

THE RELATIONSHIP OF AFFECTIVE TEMPERAMENT AND EMOTIONAL-BEHAVIORAL DIFFICULTIES TO INTERNET ADDICTION IN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

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Introduction: Adolescents with Internet addiction were also shown to have higher scores in neuroticism and psychoticism temperament categories than those of the control group.

Objectives: There is not a study in the literature addressing the correlation between affective temperament profiles and the Internet addiction.

Aims: Our aim was to compare the affective temperament profiles and emotional and behavioural characteristics of adolescents with or without the Internet addiction.

Methods: This is a descriptive and cross-sectional study. It was conducted in a high school. The study sample included 303 students. A sociodemographic characteristics data form, Internet Addiction Scale (IAS), The Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (DSQ), and The Temperament Evaluation of Memphis, Pisa, Paris, and San Diego Autoquestionnaire (TEMPS-A) were used to collect data.

Results: Of the sample, 6.6% were found to be addicted to Internet. Having a computer in the home ($p < 0.001$) was found to be related with higher scores on the IAS. The prevalence rate of anxious temperament for Internet addicts was more than that for non-addicts ($p < 0.001$). Dysthymic ($p < 0.01$), cyclothymic ($p < 0.01$), hyperthymic ($p < 0.01$), irritable ($p < 0.01$), and anxious ($p < 0.01$) temperaments; conduct problems ($p < 0.05$), hyperactivity-inattention ($p < 0.05$), emotional symptoms ($p < 0.05$), and total difficulties ($p < 0.01$) were found to be correlated with IAS scores.

Conclusions: There is a relation between the Internet addiction and affective temperament profiles, especially with anxious temperament. Furthermore, emotional and behavioural problems are more frequent in adolescents who have problematic Internet use.