Summary

Online Security for Children
(Safety & Exploitation)

THE PALESTINIAN CENTER FOR DEMOCRACY & CONFLICT RESOLUTION

2019

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The Palestinian Center for Democracy & Conflict Resolution (PCDCR) devotes particular attention to the contribution of responding to the pressing needs of vulnerable groups including children, women, and youths to enjoy their rights; particularly with regard to social well-being, protection, and full participation in decision-making within the framework of democracy. Additionally, one of PCDCR's strategic directions is contributing to meet the growing demand for legal and psychological support services as well as protection mechanisms especially for children and women.

Through that, The Palestinian Center for Democracy and Conflict Resolution has conducted this study that is the first of its kind in Palestine. This study concerns with children's online behavior, awareness of parents on what their children are doing online, and highlighting what caregivers do for children protection. The study tackles the safe online browsing for children.

The study addresses the following questions:

1. What is the level of awareness among children and parents on the concept of online child sexual exploitation? Methods of using the means of social media? What are the influencing factors for this?

2. What are the protection methods used by children and parents in cases of online sexual exploitation? What are the entities that they are heading for? and why?

3. Are there any relative differences between cases of sexual exploitation based on the gender of the child? Are females more vulnerable to sexual exploitation and what are the factors that affect the qualitative proportion?

The study aims at identifying the risks that threaten the online security and safety for children through data collection. The Palestinian Center for Democracy and Conflict Resolution has collected data from the field at the beginning of November 2018 and has completed data collection on April 2019. Data collection is done through conducting individual interviews with (400) children from the age of 10 to 18 (51,3% males, 48,7% females), (400) parents (mothers who have participated in the study), and (30) heads and representatives of entities that provide care and protection in the government sector. After obtaining the preliminary data, the process of correcting the missing and abnormal values has begun and followed by the process of data analysis.

The data collection and completion of forms, under this study, are done in Palestine particularly in the West Bank, including the governorates (Nablus, Tulkarm, Jenin, Tubas, Qalqilya, Salfit, Hebron, Bethlehem, Jericho, and Ramallah and Al Bireh). They are conducted during November 2018 and have completed on April 2019. The study includes children, parents and caregivers (including law enforcement officers in Family Protection Units, Child

Protection Network staff at the Ministry of Social Development, and heads of Educational Counselling Departments of the Ministry of Education) in the 10 governorates of the West Bank from villages, camps and cities.

Methodology and Limitations:

The study aims at identifying the risks that threaten the online security and safety for children through data collection. The Palestinian Center for Democracy and Conflict Resolution has collected data from the field at the beginning of November 2018 and has completed data collection on April 2019 through conducting individual interviews with (400) children, (400) parents, and (30) heads and representatives of entities that provide care and protection in the government sector. After obtaining the preliminary data, the process of correcting the missing and abnormal values and then the process of data analysis have begun.

Stages of Study Preparation:

1. Designing and discussing the cards of interviews.
2. Training the researchers and data collectors.
3. Sending the final version for the researchers.
4. Data collection, review, and cleansing.
5. Data analysis and turning data to tables and charts.
6. Conducting the report and reviewing it.
7. Conducting & translating the final version of the report.

Study Sample:

A regular random stratified sample of children has been selected at the level of all West Bank governorates. Within each governorate, a random sample representing children and parents is selected.

According to the reports of Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the number of children in the age group (10-17) as of mid-2019 is estimated at 896,144 children in all West Bank governorates. Based on these figures, the Richard Geiger formula is applied to calculate the sample size; thus, the study sample is (384) children. To guarantee obtaining error free data, the study is conducted for a sample of (400) children and (400) parents through individual interviews. In addition, this sample is distributed geographically across the West Bank governorates to ensure the representation of each governorate compared to the total number of children in the governorate.

The Criteria of Children Survey:

There are a number of criteria that are taken into consideration in the survey of children under this study, including:

1. Access:

The children are reached through the local community-based organizations (CBOs) in the places where the study is conducted in different governorates; and through the previous cooperation and networking with these CBOs after the school. In addition, the children are accessed through training field researchers to conduct the survey with children.

2.Informed Consent:

The objectives of the research and the details of its procedures are shown to the directors of the local CBOs as well as to the children, where the real approval is obtained to participate in the study freely. All the details related to the study are revealed.

