An Analysis of Thai Student Teacher Appropriate Internet Use Behaviour

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Abstract—The goals of this research were to analyse and develop a Hierarchical Linear Model (HLM) of appropriate Internet use behaviour of Thai student teachers. The sample group consisted of 1,800 student teachers studying for their bachelor’s degree at 30 Thai government educational institutions. The research tool used was a questionnaire with content validity and reliability at 0.83 – 0.92. Mean (𝑥̄), standard deviation (S.D.), and HLM were used to analyse the data. The findings revealed that appropriate Internet use behaviour in Thai student teachers was at a high level. Additionally, the HLM for appropriate Internet use behaviour for Thai student teachers consisted of two levels of predictor variables. The first level was the student teacher level, in which six of the hypothesized nine predictor variables had statistical significance. Five had a positive effect, which included ability, affect, family situation, gender, and GPA, while one variable had a negative effect, which was income. The second level was the institutional level, which contained two predictor variables with statistical significance, friends and educational institution situation, with both having positive effects. Friends had a direct effect on behaviour at the educational institution level, while educational institution situation had an effect through ability.

Keywords—Hierarchical Linear Model, Internet addiction, Internet behaviour, Thailand

1 Introduction

Advances in technology play significant roles in peoples’ lives, in terms of study, work, and daily life. For this reason, educational institutions adjust their instructional patterns to gain more benefits from information technology, whereas learners adapt their learning approaches by using more information technology [1]. However, problems arising from excessive Internet use have been documented worldwide, including in Thailand, where the use of the Internet has increased noticeably and Internet addiction (IA) has become a serious social problem [2] – [5].

Fortunately, the use of the Internet for learning is the key educational innovation in the modern world and a pillar for sustainable development [6]. Learners in formal and non-formal educational systems, as well as those in self-learning systems, have more
of a chance to learn from the Internet [7]. However, there are a multitude of factors which have been identified over the years since the Internet’s introduction as what constitute a learner’s appropriate Internet use behaviour [8].

In Russia, a study was conducted on college students and discovered that 60% used the Internet for school-related activities, followed by e-mail (55%), entertainment (50%), chatting (24%), and searching for pornography (6%) [9]. The students also reported that Internet use for downloading illegal and pirated items such as movies and music was an acceptable activity. Other examples include a learner’s personal characteristics and background, such as psychological factors, and external factors, such as surroundings. This is consistent with [10], who stated that problematic Internet use is potentially high in individuals who have previously shown a history of impulse control problems and addictive disorders.

Student teachers as a group are very familiar with the Internet today and are therefore expected to use this technological medium with professional care in teaching and life. It has also been added that a pre-service teacher’s mentor plays a critical role in how much or how little technology a student teacher will use in their own classroom [11]. Therefore, appropriate Internet use behaviour in student teachers is considered a vital behaviour trait which needs to be examined, to see whether they currently have appropriate Internet use behaviour or not, and what variables cause their behaviour, and how these variables are related.

For this reason, the researchers would like to study appropriate Internet use behaviour in student teachers from which a causal relationship model is planned. An HLM is proposed for the study as it is an excellent tool for data analysis when data is nested where groups of units are clustered together in an organized fashion, such as students within classrooms within schools (as is the case with the proposed study) [12]. Also, an HLM can analyze the collected data of each level separately, which helps the researcher find out the effect of the independent and dependent variables at each level [13]. In this research, the researchers identified independent variables at two levels; the unit level, which was the student level, and the group level, which was the educational institution level. Also, independent variables involved with student teacher internal and external variables were examined [14] – [15].

This is consistent with a Thai student study in which human behaviour was examined from both internal and external factors [16]. Furthermore, student background was examined as an independent variable, while Internet use was the dependent variable. Results stated that Internet use learning behaviour and ethical use were two factors which contributed to the most appropriate use of the Internet.

Therefore, it is hoped that this study’s research findings concerning student teachers’ appropriate Internet use behaviour will help in giving valuable information and new knowledge helpful to the development planning of student teacher appropriate Internet use behaviour.
1.1 Research objectives

- To examine the level of appropriate Internet use behaviour of Thai student teachers.
- To study the variables at the student teacher level that has an influence on the appropriate Internet use behaviour of Thai student teachers.
- To study the variables at the school level that has an influence on the appropriate Internet use behaviour of Thai student teachers.

