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Abstract

The Internet impacts students' lives and career paths. Excessive use may correlate with tobacco and alcohol consumption despite its benefits. The present study aimed to identify the relationship between gratification of Internet usage, problems in Internet usage, alcohol consumption, and drug abuse among Malaysian youth. The quantitative method was applied by using a survey questionnaire. A total of 440 students from the University Putra Malaysia (32.3% males, 67.7% females) were selected using a stratified random sampling method. The majority of the respondents (93.2%) were single. The students ranged from 23 to 40, with the majority of the younger group (78.3%) in the age range of 18-23. No link was found between Internet use gratification and alcohol/drug usage. No correlation was found between the Internet, alcohol, and drug problems. The association between age and alcohol usage was not significant. However, this relationship for drug abuse was substantial and positive. No significant differences were found in the mean values for the respondents' fields of study and alcohol or drug usage. The findings of the independent t-test illustrated that there were significant differences between marital status and alcohol consumption. Still, there were no significant mean differences between marital status and drug usage.

Keywords: gratification of using the internet, Malaysian youths, alcohol and drug consumption, internet usage, a university student.

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INTRODUCTION

Consuming alcohol by adolescents and young adults gives rise to multidimensional problems. These problems can include road accidents that result in injury and death, depression and suicide, escaping classes, dropped academic performance, loss of memory, fighting, blackouts, possessions damage, fellow criticism, broken friendship/s, date rape, and unprotected sexual intercourse that puts people at risk for sexually conveyed diseases, HIV infection and unplanned pregnancy (Bonomo, Coffey, & Wolfe, 2001; Weitzman & Lee, 2020). One of the many components that can inspire youths to consume alcohol is advertising (Anderson, Bruijn, Angus, Gordon, & Hastings, 2008; Radesky, Chassiakos, Ameenuddin, & Navsaria, 2020; Swahn et al., 2022). The expectation of adolescents who have not started to drink is affected by normative beliefs about teenage drinking and through the observation of drinking by fellows, parents, and models in mass media. Depictions of alcohol use in the mass media have been closely related to the enhancement of positive drinking expectancies by children and adolescents (Austin & Knaus, 2000; Brunborg, Skogen, & Andreas, 2022; Weitzman & Lee, 2020). The research shows that alcohol consumption and smoking are complements (Cawley & Ruhm, 2012; Jackson, Sokolovsky, Gunn, & White, 2020). Malaysia has been the tenth largest alcohol consumer in the world, which means that Malaysians annually spend nearly \$500 million (US dollars) on alcohol. Studies in Malaysia demonstrate that smokers show higher odds of alcohol consumption than non-smokers (Cheah & Rasiah, 2017). The consumption of alcohol for each person in Malaysia is 7 liters. Although this is less than many Western countries, it is fairly high for Asia. In addition, beer consumption in Malaysia is also high and is claimed to be identical to that of European countries. Data from the World Health Organization suggest that, in general, 64% of females and 35% of males refrain from alcohol. Other data suggest that 35% of non-Muslims overindulge in drinking alcohol (Alcohol Rehab, 2019).

The number of drug addicts nationwide recorded by the National Anti-Drug Agency from 2014 until September 2018 was 133,684, which included 0.40% of the country's population. A 7-year-old child was the youngest drug abuser on record. Drug abuse and drug addiction are major concerns that influence public policies and society in various arenas, such as loss of productive manpower and taxation on the criminal justice administration and system. Based on the research,

Pahang had the highest number, with 16,150 (0.96% of its population), followed by Kelantan with 16,918, Terengganu (10,576 addicts) and Perlis (2,123 addicts). Negri Sembilan ranked fifth with 7,503 drug addicts, Penang (9,684), Melaka (4,140), Kedah (9,691), Johor (13,003), Perak (8,596), Kuala Lumpur (8,270), Sabah (9,513), Selangor (13,123) and Sarawak (4,414). Of this, 80,598 or 73.4% were youngsters in the age range of 19 to 39, 26,197 were adults in the age range of 40 and above, and 3,043 were teenagers in the age range of 13 to 18. The highest number of addicts belonged to Malays (88,522), followed by the Chinese (7,883), Indians (7,689), Sabah Bumiputeras (4,274), and Sarawak Bumiputeras (713). Male addicts were (105,632) in comparison with females (4,206). The most surprising data is that out of the total number of addicted cases, there were 3,046 new addicts, along with 682 repeat offenders. There are two justifications for the high occurrence of repeated offenders. First, impulsive individuals with weak social attachment to others are likely to get into problems more often than less impulsive and more attached individuals (Datuk Seri Akhbar Satar, June 6, 2019).

