**Research Paper**                                                    **Open Access**

# THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PARENTAL AWARENESS, MONITORING PRACTICES, AND CHILDREN'S ONLINE SAFETY BEHAVIOR ON CYBERCRIME RISK

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**ABSTRACT:** This study, titled *"The Relationship Between Parental Awareness, Monitoring Practices andChildren's Online Safety Behavior on Cybercrime Risk,"* aimed to assess the level of parents' awareness and monitoring practices regarding their children's online activities, and how these influence children's safety behaviors in relation to cybercrime exposure. With the increasing accessibility of digital technology and the internet among the youth, the role of parents in guiding and protecting their children from online risks has become crucial. The study employed a quantitative-descriptive research design using a structured survey questionnaire administered to 208 parent-respondents from one of the barangays in Ozamiz City, Misamis Occidental. The data gathered were analyzed using descriptive statistical tools such as frequency, percentage, weighted mean, and standard deviation. Results revealed that parents demonstrated a moderate level of awareness of cybercrime risks, particularly regarding cyberbullying, identity theft, and online scams. However, monitoring practices were found to be inconsistent, with parents tending to rely on verbal reminders rather than technological supervision. Moreover, findings indicated a positive relationship between parental awareness and children's online safety behavior, implying that higher parental awareness and active monitoring lead to safer digital practices among children. The study concludes that strengthening parental digital literacy and establishing family-based online safety programs are essential strategies to reduce children's exposure to cybercrime risks. It recommends that schools and local agencies collaborate in promoting community seminars and digital parenting workshops to enhance parental involvement in online child protection.

**Keywords:** Parental awareness; parental monitoring; online safety behavior; cybercrime risk; digital parenting; internet safety; child protection; cybersecurity awareness; parental supervision; digital literacy; online risk prevention

## I. INTRODUCTION

Cybercrime, an umbrella term referring to illegal activities committed through or against computer systems, has intensified alongside rapid technological advancement (Phillips et al., 2022). Its impacts extend beyond individuals to organizations and society as a whole, with common forms such as hacking, online fraud, and identity theft resulting in significant financial and psychological harm (Popoola et al., 2024; Palassis et al., 2021). As digital interactions became embedded in daily life, the threat of cybercrime expanded across age groups, increasingly affecting children and adolescents (Van der Hof & Koops, 2011). Understanding the evolving cybercrime landscape has therefore become essential in designing mechanisms to safeguard vulnerable populations (Yeboah-Ofori & Opoku-Boateng, 2023). Young people represent one of the most targeted groups due to their frequent engagement with online platforms and social media (Social Media and Cybercrimes - ProQuest, n.d.). Statistics reveal a troubling rise in cyberbullying, harassment, and exposure to harmful content among adolescents (Sundari et al., 2025). The World Health Organization (2023) reported that approximately 15% of adolescents had experienced cyberbullying—a notable increase from 12% in 2018 (Sorrentino et al., 2023). These online threats expose youth to risks such as identity theft and online predation, and they often produce long-term emotional and psychological consequences including anxiety, depression, and diminished perceived safety (Chadwick, 2014; Cañas et al., 2020). These realities underscore the urgent need to strengthen awareness and implement protective strategies for young internet users (Throuvala et al., 2021). Within this context, parents serve as the primary guardians responsible for guiding children through the complexities of the

digital world and promoting safe online practices (Banić & Orehovački, 2024). As cyber threats escalate, parental understanding of online risks has become increasingly vital. Parental involvement significantly shapes children's online behavior and perceptions of safety. However, many parents struggle to keep pace with technological innovations, leaving them uncertain about emerging risks and ill-equipped to engage in effective safety guidance (Clark, 2013). Strengthening parental awareness and digital competence remains essential to enhancing children's online protection. Although parents generally recognize the importance of staying informed about cyber threats, research suggests that many lack detailed knowledge about the specific risks their children encounter online (Turner et al., 2022). Misconceptions about online safety further hinder parents' ability to communicate effectively about digital risks (Finkelhor et al., 2020). These gaps in awareness directly influence children's online experiences and their capacity to navigate potential dangers (Livingstone & Helsper, 2009). Improving parental understanding of cyber threats is therefore critical in promoting children's digital well-being (Livingstone & Blum-Ross, 2020).