1.2 Hypotheses

- Student variables include ability, affect, family situation, gender, age, programme, GPA, income, and experience which influence appropriate Internet use behaviour of Thai student teachers.
- The variables at the school level consist of the educational institute situation, professors, and friends which influence appropriate Internet use behaviour of Thai student teachers.

2 Framework

2.1 Aspects affecting Thai student teacher appropriate internet use behaviour at the student teacher level

In a study related to dysfunctional Internet use (DIU) [17], it was determined that both Internet addiction (IA) and cyberbullying (CB) had frequent negative outcomes. Furthermore, younger users and less conscientious users were more likely to use the Internet dysfunctional. Additional research also determined that the Internet becomes a source of self-medication for younger users, especially in the process of developing identities or establishing relationships [18]. Even when Internet use is beneficial, abnormal use can have negative consequences on an individual and other users over extended periods of time [19].

Furthermore, the Unified Theory of Acceptance and Use of Technology (UTAUT) was used to examine E-learning systems and technologies in various educational environments [20]. Results from the study determined that social influence and performance expectancy significantly influence the intention to use the technology. However, there was no significant influence found in either a student’s prior education or their sex.

Also, in China, an investigation of Internet use by Chinese faculty, researchers, and students determined that more men than women used the Internet, with individuals having obtained higher degrees, and those who were younger were predisposed to spend more time on the Internet [21].

Therefore, from the review of the literature and theory, the authors added ability, affect, family, gender, age, programme, GPA, income and experience as potential aspects influencing appropriate Internet use behaviour at the student teacher level.
2.2 Aspects affecting Thai student teacher appropriate internet use behaviour at the institutional level

Numerous studies discuss the importance of the Internet used by academic staff at institutions worldwide. Over the years, as connectivity and speed has increased, academics have moved from just using the Internet to far more robust applications such as blended learning, often times associated with learning management systems. However, there can be a darker side to Internet use. These dark side elements can include Internet addiction, cyber-bullying, pornography, online gambling, and relationship abuse, sexual harassment, and stalking [3] – [5], [22] – [23].

Furthermore, Internet and social media use among Thais has exploded, especially in the age group between 13 and 24 years old. Daily Internet usage rates continue to soar, with a 2019 study stating that Thais used the Internet 9 hours 11 minutes per day, while spending 3 hours 11 minutes per day on social media platforms [24]. However, does this heavy usage carry over to student teachers, and if so, is it appropriate use?

Therefore, from the review of the literature and theory, the authors added the student teacher’s educational institute situation, their professors, and friends as potential aspects influencing appropriate Internet use behaviour at the student teacher institutional level.

2.3 The Hierarchical Linear Model (HLM)

Therefore, from the short overview of the variables affecting Thai student teacher Internet behaviour, the HLM as a causal relationship between the independent variables at the student and educational institution level, as well as the dependent variable of appropriate Internet use behaviour of Thai student teachers is depicted in Figure 1 [1], [17], [20], [25].

![Conceptual framework for the HLM of Thai student teacher appropriate Internet use behaviour](image-url)
3 Methodology

3.1 Population and sample

The population was student teachers studying for their bachelor’s degrees at government educational institutions across Thailand in 2014. Multistage random sampling was used to acquire the sample group of 1,800 student teachers, which consisted of 60 student teachers from each of 30 Thai educational institutions. This number was classified equally by type of institution and their programs with 900 student teachers from Rajabhat universities, and 900 student teachers from government universities. Moreover, 900 were in computer or information technology programs, and 900 were from other programs. Furthermore, gender was evenly divided with 900 male and 900 female students. For further clarification to the reader, Thailand’s Rajabhat university system is made up of approximately 540,000 students and was originally formed as institutes to produce teachers [26] – [27]. In 2005, Thailand’s king elevated the institutes to universities and in 2020 there were 38 ‘Rajabhat’ in total in Thailand.

