

Parent Child Relational Quality and the Use of Media

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Summary of PhD Thesis

This research focuses on possible relationships between parent-child relational quality and media use. Parent-child relational quality has three parameters, Attitude of parents towards their role related to their behavior, E\Involvement – their presence in the everyday routine of their child and Discipline – how they establish limits and grant autonomy. Media usage occupies a lot of time in the everyday family routine whereas children are capable users of media and an active audience, according to the approach of uses and satisfactions, that seeks to satisfy needs. The research investigates possible relationships between parent-child relational quality and the use of television and the internet as well as the use and place of media in the context of the family. The research was conducted in Greek elementary schools and participants were 276 children, aged 9-12 and 237 parents. Parent-child quality of relationship was assessed - with the Western Psychological Association, Parent Child Relationship Inventory Children's motives for television and internet use were investigated on the basis of the uses and gratifications theory, with the scales of television use which measures ritual as well as functional motives. Our findings demonstrate that the Attitude of parents, even when positive, is related to motives such as companionship and escape from reality. When children use media accompanied by their parents, tend to use media when alone in order to repeat this pleasant experience and have high motives of relaxation. Involvement of parents and their constant presence may pressure the child and seeks to use media in order to escape from reality and have a sense of independence. Results of the study also confirm the central position of media in the family context and that children's nature and frequency of media use reflect those of their parents Finally, strict discipline imposed by parents appears to strengthen many of the motives of media use, underlining that children of parents who promote autonomy can achieve more easily self-regulation in media use.