Parents face several challenges that complicate their efforts to teach online safety, including generational differences in technological skills, limited access to resources, and varying levels of digital literacy (Naz & Aqeel, 2025; Singun, 2025). Socio-economic factors, educational background, and cultural attitudes toward technology further influence the extent of parental engagement (World Health Organization, 2022; Ali & Asif, 2023). Addressing these constraints is vital for empowering parents to adopt proactive strategies against cyber threats (Caddle et al., 2022). Despite the growing body of literature on cybercrime and its impact on youth, a significant practical gap remains: parents lack clear, actionable strategies to effectively protect their children online. While many studies acknowledge the importance of parental involvement, few offer concrete, real-world guidelines that parents can apply in their everyday interactions. This gap between awareness and implementation leaves parents unprepared to translate general knowledge into effective protective measures, highlighting the need for research that bridges this divide. To address this gap, the present study explores parental views on cybercrime awareness and their perceived responsibilities in safeguarding their children online. Using a qualitative research design, the study investigates parents' experiences, knowledge gaps, strategies, and challenges related to digital safety. Data gathered through interviews and questionnaires provide rich insights into the complexities of parental engagement with online risks. The findings contribute to existing scholarship by identifying key themes that can inform future educational programs, support systems, and policy interventions aimed at enhancing children's digital safety.

### 1.1 STUDY OBJECTIVES
This study aimed to:
1. Determine the level of parental awareness regarding children's online safety.
2. Assess the extent of parental monitoring practices.
3. Examine children's online safety behavior.
4. Identify the relationship between parental awareness and children's online safety behavior.
5. Determine the relationship between parental monitoring practices and children's online safety behavior.
6. Provide recommendations to strengthen online safety practices.

## II.     METHODS
This study employed a descriptive-correlational research design to examine the relationships between parental awareness, monitoring practices, and children's online safety behavior in one barangay in Ozamiz City, Misamis Occidental. A total of 208 purposively selected parents participated and answered three researcher-made questionnaires measuring parental awareness, monitoring practices, and children's online safety behavior, each assessed using a five-point Likert scale. Data were gathered through direct distribution of survey instruments, with confidentiality ensured and permission secured from the barangay captain. Mean and standard deviation were used to determine levels of awareness, monitoring, and safety behavior, while the Pearson Product-Moment Correlation Coefficient tested the relationships among the variables.

## III.     RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS
**Parental awareness on children's safety behavior**
Parental awareness of children's safety behavior refers to the degree to which parents recognize, understand, and actively manage the risks that their children may encounter in daily life. This includes monitoring children's actions, educating them about potential hazards, enforcing safety rules, and modeling responsible behavior. High parental awareness not only reduces the likelihood of accidents and injuries but also promotes the development of safe habits and risk-conscious attitudes in children. By being vigilant and proactive, parents play a critical role in shaping children's safety behaviors, fostering both physical well-being and long-term responsibility. Table 1 presents the impact of parental awareness on children's safety behavior.

Table 1. Impact of parental awareness on children's safety behavior (N=208)

| Variable | Parental Awareness | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | *Mean* | *SD* | Remark |
| General Awareness of Online Risks Technical Awareness | 4.97 | 0.032 | Very Aware |
| | 4.91 | 0.062 | Very Aware |
| Behavioral Awareness | | | |
| | 4.94 | 0.026 | Very Aware |
| Legal and Ethical Awareness | | | |
| | 4.91 | 0.069 | Very Aware |

*Note. Parental Awareness Scale: 4.20-5.00 (Very Aware); 3.40-4.19 (Somewthat Aware); 2.60-3.39 (aware); 1.80-2.59 (Less Aware); 1.00-1.79(Unaware)*

