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Comparative Research of Network Addiction Control Strategy among China and foreign countries

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Abstract

With the rapid development of Internet, network addiction becomes a global problem. In the foreign countries, the government occupies an leading position. People take education as the main method, and pay great attention to precaution. As a result, these measures have achieved marked results. China has probed boldly in recent years and the efforts are coming to fruition. But at the same time, there are still some problems that people think little of precaution and try anything when they are in a desperate situation. Education and society have not played deserved pole. What's more, society has negative influence to a certain extent. The article summes up the current situation and also makes comparisons of network addiction control strategy among China and foreign countries by means of analyzing characteristics of the strategy of foreign countries. Then it makes feasible recommendations of network addiction for Chinese teenagers.

Index Terms: Network addiction; control; China and foreign countries; compare

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1. INTRODUCTION

With the rapid development of Internet, a new type of addiction named network addiction appears. It not only has a pernicious influence on teenagers, but also brings negative effect on social stability. As teaching staff, We should make effort to orientate students towards good habits of using computers. It is necessary to social development and educational practice. Foreign countries' successful experience on network addiction provides a reference to Chinese. The article begins with researching foreign countries' network addiction control strategy, and then summes up the current situation and shortcoming of China on this problem. The article think of network addiction control strategy in terms of making comparisons among China and foreign countries in order to give a new point of view to research this problem.

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2. Brief introduction of overseas network addiction control strategy

A. *America: The government combine dredging and plugging together to control network addiction as a supervisor*

At present, there are three main methods to prevent the evil culture such as violence and pornography from harm teenagers in America. The first method is legislation. From the year 1996, American Federal Government has passed four related laws. The government's starting point of making these laws is to separate children from adults in order to strictly prohibit children seeing the content which is made only for adults. The second method is to classify entertainment software in several grades. The grading system is drawn up by Entertainment Software Rating Board (ESRB). The system divides entertainment software in 7 grades by age, using initial letter of the suited age. People should obey the rule that particular grade software can only be sold to consumers in particular age. The software sellers would be punished if they violate the rule. The third method is to keep centralization of management of computers in middle and primary schools as a network, and to screen the network station which is harm to teenagers' health. In addition, there is a full-blown industry of psychological consultation. Americans who have network addiction can solve the problem in many ways. At present, American mental health clinics have treated patients who are weltering in network.

B. *Korea: the government carry out "Hyposensitization Project" and pay for special training classes*

In the process of preventing children from weltering in network addiction, and quitting network addiction, Korean government and schools are very active. Korean government mainly commits itself to prevent network addiction. Korean Information and Communications Department of Korean Information and Ethics Committee compile text books for teenagers and distribute these books to primary and middle schools. The books introduce the perniciousness of network addiction and language violence in detail, as well as counter-measures. Korean online game industry association carry out "GreenNet" in order to build healthy network culture. Early in 2002, Korean government provided special training class for free to help people refrain from network addiction.

C. *Singapore: Parents play a very important role in the process of preventing network addiction. Experts go into schools to give guidance to parents in how to help children use network correctly. They make parents play the role as "Fire Wall"*

A Singaporean medical expert said that, network addiction is becoming more and more popular in Singaporean teenagers. In Singapore, network addiction is classified as mental disease by medical experts. They cure the teenagers with network addiction actively. Singaporean Healthy Service Centre sends psychologists to primary and middle schools regularly to teach students and parents how to prevent and deal with network addiction. Singaporean Media Manage Bureau set up internet adgru to offer guidance for parents chronically and teach them how to guide children to use internet correctly.

D. *Japan: Japanese intends to make growth environment pure. The government investigates Internet bars strictly and the industry of online game must be self-control*

There are two measures. Firstly, impose much tax to Internet bar so that seldom people operate Internet bar; Secondly, "Network Community Special Committee" examine the conditions of self-controlling of online game. PC suppliers in Japan also has relatively independent called "Computer Entertainment Evaluation Institution" to investigate the computer games strictly.