By expanding social media, adolescents spend much of their free time on the Internet. Brys (2012), in the study of national research on American attitudes toward substance abuse among teenagers, found that those who see pictures of other teenagers on social media doing drugs or drinking are more prone to consuming substances. (Babor, Robaina, Noel, & Ritson, 2017; Vannucci, Simpson, Gagnon, & Ohannessian, 2020). All different types of media When social media shows scenes of getting drunk or doing drugs, it normalizes the situation for the public (Bonar et al., 2020; Winpenny, Marteau, & Nolte, 2014). Based on the survey being done by Colombia University, CASA (2012), seventy-five percent of 12-to-17year-olds claimed that when they see pictures of teens partying with alcohol or marijuana on MySpace, Facebook, or other social networking sites, they are encouraged to have parties like that. Forty-five percent of teens claimed that they have seen other teenagers getting drunk on social networking sites (Boyle, LaBrie, Froidevaux, & Witkovic, 2016; Lyvers, Coutinho, & Thorberg, 2020).

Tucker (1985) mentioned that using alcohol is vivid in 93% of adolescents' favorite movies. Based on the Office of National Drug Control Policy, alcohol is the number one drug shown on 77% of TV episodes. Moreover, Alcohol shows up

every 14 minutes in music videos (Cranwell, Britton, & Bains, 2017; Foxx, 2011). Tucker reported that 33% of TV drinking scenes are funny and include attractive, successful, or popular characters; however, only 23% portray negative results (Fuld et al., 2010). Rao et al. (2020) studied alcohol appearance in 150 films in the past thirty years. They found that alcohol-related senses were present in 90% of them, and 56.3% of films depicted using other psychoactive substances.

Robinson, Chen, and Killen (1998) found that when watching television increases by 1 hour per day, the risk of starting to drink alcohol during the next 18 months increases by 9% as well. In addition, every one-hour increase in viewing music videos per day predicts risks of drinking alcohol by up to 31% in the next 18 months. In a similar study, Christodoulou et al. (2020) found a close relationship between using substance and screen time. Likewise, a study of German youth in the age range of 10 to 16 showed that the occurrence of trying smoking was related to increased exposure to movie smoking (Adibah, Page, Heide, & Emery, 2021; Hanewinkel & Sargent, 2008). Wellmanm, Sugarman, DiFranza, and Winickoff (2006) found that exposure to pro-tobacco marketing and media increases the odds of youth holding positive attitudes towards tobacco use and more, it doubles the odds of initiating smoking (Clendennen, Vandewater, Loukas, Perry, & Wilkinson, 2020). Studies show a dose-response relationship between marijuana and music as well, with adolescents more likely to use if exposure is more than three hours a day (Albert, Rogers, Hall, Zuardo, & Bragg, 2022; Primack, Kraemer, Fine, & Dalton, 2009). Taking into consideration the findings from earlier research, this paper attempts to identify:

- 1. The effects of gratification of using the Internet on alcohol and drug usage
- Any relationship between problems in using the Internet and alcohol and drug usage
- 3. The relationship between Alcohol consumption and drug usage

The following hypotheses are proposed to examine the possible relationships among the variables of Internet usage, alcohol, and drug usage:

- H1: Age is positively related to alcohol consumption
- H2: Age is positively related to drug usage
- H3: Field of study is positively related to alcohol consumption and drug usage

H4: Marital status is positively related to alcohol consumptionH5: Marital status is positively related to drug usage

Using the Internet and alcohol and drug consumption

We are all aware of the harms of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs to individuals, families, and communities in society. The extreme use of alcohol is a main cause of health and social problems. Short episodes of drug usage and heavy alcohol use are the main cause of road accidents, crime, domestic violence, social dysfunctioning, and family breakdown (Korlakunta & Reddy, 2019; Turner, Daneback, & Skårner, 2020; Weitzman & Lee, 2020).