Table 1 illustrates the effects of parental awareness on children's safety behavior as measured across the four key dimensions: general awareness of online risks, technical awareness, behavioral awareness, and legal and ethical awareness. It can be observed from this table that in all areas, the parents are very highly aware, with mean scores ranging between 4.91 and 4.97. General awareness of online risks received the highest mean (M = 4.97, SD = 0.032), indicating how attentive the parents are to possible dangers their children may face on digital platforms. Technical awareness (M = 4.91, SD = 0.062) refers to the understanding of tools and technological measures that keep children safe. Behavioral awareness (M = 4.94, SD = 0.026) points to the parents' recognition of the children's actions and habits that may put them at risk. Legal and ethical awareness (M = 4.91, SD = 0.069) implicates relevant regulations, policies, and ethical considerations that guide safe practices. Very low standard deviations for all variables point to consistency in parental responses, meaning there is uniformity at a high level of awareness across the sampled population. These together show that parents are very conscious of the multi-facets of child safety, which probably contributes to the positive development of safe behavior and responsible decision-making in children.

A substantial body of research places great emphasis on the role of parental awareness in shaping children's safety behavior in both online and digital contexts, supporting very high levels of awareness as observed in the current study. Parental awareness is multi-dimensional and encompasses general knowledge of online risks, technical skills in managing digital tools, understanding children's behavior, and knowledge of legal and ethical considerations-all critical for ensuring that children safely navigate online spaces (Terry, 2021). Accordingly, well-informed parents, as well as those who actively engage in monitoring and guiding their children's activities, tend to create safer environments and reduce their children's likelihood of exposure to cyber threats, inappropriate content, or harmful interactions (Joudaki, 2024). Other studies suggest that the perception of risks by parents does not always match actual exposure; however, proactive engagement in continuous learning and effective communication with children can help bridge this gap to ensure that awareness translates into concrete safety practices. Specifically, behavioral awareness allows parents to recognize early warning signs of risky actions and to intervene constructively, while technical awareness ensures they can use protective tools, settings, and software to minimize potential hazards. Legal and ethical awareness is also important, since through such awareness, parents can better guide children toward responsible and lawful conduct. Furthermore, the literature suggests that the consistency and quality of parental involvement strongly impact the development of children's self-regulatory skills, decision-making, and risk assessment abilities toward responsible habits that extend beyond digital contexts (Geduld, 2024). The combined findings across these and other studies reinforce the idea that parental awareness is not a unidimensional attribute but a multifaceted construct which, when fully developed, has a positive influence on children's safety behavior, preparedness, and overall resilience (Widowati et al., 2021). These findings support the current study's results and illustrate that parents displaying high levels of general, technical, behavioral, and legal awareness have higher chances of creating an environment that could nurture safe, informed, and responsible behavior among children, pointing to comprehensive awareness on both preventative and educational dimensions of child safety.

The high levels of parental awareness observed in this study imply that parents serve to shape and reinforce safe behaviors among children. Parents who are knowledgeable about general online risks, technical tools, behavioral cues, and legal and ethical considerations are better equipped to monitor, guide, and intervene effectively in their children's activities. This awareness not only reduces exposure to possible dangers for children, but it also encourages the development of responsible decision-making, self-regulation, and critical

thinking skills in children. Practically, these findings would support the idea that programs at improving parental knowledge and involvement have much to offer in promoting safety and child protection online. By investing in parental education and providing accessible resources, communities can strengthen protective environments that empower both parents and children to handle risks with confidence and responsibility.

**Impact of monitoring practices on children's safety behavior**

Monitoring practices are considered important in molding and reinforcing children's safety behavior since they entail observing children's activities consistently, guiding them in appropriate conduct online and offline, and supervising them. Through effective monitoring, parents are able to recognize risks that may affect their children, correct unsafe practices, and give feedback in a timely manner to ensure that the kids develop a good understanding of safe behavior. Parents create responsible habits that encourage adherence to safety protocols and reduce the chances of exposure to hazard through awareness of the interaction, environment, and decision-making processes of their children. Again, structured monitoring practices include establishing rules clearly, monitoring activities, and communicating openly, which will enhance trusting relationships between parents and their children, leading to cooperation in matters pertaining to safety. Overall, parental monitoring not only minimizes risks but also reinforces positive behavioral patterns, thereby cultivating a safety and vigilance culture supportive of children's overall well-being. Table 2 presents the impact of monitoring practices on children's safety behavior.

