
Extra-familial damages	intergroup	234.51	4	133.62	7.49	0.0001
	intragroup	4188.21	235	17.82		
	Total	4722.73	239			
family violence	intergroup	140.58	4	35.14	6.01	0.0001
	intragroup	1372.35	235	5.84		
	Total	1512.93	239			
Family turmoil	intergroup	77.11	4	19.27	2.32	0.05
	intragroup	1948.38	235	8.29		
	Total	2025.49	239			
Family identity crisis	intergroup	107.51	4	26.87	5.22	0.0001
	intragroup	1208.33	235	5.14		
	Total	1315.85	239			

Based on the findings presented in Table (7), there is a significant difference in family communication damages across all groups based on the duration of cyberspace usage. The analysis of variance yielded a score of 12.36 for the total damages, 10.50 for intra-family damages, 7.49 for extra-family damages, 6.01 for family violence, and 5.22 for family identity crisis. All of these scores demonstrate statistical significance at the 0.0001 level. However, for the family turmoil factor, the variance analysis score is 2.32, which is significant at the 0.05 level.



Table 8: Bonferroni's Post-Hoc Test for Group Differences in Cyberspace Usage

Amount of usage	Groups	average	Difference in average	Standard error	significance
Half-hour	one hour	39.37	4.86	2.45	0.49
	two hours	41.14	3.08	2.59	0.100
	three hours	45.97	1.74	2.45	0.100
	More than three hours	52.86	8.63*	2.17	0.001
one hour	half an hour	44.23	4.86	2.45	0.49
	two hours	41.14	1.77	2.59	0.100
	three hours	45.97	6.60	2.45	0.07
	More than three hours	52.86	13.49*	2.17	0.001
two hours	half an hour	44.23	3.08	2.59	0.100
	one hour	39.37	1.77	2.59	0.100
	three hours	45.97	4.83	2.59	0.63
	More than three hours	52.86	11.72*	2.32	0.001
three hours	half an hour	44.23	1.74	2.45	0.100
	one hour	39.37	6.60	2.45	0.07
	two hours	41.14	4.83	2.59	0.63
	More than three hours	52.86	6.89*	2.17	0.01
More than three hours	half an hour	4.234	8.63*	2.17	0.001
	one hour	39.37	13.49*	2.17	0.001
	two hours	41.14	11.72*	2.32	0.001
	three hours	45.97	6.89*	2.17	0.01
* Significant differences are marked with an asterisk.					

Based on the data presented in Table (8), this study categorized cyberspace users into five groups based on their daily usage. The results of Bonferroni's post-hoc test indicate significant differences among the groups. Specifically, the first group (half an hour) shows a significant difference only with the fifth group (more than three hours) at the 0.001 level. Similarly, the second group (one hour) exhibits a significant difference only with the fifth group (more than three hours) at the 0.001 level. The third group (two hours) demonstrates a significant difference only with the fifth group (more than three hours) at the 0.001 level. The fourth group (three hours) reveals a significant difference only with the fifth group at the 0.01 level. Importantly, the fifth group, which utilizes cyberspace for more than three hours a day, exhibits significant differences with all other groups. This suggests that exceeding three hours of daily cyberspace usage is associated with significant harm and impacts various aspects of family communication damages.

### **Conclusion: Analysis and Interpretation of Results**

The findings of this research reveal that the family communication issues questionnaire comprises five distinct factors: communication issues within the family, communication issues outside the family, family violence, psychological turmoil in the family, and family identity crisis. Furthermore, the study identifies five distinct groups of cyberspace users based on their usage patterns: individuals who use cyberspace for half an hour per day, one hour per day, two hours per day, three hours per day, and more than three hours per day. The results demonstrate that the group utilizing cyberspace for more than three hours daily significantly differs from the other groups across all categories of communication issues. These findings suggest a significant association between daily usage of more than three hours and all forms of family communication damages. It appears that individuals who exceed the three-hour threshold of cyberspace usage exhibit various types of family communication damages. Conversely, those who utilize cyberspace for less than three hours per day show no signs of such damages.