The increasing use of the Internet to ease the global supply of illegal drugs mainly those marked as 'party pills' and 'legal highs'—should also be taken into consideration (Grimani, Gavine, & Moncur, 2020; Lancaster & Ritter, 2014). Selling drugs online has gained much popularity recently thanks to the Dark Web and social media websites such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram (Liu & Bharadwaj, 2020). Craigslist website is a great place to find jobs, accommodation, and a great variety of goods and services. However, it also offers a plethora of illegal activities, including drug trafficking (Chan, Mojumder, & Ghose, 2019; Tofighi, Perna, Desai, Grov, & Lee, 2016). The Internet is responsible for increasing substance usage due to its easy accessibility and anonymity. Selling drugs online is also more profitable for the dealers. Therefore, the appearance of online markets flourishes trades through the improvement of demand and supply of illegal drugs (Liu & Bharadwaj, 2020).

The modern technological landscape adds many great advantages to our relationships and family lives; as with any innovation, it has dark sides as well. The findings of a study by Brewer (2003) showed that looking for club drug information on the Internet raised mean levels of knowledge concerning the drugs. The impact of Internet searching was often strongest among those who had never used drugs. In addition, people who searched the Internet for club drug information during the experiment were more prone to believe that using club drugs might assist them to fit better in a social situation compared to people who did not search. Searching also made those who had never used drugs more susceptible to believe the drugs

would be useful. Internet is the main source of finding information, with currently 2 billion people who have access to it (Cuan-Baltazar, Muñoz-Perez, Robledo-Vega, Pérez-Zepeda, & Soto-Vega, 2020). People can easily access any positive or negative information online. Any information or exposure to drug consumption in the movies can lead the youth to use them (Khan & Thomas, 2020).

Svensson and Johnson (2020), Brunborg, Andreas, and Kvaavik (2017), and Wartberg and Kammerl (2020) found the correlation between the utilization of the Internet and the consumption of alcohol has been identified. Moreover, a number of cross-sectional investigations have revealed a modest yet positive connection between Internet usage and alcohol consumption among adolescents (Coëffec et al., 2015; Epstein, 2011). Chiao, Yi, and Ksobiech (2014) found a notable correlation between the utilization of the Internet and the consumption of alcohol in excessive quantities. Brunborg and Andreas (2019) found an augmentation in the duration allocated to social media was moderately linked to a rise in occurrences of excessive alcohol consumption. Larm, Raninen, Åslund, Svensson, and Nilsson (2019) found engagement in social media use and chatting was linked to a heightened likelihood of consuming alcoholic beverages, whereas participation in computer gaming, particularly during weekends, was found to be correlated with a diminished probability of imbibing alcohol.

Uses and Gratification Theory

Uses and gratification theory (U&G) proposed by McQuail (1987) (quoted by (Stafford, Stafford, & Schkade, 2004) claims that 1) Media selection and use is purposive and motivated so people take the initiative in choosing and using communication means in order to please felt desires and needs 2) The audience is active 3) The audience makes motivated choices based on earlier experience with the media and 4) In daily life, the media use is just one way among others to please needs. Furthermore, Katz, Gurevitch, and Haas (1973) studied people's usage of mass media to meet their special needs, presenting a five-fold category of needs that all media users specifically have: Cognitive, Affective, Personal Integrative, Social Integrative, and Escapist. In addition, U&G enables the audience to observe consciously what media to use (Halpern, Valenzuela, Katz, & Miranda, 2019).

Krishnatray et al. (2009) confirmed the likelihood of three sets of gratifications in their research; Internet content motivation mainly relates to the

educational and technology benefits. Introne et al. (2018) reached similar results and stated social media gratification is having fun, social interaction, searching for information, and learning. Krishnatray et al. (2009) mentioned that in traditional U&G studies of mass media, content was usually shown by information, view, and entertainment. Their study showed that the content gratifications are not so much related to information but getting Web application advantages (Ramadan, 2020). In addition, it seems that lots of Internet content encourages people to surpass and gives them the freedom to convey ideas (Momen, 2020). What is notable about social gratifications from the Internet is its skill to expand acquaintances and share ideas with people everywhere and every time (Tirado-Morueta, Aguaded-Gómez, Ortíz-Sobrino, Rodríguez-Martín, & Álvarez-Arregui, 2020).