Table 2. Impact of monitoring practices on children's safety behavior (N=208)

| Variable | Monitoring Practices | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| | *Mean* | *SD* | Remark |
| Active Monitoring | 4.90 | 0.087 | Very Highly Committed |
| Restrictive Monitoring | 4.90 | 0.034 | Very Highly Committed |
| Technical Monitoring | 4.90 | 0.031 | Very Highly Committed |

*Note. Monitoring Practices Scale: 4.20-5.00 (Very Highly Committed); 3.40-4.19 Highly Committed); 2.60-3.39 (Somewhat Committed); 1.80-2.59 (Less Committed); 1.00-1.79(Not Committed)*

Table 2 presents the impact of parental monitoring practices on children's safety behavior. As it is evident, the level of parental commitment has been consistently high across all dimensions measured. The use of active monitoring-that is, directly supervising and observing children in their day-to-day activities-made a mean of 4.90 with a standard deviation of 0.087, indicating that parents are extremely observant and participatory in monitoring their children's behavior. Restrictive monitoring, on the other hand, implies the setting of rules, limits, or boundaries to control the potential risks. It scored 4.90 (SD = 0.034), showing that parents are correspondingly committed to establishing structured safety parameters for the protection of their children. Technical monitoring includes digital tools and software that track online and offline activities; as with active and restrictive monitoring, technical monitoring also obtained a mean of 4.90, albeit with a small SD of 0.031, which indicates consistency in the application of technological oversight to augment safety practices. The three constructs fall within the "Very Highly Committed" category, suggesting that parents apply multi-faceted monitoring that incorporates direct observation, rule-setting, and technical tools to safeguard their children. The low standard deviation across all dimensions suggests that such commitment is consistent among the sample, reinforcing the idea that diligent monitoring is one critical factor that fosters safe behaviors and promotes responsible decision-making among children.

The high levels of parental monitoring suggested within the study indicate that constant and multi-faceted monitoring is important in realizing the safety behaviors among children. Active, restrictive, and technical monitoring, together, provide an environment in which children are guided, monitored, and shielded from potential risks both online and offline. Such commitment not only prevents accidents, unsafe practices, and exposure to digital hazards but also molds responsible decision-making, self-discipline, and awareness about personal boundaries. According to the findings of this study, high-level parent involvement in monitoring is related to the internalization of safety norms, following the rules, and proactive safety behaviors among children. This practically underlines the importance of making parents aware of the necessity of maintaining multi-faceted monitoring strategies in regard to their children that combine direct supervision, the creation of rules, and technological tools.

**Impact of Children Safety Behavior**

Children's safety behavior is the collection of actions, habits, and decision-making processes adopted by children to protect themselves from physical, digital, and social hazards. This involves a wide range of practices, such as following rules, recognizing and avoiding dangerous situations, practicing safe online behavior, and adhering to guidelines provided by parents, teachers, and caregivers. The importance of children's safety behavior impact lies in the fact that it influences their physical well-being, emotional security, and ability to navigate risks responsibly. Good safety behaviors lower the chances of accidents, exposure to harmful content, and engagement in risky activities, while increasing sense of responsibility, awareness, and self-regulation. Moreover, consistent safety practices reinforce efforts of parental guidance and monitoring and create an enabling environment where children are able to develop into autonomy while keeping protective habits. The importance of enhancing and instilling good patterns of safety behavior among children is based on ensuring not only immediate protection but also long-term healthy development.

