

Abstract

This study examined the prevalence and social relational risk factors of Internet gaming addiction (IGA) among Chinese adolescents in Hong Kong. A local epidemiological survey was conducted with a total of 379 randomly selected secondary school students (Male: 52.8%; Average age = 14.13 (1.74)) completed an interview and a set of self-reported questionnaires. Participants' IGA level, family relationship and peer relationship were assessed. Results showed a prevalence rate of 0.8% for IGA. Poor family relationship with low expressiveness, low cohesiveness, and intense conflicts were significantly correlated with IGA level. Such findings provided insight in identifying high-risk group in school and pinpointed the importance of addressing family relationship in the intervention and prevention programs for IGA in adolescents. The role of peer relationship in the development of IGA and limitations of the current study were also discussed.

Keywords: Internet gaming addiction; family relationship; peer relationship; Chinese adolescent; COVID-19