

Letter to the Editor

Expanding the Discussion on Internet Addiction and Suicide Risk in Adolescents

Sasha Zaki

Faculty of Medicine, Jinnah Sindh Medical University, Karachi, Pakistan

Corresponding Author:

Sasha Zaki
Faculty of Medicine
Jinnah Sindh Medical University
Rafiqui H.J Shaheed Road
Karachi, 75510
Pakistan
Phone: 92 02199205185
Email: sashazaki13@gmail.com

Related Article:Comment on: <https://www.jmir.org/2025/1/e52083>*J Med Internet Res* 2025;27:e77290; doi: [10.2196/77290](https://doi.org/10.2196/77290)**Keywords:** internet addiction; suicide risk; suicide attempts; adolescents; pathological internet use; risk factors; cohort study

I have read with immense interest the article published by Li and colleagues [1] entitled “The Association Between Internet Addiction and the Risk of Suicide Attempts in Chinese Adolescents Aged 11-17 Years: Prospective Cohort Study.” The authors’ efforts to explore the association between internet addiction and suicide attempts among Chinese adolescents are commendable, as they address mental health issues in the landscape of increasing internet use among youth. However, the authors are advised to comment on a few concerns.

The adolescents completed a self-administered questionnaire on their parents’ phones via WeChat. A study by Gearing et al [2] found a higher degree of community-level stigma toward an adolescent participant versus an adult regarding suicide in the Chinese context. This is significant, as adolescents may have withheld honest responses to

sensitive topics like suicidality out of concern that their parents might access their answers.

Moreover, it would have been beneficial to determine how the adolescents engaged with the internet. Past research suggests that certain activities are associated with an increased risk of suicidality. For instance, a Taiwanese study demonstrated that some internet activities, such as video gaming, chatting, and gambling, increased suicide risk compared to other activities, such as watching news [3]. Further categorization of adolescents based on different internet activities would provide a more nuanced understanding of how internet addiction and different online behaviors correlate to suicide risk. Additionally, it could identify “high-risk activities” and determine which behaviors contribute more significantly to suicidality.

Conflicts of Interest

None declared.

Editorial Notice

The corresponding author of “The Association Between Internet Addiction and the Risk of Suicide Attempts in Chinese Adolescents Aged 11-17 Years: Prospective Cohort Study” declined to respond to this letter.

References

1. Li S, Jin X, Song L, Fan T, Shen Y, Zhou J. The association between internet addiction and the risk of suicide attempts in Chinese adolescents aged 11-17 years: prospective cohort study. *J Med Internet Res*. Jan 3, 2025;27(1):e52083. [doi: [10.2196/52083](https://doi.org/10.2196/52083)] [Medline: [39752720](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/39752720/)]
2. Gearing RE, Brewer KB, Cheung M, Leung P, Chen W, He X. Suicide in China: community attitudes and stigma. *Omega (Westport)*. Feb 2023;86(3):809-832. [doi: [10.1177/0030222821991313](https://doi.org/10.1177/0030222821991313)] [Medline: [33535898](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33535898/)]

3. Lin IH, Ko CH, Chang YP, et al. The association between suicidality and internet addiction and activities in Taiwanese adolescents. *Compr Psychiatry*. Apr 2014;55(3):504-510. [doi: [10.1016/j.comppsy.2013.11.012](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.comppsy.2013.11.012)] [Medline: [24457034](#)]

Edited by Tiffany Leung; This is a non-peer-reviewed article; submitted 11.05.2025; final revised version received 15.05.2025; accepted 09.06.2025; published 25.06.2025

Please cite as:

Zaki S

Expanding the Discussion on Internet Addiction and Suicide Risk in Adolescents

J Med Internet Res 2025;27:e77290

URL: <https://www.jmir.org/2025/1/e77290>

doi: [10.2196/77290](https://doi.org/10.2196/77290)

© Sasha Zaki. Originally published in the Journal of Medical Internet Research (<https://www.jmir.org>), 25.06.2025. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work, first published in the Journal of Medical Internet Research (ISSN 1438-8871), is properly cited. The complete bibliographic information, a link to the original publication on <https://www.jmir.org/>, as well as this copyright and license information must be included.