Shields and Kane (2011) found out that besides ending the day on the Internet, listening to music was related to more arguments with parents, and quick messaging and visiting a sexually explicit website was related to dissatisfaction with a partner. Visiting sexually explicit websites might be a way to make up for sexual dissatisfaction with the partner. These findings suggest that using the Internet might make for problematic relationships offline. In addition, the study done by Stamoulis and Farley (2010) and a study by Livingstone and Helsper (2007) showed that children and adolescents who were less content with their lives were more prone to turn to the Internet for social communications. The exception was the negative relationship between using a search engine and arguments with parents; more usage was, in fact, related to fewer arguments (Özaslan, Yıldırım, Güney, Güzel, & İşeri, 2021).

Furthermore, lots of videos on sites like YouTube are designed to be entertaining, and they are often funny and humorous (Rihl & Wegener, 2022). Diddi and LaRose (2006) claimed that Internet news seeking was associated with entertainment, escapism, and surveillance needs (Brailovskaia, Schillack, & Margraf, 2020). Thus, Internet news seeking might lead to a feeling of connection with the social world and provide an escape from problems in one's own life. Furthermore, as a lot of news stories show highly negative events (violent crime, natural disasters), the news consumer may feel lucky by comparison. The only Internet behavior that was related to more signs of depression was ending the day on the Internet. It was also related to stress from arguments with parents and dissatisfaction with a partner. Ending the day on the Internet might represent a desire to escape from interpersonal problems (Chi, Hong, & Chen, 2020).

Chiodo, Broughton, and Michalski (2020) stated that as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, many people used the Internet for entertainment. They also reported that using the Internet for the purpose of having fun helped users reduce their stress during the lockdown. Similarly, Islam et al. (2020) highlighted the key role of humor along with sharing information. Therefore, the purpose of this study is to find out the relationship between gratification of using the Internet, the problem of Internet usage, age, the field of study, marital status, and drug and alcohol usage. The research framework of the study is shown in the following figure:





METHODS

The relationship between Internet usage, alcohol, and drug usage was measured by 66 items on a 5-point Likert scale ranging from "strongly agree" to "strongly disagree". The independent variable of gratification of using the Internet was measured by 23 items divided into five main dimensions: cognitive (6 items), personal integration (5 items), escape, social integration, and affective (4 items each). The data was coded from 1 to 5 for analysis. 'Problems in using the Internet' was measured by 12 items ranging from "strongly agree" to "strongly disagree".

Gratification of Internet usage from Sharon (2000). He conducted a study on uses and gratification and Internet profiles.

Alcohol usage was measured by 11 items from the Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT), which was developed by the World Health Organization. It was measured by a 5-point Likert scale ranging from never, monthly or less, 2-4 times a month, 2-3 times a week, to 4 or more times a week. There was also one nominal scale for asking about the source of information ("Where do you find most information about alcohol?") with four options: TV, Internet, friends, and parents.

The dependent variable of drug usage was measured by 17 items from Johnston, O'malley, Bachman, and Schulenberg (2010). It was measured by a Likert scale with five response options: never, monthly, or less, 2-4 times a month, 2-3 times a week, and four or more times a week. The data was coded as 1 to 5 for analysis.

Demographic information of the respondents was measured by items of age, field of study, and marital status. The validity and reliability of the test were measured before running the analysis. For validity, two professors from the University of Putra Malaysia approved the validity of all questions, and for reliability, a pre-test was applied. The results of Cronbach's Alpha showed that all questions were reliable.

Location and Sampling. Survey methodology was applied for collecting data; hence, the questionnaires were distributed to students at the University of Putra Malaysia. Therefore, a questionnaire was distributed among local male and female students in the age range of 18 to 40. Based on the National Youth Development Policy of Malaysia, youth is considered in the age range of 15 to 40 years old (Yunus, 2007). Respondents for this study were selected using the stratified sampling method, which is a type of probability sampling by using Israel (1992) formula, n= (N)/(1 + N [(e)]^2) n=Sample size, N=Population (postgraduate and undergraduate), e=Precision level (when the confidence level is 95% or 0.05), the population included 13726 undergraduate and 7444 postgraduate students. The result of the Israel Formula was 392. Therefore, we collected the data from 440 students from 16 faculties of the University Putra Malaysia (UPM). This

study is part of a larger project measuring the effect of Internet usage on negative and positive youth development among university students.