3.2 Research tools

The researchers created a questionnaire about appropriate Internet use behaviour of Thai student teachers, which contained Figure 1’s independent and dependent variables. The questionnaire was adapted and revised from a questionnaire about learning behaviours through electronic systems and other relevant information about high school students [1], [17], [20], [25].

The questionnaire contained two parts, including Part 1’s 60 items concerning Thai student teacher appropriate Internet use behaviour. Moreover, this section was subdivided into eight sub-aspects as follows:

1. Internet use behaviour for learning, which consisted of three sub-aspects: Internet use for learning to follow instructions, Internet use for extra learning, and Internet use for self-learning.
2. Ethical Internet use behaviour, which consisted of five sub-aspects: no infringement on other ownership, no infringement on public, self-prevention from being infringed on, and prevention of self-harm.

Part 2 contained 96 items divided amongst the following four sub-aspects:

1. Information on each student teacher including aspects concerning their ability, affect, and general information
2. Information on home and family
3. Information on friends
4. Information on educational institutions and professors.

Each questionnaire item used a 6–level rating scale (except for each student teacher’s general information, which consisted of subjective questions). The rating scale is shown in Table 1. The content validity and the reliability was examined by the
researchers by executing a pre-test amongst 102 Thai student teachers studying for their bachelor’s degrees in 2014 who did not participate in the subsequent study. The results showed that the reliability of the questionnaire (α) was 0.83 – 0.96 which is considered good to excellent [28].

| Average X range   | Behaviour level          |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 5.50-6.00         | Very appropriate         |
| 4.50-5.49         | Appropriate              |
| 3.50-4.49         | Fairly appropriate       |
| 2.50-3.49         | Less appropriate         |
| 1.50-2.49         | Least Appropriate        |
| 1.00-1.49         | Inappropriate            |

### 3.3 Data collection

Data were collected by research assistants and the researcher network at each of the study’s targeted university systems, which included 900 student teachers from Rajabhat universities and 900 student teachers from government universities (1,800 total). Moreover, the total sample was further classified equally into sub-groups by type of institution and program, with 900 student teachers from a university information and communications technology (ICT) program and 900 from other programs. All questionnaires were returned.

### 3.4 Data analysis

The level of appropriate Internet use behaviour of student teachers was analysed with the mean (X), standard deviation (S.D.), using SPSS Version 21, with α values interpreted using the scale shown in Table 2. Instrument reliability results are shown in Table 2.

### Table 2. Instrument reliability

| Variables                        | Scale      | Items | Validity | Reliability (α) |
|----------------------------------|------------|-------|----------|-----------------|
| Appropriate Internet use behaviour | 6-level scale | 60    | Good     | 0.92            |
| Ability                          | 6-level scale | 20    | Good     | 0.92            |
| Affective                        | 6-level scale | 32    | Good     | 0.88            |
| Family situation                 | 6-level scale | 8     | Good     | 0.83            |
| Institution situation            | 6-level scale | 17    | Good     | 0.96            |
| Professors                       | 6-level scale | 9     | Good     | 0.87            |
| Friends                          | 6-level scale | 10    | Good     | 0.89            |
| Total/Average                    |            | 156   |          |                 |
4 Results

Results from the personal characteristics of the first part of each Thai student teacher’s questionnaire showed that male and female study participants were matched evenly, which was accomplished by design. Also, overwhelmingly, the student teachers identified their home as the most likely place where they used the Internet for research (65.5%). Additionally, 41.22% indicated that their GPAs ranged between 3.00 - 3.49.

Additionally, the two-level HLM was created using the HLM 7 software program [29], from which the researchers identified three types of two-level models used in the analysis. These included:

1. An unconditional model which was a model of the dependent variables of Thai student teacher appropriate Internet use behaviour.
2. An unconditional model which was a two-level model that used only the first-level independent variable, which was the same level as the dependent variable, the student level, as the predictive variable, and selected only the independent variables influencing the dependent variable with statistical significance ($p \leq .05$).
3. A hypothetical model was also a two-level model that used the first and second-level independent variables, student and institutional level, respectively, as the predictive variables.

