Chapter IV

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Analysis followed by interpretation is to be done according to the objectives of the study. Following are the objectives of the present study-

(1) To understand the parent's perception on the social media.

(2) To explore the safety measure, and

(3) To explore the parent's responsibilities in keeping their ward safe as opposed to community resources and supports.

4.1. ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

The study found caregivers generally had positive experiences but also reported a lot of negative experiences or worries about their ward. The study also found most parents viewed their ward as moderately safe using the social media, but this did not assuage their concerns about specific issues such as sexual victimization, cyberbullying, and Internet addiction or dependence. Most parents also had Internet rules or some kind of monitoring system in place to keep their ward safe on the social media, but responses indicated that there are mixed opinions about whether ward need more or less monitoring as they age. Finally, the study also addresses what community resources or supports parents would benefit from. However, many parents viewed it as primarily the parent's responsibility.

Objective 1: To understand the parent's perception on the social media

This research study found that parent's perception which is made on the basis of receiving stimuli from the environment or we can say throughout their experience. Parents had a positive experience with the social media, but not a positive attitude towards the social media. Some specific positive experiences were with the educational and informational aspects of the Internet and participants monitoring experiences. Parents also expressed a few negative experiences as well, and in general, had more negative attitudes towards the social media. Parents worried about the negative effects of the social media could have on children's social relationships, social isolation, and sexual assault. A large number of parents in this research study felt the social media needed more boundaries to protect ward from these areas of concern. A study also found that parents with negative attitudes are more likely to regulate their ward. This research study found that 75% (15) of parents had Internet rules for their ward, as well as parents monitoring them. This discrepancy could be due to the evolution of the Internet and

parent's knowledge, as more than a decade later, parents are likely more knowledgeable and aware of social media dangers. Parents in this study seemed to be aware of the dangers and effects of the social media. Parents talked about experiencing their ward seeing inappropriate materials such as videos and pictures. This research study found that 100% of parents have experienced inappropriate materials on the social media with their ward. This could be due to the increase in social media use or an increase in the availability of unwanted content.

Objective 2: To explore the safety measures

The second objective was about safety measures that parents reported a lack of complete safety. Most participants viewed their ward as being moderately safe while using the social media because their ward had Internet safe guards, knowledge of right and wrong, and because of their age (e.g., too young to do differently, old enough to know). However, they were extremely concerned about the multiple threats that exist to their ward. Parents reported that their ward knew more about the social media than they did. In this study, 10 out of 20 (50 %) parents viewed that they had more Internet knowledge than their ward. This suggests that parents' knowledge of the Internet has become more advanced. However, it is uncertain whether this is actually true or whether this is just the perception of the parent. Although many parents feel they do have more knowledge of the Internet than their ward, they still have concerns about exploitation, addiction or dependence, building false relationships, and becoming socially isolated. On the other hand, parents viewed their ward's knowledge as advanced.

In regards to rules, 60% of participants in this study had Internet rules for their ward. Parents stated that namely active, restrictive, and co-viewing were the three main strategies of monitoring for parents. In the namely active category, we had several parents who keep an eye on their ward's Internet use, but also discussed what their ward are seeing with them and explained why items are good or bad. In the restrictive category, this study showed parents were using monitoring software, were self-monitoring (e.g., checking history and social media), having a common viewing area, and also having device check-ins. The co-viewing category is strictly what it is co-viewing where the parents actively view what their ward are viewing. Participants in this study use a variety of these methods and generally do not rely on one monitoring method.

Objective 3: To explore the parent's responsibilities in keeping their ward safe as opposed to community resources and supports

The last objective was to explore the parent's responsibility in keeping ward safe as opposed to community resources and supports. Many parents responded that it was primarily the parent's responsibility to make sure their ward was safe, not the responsibility of the community. In some ways, this feeling is supported by previous research. According to Livingstone (2008), the government cannot regulate the Internet because it is too vast, which leaves regulation up to parents. The Department of Education also supports that although the school does a good job monitoring, peers can still spread risky sites to each other, which puts the responsibility on parents.

Community supports and resources is an area lacking in research for how it effects on ward's safety and benefits or doesn't benefit parent's ability to protect their ward.

Livingstone (2008) mentions that ward did identify churches and social workers as important sources for safety and awareness of Internet threats. Parents in this research study also described trainings from schools or law enforcement as possibly being helpful in safety.

At the end, this study highlights the experiences parents and their ward have with the Internet, and the preventative measures needed from parents and communities need to keep ward safe while using the social media. Although parents described mostly positive experiences, they still have negative perceptions toward the social media, mainly because of predators and unwanted inappropriate content. This study identified strategies used to maintain a level of safety for ward and prevent unwanted content, while also highlighting the need for more systemic support or involvement. Although parents are primarily responsible for their ward's Internet use, the Internet is too large and complex for families to manage without assistance.