The Impact of Online Game Addiction on Adolescent Mental Health: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis

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Abstract

BACKGROUND: The World Health Organization in 2019 determined internet gaming disorder (IGD) to be mental health disorder. Among adolescents, excessive online gameplay has become a lifestyle. It associated with psychological symptoms (psychopathological symptoms and life satisfaction), social health (social interactions), and physical health (general health and body mass index). The emergency department has now become a global problem.

AIM: This study aims to analyze the impact of online game addiction on adolescents using the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews (PRISMA) approach.

MATERIALS AND METHODS: Subjects were searched extensively in PubMed, Sage, Science Direct, and Scopus databases. Searches used the keywords “online game addiction,” “mental health,” and “adolescent.” The inclusion criteria in the Pustaka study are the type of source journal, the article is written in English, the full text is available, the publication year limit is 2011–2021, and the subject’s age is 13–18 years old.

RESULTS: We identified 81 articles, of which 20 were deemed relevant for this systematic review. This review study shows that problematic online gaming behavior has strong negative correlation with various subjective health outcomes. Further analysis using Review Manager 5.3 for meta-analysis showed that adolescents with online game addiction could increase mental health disorders by 1.57 times than adolescents without online game addiction (adjusted odd ratio = 1.57 (1.28–1.94); p ≤ 0.001).

CONCLUSION: Early prevention efforts relevant to adolescents from the IGD, namely, the wise use of the internet/gadgets, are the only option to avoid or reduce the symptoms of Internet addiction and online games.

Background

Digital technology is currently advancing rapidly, making it easier for everyone to connect and share the same interests without any obstacles across geographic and temporal boundaries, convenient, flexible to reach, and affordable in developed countries; from these many advantages, there are also concerns among researchers related to the use of digital technology exaggerated [1]. One of the digital technologies that are currently in existence is online games. Online game games are currently booming among adolescent worldwide, even tournaments/competitions are held in playing them, which are integrated by the players’ social networks. Internet addiction (IA) is currently considered a global problem with possible implications for mental health [2, 3].

The way people interact with technology is constantly changing. New behaviors have improved, social and recreational activities have changed, and new psychological problems have arisen. In the late 1990s, concerns about addictive internet use were discussed, and, since then, the concept has been widely studied and debated. Although it has been treated form different angels and researchers have used additional terms, “internet addiction” has become one of the most commonly used terms, along with “internet use is problematic” [4]. As the social problem of online gaming addiction has become widespread, online gaming has become viewed negatively such as gambling or alcohol addiction [5]. With the rapid surge in the population of internet users, IA has become an increasing mental health problem worldwide, raising public concern [2]. Healthily using the internet can be understood as achieving the desired goal in an appropriate time frame without experiencing any intellectual or behavioral discomfort [6]. IA is described as an individual’s inability to control their use of the internet, which causes disruption and disruption in fulfilling work, social, and personal commitments and appears to have similarities with the category other aspects of behavior and substance use [6].

Since their commercial introduction in the 1970s, video games have become an integral part of modern leisure and entertainment. In particular, internet video
games, particularly massively multiplayer online (MMO) games, have gained increasing research attention based on a compelling combination of functionality, socialization and development of play have many positive benefits and may improve endurance, spatial visualization, problem solving, communication skills, as well as educational and therapeutic benefits. However, the harmful effects of excessive gambling in a small group of individuals have also been demonstrated experimentally. This can include increased aggressive behavior and preoccupation, increased impulsivity and a tendency to play addictive games. Stavropoulos research investigating the adverse effects of gaming has led to developing and introducing diagnostic terminologies such as internet gaming disorder (IGD) and IA [7].

According to Nie et al., 2002 [9], about “bad internet” versus “good internet” is the current debate by reviewing the influence of internet use on social skills. The essence of socializing is personal interaction (face to face) and friendliness. On the one hand, the internet leads to more and better social relations by creating another medium of communication to friends and family and seeking new relationships without geographical, cultural, and time boundaries. However, on the other hand, it is predicted that internet use can be socially isolating because time in using the internet often sacrifices social activities and face-to-face interpersonal interactions [8].

Tateno et al. 2019, in his research, found that the trend of men preferring games in their internet usage. At the same time, women use the internet mainly for social networking through smartphones, and the average SAS-SV score (the Smartphone Addiction Scale [SAS]-Short Version) higher in women. According to the primary purpose of internet use, a two-group comparison between gamers and social media users shows that gamers use the internet longer and have significantly higher average the internet addiction test (IAT) and HQ-25 scores [9].

During adolescence, new developmental tasks can pose significant challenges and psychological stress to the adolescent. In addition to practical problem-solving strategies, dysfunctional stress management strategies are often used to address these developmental tasks while also dealing with the struggle for freedom (from parental restraints, for example) or self-discovery. Given the pervasive pattern of problematic behaviors associated with adolescent digital media use, it seems quite appropriate to test whether there is an empirical relationship [10]. Addressing the issue of online gaming and the issue of mental health consequences children and adolescents playing online games is important given the usual trajectory of neurodevelopment; adolescence is characterized by increased maturation of the limbic system, which makes adolescents more likely to engage in addictive behavior than adults [11]. Therefore, this study set out to systematically examine the impact of online game addiction behavior on adolescent mental health.

This systematic review research and meta-analysis raised the theme of the impact of online game addiction on adolescent mental health. The independent variables analyzed were online game addiction. Research that discusses data on online game addiction is considered important because of its rarity. The dependent variable analyzed is adolescent mental health. The number of relevant research published and accessible is still small and also has data access problems [12]. Most of the statistical results reported are in percentage, correlation or only significant (p-value), where the study does not control for confounding factors (confounding factors).