The criteria for R2 interpretation of the independent variables towards the dependent variables in the unconditional model analysis contained independent variables at the student level (Table 3). Furthermore, the hypothetical model analysis contained independent variables at both the student and institution level. Table 4 shows the $\bar{x}$, S.D., skewness, and kurtosis of the variables.

| Predictive Coefficient ($R^2$) | Percentage (%) | Predictive level |
|-------------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| $R^2 \geq 0.49$               | From 49        | High             |
| $0.09 \leq R^2 < 0.49$        | From 9 but lower than 49 | Moderate         |
| $R^2 < 0.09$                  | Lower than 9   | Low              |

Table 4. The $\bar{x}$, S.D., skewness, and kurtosis of variables

| Variables                    | $\bar{x}$ | S.D. | Skewness* | Kurtosis** |
|------------------------------|-----------|------|-----------|------------|
| Appropriate Internet use behaviour | 4.86      | .52  | -.73      | .60        |
| Ability                      | 4.86      | .61  | -.71      | .84        |
| Affective                    | 4.58      | .66  | -.34      | .17        |
| Family situation             | 4.60      | .87  | -.99      | 1.40       |
| Institution situation        | 4.36      | .89  | -.88      | .89        |
| Professors                   | 4.67      | .69  | -.76      | 1.05       |
| Friends                      | 4.87      | .72  | -.56      | 3.03       |

*Skewness < |1| [30], ** Kurtosis < |7| [31]
4.1 HLM of Thai student teacher appropriate internet behaviour

The HLM 7 software program was used to develop three model types on appropriate Internet use behaviour of student teachers. These included a dependent variable model, a model with independent variables at the student level, and a model with independent variables at the student and institutional levels.

4.2 Appropriate internet behaviour of Thai student teachers

Table 5 shows the analysis results of Thai student teacher appropriate Internet use behaviour by aspect, with overall appropriate Internet use. Moreover, ethical Internet use behaviour and Internet use for learning. Table 6 shows the correlations between appropriate Internet use behaviour and the independent variables.

Table 5. Thai student teacher appropriate Internet behaviour, S.D., and rank of student teacher behaviour by aspect

| Appropriate Internet use behaviour                      | Student Teachers (n=1,800) | Level | Rank |
|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------|------|
| Internet use behaviour for learning                    | 4.75 .56                |       |      |
| Following the teacher’s Internet use behaviour instructions | 4.74 .56               |       |      |
| Internet use behaviour in other subjects              | 4.63 .70                |       |      |
| Internet use behaviour for self-learning              | 4.90 .72                |       |      |
| Ethical Internet use behaviour                         | 4.98 .62                |       |      |
| Not violating the privacy of others                   | 5.19 .78                |       |      |
| Not violating other’s ownership                       | 4.98 .80                |       |      |
| No public infringement of others                      | 5.13 .78                |       |      |
| Self-protection of channels from others                | 4.78 .77                |       |      |
| Prevention of self-harm                               | 4.75 .79                |       |      |
| Average                                                | 4.86 .52                |       |      |

Table 6. Correlations between appropriate Internet use behaviour and independent variables

| Variables                                | 1     | 2     | 3     | 4     | 5     | 6     | 7     |
|------------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. Appropriate Internet use behaviour    |       | .69** | .53** | .49** | .41** | .59** | .61** |
| 2. Ability                               |       |       | .59** | .53** | .39** | .55** | .61** |
| 3. Affective                             |       |       |       | .52** | .47** | .54** | .51** |
| 4. Family situation                     |       |       |       |       | .42** | .48** | .51** |
| 5. Institution situation                |       |       |       |       |       | .70** | .35** |
| 6. Professors                           |       |       |       |       |       |       | .51** |
| 7. Friends                              |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |

Note. **p < .01
4.3 Dependent variable model of appropriate internet use behaviour in student teachers

The dependent variable model of appropriate Internet use behaviour in teacher students was a fully unconditional model. Details of the analysis results are as shown in Table 7, which indicates the fixed effects and random effects in the dependent variable model as follows:

1. The analysis results of fixed effects using t-test showed that the INTRCPT, which was the mean of teacher student behaviour or grand mean, had positive effects on the dependent variables of appropriate Internet use behaviour in student teacher in the institution, with statistical significance at the .01 level and the coefficient at 4.865, which was significant.