How can these findings be explained? In other words, why

does spending less time not cause issues, but spending more time does? These findings can be explained based on addiction to cyberspace. Long-term use can lead to addiction, and the intensity of addiction is closely related to the time spent using cyberspace. Individuals who are addicted to cyberspace constantly engage with online content and experience restlessness, discomfort, and irritability when they are not using it (Sabzpushkani 1379 Sh, 225). These situations can create issues in their relationships with their families.

Moreover, internet addiction has a negative impact on mental health. Individuals addicted to the internet often exhibit insecure attachment styles and struggle with problem-oriented confrontations (Bahadori Khosrowshahi and Hashemi Nusratabad 1390 Sh, 177). As a result, their relationships with their families can be affected. Additionally, internet addicts tend to have poor social skills (Kouraki et al., 1390 Sh, 279), which can contribute to problems in their family relationships. Furthermore, there is a negative relationship between emotional intelligence and internet addiction (Jafari and Fatehizadeh 1390 Sh, 79). Internet addicts may face challenges in effectively communicating with family members due to a decrease in their emotional intelligence.

The factors mentioned above, such as irritability, restlessness, difficulty with problem-oriented confrontation, weak social skills, and low emotional intelligence, which are associated with internet addiction, can significantly impact family communication issues.

The findings of this research align with the studies conducted by Khodamoradi, Saadat, and Khodamoradi (1393 Sh), Hajmohammadi and Hajmohammadi (1396 Sh), Sadeghi (1398 Sh), Asadi and Hosseinejad (1397 Sh), Sadeghi Isfahani et al. (1397 Sh), and Hassanpour (1398 Sh).

Khodamoradi, Saadat, and Khodamoradi's (1393 Sh) findings suggest that prolonged cyberspace usage has an impact on family values, consequently leading to harm in relationships among family members. Hajmohammadi and Hajmohammadi (1396 Sh) found that excessive use of cyberspace weakens the family's role as a reference point, diminishes parent-child relationships, fosters mistrust between couples, promotes deceit, increases emotional and spiritual distance among family members, contributes to divorce rates, and leads to violations of moral norms, virtual

infatuations, neglect of responsibilities, erosion of moral values, and engagement in illicit relationships. This array of damages can significantly disrupt relationships within families.

Asadi and Hosseinnejad's study (1397 Sh) highlights that many parents, due to the novelty of cyberspace, often lack sufficient time, opportunities, or abilities to fully comprehend its nature and uses. This lack of familiarity with cyberspace disrupts various family functions, ultimately leading to strained relationships among family members.

The findings from Sadeghi Isfahani et al. (1397 Sh) indicate a significant correlation between the emotional atmosphere within a family and susceptibility to cyberspace addiction. The study suggests that a family environment characterized by love, affection, trust, and security contributes to better psychological well-being and overall quality of life while reducing the propensity for cyberspace addiction.

Hasanpour's research (1398 Sh) reveals that certain aspects of cyberspace are not aligned with the Islamic lifestyle. Specifically, in terms of values and time management, as well as family and social relationships, these aspects of cyberspace are incongruent with the principles of the Islamic lifestyle. Consequently, these misalignments within cyberspace can result in damages and disruptions to the relationships between family members.

One limitation of the present research is its focus on students, thus suggesting the need for investigating the relationship between cyberspace usage and family communication damages across other segments of society, particularly among children and teenagers. Additionally, while the current findings revolve around family communication damages, it is recommended that future studies explore the association between cyberspace usage and other aspects of family life, including lifestyle, religiosity, mental health, life satisfaction, academic performance, and career success. By examining these broader dimensions, a more comprehensive understanding of the impact of cyberspace on families can be gained.

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