

INFLUENCES OF PAEDOPHILIC AND FAMILY ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS ON PAEDOPHILIA: A PRELIMINARY STUDY

Nor Khairunnisa Mat Yunus
Fakulti Pengurusan dan Perniagaan
Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) Pahang, Kampus Raub
27600 Raub Pahang
Email: norkhairunnisa@pahang.uitm.edu.my

Zaidatul Nadiyah Abu Yazid,
Fakulti Pengurusan dan Perniagaan
Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) Pahang, Kampus Raub
27600 Raub Pahang
Email: zaidhea@pahang.uitm.edu.my

Nurul Nadia Abd Aziz,
Fakulti Pengurusan dan Perniagaan
Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) Pahang, Kampus Raub
27600 Raub Pahang
Email: nurul_nadia@pahang.uitm.edu.my

Roslina Ali,
Fakulti Pengurusan dan Perniagaan
Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) Pahang, Kampus Raub
27600 Raub Pahang
Email: roslinaali@pahang.uitm.edu.my

Siti Hasziani Ahmad
Fakulti Pengurusan dan Perniagaan
Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) Pahang, Kampus Raub
27600 Raub Pahang
Email: hasziani88@pahang.uitm.edu.my

ABSTRACT

In recent years, there have been news on how our children are being victimised by the adult, which become headlines in the local daily newspapers. Royal Malaysia Police (RMP) recorded 22,234 cases of children sexual abuse from 2010 until May 2017. Despite these disturbing numbers, little work has been done to identify the risk factors before the offence. Many are uncomfortable talking to children about sexual behaviour, particularly about a sexual issue with such extreme stigma attached to it. Paedophilia and children sexual offenders must not be considered synonymous, however paedophilic preference is a major contributing factor to children sexual offenders. The term paedophilia refers to the state of adults being sexually interested in children. Paedophilic desire is an inclination in an adult to have sex with child; a person has paedophilia if he has relatively frequent and intense paedophilic desire. This paper presents the results of a review of studies examining the general, common, and specific developmental risk factors for paedophilia. Paedophilic factors and family environmental factors were found to be general developmental risk factors that contribute to paedophilia behaviours. This study suggests that the presence of this risk factors may lead to a variety of negative behavioural outcomes, including the perpetration of child sexual offending. Developed framework will be used for future research to identify public perception on the risk factors that contribute to the paedophilia crime.

Keywords: Paedophilia, Paedophilic, Children Sexual Abuse.

INTRODUCTION

Just as disturbing, the cases related to children sexual abuse keep increasing in the past decades. Based on the statistic provided by the Royal Malaysia Police, there are 22,234 cases have been recorded from 2010 until May 2017 alone. On the other hand, according to the survey conducted by the Ministry of Health Malaysia in 2015, found out that 14 in every 1,000 under aged girls got pregnant every year as compared to our neighbouring country, Singapore which statistically shown that only 4 in every 1,000 under aged girls got pregnant. This number proves that child sexual abuse in Malaysia is something that we need to apprehend about.

Child sexual abuse can take place in various settings and situation, this includes home, school, or even at work. And in many cases involving children, most of them unaware of being sexually abused. The reason is because, child sexual abused sometime does not involving physical penetration of their sexual organs, but it can be any other forms. It includes child grooming, using child to produce pornography also considered as child sexual abuse. Surprisingly, most of the abuse caused by someone closely related to the child himself.

Paedophilia is a psychiatric disorder in which an adult adolescent exclusive sexual attraction to children. The word paedophilia is often applied to any sexual interest in children or the act of child sexual abused but paedophilia and child sexual abuse are not synonym. Child sexual abuse offenders are not paedophiles unless they have a primary or exclusive sexual interest in children. Little research has been done to identify the development risk factors of paedophilia. Therefore, this research is designed to study and understand about the root causes of paedophilia which contribute to highly rated sexual offender in Malaysia.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Paedophilic Factors