3.Anonymity, Confidentiality and Safeguarding:

It is explained to the local organizations and to children, in a way that children understand, that their personal information will not be revealed in the study. The confidentiality also is guaranteed for any information that will appear during the survey.

4. No Harm:

It is ensured that the study procedures at all stages are free from any harm to the children participating in the survey.

5. The Right to Say No:

It is confirmed to the children participating in the survey that they have the right to say: does not want to participate in the survey, does not want to complete the study, and does not want to answer some questions. The freedom is given for the child, especially as this study is related to issues considered sensitive in Palestinian society. In addition, children have the right to say no to the circumstances of conducting the research because it is not permissible to exploit the weakness of their perception in approving or completing the study.

6. Language and Logic:

It is taken into consideration the use of language that is appropriate to the ages of children and the importance of providing explanations and clarifications, if necessary. These are

because the use of language and logic, that are intelligible for children, makes children understand the survey correctly and provide correct answers.

7. A Matter of Trust:

Due to the importance of trust between the researcher and the child, especially in sensitive and delicate study issues such as sexual exploitation, it is adopted to conduct raising-awareness sessions for the children in cooperation with local organizations. In addition, the appropriateness of the place of research is taken into account for more trust during the children survey.

8. Conditions of Listening:

Researchers are trained on good listening and hearing to children's answers, on considering the child's capacity to express, on managing the dialogue positively and without intimidation or frustration for the child, and on providing support and cooperation for the child because this helps to record the correct answers.

Study Tools:

The questions of the interview card for children and the interview card for parents are developed after reviewing the literature, reports and previous studies conducted on the subject of the current study.

The process of preparing the interview cards subjected to several stages as follows:

1. Designing a preliminary draft of the study questions with the participation of researchers from the PCDCR.

2. Reviewing the preliminary draft with the project manager and the PCDCR director.

3. Reviewing the suggestions and amendments received from them.

4. Designing the final transcripts (copies) of interview card questions by the study team.

The Process of Reviewing Deviant Values with Researchers:

After sending the completed (filled) interview forms by the researchers to the M&E unit, the following steps are followed:

• Comparing the interviews with the secondary information sources.

• Verifying the sources of information (getting additional details from the children and their parents through interviewing or calling them).

• Verifying the questions using information asymmetry.

• Reassessing the situation on the ground by the researchers when additional clarifications are needed.

Data Management and Analysis:

The input team have entered the data collected from the individual interviews on the SPSS software. Then, the statistical analyst has used the software to explore the missing and deviant values. Some deviant values and missing values have also emerged. Then, he has reviewed the interviews, which included deviant or missing values, with the researchers. After that, these values are corrected. This stage lasted for five days. After that, the statistical analyst has prepared the intersection tables and graphs (charts) using EXCEL and SPSS programs, which are important parts in the analysis of evaluation results.

Results:

Children Survey:

In addition to considering these interviews for the children's survey, they are at the same time good opportunities for children to abreact and express their needs and problems related to exploitation and abuse. Not less than fifteen cases of the total number of interviewed children have appeared. They showed many reactions to express the abuse and exploitation directed against them. The reactions that have emerged by the children can be summarized as follows:

1. Breakdown, crying, and showing physical reactions to the degree of blackout in some cases during the interaction with paragraphs and items of the survey.

2. Expressions of abnormal and odd ideas and concepts reflecting the child's living with painful exploitative reality.

3. Asking urgently how to receive psychological support, or how to complain against the perpetrator of abuse and exploitation.

In most cases, the school principal (male or female), or school counselor are informed, asking them to take all the measures that ensure the child's safety and confidentiality.

Accordingly, the study results related to the children vary in three aspects: the purpose of children's use for the internet, the time that the children spend on the internet, and the average of hours spent on the internet use per day.