Confounding factors affect the relationship or effect of exposure to the occurrence of the disease estimated by the study that is not the same as the relationship or effect that actually occurs in the target population, so that the outcome invalid studies [12]. This systematic study and meta-analysis uses studies that control the confounding factors that can be seen from the research inclusion requirements, namely, using multivariate analysis and the statistical results reported are adjusted odd ratio.

The combined estimate of the impact of online game addiction on adolescent mental health was processed using the RevMan 5.3 application with the generic inverse-variance method [13], [14]. This method is used to analyze data in the form of rate, time to event (time-to-event), hazard ratio (hazard ratio), ordinal scale, adjusted estimate (adjusted estimate), and difference of mean or ratio of mean.

The results of systematic studies and meta-analyses are presented in the form of forest plots and funnel plots. The forest plot shows visually the magnitude of variation (heterogeneity). The funnel plot shows the relationship between the study’s effect size and the sample size of the various studies studied, which can be measured in different ways [12].

Various studies have been conducted to reduce the risk and impact of online game addiction on adolescent mental health. And also most of the existing research is based on schools and adolescents, so this study looks at the impact of online game addiction on adolescent mental health, but the results of the research still do not show consistent results. Further analysis is needed to get a convincing conclusion regarding the impact of online game addiction on adolescent mental health using a systematic review and meta-analysis.

Methods

Strategies for finding relevant studies

Articles published in English are searched on PubMed, Science direct, Sage and Scopus. Relevant
literature was searched from February to March 2021. Publication time is limited to 2011–2021. Search terms were “online game addiction,” “mental health,” and “adolescent.” The technique used for keywords uses Boolean operators and truncation to broaden and narrow the search. Results from four databases yielded 81 articles. As the initial layer, the title and abstract are read and filtered independently by the main author and checked by the second author. Any articles that are not relevant to the topic of online game addiction are immediately removed. Inclusion criteria include journals in English published in the past ten years, data collected both qualitatively and quantitatively or a combination of both, focus of study on adolescents 13–18 years, and the full text is available.

After being collected, 81 articles were carefully examined for relevance so that 20 articles were finally selected to be included in the scope review of this journal. The last collection of articles was tabulated, and the main findings of each article were mapped to share the latest knowledge about online gaming addiction. The following data were taken from each article: Author, year and place of study, study design, and the primary purpose of the study. Guided by research questions, what are the characteristics of online game addiction symptoms and their implications for adolescents’ mental and physical health. The articles are then compared and grouped into broad categories. Eighty-one articles were carefully examined for relevance so that 20 articles were finally selected to be included in the scope review of this journal. The last collection of articles was tabulated, and the main findings of each article were mapped to share the latest knowledge about online gaming addiction. The following data were taken from each article: Author, year and place of study, study design, and the primary purpose of the study. Guided by research questions, what are the characteristics of online game addiction symptoms and their implications for adolescents’ mental and physical health. The articles are then compared and grouped into broad categories.

### Results

Results that the results obtained from 20 articles analyzed showed that almost all articles discussed and showed results about the impact of online game addiction on adolescent mental health. This impact does not only occur in adolescents, but also in adults. The results of the analysis also found that family relationships play an important role and maybe one of the risk/protective factors associated with the IGD, which has been explored as perceived family disharmony, parental inconsistency, family dysfunction, poverty, and family relationship problems [15].

Review several articles also explain the risk factors and symptoms of the emergency department. They also explain the prevention and treatment of the emergency department and policy recommendations for handling the emergency department in the field of public health. Based on the 20 articles analyzed (Table 1 and 2), seven studies (35%) were studies in 2019.

#### Table 1: General characteristics of selected studies (n=20)

| Category                        | n  | %   |
|---------------------------------|----|-----|
| Publish year                    |    |     |
| 2021                            | 9  | 45  |
| 2012                            | 4  | 20  |
| 2013                            | 1  | 5   |
| 2014                            | 1  | 5   |
| 2015                            | 1  | 5   |
| 2016                            | 1  | 5   |
| 2017                            | 2  | 10  |
| 2018                            | 2  | 10  |
| 2019                            | 7  | 35  |
| 2020                            | 6  | 30  |
| 2021                            | 1  | 5   |
| Total                           | 20 | 100 |

| Research location (country)     |    |     |
|---------------------------------|----|-----|
| Italy                           | 1  | 6.7 |
| Spanish                         | 2  | 13.3|
| India                           | 1  | 6.7 |
| Germany                        | 2  | 13.3|
| Korea                           | 2  | 13.3|
| Hong Kong                       | 1  | 6.7 |
| Taiwan                          | 2  | 13.3|
| Finland                         | 1  | 6.7 |
| Saudi Arabia                    | 1  | 6.7 |
| Belgium                         | 1  | 6.7 |
| United Kingdom                  | 2  | 13.3|
| China                           | 1  | 6.7 |
| Turkey                          | 1  | 6.7 |
| Spain                           | 1  | 6.7 |
| Germany & Austria               | 1  | 6.7 |
| Total                           | 20 | 100 |

https://oamjms.eu/index.php/mjms/index
Purwaningsih and Nurmala. Online Game Addiction on Adolescent Mental Health

Online game addiction is considered as a diagnosis in the International Classification of Diseases (ICD) 11th edition. The American Psychiatric Association (APA) definition of IGD in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5) 5th Edition follows the criteria for substance abuse and problem gambling. The above behavior patterns are quite severe enough to cause significant damage in the areas of personal, family, social, educational, work, or other essential functions [22].