The term pedophilia actually refers to the state of adults being sexually interested in children. Paedophilia and children sexual offenders must not be considered synonymous, however paedophilic preference is a major contributing factor to children sexual offenders. (Gerwinn, Weib, Tenbergen, Amelung, Fodisch, Pohl, Massau, Kneer, Mohnke, Kargel, Wittfoth, Jung, Drumkova, Schiltz, Walter, Beier, Walter, Ponseti, Schitter & Krunger, 2018). Pedophilic desire is an inclination in an adult to have sex with child, a person has pedophilia if he has relatively frequent and intense pedophilic desire. (Doshi, Zanzrukiya & Kumar, 2018). Pedophilic offenders are more likely to sexually reoffend and require different interventions (Seto, 2009)

Studies in Malaysia show that most social problems such as cohabitation, harassment, rape, paedophilia and internet addiction are resulting from the collapse of family institutions, lack of religious knowledge, foreign cultural influences, mass media influence, peer pressure, and lack of support systems (Magendran, 2017; Rosyadi, 2016). In the case of paedophilia, perpetrators are essentially seen to have lost of moral value and chose to commit sexual crimes against children. Some researchers claim that the collapse of humanity and moral values is likely to result from the internet explosion (Malek & Kamil, 2010).

People with paedophilic sexual interests in children do not suffer from mental disorders since birth (like autism patients and others) on the other hand stems from the attitude of those who love surfing pornographic websites. Women's Head of IKRAM Malaysia, Datin Paduka Che Asmah Ibrahim said when a pornographic website was blocked by the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission, another new website was created (Bernama, 2016). That is one of the reasons why pornographic websites seem to be unmanageable. This allegation has been supported by a study done in Indonesia which found that sex crime cases on children has increased by 12 percent and are expected to have been triggered by the ease of accessing pornographic websites (Rosyadi, 2016). More alarming, the youth in Malaysia also have a tendency to surf pornography websites. Some researchers claim that teenagers in Malaysia are surfing the internet for chatting, watching cyber pornography, and playing violent games online (Hamid & Shiratuddin, 2016).

Despite many studies proving more than 30 percent of sex offender were diagnosed to have a psychiatric disorder (Fazel, Hope, O'Donnelly, & Jacoby, 2002; Norliza, Salina, Hatta, & Adam, 2014), there is also a researcher (Jahnke, 2018) who claims that sexual desire on children is normal. Jahnke (2018) highlighted that paedophilic tend to experience their sexual and emotional attachment to children in the same way as non-paedophilic experience their attraction for physically mature sexual partners, and, like others, may choose to live free without committing paedophilia crimes. This implies that the inability of paedophilic in self-control their sexual interest causes their behaviour expression is not in line with the community standards that does not permit sexual acts between adults and children (Jahnke, 2018). Furthermore, the inability to control sexual desire in children may also be associated with the abuse of certain types of substances such as alcohol, drugs

and marijuana. A study done by Norliza and colleagues (2014) found that 19.5% of sex offenders have been diagnosed with drug addiction problems and 32.3% abused or dependant on alcohol.

In short, by considering that a man who has a hobby of surfing pornographic websites, immoral and has inability to control their sexual interest in children is likely to commit paedophilia, we make the following proposition:

Proposition 1: Higher paedophilic factors will be associated with higher levels of paedophilia crime.

Family Environment Factors

Marshall and Barbaree (1990) propose that family dysfunctional experiences, such as violent parenting, are responsible for the development of strong feelings of resentment and hostility, which are essential elements in sexual offending. Additionally, Ward, Hudson, Marshall, and Siegert (1995) models suggests that various types of problematic parent-child relationships are associated with different types of insecure attachment styles found among sex offenders. Childhood experiences in terms of parental violence, problematic parent-child relationships, and poor socialization can be regarded as developmental risk factors for sexual offending.

The study conducted by Aun and Yusof (2017) found that the majority of parents did not have much knowledge on paedophilia. Among the Indian community, lack of knowledge about paedophilia has led to a lack of defences against victims when they are only seriously concerned on sexual intercourse with children as sexual abuse, but acts like stimulation, showing pornographic images, touching private parts of children are not recognized as sexual abuse and are often neglected (Deb & Ray, 2015). Parents who often upload pictures of their children in social media are a sign of their lack of knowledge of paedophilia crime (Ishak, 2016; Tamboo, 2016). This act may create a danger when their children's images are at risk of being uploaded on pornography websites by paedophiles.