The Average of Hours Spent on the Internet Use per Day:

It is found that the average of hours spent on the internet use is higher for males than females. The study indicates that children who spend less than one hour per day are (14.4% males, 23.3% females), and who spend from one hour to five hours daily are (25.2% males, 21.3% females). According to the study, this fact is because the percentage of males' number who possess personal devices are higher than females' (35,8% males possess personal devices versus 25,9% females) Additionally, it is also due to the variety of places where males can resort to access the internet and browsing as indicated in the table below:

Places where Children Use the Internet	Males	Females	Total
At Home	46.9%	47.7%	**94.6%**
At School	12.2%	8.1%	**20.3%**
At Internet Cafe	13.7%	3.7%	**17.4%**
Friends' house	20.5%	10.0%	**30.5%**
Other (Relatives' houses- Public Places)	1.0%	0.5%	**1.5%**

The Time Spent on the Internet by the Children:

On examining the number of hours and times of internet use, it is noticed that the average of internet use by males is increasing, comparing to females, at the end of the day and with the coming of the night. For more illustration, children use the internet before 8:00 p.m. (29.6% males, 37.4% females), and between 8:00 p.m. and 12:00 a.m. (17.8% males, 10.3% females). This may be due to the fact that male children have greater freedom to use the internet as they have more personal devices; noting that the percentage of males who own personal devices among the males themselves are 35,8%. Furtherly, male children have the possibility to access the internet in different places. However, female children are less likely to use the internet at the end of the day and with coming of the night due to the possible increased supervision by their parents.

The Purpose of Children's Internet Use:

It is noted that male and female children largely coincide and agree with the purpose and importance of using the internet. They agree that the first and most important goal in accessing the internet is means of social media; then, games. Nevertheless, they differ in the importance of internet use for scientific research and study. Females have indicated higher and greater interest in accessing the internet for scientific research and study purposes than males. Thus, males and females show variance in the importance of accessing the internet for studying (26,4% males, 31,3% females). In addition, they show sharp disparity in accessing the internet for scientific researches (22,0% males, 25,2% females).

The study shows that the children who use the internet for a chat are (32.4% males, 25.4% females), for games are (39.6% males, 28.9% females), for studying (26.4% males, 31.3% females), and for scientific research are (22.0% males, 25.2% females).

Privacy:

It is possible to logically say that human by nature uses his or her real name and picture during his or her interaction with others. Nevertheless, children may use fake names and pictures for various reasons depending on the goal of the internet use. The child may use a false name to protect himself/ herself from others' harm, or to intrude upon others, annoy, or harm them without disclosing his/ her identity. The concepts of privacy and freedom for children refer to doing whatever they want while browsing, posting, and downloading picture and videos without being aware of the possibilities of exploitation and extortion.

In this study, it is noticed that male children are more permissive in their personal information than females. They are more likely to use their real names, pictures, and personal information than females. This may be due to the masculine culture within the Palestinian community that allows males to do what is appropriate for their intellectual and cultural life with no fear of reproach or blame from any party. Thus, males use their real names and personal information while females try to hide behind fake names. Females also are restricted in using their personal information in the internet. Females act this way since they fear for themselves from intruders or extortionists, or they want to act freely without fear by hiding behind fake names and false personal information.

The Extent to which the Child Include Personal Information or Child's Willingness to Do So on Public Websites such as Facebook, Snap Chat, and Instagram:

The study shows that 48.9% of children include or are willing to put their personal information on public websites (29.8% male, 19.1% female).

Child Offenders (who do extortion and exploitation)

Children's Internet Use for Inappropriate Behaviors:

It is noticeable that there is a clear discrepancy between males and females in the nature of the online inappropriate and anomalous behaviors. Male children show that they do all anomalous behaviors more than females. The list of inappropriate and anomalous behaviors includes defamation and abuse, fraud and deception, sexual exploitation and harassment, access of porn sites, exploitation and extortion, and calling for violence and racism. Male children also show different sequence of such behaviors in terms of the nature of these behaviors. The following statistical percentages indicate such differences in the sequence; accessing porn sites (4.4% males, 1.0% female). Then, fraud and deception (4.1% males, 1.5% females), and followed by defamation and abuse (3.9% males, 2.2% females). However, the sequence of such behaviors according to female children (only females) starts with the most anomalous behavior that is defamation and abuse (3.9% males, 2.2% females); then, exploitation and extortion; finally, sexual exploitation and harassment (2.4% males, 1.8% females).