Participants. The design of the study required data to be collected from local students of three major races, Malay, Chinese, and Indians, who were doing their Bachelor's, Master's, and PhD at UPM University. Questionnaires were distributed among students who were currently studying at UPM. A random sample of undergraduate and postgraduate students were asked to participate in taking the short form of the Alcohol and Drug Usage survey addressing topics such as gratification of using the Internet, problems of using the Internet, alcohol consumption, and drug abuse. Other questions addressed the demographic of the respondents, such as marital status, field of study, and age. All questionnaires were anonymous, and the identities of the respondents were not published anywhere. In addition, all participants were free to fill in the questionnaire, and even in the middle of answering the questions, they were free to return the questionnaire and stop the fill-in process. There was no punishment or fine for quitting. There was no animal treatment in this study either.

Descriptive statistics were used to summarize the sample. The inclusion criteria consisted of an age range between the ages of 18 and 40 based on the definition of youth in Malaysia (Deros, Daruis, & Nor, 2008). The respondents older than 40 years were omitted from the analysis. Students participated from faculties of Agriculture (10.7%), Biotechnology and Bimolecular Science (2.0%), Computer science and Information Technology (3.2%), Design and Architecture (3.4%), Economic (8.9%), Education (2.3%), Engineering (4.5%), Environment (1.1%), Food Science (4.1%), Forestry (2.3%), Graduate Study Management (5.0%), Human Ecology (7.3%), Medicine (8.9%), Modern Languages and Communication (9.1%), Science (25.7%) and Veterinary (1.6%). Furthermore, in the included sample, 32.3 % of the respondents were male (n=142) and 67.7 % were female (n=298). The majority of the respondents were single, 93.2%, and just 6.8% were married. The age of the students in the current study ranged from 23 to 40, and the majority (78.3%) were placed in the younger group of 18-23 years old.

Data Analysis. The data was analyzed using descriptive statistics and inferential statistics by applying Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) to determine the relationships among variables. Descriptive analysis was employed to determine the gratification of using the Internet, problems in using the Internet,

alcohol usage, and drug usage, with the demographic of the respondents being analyzed by using frequency, percentage, mean, and standard deviation.

The inferential analysis employed the correlation analysis for the relationship between the gratification of using the Internet, problems in using the Internet, age, alcohol, and drug usage. A T-test was applied in order to measure the mean differences between marital status, field of study, alcohol, and drug usage. Thirty respondents participated in a pilot test of alcohol and drug usage to measure the validity and reliability of the instrument. The results of Cronbach's Alpha illustrated that the reliability of the instrument was higher than 0.7. In addition, before analyzing, all data were subjected to the normality test. The result of the normality test revealed that the data was normal.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Problems in using the Internet

The most common complaint about problems with using the Internet was being slow in connection (M =3.58, SD =0.96), followed by "overload information on the Internet (M =3.50, SD =0.91) and "It takes too long to view or download pages" (M =3.44, SD =0.92). The last and least complaint about using the Internet belonged to "Internet is too complicated to use (M =2.28, SD =0.91). These findings are consistent with the following studies that reported the main problem in using the Internet is related to downloading speed: Mui, Aziz, Ni, Yee, and Lay (2002), Suryani (2007), and Riahinia and Azimi (2008).

The gratification of using the Internet

Based on the results, the highest overall mean belonged to the cognitive dimension, followed by the escape and social integration dimension. In the cognitive dimension, the highest mean belonged to "To get information about something" (M =4.38, SD =0.70), and the lowest mean was related to "To keep up to date on popular sites" (M =3.90, SD =0.89). In the escape dimension, the highest mean belonged to "To relax and unwind" (M =4.21, SD =0.74), followed by "Because it makes me feel less tense" (M =4.00, SD =0.83). The highest mean in the social integration dimension was related to "To keep in touch with people" (M

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=4.15, SD =0.73), followed by "Because I can talk with different people" (M =3.79, SD =0.92).

The item "Because it's entertaining" had the highest mean in the affective dimension (M =4.12, SD =0.76), and the last and least mean belonged to "To roleplay or experiment with my identity" (M =3.41, SD =0.99). The findings of the current study are consistent with the findings from previous works of Hemenway (2000), Mittermeyer (2003), Uçak (2007), Alhassan, Kolog, and Boateng (2020), and Dolanet al. (2019).

