

Report On Experiment On The Deprivation of Mobile Phones and Internet In Students

Introduction

This report, devised on behalf of the International Parents' Organisation, intends to examine and interpret the results and implications of an experiment aiming to identify the significance of Mobile Phones and the Internet for students by forbidding the participants the use of said assets for two weeks.

Results

Interestingly, the experiment has shown that half of the participating students started to break the rules as a result of the constraints of the experiment. However, approximately one third of the group turned towards social interactions, meeting friends, etc. and fifteen percent towards physical activity, namely doing sports. Of the remaining six percent, five began to read books and only one percent studied more.

Interpretation of Findings

In general, fifty percent of the resulting behaviour can be classified as "positive", the students mainly turning towards social and physical activities, which we deem highly desirable. Surprisingly, the number of students who reacted "negatively" and started acting out as a means of entertainment or protest is equally high.

Studying does not appear to be very much affected by the use of mobile phones and the Internet.

Implications and Suggestions

In view of the large number of positive reactions, it is suggested that parents should aim to limit their children's access to Mobile Phones and the Internet. In our opinion, the negative results can partly be explained by the *total* withholding of mentioned resources and we therefore recommend a reduction of such to a reasonable level, optimally after having included the students in the discussion.