It is noticeable that the most inappropriate and anomalous behavior for male children is accessing porn sites. (It is worthwhile to mention that the inappropriate and anomalous behaviors of children refer to the aberrant behaviors and annoyances that can be described as harassment and extortion against others). However, what is remarkable is that the second and third inappropriate and anomalous behaviors for female children are exploitation and extortion, and sexual exploitation and harassment; which do not appear clearly among male children. The following table clarifies these variations between males and females:

Children's Internet Use to Perform Inappropriate and Anomalous Behaviors Compared to their Gender: (multiple-choice answer):

Children's Online Behaviors	Males	Females	Total
Defamation and abuse	3.9%	2.2%	**6.1%**
Fraud and deception	4.1%	1.5%	**5.6%**
Sexual exploitation and harassment	2.4%	1.8%	**4.2%**
Access of porn sites	4.4%	1.0%	**5.4%**
Exploitation and extortion	3.6%	2.0%	**5.6%**
Calling for violence and racism	2.0%	1.5%	**3.5%**

General Observation on Privacy:

There are no clear differences between males and females regarding uploading annoying files or attachments on the internet. Nevertheless, male children upload materials cause embarrassment for a particular person on the internet. Additionally, there is no clear disparities between male and female children regarding sending porn texts, or nude pictures, or porn videos; the following table indicates these issues:

Children's Internet Use to Upload Annoying Files or Attachments Compared to their Gender: (multiple-choice answer):

Annoying Behaviors that Children may Do	Males	Females	Total
1. Posting things on the internet that embarrassed someone	10.3%	4.6%	**%14.9%**
2. Sending porn texts, nude/ semi-nude and hot pictures, or porn and hot videos to someone you know via mobile or the internet	2.9%	2.7%	**%5.6%**
3. Asking someone to send nude/ semi-nude pictures, or porn and hot videos via mobile or the internet	2.0%	1.2%	**%3.2%**
4. Defrauding someone and asking for money or pictures of him/ her	2.7%	1.2%	**3.9%**

Child Victims (children who are subjected to extortion and exploitation)

Children's Exposure to Online Harassment:

It is noticeable that male children are more vulnerable to harassment than females. This may be due to the fact that male children are most likely to behave more improperly than females. Additionally, the personal information about male children are available for all users of social media; thus, they are more exposed to harassment than females. The study shows differences between males and females in the extent of using the real name in social media sites (males 48.1%, females 38.1%). In addition, the study shows differences between males and females in the extent of using the real picture (males 42.2%, females 20.0%). When asking the children about their willingness to upload/ post their personal information on the social media, they answered yes as follows (29.8% males, 19.1% females). The following table shows the list of harassments and risks against children compared to their gender:

Online Harassments that Children may be Exposed to	Gender		Total
	Males	**Females**	
1. Pressure from friends to do things you didn't want to do online	8.3%	4.4%	**12.7%**
2. <u>Defamation and insult</u>	6.1%	2.7%	**8.8%**
3. Extortion and intimidation	5.2%	1.2%	**6.4%**
4. Unwanted sexual harassment in the chat room, social media, websites , or email.	3.6%	1.0%	**4.6%**
5. Receiving porn pictures or sexual content	6.4%	2.0%	**8.4%**
6. Accidental access to porn pictures or sexual content	5.4%	3.4%	**8.8%**
7. Someone used your pictures inappropriately or defaming them	5.1%	1.0%	**6.1%**
8. An unwanted person took pictures of you and disseminated them online	3.2%	1.0%	**4.2%**
9. Stealing your password or one of your online accounts such as your email or Facebook account	13.4%	7.4%	**20.8%**

Children's Face-to-Face Meeting with Persons They Knew Online:

It is noticeable that male children are more capable and bold than females in face-to-face meeting with people whom they have known online (24.7% male, 10.8% female). Perhaps this is due to an assumption that masculine Palestinian culture rarely holds males accountable.

The Extent to Which Parents Have Some Restrictions on the Child's Access to Certain Online Websites:

It is noted that parents organize the time and period for internet use for females more than males. The following table shows how parents know what the child is doing online, compared to the child's gender:

Parents know what the child is doing online	Males	Females	Total
Yes	38.4%	45.0%	**83.4%**
No	13.0%	3.7%	**16.6%**

Moreover, the following table indicates to what extent parents impose restrictions on child's possibility for online browsing and accessing some websites:

Parent's imposition of restriction for online browsing	Males	Females	Total
Yes	18.6%	21.5%	**40.1%**
No	32.8%	27.1%	**59.9%**

This means that the level of supervision and control by parents regarding the internet use is higher towards females than males.