Table 3. Awareness of Children Safety Behavior (N=208)

| Variable | Children Safety Behavior | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| | *Mean* | *SD* | Remark |
| Personal Information Management | 4.96 | 0.016 | Very Highly Aware |
| Privacy Settings Usage | 4.92 | 0.046 | Very Highly Aware |
| Password Management | 4.85 | 0.107 | Very Highly Aware |

*Note. Children safety Behavior Scale: 4.20-5.00 (Very Highly Aware); 3.40-4.19 (Highly Aware); 2.60-3.39 (Fairly Aware); 1.80-2.59 (Less Aware); 1.00-1.79(Not Aware)*

Table 3 presents the level of children's safety behavior awareness in the sampled population. Children demonstrate very high awareness in the key areas selected for digital safety. In this respect, personal information management achieved a mean score of 4.96 (SD = 0.016), indicating that children are consistent in understanding the need for protecting personal information online, such as names, addresses, and contact information. The usage of privacy settings also yielded a very high mean of 4.92 (SD = 0.046) to show how children regulate and maintain privacy settings on social media platforms and other online applications. Password management is relatively lower than the two other variables but attained a high score of M = 4.85 (SD = 0.107) to indicate that children generally tend to make use of good password hygiene practices.

In addition, the low standard deviation across all variables reveals that there is a high degree of consensus among the population queried, suggesting that such behavior is consistently applied and embraced across the population. A "Very Highly Aware" remark for all items attests to the fact that children not only have knowledge regarding online safety practices but also apply such measures. This consistent adoption contributes to reduced vulnerability to threats, cyberbullying, and privacy breaches online. It also reveals the homogeneous awareness by the respondents concerning the recommended safety practices, reflecting strong educational and parental guidance.

These findings are corroborated by existing research that highlights proactive parenting through guidance on safe online behavior, continued educational interventions, and systematic monitoring as significantly enhancing children's understanding and practice of safe online behaviors (Banić & Orehovački, 2024). Evidence reveals that children who are regularly instructed on safety matters in the digital environment and whose parents are engaged in their supervision have better skills in managing personal information, applying privacy settings correctly, and maintaining secure passwords (Akter et al., 2022). Besides simple knowledge, repeated exposure to safety education enhances the abilities to practice critical thinking and problem-solving in online contexts, thus helping children to recognize and respond appropriately to various forms of cyber threats. Of special note are early and continued awareness efforts, which establish durable habits continuing into adolescence and adulthood and prepare children to navigate safely the increasingly complex digital environments (Buchan et al., 2024). The literature further points out that combining parental involvement with structured educational programs produces a synergistic effect, ensuring that, in addition to consolidating theoretical knowledge, safety-enhancing strategies are applied in practice (Zhang et al., 2024). Research also underlines the importance of creating an enabling environment where children do not feel shy about sharing with parents and educators any risks they experience online, which further enhances their vigilance and self-protective behavior. Taken together, these findings underscore how structured education, active parental involvement, and comprehensive programs of digital literacy play a pivotal role in building responsible patterns of online behavior, reducing exposure to cyber threats, and enhancing general resilience within the digital environment. This type of intervention, by developing awareness and practical skills, contributes to safer internet experiences while empowering children to act autonomously without compromising their security (Finkelhor et al., 2020).

These findings have one clear implication: high levels of awareness and practiced safety behavior among children reduce exposure to online risks and enhance digital resilience. That is, it requires continued parental involvement and educational initiatives with subsequent monitoring to maintain this state of protection. Reinforcing digital literacy through structured programs, workshops, and active supervision ensures that children will remain vigilant and better equipped to handle online challenges. Overall, the fostering of such awareness contributes to a safer online environment for children, strengthening their capacity to navigate responsibly in the digital world.

**Significant relationship between the parental awareness and the children's online safety**

The significant relationship of parental awareness to children's online safety shows how the level of knowledge, understanding, and vigilance of parents about digital risks influences the safety behavior in online environments. Usually, this is tested through statistical methods such as the Pearson Product-Moment Correlation Coefficient, which indicates the strength and direction of association in parents' awareness levels and children's good personal information management, use of privacy settings, and password keeping. This link is important to comprehend because informed and vigilant parents can guide, supervise, and model safe online practices that minimize children's exposure to cyber threats and encourage responsible digital behavior. By analyzing the relationship between parental awareness and children's online safety, researchers and educators can draw upon ways of improving digital literacy, designing appropriate interventions, and encouraging cooperation between parents and children to create a safe online environment. This analysis lends empirical support to program development that emphasizes the essential role of parental involvement in developing a culture of online safety among young users.