According to research by Fernández-Villa et al., 2015 [23], found a significant relationship between several health problems (migraine, back pain, overweight or obesity, and insufficient rest), psychological aspects (risk of eating disorders, risk of mental disorders, and depression), family problems and discrimination, without any association with substance use (alcohol, marijuana, or tobacco) was found. However, for some players, overuse fosters dependence, leading to negative psychosocial and health consequences konsekuen[24].

A literature review conducted by Mihara and Higuchi found that the prevalence of IGD ranges from 0.7% to 27.5%, depending on the sample. The rate is higher for men than for women and tends to be higher for young people. The prevalence rates found in different studies also vary slightly from country to country. Factors associated with IGD are gambling characteristics, demographic variables, family socioeconomic level, and academic performance [25].
IA/addiction (such as online gaming) has detrimental effects on the lives of adolescents, such as reduced academic performance, physical and mental health and adolescent relationships. Therefore, monitoring internet usage behavior such as online gaming among adolescents is necessary for early detection of IA. IGD is associated with well-documented psychological distress. For example, the IGD has been associated with depression, anxiety, obsessive-compulsive behavior with inattention, hyperactivity, low self-esteem, loneliness, and social phobia [26], [27]. A study in India stated that depression is a major comorbid disorder of IA, self-esteem is an individual's attitude toward himself which can be positive or negative and is understood as one of the core components of depression. Thus, individuals with irrational cognitive assumptions about themselves are likely to have lower self-esteem and tend to engage in addictive behaviors that help them temporarily break away from their cognitive premises about themselves [5].

In a study conducted by Niko Mannikko, Joel Billiex and Maria Kaariainen Oulu with the topic “Problematic digital gaming behavior and its relation to the psychological, social and physical health of Finnish adolescents and young adults” the results showed a significant relationship between fatigue, depression, anxiety, trouble sleeping, and problems when focusing on problem gaming scores (online game addiction) [28].

A study conducted by Han et al., 2020, examined the relationship between the genre of online gambling and IGD risk of erectile dysfunction in school-going adolescents. The research subjects are only users of online games and the general characteristics show that the percentage of boys (67.7%) is higher than that of girls. Overall, the rate of gambling use by gender tends to be higher for men than for women. A 2015 survey of gaming usage rates in the general population found that among all online gaming users, the percentage of men was 66.3%, a trend consistent with the current survey [16]. Meanwhile, the prevalence of IGD in high-risk individuals was 10.1% in this study, similar to the 11.5% and 9.0% reported by the previous studies of IGD prevalence [25], [26]. However, due to the differences in the tools is used in each study [29].

Research conducted by Alshehri and Mohamed, 2019 in Saudi Arabia shows that playing video games negatively affects men's health, social relationships, and physical activity. The most negative endpoint was the correlation between video games and physical activity ($r = 0.49$), followed by social relationships ($r = 0.42$) and BMI ($r = 0.31$). The lowest results were in health ($r = 0.20$). More empirical investigations are needed to explore the deeper effects of video games on different groups in Saudi society, including the general population, employees, and school types, and different students [30].

In a study conducted by Deleuze et al., 2017 with participants who were players over 18 attending universities in Belgium, questioned the validity of the IGD DSM-5 Criteria using the original method of multiple classifiers. This study requires further development and refinement of the diagnostic criteria used to define the IGD on a broader level. In particular, Deleuze et al. believe that establishing a specific list of diagnostic criteria for IGD also requires focusing on the unique psychological and behavioral characteristics associated with the disease [31], rather than simply exploiting the similarities with substance abuse disorders. In addition, the diagnostic criteria must make it possible to separate the increased healthy association with the pathology to limit the risk of pathologically normal behavior. Regarding the latter, the latest guidelines provided by the World Health Organization (WHO) (2017) in the beta version of the 11th revision of the ICD appear to be an improvement, as they do not include peripheral criteria and take explicitly into account the functional impairment as a mandatory diagnostic criterion.

A study in Korea on the gap between self-report and clinical diagnosis of IGD in adolescents conducted by Jeong et al. 2018 concluded that the difference in diagnosis was IGD between self-report and clinical diagnosis reveals limits of self-measurement. Various strategies are needed to fill the gap in self-assessment methodology for IGD assessment. It is difficult to accurately assess adolescents risk behaviors using self-reported questionnaires. Adolescents at risk for various disorders may not want to reveal specific facts about themselves, and they may deliberately conceal risky behavior that is not socially desirable. The effects of social desirability can threaten the validity of the results because the responses are systematically biased by definition respondent, who wanted to present themselves in a favorable condition, may or may not consciously adjust their responses to make their behavior less deviant and more social as the social desire bias causes players to underreport their playing time to online games can also signal a lack of time to play games for other reasons (e.g., losing track of time while immersed in an activity). The way data are collected can influence the degree of social desire bias may or may not consciously adjust their responses to make their behavior less deviant and the more social postulate that social desire bias causes gamers to underreport their playing time. Individuals who play online games may also underreport gaming time for other reasons (e.g., lost track of time while immersed in an activity). The way data are collected can affect the degree of social desirability bias [32].

According to Volmer et al., 2014 research results on adolescents in Turkey concluded that the types of adolescents who play online games at night may be more prone to computer game addiction than the types of adolescents who play online games in the morning [33].
Risk factor of online game addiction

User motivation to play online games

The IGD risk factor is the user’s motivation for play online games. Higher risk when the reason is to relieve stress, and or avoid reality. This motive is associated with specific games such as first-person shooters, which play for skill and control, but a third of online multiplayer games play (MMORPG) that players play to relieve stress and deal with boring daily activities. Wanting to escape reality is a necessary motivation when faced with the problem of using online games. However, there are serious gaps in research on the effects of online gaming, as some studies have taken gaming platforms into account. Most studies on the health effects of online gaming have focused on the effects of online gaming on personal computers, specifically the MMO battle arena games MMORPG 240 (MOBAS). However, CVG smartphones like Candy Crush Saga can be addictive because they can be played anywhere and anytime for entertainment, connecting with friends, enjoying the feeling of victory while relaxing or killing time, and the use of these games is lonely and lacks of self-control [18].