To Whom the Child Direct or Communicate When Facing any Online Threat or Danger by Someone:

Children are always encouraged (from caregivers, school counselors, members of Child Protection Network, teachers, ..) when they are at risk and threatened to resort to the safest entity for them, to whom they can disclose their feelings and get protection. Clearly, male and female children vary and differ in the preferences of the entities they may resort to disclose any threat or extortion seeking protection (from sexual harassment in the chat rooms or social media, extortion and intimidation, defamation and insult, receiving porn pictures or sexual content, pressures from strangers to do bad things, and stealing passwords or online accounts). The most protective entity for male children to which they primarily direct to is the father then the mother then a friend. However, female children seek help firstly from the mother, then the father, then her elder brother or elder sister. This may be due to gender differences between the children through which they feel safe and important to the entity that they communicate with him/ her.

Children who seek help from a friend are (12.2% males, 6.1% females), from the father are (20.0% males, 22.7% females), from the mother are (14.4% males, 33.3% females), from the elder brother or elder sister are (10.3% males) (5.1% male, 2.2% female), from one of the relatives are (5.1% males, 2.2% females), from the teacher or school counselor are (5.1% males, 4.2% females), from the police are (10.3% males, 4.2% female), and from religious figures are (2.0% males, 1.0% female). Finally, the children who do not seek help from anyone are (3.2% male, 1.7% female).

Parents Survey:

The Average of Hours Spent on the Child's Internet Use per Day:

Parents indicate that more than the half of their children i.e. (53.3%) use the internet for one to five hours. This shows the strong linkage to the internet. Additionally, a significant number of children access the internet for six hours i.e. (14.9%). Thus, (68%) of children are addicted to the internet or about to be so.

The Time that the Children Spend Online:

Parents say that children use the internet mostly during the day and up to (8:00 p.m). i.e. (73.4%). The justification behind that is the engagement of parents with other issues during this long period of time. Additionally, parents notice that the children's internet use is reduced after 8:00 p.m. to (26.1%). Since parents are available and free in the evening, they show high levels of control and supervision in this time for their children.

The Places Where the children Access the Internet:

Parents think that their children use the internet more at home i.e. (97.3%) because parents compare the number of hours that children stay at home accessing the internet in front of their parents versus the times they spend outside the home. This gives the parents a chance for more supervision inside the home. The second place where children use the internet is with friends since the internet is available and connected through their devices in their friends' homes.

The Purposes of Children's Internet Use as Viewed by Parents:

Parents think that their children access the internet to fulfil the following purposes: Firstly, games (83.6%). Secondly, social media (42.9%). Thirdly, doing homework (39.2%). Finally, chat (33%). Such expectations and estimations by parents are because of widely spread of PUBG game among the Palestinians.

How Parents Supervise their Children:

Parents prefer the direct supervision (83.2%) to follow-up and control their children's use of the internet. Then, they supervise the history of browsing (14.7%). After that, parents pre-determine the allowed and prohibited websites (12.2%). This indicates that parents prefer the direct supervision through observation and control for their children directly during their use of the devices; hence, the parents do not use tools or mechanisms demand technical or electronic experience.

The Extent to Which Parents Organize the Times and Duration for the Child's Internet Use:

The majority of parents (69.5%) regulate the internet use for their children. The following table illustrates the differences between parents and children in terms of organizing times and duration of internet use:

Parent's organization for the times and duration of internet use	Children	Parents
Yes	72.6%	69.5%
No	27.4%	30.5%

In addition, the following table indicates the difference between children and parents with regard to putting restrictions on the child's possibility for browsing and accessing some websites:

Parent's imposition of some restrictions for online browsing	Children	Parents
Yes	40.1%	56.6%
No	59.9%	43.4%

Moreover, (73.4%) of parents indicate that children access the internet before 8pm. In addition, (26.1%) of parents indicate that children access the internet between (8 pm -12 am), and (0.5%) of parents say that children access the internet after midnight.

Parents indicate that the majority of their children's internet use is during the day until the (8:00 pm); their percentage is (73.4%). This is perhaps due to parents' concern/ engagement away from their children during this long period of the day. Furtherly, parents note that the percentage of children's internet use after 8:00 pm is significantly reduced. Perhaps this is due to the fact that the possibility of control and supervision at this time is high because of parents' presence in the evening.