However, Western studies have found that children and adolescents have the knowledge and awareness of the dangers of the internet (Zilka, 2017). Experimental studies have been conducted by Wartella, Lin, Kotler, Huston, and Donnerstein (2000) to measure the knowledge, attitudes and behaviour of children and adolescents regarding sexual media content and sexuality. Their study, however, cannot convince that the influence of movie on television can help children interpret the contents of sexual messages. In Malaysia, the suggestion to add a syllabus to early sex education, not getting support from the community makes it very restrictive to expose children about the crime of paedophilia (Sinar Harian, 2017). More alarming when teenagers nowadays also love to upload their pictures and disclose their personal information on social media without realizing the dangers that await. Children who lack attention and affection from parents prefer to express their loneliness in social media makes them vulnerable to paedophiles (Arnaldo, 2000).

There is a tendency to view childhood emotional abuse as the core issue in childhood adversities. Such a view suggests that childhood emotional abuse is likely to be a common predictor for various types of paraphilias. Childhood emotional abuse tends to enhance the effects of childhood sexual abuse (Bagley, Wood, & Young, 1994) and childhood physical abuse (McGee, Wolfe, & Wilson, 1997)

Some cases of paedophilia are caused by sexual abuse. There is evidence to suggest that sexually abused sex offenders have poorer family supports, more disturbed family background, and more negative relationships with their fathers (Dhawan & Marshall, 1996; Langevin et al., 1989). Naive children who do not know that they are being treated improperly from trusted people (such as their father and family members) feel that such treatment is fun. While many people think sexually abused children will be traumatized, there are also researchers claiming that girl victims will be addicted to sex (Earp, Wudarczyk, Foddy, & Savulescu, 2017). In contrast, the victims of sexually abused boys are likely to become paedophiles when they become adults.

Many studies posit that sexual victimization in childhood plays an important role in later sexual offending against children (Johnson & Knight, 2000; Marshall & Marshall, 2000; Seto, 2008; Ward & Siegert, 2002) and studies generally find an association between childhood sexual abuse and sexual offending against children. Furthermore, sexual offenders against children have significantly higher rates of childhood sexual victimization than sexual offenders against adults (Jespersen et al., 2009; Seto & Lalumière, 2010; Whitaker et al., 2008). Several studies found that about 28 to 35 percent of sex offenders in their studies revealed that they had been sexually abused during childhood (Fazel et al., 2002; Greenfield, 1997; Seghorn, Prenky, & Boucher, 1987). It has been suggested that children sexual abuse may lead to the development of paedophilia. (Nunes, Hermann, Malcom & Lavoie, 2013) Among sexual offenders, there is a relationship between child sexual victimization and paedophilic interest. There is some evidence that paedophilic interest may be most strongly associated with

sexual victimization by a male, at a younger age, and by an unrelated abuser. Hence, sexual abuse of children is also considered as a determining factor in paedophilia crime.

Considering the family dysfunctional as well as children emotional and sexual abuse may contribute to paedophilia crime, we thus make the following proposition:

Proposition 2: Higher family environment factors will be associated with higher levels of paedophilia crime.