Types of online games

At present, the most popular video games are MMO role-playing games (MMORPGs), flash games, and online slots. MMORPGs are online role-playing game that mainly focuses on fantasy stories or storyline conflicts. It is about creating a digital avatar, an identity and an appearance, and a virtual world where the players interact through their avatar [3]. Yee’s three motivators in Goh et al., 2019 to play MMORPG (Directing, Social Interaction, and Inclusion) were tested as a mediator between playtime and psychological well-being. Research found that an increase in gaming was associated with lower psychological well-being, especially when players had a greater incentive to indulge and avoid, leading to a negative relationship between alcohol use and addiction, using games to escape real-life problems and poor mental health [34].

IGD and family relationship

Emerging evidence suggests that family relationships play an important role and maybe one of the risk/protective factors associated with the IGD that has been explored as perceived family disharmony, parental inconsistency, family dysfunction, poverty, and family relationship problems [15].

From the study on “Multi-dimensional correlates of IA symptoms in adolescents with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder” conducted by Chou et al. in some adolescents (11–18 years old) diagnosed with ADHD (attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder symptoms) in Taiwan results show that low satisfaction with family relationships was the most important predicting of IA severe, followed by the use of instant messaging (messenger), watching movies, the fun-seeking system (behavioral approach system [BAS]), and the Behavioral Inhibition System that scored high. Meanwhile, poor father’s work, poor BAS drive, and online gaming were significantly associated with severe IA symptoms [35], [36]. While, ADHD symptoms include inattention, hyperactivity, impulsivity, and oppositional symptoms of oppositional (aggressive) disorders [36], [37]. The previous studies explored these aspects in subjects with IGD and has led researchers to propose a classification of different types of players. Lee and collaborators identified three main types: Impulsive/aggressive gamers, emotionally vulnerable players, and socially conditioned players [2].

Jia et al., 2021 summarize internet overuse’s dynamic findings and clarify how peer transmission occurs with Internet overuse behavior and peer attitudes toward internet overuse [38]. According to Choi et al. 2018 in his research showed the results that adolescents from dual-income families had a significant relationship with all factors of online game addiction and juvenile delinquency [4].

Impact of the emergency room

Hui et al. 2019 wrote that online gaming is a global concern, especially in China. According to the China Internet Network Information Center, the number of domestic online game players has increased from 336 million to 422 million in the past 5 years, achieving a growth rate of 25%. Although recognized for recreational function of online gaming, excessive and prolonged online gaming can have adverse effects, including poor academic performance, poor health, and feelings of loneliness, as well as a lack of real relationships. More seriously and specifically, online gamers may eventually develop an IGD, which has been labeled as a condition for further investigation in the DSM-5 and recognized as a new mental health condition in the 11th WHO as a new mental health problem, edition of the ICD-11. As high schools, technical high schools, technical schools, and college students make up the majority (55%) of Chinese online game players, further research attention should be devoted to reduce the risk of IGD on campus [39].

Kumcagiz’s research in Turkey showed the results of a one-way ANOVA test that students whose fathers had a low level of education were more likely to have higher IA scores than students whose fathers had a high level of education. The results of Pearson’s product-moment correlation coefficient showed that students’ IA scores were negatively correlated with age, mean grades, maternal care, maternal overprotection, paternal overprotection, and paternal overprotection. However, the stepwise regression analysis results showed that the most important predictors of IA
scores were maternal overprotection and paternal overprotection; the results also show that age, mean grades, maternal care, and paternal care [40].

Research by Lin et al., 2014 [41] on adolescents in Taiwan showed that adolescents with IA were more likely to have suicidal ideation and attempts. Given that IA is associated with depression, low-income family support, and low self-esteem, these factors increase the risk of suicide.

**Treatment of online game addiction**

Cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT)-based manual treatment

In 2013, the APA included IGD in the fifth edition of the DSM-5 [43] in the attachment to DSM 5, it is added that the emergency department is included as a condition that requires further research before being classified as an official mental disorder [31]. The WHO in 2019 determined that the IGD is one of the mental health disorders [43]. According to the two organizations, IGD disorder refers to a minimum period of out-of-control behavior. The priority is internet games such as online games and neglecting other activities such as social activities, work, study, recreation, and other important activities that cause adverse effects. In adolescents, it can be in the form of decreased achievement, lazy to study and others. Other technology-mediated behaviors are thought to be linked to adverse mental health effects, including the use of social media, smartphones, and online pornography [1].

According to Wolfling et al., 2019, the long-term treatment for internet and computer game addiction is manual treatment based on CBT for 15 weeks for IA. This model is based on the integrated process model of internet addiction (InPRIA-model) which conceptualizes IA due to a dynamic interaction of individual factors, online activity features, dysfunctional coping strategies, and addiction-specific cognitive biases. Treatment phase overview 15-minute group sessions (100 min) and eight individual sessions (60 min) interspersed in the program to promote treatment motivation and provide crisis intervention. A clinical psychologist carries out therapy or physical doctor who has completed psychotherapy training and is undergoing CBT training continued [43].