The following table illustrates these points:

Before 8:00 pm	73.4%	Between (8:00 pm- 12:00 midnight)	26.1%	After midnight	0.5%

Forms of Online Harassment against Children:

From the viewpoint of parents, the most harassment against their children in the first place is the stealing the child password or account (47.5%). Then, children's exposure coincidentally to porn pictures or sexual content (22.1%). Finally, the pressure on the child by his/ her friend to do things s/he does not want to do (21.3%).

To Whom the Child Direct or Communicate When Facing any Online Threat or Danger by Someone as Viewed by Parents:

Parents believe that their children whenever they feel danger, they primarily seek help from one of the parents (70.5%); then, one of the siblings (16.6%); finally, one of the friends (6%). This indicates the importance and preferences of the entity to which the child directs.

Caregivers Interviews:

There are several entities work on the provision of care and protection for children such as: 1- the Palestinian Police 2- Ministry of Education through the school counselors (both males and females) working inside the schools 3- The Child Protection Network supervised by the Ministry of Social Development.

The interviews are conducted with the officials of the Child Protection Units in the Palestinian Police in all the targeted governorates under the study. Additionally, the interviews are conducted with the heads of the Counseling Departments in the Education Directorates in all the targeted governorates under the study. Finally, there are interviews with all the coordinators of the Child Protection Network in the directorates of the Ministry of Social Development in the targeted governorates.

The interviews are conducted via telephone and email with all targeted respondents under the study.

The following questions have been asked for them:

1- In your opinion, what are the risks of the internet misuse and the risks of sexual exploitation against children?

- Heath risks (poor eyesight, neck pain)
- Mental distraction, decline in academic and educational attainment
- Staying out of social life
- Behavioral deviations (bullying, violence)

2- What are the best programs and protection mechanisms for children from misuse and risks of online exploitation within your work?

- Referral to the competent authorities
- Holding awareness workshops by the police for students in schools
- Filtering porn sites nationally
- Preparation of integrated programs on awareness about the internet risks involving parents and children

3- In your opinion, what are the most important reasons that make the children victims of online sexual exploitation?

- The lack of awareness for children and their parents/ families
- Absence of family control and family disintegration.
- Love of adventures and discovery among students in adolescence.
- The lack of awareness about the security and protection means from internet networks

4- How do children and their parents take advantage of care and protection services in your workplace?

- Through attending awareness lectures.
- Through the principal and teachers of the school

5- What are the main obstacles of doing what is needed to protect children from online sexual exploitation in your workplace?

- The absence of specialized training manuals in this area
- Non-cooperation of the students' parents.
- The absence of a full-time school counselor in the school
- Ineffectiveness of organizations as required to protect children

6- What are the most important needs of training and capacity building for the staff in your work to protect children from online sexual exploitation?

- Specialized training in these issues
- Providing a constantly developed guidance/ manual on these issues
- Training counselors on mechanisms of the individual case study

7- What are the most important material needs (tools, devices, programs, applications) to provide protection services for children from sexual exploitation in your workplace?

- Providing awareness manuals and leaflets to counselors and students
- Awareness films on sexual exploitation issues
- Laptop
- LCD device

8- What are the most important awareness and education programs for children and their parents to protect from online sexual exploitation in your workplace?

- Safety program
- Online safety program

- Complementary programs with the Palestinian police in holding awareness meetings, especially the Department of Combating Cybercrime

9- In your opinion, what are the legal obstacles that hinder the children protection from sexual exploitation at the national level?

- There is no law to prosecute the exploiter (perpetrator).
- The applicable laws and regulations are not deterrent
- Disapproval of victims in reporting to legal entities
- The absence of a law to prohibit the profit organizations specialized in the electronic games.
- The absence of a competent judge in these cases

The responses of the protection agencies vary according to the nature and specialization for each entity, and the length of experience and practice for each protection entity. It is clear that all the protection entities need more training and qualification. Moreover, they need more tools and materials that facilitate the completion of child protection process. Finally, they need more coordination among themselves to control their cooperation, the cases, and referral system.

Conclusions

Comparison between Some Results of the Children Survey with Parents Survey

According to the surveys, the results of children and parents have been reported in the study's results chapters. In this summary, the results of the children and their parents are compared for some selected answers for both parties (children and parents). This is done to clarify the extent of congruence and difference in understanding the attitudes of parents and children on the same subject.