2. The analysis results of random effects using ($\chi^2$-test) indicated that the mean of dependent variables of teacher student behaviour was different between the institutions, with statistical significance at the .01 level and variance of 0.074. Moreover, the score of behaviour between the personnel in the institution was determined, with the variance of 0.204 being calculated, which resulted in a total variance at 0.278. It could be seen that most of the variance of appropriate Internet use behaviour in student teachers were among the students, accounting for 73.296%, while it was only 26.704% for the variance between the institutions.

Table 7. Analysis results of the dependent variable model of appropriate Internet use behaviour of Thai student teachers

| Fixed Effect | Coefficient | Standard error | t-ratio | Approx. d.f | p-value |
|--------------|-------------|----------------|---------|-------------|---------|
| For INTRCPT1, $\beta_0$ | 4.864739 | 0.049995 | 97.304 | 29 | <0.001 |
| INTRCPT2, $\gamma_0$ | 0.27236 | 0.07418 | 39 | 662.89697 | <0.001 |
| Random Effect | Standard Deviation | Variance Component | d.f. | $\chi^2$ | p-value |
| INTRCPT1, $\kappa_0$ | 0.45123 | 0.20361 | |

These results illustrate that the dependent variables of appropriate Internet use behaviour in student teachers could be explained by independent variables at the student and institution levels. Therefore, an analysis of the model with independent variables proceeded.

4.4 Unconditional model with independent variables at the student level

In the unconditional model, behaviour was the dependent variable, and the independent variable was at the student level, with the first independent variable predicting the dependent variable with statistical significance. Therefore, the analysis results of the fixed effect and random effect in the model are as follows:

1. The analysis results of fixed effect using t-test showed that the INTRCPT, which was the mean of appropriate Internet use behaviour in student teachers in the institutions and the five variables at the student level (ability, affect, family, gender, and
GPA), with all having positive effects on the dependent variables of the behaviour, with statistical significance at the .01 level, coefficient of 4.865, and regression coefficient of the ability, affect, family, gender, GPA, and income of 0.369, 0.123, 0.081, 0.063, and 0.041, respectively. The income of the student teachers had negative effects on the dependent variables, with statistical significance at the .01 level, with a regression coefficient of -0.011. Independent variables explained the variance of dependent variables of behaviour at a high level, accounting for 52.262%.

2. The analysis results also showed the random effect using the $\chi^2$-test, which indicated that the fixed effect and the five independent variables had an average of 0.078 of variance at the institution level with statistical significance at the .01 level. Ability, affect, family, gender, and GPA had variances of 0.025, 0.027, 0.005, 0.008, and 0.004, respectively. It could be assumed that the independent variables at the institution level could explain the variables. For income, the remaining variance had no statistical significance, while it was 0.097 at the student level.

4.5 The hypothetical model with independent variables at the student and institution levels

The hypothetical model testing was concerned with the dependent variables of Thai student teacher appropriate Internet use behaviour, as well as the independent variables at the student and institution levels which were the first and second level variables, respectively. Testing results determined that the variables at each level predicted the dependent variables with statistical significance. Figure 2 depicts the analysis results of fixed effect and random effect in the hypothetical model, whose results can be stated as follows:

Analysis results of the fixed effect using t-test showed that the INTRCPT of institution level, which was the mean of teacher student behaviour at the institution level and the variable at the institution level friends, had a positive effect on the dependent variable behaviour, with statistical significance at the .01 level, a coefficient of 4.833, and a regression coefficient for friends of 0.807. This explains the variance of mean of behaviour at a high level, 94.222%.

Moreover, the regression coefficient of the Thai student teacher aspect for ability, affect, family, gender, GPA, and income were 0.373, 0.124, 0.081, 0.063, 0.042, and -0.011, respectively. There was one independent variable at the institution level, which was the institution situation, explaining the regression coefficient of ability at 11.472 with statistical significance at the .05 level. The regression coefficient of institution situation at the institution level was 0.144.