Many terms have been used to describe IGD in the literature including internet game addiction, online game addiction, computer game addiction, and pathological game. Following the APA category, the term IGD is used in the current article. The IGD as a newly proposed mental disorder was not recognized by primary care providers (PCPs) in its infancy. However, the IGD cannot be ignored and is a severe health problem, likely to be underreported and underestimated in clinical practice. PCPs from various disciplines, including family physicians, mental health counselors, and community nurses play an important role in the early recognition and timely provision of IGD care [44].

IGD screening tools-TIG TOC and instruments problematic internet use questionnaire (PIQ)

In today’s modern era cannot be separated from the internet and online games. However, it is important to wisely control their use and distinguish between problematic and non-problematic games to play, especially for adolescent. There needs to be a screening tool that can determine clinically and identify game disorders for individuals who need professional help. When discussing characteristics related to online game addiction problems, one of the variables often mentioned is excessive use, namely, the amount of time spent playing online games. According to Sun et al., 2020, the sensitivity and specificity of time spent playing online games do not adequately serve as a screening tool to assess the risk of online gaming disorder. The greatest strength of the current study is that we evaluated the criteria-related validity of the TIGTOC using a methodology that met the Quality Assessment of Diagnostic Accuracy Studies tool — International quality standards for diagnostic studies. To do so, a blind mental health specialist conducted a one-one diagnostic interview with all subjects to establish an IGD diagnosis based on the DSM-5 criteria; this diagnosis is used as the external gold standard. In this study, the empirical cutoff score on the TIGTOC was sufficient to distinguish between non-problematic and problematic use of online games. In addition, Sun Je Jo found that TIG-TOC scores were positively associated with weekly time spent playing online games, measures of IA obtained through the IAT, ADHD symptoms, and depressive symptoms; TIGTOC is a reliable tool with a high Cronbach alpha. However, despite the strength that the gold standard for ED diagnosis is determined through such a rigorous process [11].

According to Rodda et al. [46], although evidence suggests that most people self-medicate their IA, little is known about the type, or efficacy, of the methods they employ. Technology addiction may contribute to poor academic performance and depression. This requires studies on a larger scale, with interventions for judicious use of gadgets [46].

A study in Japan provided evidence of the Japanese version of the PIQ. In this study, the shortened form of the PIUQ is the shortest continuous scale available to assess PIU in Japan. Due to its concise and convenient format, this newly translated measure will facilitate investigation of PIU in the Japanese population and provide a screening tool and allow cross-cultural comparisons. It will also be useful for assessment in the evaluation, prevention, and treatment of PIU in public health [47].
**Policy recommendations**

**Approach to stakeholders**

To prevent the emergence of problematic use of technology and reduce harm, a multi-stakeholder approach is needed. Relevant government agencies and industries benefit from the implementation of approaches such as researchers, doctors, regulators, government agencies, community organizations, and industry. Relevant government agencies and industries that benefit from the implementation of online games such as online gambling, have a duty to maintain, social responsibility, and moral obligations to avoid practices that can increase losses due to online gambling games and take active steps to prevent and reduce the hazards associated with them. Likewise, user protection and prevention of harm are clinical and moral obligations for professionals who work in online games and activities that can potentially harm users. There is a need for user information and behavioral prevention approaches adopted in different countries, focusing on skill-building, protecting users, limiting any harm, and simultaneously assessing risky behavior. Community organizations and governments should engage in education and awareness campaigns to help technology users develop the skills and behaviors critical of the content they consume and develop safe practices such as boundary setting. There is a need for user information and behavioral prevention approaches adopted in different countries, focusing on skill-building, protecting users, limiting any harm, and simultaneously assessing risky behavior. Community organizations and governments should engage in education and awareness campaigns to help technology users develop the skills and behaviors to be critical of the content they consume and develop safe practices such as boundary setting. There is a need for user information and behavioral prevention approaches adopted in different countries, focusing on skill-building, protecting users, limiting any harm, and simultaneously assessing risky behavior. Community organizations and governments should engage in education and awareness campaigns to help technology users develop the skills and behaviors to be critical of the content they consume and develop safe practices such as boundary setting.

**Product design and consumer protection tools**

To create norms around technology use behavior and an understanding of the possible problematic use of technology, an international perspective is essential as the cultural context plays a major role. It is not enough to rely on individual behavior for the prevention of harm ranging from mild to severe, government organizations and regulators must also act to prevent products, the environment and marketing that may be too harmful for those most vulnerable to problems that will develop especially in young people and those with mental health problems. For online gaming, there needs to be establishing a framework for appropriate and non-conforming product design and requirements for consumer protection tools such as limiting in-game spending and time. Research is needed that informs the suitability of using certain digital technologies across user age groups and implementing relevant user protections. Implications for clinical practice include establishing dialogue among experts in the field, including physicians, social workers, educators, technology users, and other interested people. A good balance must be struck where everyday behaviors are not pathological and risky behaviors are identified and prevented from developing into problematic behaviors. A developmental perspective needs to be considered when young users and behavioral problems need to be contextualized according to the families involved in the treatment [1]. In addition, providing information and interventions appear to be a critical public health strategy for preventing and addressing problems in all settings [49].

