ABSTRACT

DIGITAL LITERACY LEVEL AMONG GENERATION Z MOTHERS RELATED TO CHILDREN ONLINE RISKS (Qualitative Interview Study on Children Online Risk: Pornographic Content)

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This study aims to examine the level of digital literacy among Generation Z mothers in understanding and responding to information related to online risks for children, particularly pornographic content. The research is significant given the increasing number of young children using the internet, while many parents are not yet fully prepared to address the associated digital risks. The concepts used in this study include digital literacy (internet searching, hypertext navigation, content evaluation, knowledge assembly), children's online risk, and digital parental mediation. The research method is qualitative interviews with a post-positivist paradigm. The participants consist of six Generation Z mothers who have children under the age of 12. The findings reveal, first, that five mothers demonstrate a moderate level of digital literacy regarding children's exposure to pornographic content, as they are able to use and benefit from digital media; one informant shows a low level of digital literacy, limited to basic use only. Second, the informants' level of digital literacy is influenced by their knowledge, internet use experience, and their children's characteristics. Third, mothers with higher levels of digital literacy tend to implement digital parental mediation more effectively in quiding their children regarding online pornographic risks. These findings can serve as a foundation for further studies on digital parental mediation in relation to other types of online risk conten.

Keyword: Digital literacy level, Generation Z mothers, online risk, pornographic content.

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