Furthermore, the analysis results of random effect using ($\chi^2$-test) indicated that the fixed effect and the five independent variables had the remaining variance at the institution level with a statistical significance at the .01 level. The remaining variance of fixed effect was 0.004, with the Thai student teacher aspects of ability, affect, family, gender, and GPA having remaining variances at 0.022, 0.027, 0.005, 0.008, and 0.004, respectively. It could be assumed that the independent variables at the institution level could explain the variables. For income, the remaining variance had no statistical significance, while it was 0.097 at the student level.
4.6 Level of appropriate internet use of Thai student teachers

From the 1,800 Thai student teachers examined, the findings revealed that the Internet use behaviour of Thai student teachers was classified as ‘appropriate’ (\(\bar{x} = 4.86\), S.D. = 0.52). This was possibly because the respondents in this research were student teachers who had experience in using the Internet in both educational environments as well as higher education.

Moreover, the study’s findings were in line with the research of [32], which determined that the driving force behind the contemporary educational process is technological development. Therefore, the quality of human capital professional creativity competencies is determined by student knowledge and their ability to acquire it from various university sources, with advanced Internet use in the teaching process leading to a higher level of human capital professional creativity competencies.

4.7 HLM of appropriate internet use behaviour of Thai student teachers

The analysis results of the HLM of appropriate Internet use behaviour in student teachers showed that their behaviour was affected by two-levels of predictive variables, including six variables at the student level and two variables at the institution level. These were ability (0.302), affect (0.124), family (0.081), gender (0.063), GPA (0.042), and income (-0.011) at the student level and friends (0.807) and institutional situation (0.144) at the institution level.

These findings are similar to research in Turkey in which it was determined that problematic Internet use (PIU) was associated with being male, having a low GPA,
Internet use frequency, and the student’s family income level [33]. These findings were also consistent with the variables in previous research by [34] – [36]. Moreover, all predictive variables had a positive effect on behaviour except for income, which was determined to negatively affect appropriate Internet use behaviour when the student’s family had a low income. The study also determined that ability, affect, and friends acted as predictive variables which are consistent with other studies from [14] – [15]. Furthermore, there was evidence that institutional support, either from the teacher’s education program or the school community, positively impacts teacher student beliefs, indirectly influencing their technology integration behaviours [37].

This is consistent with [38] who also elaborated on the positive effects of ICT resources and the importance of teachers who believed in student-centered learning. Additionally, this is in line with research from [39], who studied the predictive relationship between student teacher attributes and the teaching behaviour of students in Bangkok schools and found that the student attributes that could predict their teaching behaviour were work motivation, the relationship between teachers and students, attitude towards the teaching profession, the relationship between teachers and colleagues and executives, and students’ personality.

This is consistent with the study’s findings in which ability was determined to be comprised of various sub-aspects, including Internet knowledge and skills. This was consistent with [14] who indicated that a preservice teacher’s self-efficacy of the use of technology had the greatest effect on technology use. Also, knowledge and ability in using technology to enhance learning can often times be the core problem in the development of technology use potential in students [40].

Furthermore, the study determined that a student’s family situation had a positive effect on a student teacher’s appropriate Internet use behaviour, especially if the student’s home was equipped with a computer and the Internet, with family support fostering appropriate Internet use behaviour. Today, however, smartphones and social media platforms are becoming more prevalent [24], from which social media participation has been reported to have many benefits for students. These tools, however, have the potential to negatively impact academic performance if not used properly [41].

Moreover, the study has determined that gender had a positive effect on appropriate Internet use behaviour. In Turkey, [42] detailed numerous studies which discussed the effects of gender on student education and ICT use and integration, and overall, from the study of 600 teachers believed that even though men are seen as more proficient in ICT, women are more willing to spare the required time for planning technology. There are other studies in the literature that similarly report a higher proportion of technology use and technology integration in men compared to women [43] – [44].