Alcohol usage

Regarding respondents' alcohol usage, "seen drink education films on the Internet" had the highest mean" (M =1.23, SD =0.60), and the lowest mean was related to "unable to remember what happened the night before because of drinking" (M =1.03, SD =0.25). Eighty-four percent of the respondents said that they did not drink anything containing alcohol. The majority of the respondents (91.6%) did not injure someone else because of drinking. Most of the respondents (84.8%) did not drink alcohol. Fifty percent of the respondents found information on alcohol via TV, followed by the Internet, with 46.4%.

Drug Usage

Regarding respondents' drug usage, "use Pain Reliever" had the highest mean (M =1.03, SD =0.31), followed by "smoking cigarette" (M=1.20, SD= 0.81). The last and least mean was related to "use Heroin" (M=1.03, SD= 0.31).

RQ. 1: What is the effect of gratification of using the Internet on alcohol and drug usage?

RQ.2: Is there any relationship between problems in using the Internet, alcohol, and drug usage?

H1: Age is positively related to alcohol consumption.

H2: Age is positively related to drug usage.

Correlation coefficients were computed among three variables, including gratification of using the Internet, problems in using the Internet, age, and drug and

alcohol usage. The results showed that there was no relationship between gratification of using the Internet, problems in using the Internet, age, and alcohol usage among the respondents. In addition, there was no association between gratification of Internet usage, problems in using the Internet, and drug and alcohol consumption. The relationship between age and alcohol usage was not significant; however, this relationship for drug usage was positive and significant (r=0.174, p<0.05). Therefore, H1, regarding the positive impact of age on alcohol consumption, was rejected, while H2, regarding the positive impact of age on drug usage, was accepted.

Table 1:Pearson Correlation between IVs and Alcohol and Drug Usage (n=440)

Variables	Alcohol usage		Drug usage	
	r	Р	r	Р
Gratification of Internet Usage	-0.012	0.796	-0.057	0.230
Problems in using the Internet	0.015	0.757	0.063	0.188
Age	070	0.145	0.174**	0.000

*p<.05

RQ3. Is there a relationship between Alcohol consumption and drug usage?

Correlations between alcohol consumption and drug usage (N =440)

According to Table 2, the correlation between alcohol and drug usage is positive and significant.

Table 2:

Pearson Correlation between alcohol consumption and drug usage (n=440)

Variables	Drug Usage			
	r	Р		
Alcohol consumption	0.378**	0.00		
**p<0.01				

RQ4: Does the field of study affect alcohol and drug usage? H3: Field of study is positively related to alcohol consumption and drug usage

Mean Differences between Fields of Study, Drug and Alcohol Usage

The independent t-test procedure was applied to test for significant differences between the field of study and alcohol and drug usage among respondents. The t-test results revealed that there were no significant differences between science and humanities and alcohol usage; the mean differences for drug usage were not significant either. In general, there were no differences between the field of study and drug and alcohol usage. Therefore, H3 regarding the positive impact of age on alcohol consumption and drug usage was rejected.

Table 3:

Mean Differences between Field of Study, Drug and Alcohol Usage (n=440)

Alcohol Usage			Drug Usage			
Field of Study	Mean	t	р	Mean	t	р
Science	8.8316	0.513	0.446	16.2593	0.722	0.597
Humanities	8.6713			15.9930		

*p<0.05

H4: Marital status is positively related to alcohol consumptionH5: Marital status is positively related to drug usage

The mean differences for marital status, alcohol, and drug usage were measured by independent t-test. The results in Table 3 indicated that there was a significant difference in alcohol usage between married and single students. However, this mean difference for drug usage was not significant. Therefore, H4, regarding the positive impact of marital status on alcohol consumption, was accepted, while H5, regarding the positive impact of marital status on drug usage, was rejected.