Conceptual Model and Research Propositions

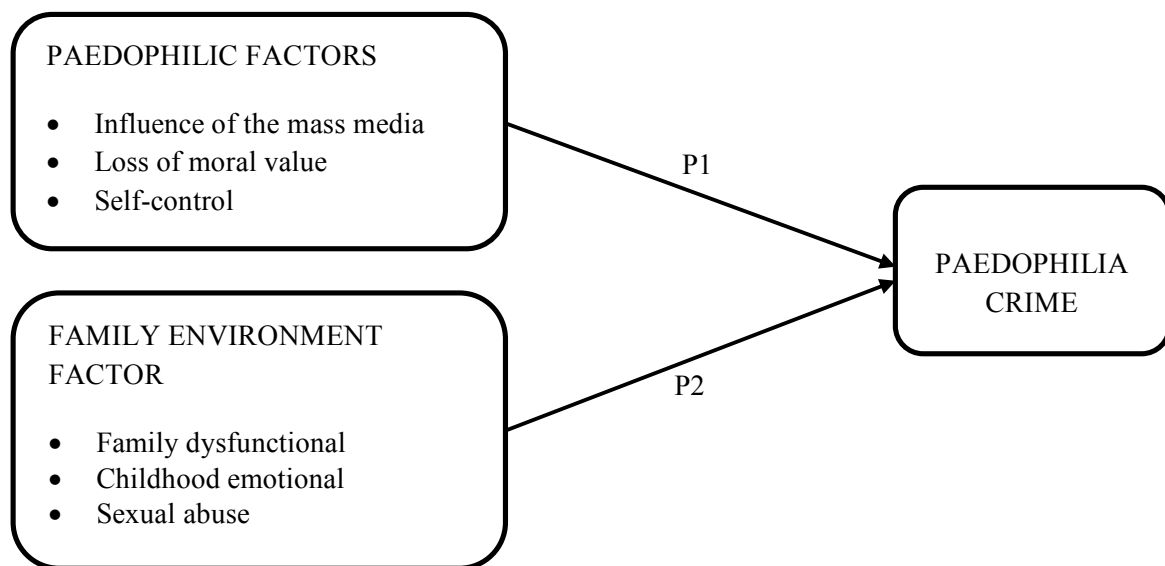


Figure 1: Conceptual Framework

This study attempts to identify the determinants of paedophilia. Each factor of paedophilia is studied using a detailed literature review and the conceptual model proposed by this paper is presented as Figure 1. As Figure 1 illustrates, the arrangement of the model suggests that there are two main factors that may contribute to paedophilia: paedophilic factors and family environment factors. Paedophilic factors focus on the perpetrator factors that led to the occurrence of paedophilia. Based on the study, men with influence of social media, loss of moral values and lack of self-control will be considered as high paedophilic risk. In contrast, family environment factors focus on the family dysfunctional, children emotional and sexual abuse that are causing them to become victims of paedophilia.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this study suggested the influences of paedophilic and family environmental factors are the main risk factors for the occurrence of paedophilia crime. One of the main methods to prevent paedophilia is avoiding situations that may promote paedophilic acts. Children should never leave alone in one-on-one situations with any adult other than their parents or trustworthy family members. Education is another basis of preventing paedophilia. Children must be taught to avoid situations that make them exposed to paedophiles. They must learn to protect themselves from become a victim of sexual abuse and paedophilia crime. At the same time, parents should also be cautious and aware regarding the sexual crimes that exposed to their children in many ways such as websites.

Lack of exposure related to the sexual knowledge and education might be the reason of high rate of sexual abuse in Malaysia. Based on the research conducted by Talib, Mamat, Ibrahim, & Mohamad (2012), sex education has been taught indirectly to school children in Malaysia however most of the topic only being discussed on a minimal basis. This may lead to several sexual offenders by not understanding of the effect of such actions. Hence, education programs such as sex education should be conducted using a schooling system and uniformity. One thing that people have to understand is, sexual education designed not to encourage sexual activity, but to educate kids, teenagers and adult about the accountable sexual behaviour (M. Mutalip & Mohamed, 2014). It is seen that in cooperation with the parents, in addition to teaching in school, reinforcement in the home environment will decrease the possibility of the children forgetting. Learning about how to protect themselves from sexual crime could be effective in reducing the worries of parents, and appropriate lessons thought could increase effectiveness and confidences in their children.

This study is very significant in terms of its contribution towards awareness of public, parents, schools, local authority and others. This study comes with its effort to find development risk factors contributing to paedophilia, in future research, developed framework will be used to identify the public perception on the risk factors that contribute to the paedophilia crime.