❖ **The time that the child spend online (children's answers versus parents' answers)**

Time of Internet Connection	Children	Parents
Before 8:00 pm	67.0%	73.4%
Between (8 pm-12 midnight)	28.1%	26.1%
After midnight	4.9%	0.5%

As indicated, the children and their parents agree in terms of peak hours of internet use. They agree that the most frequently times of the internet use is before (8 pm); followed by between (8 pm-12 midnight) pm; finally, the midnight.

❖ **The Purpose of Children's Internet Use (children's answers versus parents' answers)**

Purpose of children's internet use	Children	Parents
Chat	58.2%	33.0%
Games	68.5%	83.6%
Studying	57.7%	21.1%
Scientific research	47.2%	1.5%
General information	27.6%	42.9%
E-mail	16.4%	39.2%
Social media (Twitter, Facebook …)	90.5%	4.7%
Online shopping	13.7%	3.5%
Downloads (Videos, pictures, songs)	23.5%	19.9%

As noted, the children and their parents differ, to some extent, regarding the purpose of children's online use. Children show that the use purpose is primarily social media, while parents show that the use purpose for their children is primarily games. In addition, children have shown games in the second place, while their parents have shown searching for general information in the second degree. Finally, children and their parents agree on the third degree of internet use i.e. chat.

❖ **Children's Internet Use for Inappropriate Behaviors (children's answers versus parents' answers)**

Children's Online Behaviors	Children	Parents
Defamation and abuse	6.1%	12.5%
Fraud and deception	5.6%	25.0%
Sexual exploitation and harassment	4.2%	-----
Access of porn sites	5.4%	37.5%
Exploitation and extortion	5.6%	12.5%
Calling for violence and racism	3.5%	43.8%

As noted, the children and their parents differ in terms of the nature of online inappropriate behaviors done by children. Children indicate that the inappropriate behavior they do primarily is defamation and abuse. On contrast, it is calling for violence and racism according to the parents. In addition, children show that the behavior they do in the second

degree is fraud and deception, as well as exploitation and extortion. However, parents place the porn sites in the second degree. Finally, the children put the porn sites in the third degree while parents put fraud and deception.

❖ **Vulnerability of Children to Online Harassment (children's answers versus parents' answers)**

Harassments that Children may be Exposed to Online	Children	Parents
1. Pressure from friends to do things you didn't want to do online	12.7%	21.3%
2. Defamation and insult	8.8%	4.9%
3. Extortion and intimidation	6.4%	7.4%
4. Unwanted sexual harassment in the chat room, social media, websites, or email	4.6%	5.7%
5. Receiving porn pictures or sexual content	8.4%	13.1%
6. Accidental access to porn pictures or sexual content	8.8%	22.1%
7. Someone used your pictures inappropriately or defaming them	6.1%	3.3%
8. An unwanted person took pictures of you and disseminated them online	4.2%	2.5%
9. Stealing your password or one of your online accounts such as your email or Facebook account	20.8%	47.5%

As noted from the above table, the children and their parents differ somewhat in the importance of sequencing the probability of the types of harassment that children may experience. Children and their parents agree that the harassment they may be exposed to in the first degree is Stealing a password or one of online accounts. For the second degree, children select the pressure from friends to do inappropriate things whereas parents choose the accidental access to porno pictures or sexual content. Finally, the children say that they are harassed online in the third degree through defamation and insult, and access to porno pictures or sexual content. However, parents select pressure from friends to do inappropriate things for the third-degree online harassment.

❖ **To Whom the Child Direct or Communicate Whenever Face any Online Threat or Danger by Someone (children's answers versus parents' answers)**

Entity to which child seek help from	Children	Parents
A friend	18.3%	6.0%
The father	42.7%	70.5% one of the parents
The mother	47.7%	
The elder brother/ elder sister	19.8%	16.6%
One of relatives	7.3%	1.2%
A school teacher/ counselor	9.3%	0.7%
Police	14.5%	1.5%
Religious figure	3.0%	-----
Don't go to anyone	4.9%	3.5%

As noted, the children and their parents agree on the entity that children may direct to whenever they face any online threat or danger. Both (children and parents) indicate that children resort in the first place to one of the parents; then, one of the siblings; finally, one of the friends.

Urgent Issues that Need Immediate Attention

1. Inclusion of gender disparities in the exposure to extortion.
2. The relationship between the technical awareness on the internet, the social media applications, and the opportunities for exploitation and threat.
3. The Relationship of the awareness of caregivers about the possibility of children being exploited and abused.