**Promoting education on offline and online health behavior in adolescent populations**

The second policy is aimed at all Internet users, especially those who appear to be at greater risk of developing addiction problems related to internet use. All the studies reviewed have highlighted the general aspects of promoting healthy internet use, particularly among adolescents and young adults, as some game genres are highly demanding regarding competition and social engagement (e.g., MMORPGs). Preventive measures that can be taken include:

1. **To encourage alternative motivation, involvement in alternative entertainment behaviors (also those including internet use), new coping skills, cognitive and emotional skills, healthy attachment styles to reduce the risk of internet use-related problems and to reduce Internet use, if needed (e.g., through alerts and notifications) and to provide alternative relaxation options (e.g., reading, meeting people, and engaging in physical activity)**

2. **To detect the risk of experiencing comorbidities or other problems and address them with professional support and the support of significant others (e.g., caregivers in adolescents) and embrace a systemic approach**

3. **Suppose there is a problem with internet use. In that case, all Internet use-related addictions should be assessed simultaneously, as many of the studies reviewed were clinical studies on gaming addiction, which together with gambling in young adults appear to represent a worst-case scenario in this regard [48].**
Discussion

Research studies around online game addiction and its relationship to adolescent mental health are still very limited. This systematic review study describes the above topics regarding the health effects of the IGD in detail starting from the type of IGD, IGD risk factors, and IGD treatment.

Figure 2 shows the areas where articles were published according to the inclusion criteria. The articles in this study come from three continents, namely, Asia, Europe, and North America.

In De Pascuale’s research, the data showed a positive correlation between higher online game use and higher rates of depression \( (r = 0.501) \), anxiety \( (r = 0.361) \) and psychotism \( (r = 0.431) \), and lower family and extra-family relationships \( (r = 0.383) \), and lower family and extra-family relationships \( (r = 0.383) \). In linear regression analysis, somatization \( (p = 0.002) \), depression \( (p = 0.001) \), and sleep disturbance \( (p = 0.003) \) were predictors of IGD diagnosis. IGD was significantly associated with mental health disorders. In line with the results of research by Beranuy et al., 2020, a positive and significant relationship was found between IGDS9-SF (Internet gaming disorder short-form scale), CERM (Mobile-related Experience), and OGD-Q (Online Gambling Disorder Questionnaire). Participants classified with the IGD had a poorer health-related quality of life. Almost all selected studies showed the same result, namely, the existence of a significant relationship between the behavior of the emergency room and the mental health of adolescents in particular.

Table 3 shows seven observational study articles on the impact of online game addiction on adolescent mental health. Five studies came from the Asian continent (three from Japan, one Korea, and one Taiwan), and the other two studies came from the North American continent and the European continent (Mexico and Spain). Suppose adolescent play online and offline games excessively without knowing the time. In that case, it can cause adolescent to neglect other activities, even to eat, to have a destructive impact on their nutritional status. According to psychologist Tara Adhisti de Thouars during the lightHOUSE Indonesia media gathering at Wyly’s Kitchen di Jakarta on Friday 24 February 2017 inEvana Nisa’ul Ammar and Ira Nurmalia 2020 eating disorders have a very serious impact, namely, death, eating disorders themselves are a health problem that contributes to high mortality rates in clinical cases of mental disorders. The existence of
Table 2: Summary table of selected studies