GPA was also determined to have a positive effect on the appropriate Internet use behaviour of student teachers, which was consistent with the findings from a Bangkok study in which Internet use by high school students had a positive effect on GPA. Additional researchers have also found a strong correlation between Internet use and academic performance [46]; with high school students having reported that not being able to control their Internet usage has impacted their academic work negatively [47].

Furthermore, results showed that the student teacher’s income aspect had a negative influence on their appropriate Internet use behaviour, although calculated very low as
the influence was 0.011. Maybe it was because student teachers with low incomes don't have restrictions on using the Internet, since higher education institutions provide appropriate services and support for using the Internet. Therefore, students, although having less income, have the opportunity to access and use the Internet more. In addition, student teachers have already had the opportunity to acquire basic knowledge and skills that are appropriate.

Since the analysis results of the random effect in the model with two-level predictive variables, student and institutional level (hypothetical model), illustrated that there was a remaining dependent variance of appropriate Internet use behaviour in students at the institutional and student level, it was assumed that the predictive variable could be added to these variables to explain the variance. Additionally, the regression coefficients of ability, affect, family, gender, and GPA still had the remaining variance. Thus, more predictive variables could be added as well.

5 Recommendations

Faculties of Education, institutions of education, original affiliations, and relevant agencies and educational institutions for teacher student development must continue development of a Thai student teacher’s ability and affect by focusing on student competence in the acquisition of basic knowledge and skills in ICT. Additionally, there needs to be a focus on student psychological qualities attributes including attitude towards the use of ICT, achievement motivation, and intellectual retention.

The results also showed that student teachers’ ability and affect had a positive effect on their appropriate Internet use behaviour. Therefore, teachers can facilitate the learning process and make it more productive by using technology to support pedagogical strategies they use for transferring content information [42].

Furthermore, education colleges and institutions should supply material for instructional planning and teacher student learning, support and strengthen teacher students to use IT media, and provide funding for supporting experience in using IT media in instructional planning. With this support, student teachers have the opportunity to learn and enhance themselves in using IT, which definitely leads to the appropriate use of ICT in instructional planning.

Friends had an influence on the appropriate Internet use of student teachers, so friends who use social media appropriately can be helpful in promoting appropriate Internet use behaviour. For this reason, education colleges and institutions should promote teacher networking and provide resources and facilities to help with the appropriate use of ICT media.

Additionally, institutional situations had a positive effect on appropriate Internet use behaviour. Institutional reinforcement can come through a variety of methods including administrator and management support for ICT facilities, support for the use of ICT media resources and equipment, publication of ICT school achievement and resources, and assisting other schools in their own development of ICT facilities and resources. Schools should, therefore, support computer and ICT readiness, while also supporting teachers’ use of ICT media in teaching and development [48] – [49].
Moreover, educational policies should focus on emphasizing teacher competency development in terms of knowledge, skills, and attributes, through training and/or seminars with professional instructors. Finally, student teachers should have the opportunity to interact with friends in various forms, such as cooperative learning, learning together, and learning exchange, including networks of ICT usage at the student and institution levels.

6 Recommendations for Further Research

Future research should include more independent variables in the model, both at the student and institutional levels to explain the variance of dependent variables of appropriate Internet use behaviour in students, particularly independent variables affecting individual behaviour. This is because appropriate Internet use behaviour in students has a variance at the individual level of 73.246%. Other variables that should be examined are knowledge and skills in curriculum and teaching, attitude toward the teaching profession, readiness for change, and self-learning. It is also suggested that a student’s workload, interaction with student teachers and students, interaction with institution executives, patterns/approaches and policies/plans of institutions supporting the use of ICT of students, school websites, and software for instructional planning be examined.

The variables affecting appropriate Internet use behaviour in student teachers should be studied using the research model and other types of casual analysis models, such as with SEM and 3-level HLM models, which are more complex. The HLM should be applied to other variables in the educational system. This may include variables in student teachers, administrators, or students. It would be very useful to acquire deeper and broader knowledge within these areas.

There should be an in-depth study on the details of basic knowledge and skills in computers, the Internet, ICT usage, and the effects of social media that needs to be developed in the different groups of teachers according to their variables, such as subject/department, teaching level, and institution situations. This would assist teachers in setting instructional plans.

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