E. Britain: To prevent network addiction with rich and various after-class life

The great mass of students in primary and middle schools in Britain surf the net every day, but few students welter in network. The main reason is that students in Britain have rich and various after-class life. There is not much time for them to surf the net. British students' homework is less than Chinese students'. They can take part in various activities with abandon, such as physical exercise, music, painting, visiting a museum. In elementary school, teachers also make a list of outside reading to enrich students' knowledge in leisure time.

In addition, India put forward a proposal called "No one on line Game at Mid-night" to limit teenagers' surf time. Germanic government brings the high cost for teenagers to cure network addiction into their parents' medical insurance.

3. Characteristic of network addiction control strategy in foreign countries.

A. Government interferes and organizations at different levels

1 work together

In addition to making laws and regulations to restrict network behavior, the governments also play a role in supervising, meddling with, and pay much for it. Besides, the governments join in specific affairs of network addiction control. For example, Korean government has set up more than 140 counseling centers nationwide for teenagers' network addiction control.

B. Take education as the main method, and pay great attention to prevent network addiction

Each country pays attention to prevent network addiction. Besides of the government, different ranks of departments also play a role of supervision. Many measures are used to prevent network addiction. These measures are in terms of network environment, network technology and information literacy.

C. Home education plays an important role in network addiction control

Most teenagers abroad surf the net at home abroad and parents can supervise them. It plays an important role. On one hand, parents can install filter software or monitor on computers. On the other hand, parents can take their children to extracurricular activities in order to transfer their attention and interest to other things.

D. Strict review mechanism to network addiction control centers

Network addiction control centers abroad are managed by the government, and are responsible for it. Personnel in network addiction control centers must have qualification certificate, and they are made up of psychological counsellor, teaching staff, doctors, field sport organizers and web masters.

E. Using "Sunshine" therapy

Students in addiction control centers will not be punished. They are guided to transfer their attention and interest into positive and healthy affairs. For example, Germanic government takes training battalions as holiday apartments. The training battalions encourage teenagers weltering in network to take part in outdoor and collective activities.

Most of above-mentioned countries are developed countries. The proportion of teenagers surfing the net is very high. However, social security system in these countries are correspondingly strong and industry of psychological consultation has come to a maturity. Taking an overall view of above-mentioned countries, they

have done a lot of work on network addiction control. The measures are fit, and the measures are carried out effectively. Therefore, the problem of teenagers' network addiction in China is more serious than foreign countries.

4. the current situation of network addiction in China

A. historical development

On the July 16th 2009, China Internet Network Information Center (CNNIC) issued the report named *the 24th statistics of development situation on Internet* which showed that, Chinese online citizens had reached 3.38 billion up to first half of 2009. It also indicated that about 1 Netizen out of 6 has a tendency to network addiction. That is to say, 56 billion users were or were about to weltering in network. So, network addiction has been the disease that has a pernicious influence on Chinese Netizens.

In 1997, people in Taiwan began to research network addiction. From then on, the experts in Mainland China started to pay attention on this problem. As a result, many kinds of strategies crop up across the country. In 2005, the first network addiction control center was built in Beijing. In April, 2009, Beijing General Hospital publicly and firstly announced the documentl called *How to Prevent Network Addiction in Family*. Researcher in China has proposed strategies from the point of psychology, information education curriculum , sociology and medicine. But these strategies don't have the same effect.

Doctor Wenbin Gao who is the director of Psychological Consultation and Treatment research institute of Chinese Academy of Sciences reported three facts about network addiction. Firstly, people in foreign countries weltering in network addiction are mostly from 20 to 30 years old. At the same time, people in China are mostly from 15to 20 years old. Secondly, the cause in China concentrates on online game, while the cause is various in foreigner countries. Thirdly, extreme events are very rare in foreign countries, while they very commonly happen in China.