| Author                     | Research design        | Sample                                                                 | Variable                                                                                                          | Results                                                                                                                                 |
|----------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| De Pasquale et al. (2020)  | Quantitative           | 566 young adults (324 boys/242 girls; ages 16-35 years: 22.74 ± 4.83 years) in Italy | Online game use, depression, anxiety, psychosomatic family relationships, sleep disorders, data collected by questionnaire Internet Gaming Distraction Scale Short Form (IGDS-SF), the APA symptom checklist, based on the DSM-5 diagnostic criteria for the ED; Revised Symptom-90 Checklist (SCL-90-R); and the Social Adaptation Self-Evaluation Scale (SASS). Mobile Phone-Related Experiences (CERM). Internet Gaming Disorder Short Form (IGD9-SF), Online Gambling Disorders Questionnaire (OGD-Q), and KIDSCREEN-27 with health-related quality of life. | The data showed a positive correlation between higher online game use and higher rates of depression (r = 0.501), anxiety (r = 0.361) and psychosomatic family relations (r = 0.431) (0.383). In linear regression analysis, somatization (p = 0.002), depression (p = 0.001) and sleep disturbances (p = 0.003) were predictors of ED diagnosis. ED was significantly associated with mental health disorders. |
| Beranuy et al. (2020)      | Quantitative           | 535 Vocational Training students in Spain (mean age 18.35 years: SD ± 2.13; 78.5% male) who reported playing video games in the last 12 months | Internet use behavior with psychological stress, especially depression problematic alcohol use, problematic gaming, problematic social media use, problematic Internet use and mental health. | A positive and significant relationship was found between IGDS9-SF, CERM, and OGD-Q. Participants classified with the ED had a poorer health-related quality of life. |
| Nitin et al. (2018)        | a cross-sectional study design | 1763 medical students aged 18 – 21 years in three cities in India | Internet addiction is significantly and positively correlated with psychological distress in medical students in India. | Correlation analysis showed a statistically significant positive bivariate relationship between the four respective behavioral patterns. Antisocial behavior is associated with all problematic behavior patterns. Meanwhile, emotional distress, self-esteem problems and hyperactivity/inattention were not only associated with non-substance-related problematic behavior patterns. TIGTOC scores were positively associated with time spent playing online games, depressive symptoms, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder symptoms, and addictive internet use. |
| Wartberg and Kammert (2020)| Quantitative           | 633 adolescent (median age: 15.79 years) in Germany | Internet use variables (time spent online and playing games) and school-related psychological variables (procrastination, learning behavior, and social behavior) were assessed through a self-report questionnaire. | In particular, it was found that parental education and family income significantly moderated the relationship between the amount of Internet use and the severity of PLI. This study shows the importance of school-related factors in the development of the IUD, especially psychological factors that play a role in the school environment. |
| Jo et al. (2020)           | Cohort Study           | 2319 teenage internet users in Korea | The Three-Item-Online-Centered Gaming Disorder Test (TIGTOC) consists of three items using a four-point Likert scale selected from the Internet Gaming Induced Symptoms Screen (I-Guess). | In particular, it was found that parental education and family income significantly moderated the relationship between the amount of Internet use and the severity of PLI. This study shows the importance of school-related factors in the development of the IUD, especially psychological factors that play a role in the school environment. |
| Lai and Kwan (2017)        | Quantitative           | 744 students from two Hong Kong secondary schools | Adolescent problematic Internet use and family socio-economic variables. | In particular, it was found that parental education and family income significantly moderated the relationship between the amount of Internet use and the severity of PLI. This study shows the importance of school-related factors in the development of the IUD, especially psychological factors that play a role in the school environment. |
| Kindt et al. (2019)        | longitudinal, randomized controlled study | 418 students aged between 11 and 21 years (M = 15.10, SD = 1.97), in Germany | School-related factors such as absenteeism, school grades, procrastination, school-related social behaviors, and learning behaviors and IUD symptoms (Internet use disorder) Internet use variables (time spent online and playing games) and school-related psychological variables (procrastination, learning behavior, and social behavior) were assessed through a self-report questionnaire. | In particular, it was found that parental education and family income significantly moderated the relationship between the amount of Internet use and the severity of PLI. This study shows the importance of school-related factors in the development of the IUD, especially psychological factors that play a role in the school environment. |
| González-Bueso et al. (2020)| Quantitative           | 66 ED adolescent patients were referred consecutively at a mental health center in Barcelona, Spain | Subject's Personality and Symptom Check List/90 items- Revised, all State-Trait Anxiety Index scales, and DSM-5 IGD criteria. | Gaussian mixed model cluster analysis was used to classify subjects based on their personality. Two groups based on personality traits were detected: type I “high comorbid symptoms” (n = 24), and type II “low comorbid symptoms” (n = 42). Type I includes higher scores on the traits of introverted, inhibited, doleful, unruly, strong, antagonistic, condescending and borderline tendencies, and lower scores on traits historic, egotistical and conformable. Type I scores higher on all 90-item Revised Symptom Check Lists, all State-Trait Anxiety Index scales, and the ED DSM-5 criteria. The results showed that low satisfaction with family relationships was the strongest predictor of severe internet addiction symptoms, followed by instant messaging, watching movies, Behavioral Approach System pleasure-seeking, and high Behavioral Inhibition System scores. Meanwhile, SES (parental occupational socioeconomic status) low father's occupation, low BAS drive, and online gaming were also significantly associated with severe internet addiction. |
| Chou et al. (2014)         | Quantitative           | A total of 287 adolescents diagnosed with ADHD and aged between 11 and 18 years in Taiwan | Internet addiction, family relationship satisfaction, instant messaging, watching movies, pleasure-seeking (BAS), Behavioral Inhibition System, SES, and online gaming behavior. | In particular, it was found that parental education and family income significantly moderated the relationship between the amount of Internet use and the severity of PLI. This study shows the importance of school-related factors in the development of the IUD, especially psychological factors that play a role in the school environment. |
| Lin et al. (2021)          | Cross Sectional        | 320 adolescent and siblings in Taiwan | Internet gaming disorder, psychological stress, and sleep problematic gaming behavior, psychological, social, and physical health symptoms. | The pair effect of the IGDS-SF score on depression, anxiety, stress, and insomnia severity was significant in both adolescents. Problematic gaming behavior was associated with psychological and health problems, namely fatigue, sleep disturbances, depression and anxiety symptoms. Multiple linear regression showed that weekly play volume, depression and preference for online social interaction predicted an increase in problematic gaming symptoms. |
| Männikkö et al. (2015)     | Cross Sectional        | 290 respondents aged 13-24 years in Finland | High risk of Internet gaming disorder and online game genres used by adolescent | In particular, it was found that parental education and family income significantly moderated the relationship between the amount of Internet use and the severity of PLI. This study shows the importance of school-related factors in the development of the IUD, especially psychological factors that play a role in the school environment. |
| Han et al. (2020)          | Cross-Sectional       | 1,532 high school students using online games in Seoul, Korea | High risk of Internet gaming disorder and online game genres used by adolescent | This cross-sectional study found an association between online game genre and ED risk in adolescents who attend school. |
| Alshehri et al. (2019)     | Cross-sectional survey study | 194 respondents aged 17.23 ± 1.52 years in Saudi Arabia | Behavior of playing electronic games in regards to health, social relationships, and physical activity in men. | The results showed that playing electronic games negatively correlated with health, social relationships, and physical activity in men. The most significantly negative was the correlation between electronic games and physical activity (r = 0.49), followed by social relations (r = 0.42) and BMI (r = 0.31). The lowest outcome was for health (r = 0.20). |

(Contd...)
serious psychological and medical conditions triggers a person’s psychiatric condition, namely eating disorders [49]. According to research by Fernández-Villa et al., 2015 [24] found that a significant relationship between several health problems (migraine, back pain, overweight or obesity, and insufficient rest), psychological aspects (risk of eating disorders, risk of mental disorders, and depression), family problems and discrimination, without any association with substance use (alcohol, marijuana, or tobacco) was found. For some players, however, excessive use fosters dependence which leads to negative psychosocial and health consequences. Research by Lin et al., 2014 on adolescents in Taiwan showed that adolescents with internet addiction were more likely to have suicidal ideation and attempts. Given that IA is associated with depression, poor family support, and low self-esteem, these factors increase the risk of suicide. Seeing that the emergency department is equipped with addiction diseases such as narcotics addiction, perhaps the same thing applied to recovery can also be done for IA, especially online games, as it is important to have family support. This is under the results of a literature study by Devy Mulia Sari et al., 2021 on drug addicts. The existence of a good family role makes the recovery process more effective because a drug abuser will feel motivated towards the support provided [50].