REFERENCES

- Arnaldo, C. A. (2000). Child abuse on the internet. In *Children and Media Violence*. Retrieved from <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED444757.pdf#page=158>
- Aun, N. S. M., & Yusof, S. A. M. (2017). Ibu bapa di kawasan dengkil berkenaan pedofilia terhadap kanak-kanak (Parents' knowledge in dengkil area regarding pedophilia against children). *Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities*, 3. Retrieved from <http://ejournal.ukm.my/ebangi/article/view/22572>
- Bagley, C., Wood, M., & Young, L. (1994). Victim to abuse: mental health and behavioral sequels of child sexual abuse in a community survey of young adult males. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 18, 683–697.
- Bernama. (2016). Penting beri kesedaran bahaya pedofilia, pornografi. Retrieved August 17, 2018, from <http://www.sinarharian.com.my/nasional/penting-beri-kesedaran-bahaya-pedofilia-pornografi-1.565822>
- Dhawan, S., & Marshall, W. L. (1996). Sexual abuse histories of sexual offenders. *Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research and Treatment*, 8, 7–15.
- Deb, S., & Ray, M. (2015). Child Abuse and Neglect in India, Risk Factors, and Protective Measures. In *Child Safety, Welfare and Well-being: Issues and Challenges*. Springer.
- Doshi, S.M., Zanzrukiya, K. & Kumar, L., (2018). Paraphilic infantilism, diaperism and pedophilia: A review. *Journal of Forensic and Legal Medicine*. 56. pp 12–15. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jflm.2018.02.026>
- Earp, B. D., Wudarczyk, O. A., Foddy, B., & Savulescu, J. (2017). Addicted to love: What is love addiction and when should it be treated? *Philosophy, Psychiatry, & Psychology*, 24(1), 1–39. <http://doi.org/10.1353/ppp.2017.0011>

- Fazel, S., Hope, T., O'Donnelly, I., & Jacoby, R. (2002). Psychiatric, demographic and personality characteristics of elderly sex offenders. *Psychological Medicine*, 32(2), 219–226.
- Gerwinn, H., Weib, S., Tenbergen, G., Amelung, T., Fodisch, C., Pohl, A., Massau, C., Kneer, J. Mohnke, S., Kargel, C., Wittfoth, M., Jung, S., Drumkova, K., Schiltz, K., Walter, M., Beier, K.M., Walter, H., Ponseti, J., Schitter B., & Krunger, T.H.C., (2018). Clinical characteristics associated with paedophilia and child sex offending-Differentiating sexual preference from offence status. *European Psychiatry*. v.51 pp.74–85. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.eurpsy.2018.02.002>
- Greenfield, L. (1997). *Sex offences and offenders. An analysis of data of rape and sexual assaults*.
- Hamid, R., & Shiratuddin, N. (2016). Filtering violence and sexual content: The necessities of digital games content rating system for Malaysia's environment. *Journal of Telecommunication, Electronic and Computer Engineering*, 8(8), 83–89. Retrieved from <http://journal.utem.edu.my/index.php/jtec/article/view/1324>
- Ishak, S. (2016). Kalau bukan lelaki, salah siapa? Retrieved August 29, 2018, from <http://www.freemalaysiatoday.com/category/opinion/2016/11/03/kalau-bukan-lelaki-salah-siapa/>
- Jahnke, S. (2018). The stigma of pedophilia: Clinical and forensic implications. *European Psychologist*. <http://doi.org/10.1027/1016-9040/a000325>
- Jespersen, A. F., Lalumière, M. L., & Seto, M. C. (2009). Sexual abuse history among adult sex offenders and non-sex offenders: A meta-analysis. *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 33, 179–192. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2008.07.004>
- Johnson, G. M., & Knight, R. A. (2000). Developmental antecedents of sexual coercion in juvenile sexual offenders. *Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research and Treatment*, 12, 165–178. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1023/A:1009546308248>
- Langevin, R., Wright, P., & Handy, L. (1989). Characteristics of sex offenders who were sexually victimized as children. *Annals of Sex Research*, 2, 227–253.
- M. Mutalip, S. S., & Mohamed, R. (2014). Sexual Education In Malaysia : Accepted Or Rejected ?, (May).
- Magendran, R. (2017). Nilai murni senjata tangani gejala sosial - TPM | Nasional | Berita Harian. Retrieved August 29, 2018, from <https://www.bharian.com.my/berita/nasional/2017/11/345062/nilai-murni-senjata-tangani-gejala-sosial-tpm>
- Malek, M. D. A., & Kamil, I. S. M. (2010). Jenayah dan masalah sosial di kalangan remaja: cabaran dan realiti dunia siber. *Eprint.ums*, 1–8. Retrieved from <http://eprints.ums.edu.my/117/1/CONF2010004.pdf>
- Marshall, W. L., & Marshall, L. (2000). The origins of sexual offending. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*, 1, 250–263. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1177/152483800001003003>
- Marshall, W. L., & Barbaree, H. E. (1990). An integrated theory of the etiology of sexual offending. In W. L. Marshall, D. R. Laws, & H. E. Barbaree (Eds.), *Handbook of sexual assault: Issues, theories, and treatment of the offender* (pp. 257–275). New York: Plenum.
- McGee, R. A., Wolfe, D. A., & Wilson, S. K. (1997). Multiple maltreatment experiences and adolescent behavior problems: adolescents' problems. *Development and Psychopathology*, 9, 131–149.
- Norliza, C., Salina, A., Hatta, M., & Adam, B. M. (2014). Associated Factors of Sex Offenders. *MJP Online Early*. Retrieved from <http://143.95.253.101/~psychjm/index.php/mjp/article/view/293>
- Nunes, K.L., Hermann, C.A., Malcom, J.R., & Lavoie, K. (2013). Childhood sexual victimization, pedophilic interest, and sexual recidivism. *Child Abuse & Neglect*. V.37. 703– 711. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2013.01.008>