TABLE I. COMPARISON OF CURRENT SITUATION FROM CHINA AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES

Countries	Age	Cause	Extreme events
China	20-30	online games	several
Foreign countries	15-20	various	rare

B. the progressive network addiction control strategy in China

1) *Transdisciplinary cooperation*. In August, 2009, the first academic institution was built in China. It is used in the field of network management. It is also dedicated to researching related systematized law in information society. The research results of the institution will be regarded as basis of internet legislation.

2) *Use demonstration system with antonym to control online game strictly*. Using this system, game operator must termly submit users' log-on message to ID card No.service centre of Ministry of Public Security. All users not passed through the system will be educated as minors.

3) *Provide green Internet access services*. It is provided by China Telecom which is the biggest access service provider in China. The green internet can filter information, manage surf time, inquire statistical visit capacity, and kill virus on line. This services is conducted to providing healthy and vivid network content to minors by taking full advantage of modem information technology.

C. limitations

1) *The government doesn't have an all-inclusive legal system.* At the same time, the society hasn't absolutely executed laws and regulations. In early 2000, the Ministry of Information Industry made two laws called *Internet bulletin board service administrative provisions* and *Internet information service management measure*. But the laws are not absolutely executed. The other problem is that different internet addiction control organizations are responsible to different departments. As a result, the lack of clear-cut job responsibility leads to nonfeasance.

2) *Schools lay particular emphasis on network technology instead of Internet accomplishment.* The education haven't train teenagers the power of judgement and selective in complicated network environment. What's more, students rely increasingly on computers and are not able to chose what they need.

3) *Lack of review mechanism and access system of Internet.* Nowadays, the laws in China can't inhibit illegal network stations timely and effectively. Moreover, most Network operations and service centers don't investigate applicants strictly. As a result, many violence games and obscene network station.

4) *Lack of supervisory to network addiction control center.* The government and education department haven't supervised network addiction control center and corresponding standard hasn't keep pace with the market. In addition, many parents blindly believe some so-called network addiction control centers. As a result, many centers aiming at money profit and more and more similar centers are built. They are very unwholesome to teenagers. More seriously, some centers use rough methods to teenagers. For example, electro-stimulant therapy. These treatment methods are not scientific and don't conform to the development rules of teenagers. There are several hundred hospitals, centers and schools in China. These organizations mostly use injection or medicine or electro-stimulant therapy or military training enforcedly. In addition, these organizations haven't definite competent department.

5) *Too much Internet bars.* In foreign countries, the government of developed countries and developing countries control Internet bars strictly. For example, Japan impose much tax to game center. India control surf time strictly at night. In a contrary, there are many internet bars in China, which usually have many floors and overcrowded.

5. V. edification from learning network addiction strategy from foreign countries.

Quitting network addiction should be gone about little by little without a let up. The government, education department and family should make an alliance.

A. *Improve the legal system and investigate and supervise network organizations more strictly.*

The government restrict network misconduct by laws and regulations. For instance, prevent illegal network station from setting up and running; order the seizure of network addiction centers which haven't gotten the approval; make it clear that who is the competent department.

B. *Lay heavy stress on improving teenager's ability of self-control from the view of ontology.*

Schools should provide information technology courses which can improve students' information literacy and resolution capability. At the same time, teachers should take measures to improve students' ability of self-control. In brief, students' ability of self-control is the linchpin of network addiction control strategy.

C. *Set up special medical institution*

On one hand, build strict systems to investigate network addiction centers; On the other hand, set up special medical institution made up of psychological counsellor, teaching staff doctors.

D. Parents should play a very important role in the process of preventing and curing network addiction.

Parents should recognize the positive role of network and supervise own children using network rightly. When children are weltering in network, do not be anxious for success. Bring children to special medical institution.

6. conclusion

From the experience of foreign countries, Chinese relevant departments should make network addiction control strategy which fit Chinese teenagers. In China, the Government, education department, society, and family should make an alliance. They also shoulder heavy responsibilities.

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