Mental health is currently a problem faced by adolescent, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. The use of social media by adolescent has also increased due to the coronavirus pandemic. This situation risks an increased risk of a decline in adolescent mental health due to posting self-presentations through social media such as Instagram. Tateno in his research found that the trend of men preferring games in their internet usage while women use the internet mainly for social networking via smartphones, and the average SAS-SV score (the SAS-Short Version) higher in women, this is in line with the review Ferina Agustina Yuarta, Ira Nirmala, 2021 which shows the findings that social media users are mostly women as much as 51% while for men, 49% [51].

### Table 2: (Continued)

| Author (year) | Research design | Sample | Variable | Results |
|---------------|-----------------|--------|----------|---------|
| Deleuze et al. (2017) | Cross-Sectional | 165 participants in the UK. | 1.05 – 1.39 | No significant association with poorer psychological well-being. The runaway motivation partly mediates this relationship. Self-esteem found to moderate the negative impact of ‘escape’ games on psychological well-being. |
| Goh et al. (2019) | Cross-Sectional | 402 students aged 17 to 25 in Japan | 0.54 – 5.10 | 0.001 |
| Throuvala et al. (2019) | Quantitative | 270 students age 15.6 – 2.7 years in Greece | 1.21 | Student internet addiction in relation to parental attachment and socio-demography |
| Buza-Aguado et al. (2018) | Quantitative | 708 students age 15.6 – 2.7 years were included. Malaga-Spain | 0.54 – 5.10 | Multivariate analysis showed that IGD+ scores were significantly associated with poorer health and psychosocial adjustment (p < 0.001) |
| Wölfing et al. (2019) | Multicenter randomized clinical trial | 143 men were randomized to either the treatment group (STICA; n = 72) or the waiting list control group (WLC; n = 71). The main inclusion criteria were male gender and internet addiction as the main diagnosis in Germany and Austria | 0.54 – 5.10 | Internet gaming addiction (ER), health, psychosocial, gender, type of game |

### Table 3: The impact of online game addiction on adolescent mental health

| Author (year) | Country | Adjusted odd ratio | 95% CI | p-value |
|---------------|---------|--------------------|--------|---------|
| Aguado et al. (2018) | Spain | 1.66 | 0.34 – 5.10 | 0.538 |
| Borges et al. (2019) | Mexico | 1.90 | 1.40 – 2.58 | 0.005 |
| Han et al. (2020) | Korea | 1.52 | 1.03 – 2.24 | 0.001 |
| Kawaha et al. (2016) | Japan | 1.42 | 0.95 – 2.12 | 0.050 |
| Kojima et al. (2018) | Japan | 1.81 | 1.11 – 2.95 | 0.010 |
| Lin et al. (2014) | Taiwan | 1.21 | 1.05 – 1.39 | 0.002 |
| Otsuba et al. (2019) | Japan | 2.39 | 1.36 – 4.20 | < 0.001 |
To prevent the emergence of problematic use of technology and reduce harm, a multi-stakeholder approaches such as researchers, doctors, regulators, government agencies, community organizations, and industry is used. There is a need for health promotion about the dangers of online game addiction in adolescents as an intervention measure. However, this is sometimes inconsistent between several stakeholders. This is following the qualitative research conducted by Mutmainah et al., 2020, which showed the results that not all stakeholders have strong strength, positive attitude, and active interest in developing adolescent health promotion media. Only two stakeholders (health sector and NGO) have a “savior” category because these stakeholders have health programs. Many stakeholders should be involved, but there is still overlap in reality, and some stakeholders even say that it is not important youth health promotion media. Stakeholder providers tend to have weak power and passive interest because media youth health promotion is usually given directly from stakeholder decision makers [51]. The most possible thing to do health promotion about the dangers of online game addiction is with confidence in the sustainable supporting factors recognizing the important role of stakeholders to advocate the re-activation of peer educator programs for high school students as a clear sign of support [53].

Internet technology has dramatically changed our daily lives and also changed the way we communicate. As social media apps become more popular, users are more closely connected to the internet and time spent with other people in the real world decreases. Boys often isolate themselves from the social community to engage in games online while women use the internet to avoid being ostracized addicted to the Internet and Smartphones for their online communication. Mental health providers should be aware of the seriousness of IA. Wise use of the internet is the only relevant prevention at this time to avoid the IGD.

Figure 3 shows the results of the forest plot of the impact of online game addiction on adolescent mental health. The results of the forest plot show that adolescents with online game addiction can increase mental health disorders by 1.57 times compared to adolescents who do not have online game addiction. The results were statistically significant ($p \leq 0.001$). Heterogeneity ($I^2 = 53\%$) indicates the spread of heterogeneous data (random effect model).

Figure 4 shows no publication bias indicated by the symmetrical shape of the graph, there are three plots on the right and three plots on the left. The left plot has a standard error of 0.2 to moderate. The plot on the right has a standard error between 0.6 and 0.2. The absence of bias can also be seen from the balanced distance between studies in both the right and left plots.

**Conclusion**

A systematic study conducted by researchers focused on online game addiction and adolescent mental health. Articles based on specific inclusion criteria showed a significant relationship between excessive online gaming behavior (addiction) and adolescent mental health. Future researchers are expected to use this systematic review study as a reference when trying to assess the impact of excessive online gaming behavior on adolescent mental health and relevant and clinically tested prevention and treatment.
Author’s Contribution

Eni Purwaningsih is the main writer who selects topics, searches and collects research data and analyze research data; Ira Nirmala played a role in reviewing articles.

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