- Rosyadi, K. (2016). The stupid libido: searching for the root causes of sexual violence against children in Indonesia. *Proceeding of ICECRS, 1*, 549–558. Retrieved from <http://ojs.umsida.ac.id/index.php/icecrs/article/view/524>
- Seghorn, T., Prenky, R., & Boucher, R. (1987). Childhood sexual abuse in the lives of sexually aggressive offenders. *J Am Acad Child Adolesc Psychiatry.*, 26(262–267).
- Seto, M. C., & Lalumière, M. L. (2010). What is so special about male adolescent sexual offending? A review and test of explanations using meta-analysis. *Psychological Bulletin*, 136, 526–575. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/a0019700>
- Seto MC. (2009) Pedophilia. *Annu Rev Clin Psychol.* V.5. Pp.391–407, doi:<http://dx.doi.org/10.1146/annurev.clinpsy.032408.153618>.
- Seto, M. C. (2008). Pedophilia and sexual offending against children: Theory, assessment, and intervention. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.
- Sinar Harian. (2017). Pendidikan awal elak seks bebas. Retrieved August 28, 2018, from <http://www.sinarharian.com.my/semasa/pendidikan-awal-elak-seks-bebas-1.678213>
- Talib, J., Mamat, M., Ibrahim, M., & Mohamad, Z. (2012). Analysis on sex education in schools across Malaysia, 59(2005), 340–348. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.sbspro.2012.09.284>
- Tamboo, T. K. L. (2016). Pedofilia: Ibu bapa jangan ketagih muat naik gambar anak | Astro Awani. Retrieved August 14, 2018, from <http://www.astroawani.com/berita-malaysia/pedofilia-ibu-bapa-jangan-ketagih-muat-naik-gambar-anak-121269>
- Ward, T., & Siegert, R. J. (2002). Toward a comprehensive theory of child sexual abuse: A theory knitting perspective. *Psychology, Crime & Law*, 8, 319–351. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10683160208401823>
- Ward, T., Hudson, S., Marshall, W. L., & Siegert, R. (1995). Attachment style and intimacy deficits in sexual offenders: a theoretical framework. *Sexual Abuse Journal of Research and Treatment*, 7, 317–335.
- Wartella, E., Lin, R. S., Kotler, J., Huston, A. C., & Donnerstein, E. (2000). Effects of Sexual Content in the Media on Children and Adolescents. In *Children and Media Violence* (pp. 141–158).
- Whitaker, D. J., Le, B., Hanson, R. K., Baker, C. K., McMahon, P. M., Ryan, G., Klein, A., & Rice, D. D. (2008). Risk factors for the perpetration of child sexual abuse: A review and meta-analysis. *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 32, 529–548. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2007.08.005>
- Zilka, G. C. (2017). Awareness of eSafety and potential online dangers among children and teenagers. *Journal of Information Technology Education: Research*, 16, 319–338. <http://doi.org/10.1227/01.NEU.0000233777.46522.1E>