Table 4:

T-Test between Marital Status, Alcohol, and Drug Usage (n=440)

Alcohol Usage			Drug Usage			
Marital status	Mean	t	р	Mean	t	р
Married	8.0667	6.354	0.00	16.1333	-0.044	0.965
Single	8.8317			15.1756		
	*p<.05					

CONCLUSION

The present study was conducted as an attempt to find out any relationship between the gratification of using the Internet, problems in using the Internet, alcohol consumption, and drug abuse among Malaysian youth based on their age, field of study, and marital status. There was a significant difference in alcohol usage between married and single students. This result is consistent with the study of Cheah et al. (2020), confirming that age, marital status, and tobacco consumption are independently related to using alcohol in Malaysia. In a similar study, Hassan et al. (2020) confirmed the association between marital status and alcohol consumption. However, the mean difference in drug usage and marital status was not significant, which might be a result of the fact that Malaysia is a multicultural country and using alcohol among Chinese and Indians is a part of their culture. In addition, Salvatore, Gardner, and Kendler (2020) reported that married men consumed less alcohol and other substances compared to single men. Furthermore, there was no relationship between gratification of using the Internet and drug and alcohol usage among the respondents. The results of this study are inconsistent with the study of Foxx (2011), who found an association between Internet usage and alcohol and drug usage. Shields & Kane (2011) also found that the actual use of substances (alcohol, marijuana, illicit drugs) and Internet use are interrelated. Similarly, Sun et al. (2020) concluded that during the COVID-19 lockdown,

excessive use of the Internet has increased risks of addiction to alcohol, Internet, and smoking. Teenagers who were exposed to using drugs on social media are more prone to consuming different substances (Babor et al., 2017; Vannucci et al., 2020). Boyle et al. (2016), Lyvers et al. (2020), and Liu and Bharadwaj (2020) reached similar outcomes. In addition, the association between age and alcohol usage was not significant; however, this relationship for drug usage was positive and significant. Drinking alcohol is quite common among Chinese and Indians in Malaysia. That is perhaps the reason why no association was found between alcohol and age. However, the use of drugs among people of certain ages is limited, and usually, they are not allowed to buy them. For instance, selling cigarettes to people under the age of 18 is illegal. This result is not consistent with Cheah et al. (2020), who also found an association between age and alcohol usage. Besides, Hassan et al. (2020) found a similar association between age and drug usage. There were no significant differences among fields of study and drug and alcohol usage. This result does not agree with the results of the Williams et al. study in 2020, which found an association between using cannabis and higher levels of education (Fraser & Moore, 2011), as well as Midanik and Room (2005), also found a relationship between studying social science and alcohol/drug consumption. There is a meaningful relationship between alcohol usage and drug usage. This result is in agreement with previous results of the Institute for Public Health (IPH) (2017), Sun et al. (2020), Cawley and Ruhm (2012), and Jackson et al. (2020), who found the association between alcohol and drug usage. This study just focused on two negative effects, such as alcohol consumption and drug abuse, so it's better to investigate the effects of Internet usage and other risky behaviors, including pornography, movies or websites, gambling, Internet addiction, etc. The present investigation was carried out in one university; therefore, we cannot generalize the findings to other universities or other youths in Malaysia. The findings of this study prove that there was no significant relationship between Internet usage and alcohol and drug consumption. However, we need to increase media literacy among students. Newer avoidance programs, such as media literacy, are targeted at intruding on the progress from negative to positive substance-use expectancies. They include reinforcing logical answers to media messages, raising understanding of your own emotional answers, enhancing critical thinking as a media filter, and being an active rather than a passive viewer. Tucker (1985) said that students who

took part in a 10-session media literacy program named Media Detective were better capable of deconstructing ads and understanding their persuasive intent, and as a result, they decreased their intention to consume alcohol (Kupersmidt, Scull, & Austin, 2010). Primack et al. (2009) compared traditional and modern media literacy avoidance programs for smoking avoidance. They claimed that 9th graders in the Media Detective group were more media literate and better critical thinkers, yet they were not more inclined to change behaviors. Furthermore, we should have workshops about the advantages and disadvantage of media usage, especially the Internet, and talks about all negative behaviors, such as watching pornography movies, showing alcohol and drug usage, etc., without any prejudice. Therefore, it seems that anti-alcohol programs targeted mainly at young adults might assist in decreasing the occurrence of alcohol use in Malaysia. Furthermore, using social media like Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, which are frequently accessed by youngsters, may bring about promising results by advertising the facts about the disadvantages of drinking. Also, various policymakers, media professionals, and society have to be informed about the consequences of chronic alcohol consumption through sensitization programs and health education campaigns. There is a dire need for a rational alcohol control policy with specific objectives like alcohol taxation, production, and promotion policy.

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