Table 4. Test of relationship between the parental awareness and the children's online safety

| Variables | $r$ value | $p$ value | Remarks |
|---|---|---|---|
| Parental Awareness and Children's online safety | 0.671 | 0.000 | Highly Significant |

*Note: *p &lt; 0.05 (significant); **p &lt; 0.01 (highly significant)*

Existing literature indeed supports the noted positive trend in the relationship between parental awareness and children's online safety behavior, in spite of a failure to reach statistical significance (Banić & Orehovački, 2024)**.** Several studies stress that active parental engagement, education, and monitoring are critical factors that influence the digital practices of children and their management of online risks (Mols et al., 2023)**.** Research has documented that children who are educated on how to manage personal information, install privacy settings, and use strong passwords are more likely to engage in safer practices, thereby minimizing their exposure to potential cyber threats. On the other hand, literature also points out that parental monitoring, when combined with regular discussion about online risks and cyber ethics, contributes to greater self-control and accountability in the child's interaction with a digital environment (Steinfeld, 2020). The current studies emphasize the essence of providing early and continuous awareness programs for parents and children on how

to identify and respond to prospective online perils (Throuvala et al., 2021)**.** Collectively, these findings reinforce the conceptual understanding that parental awareness forms a key factor that influences the online safety of children, supporting thereby the trend obtained in the current study, notwithstanding the small sample size or variability that could have influenced the statistical significance. This relates to the usefulness of structured parental involvement and continuous digital literacy programs in developing secure and responsible online behavior among children.

The results suggest that improving parental awareness can have significant practical implications for children's online safety, even though the current statistical analysis did not indicate a significant relationship. Parents who are aware of online risks, technical safeguards, behavioral guidance, and legal-ethical considerations can better guide their children towards appropriate digital behavior. Such enhanced awareness promotes active supervision, responsible sharing of personal information, proper use of privacy settings, and the development of good password habits. Hence, increasing parental involvement through education, training programs, and awareness campaigns can enhance family-based digital safety strategies by consolidating protective behaviors and reducing children's vulnerability to online threats. Overall, the findings emphasize the importance of continuing efforts that enable parents to play a key facilitating role in ensuring that children behave in a safe and responsible manner online.

**Significant relationship between the monitoring practices and the children's online safety**

The significant relationship between monitoring practices and children's online safety examines how varied strategies parents apply to supervise, guide, and regulate their children's online activities influence the latter's ability to engage safely in digital environments. This analysis evaluates whether active monitoring, restrictive oversight, and technical supervision are related to higher levels of safe behavior among children, including responsible management of personal information, proper usage of privacy settings, and secure password practices. Measuring both the strength and significance of the correlation between parental monitoring and children's online safety allows researchers to determine the effectiveness of different approaches to supervision in fostering safety habits online. Gaining an understanding of this relationship will help in formulating targeted interventions, parental education programs, and policy guidelines that facilitate proactive and structured monitoring strategies that assure protection for children in the ever-increasingly complex digital landscape.

Table 5. Test of significant relationship between the monitoring practices and the children's online safety

| Variables | $r$ value | $p$ value | Remark |
|---|---|---|---|
| Monitoring Practices and Children's online safety | 0.143 | 0.87 | Not Significant |

*Note: *p &lt; 0.05 (significant); **p &lt; 0.01 (highly significant)*

Table 5 shows the statistical analysis of the association between parents' monitoring practices and children's online safety behavior. The Pearson Product-Moment Correlation Coefficient produced an r-value of 0.143, which means that there is a very weak positive correlation between the two variables. This implies that in the current sample, higher levels of monitoring practices are slightly associated with better online safety behavior among children. However, the p-value of 0.87 is greater than the generally accepted level of 0.05; thus, the correlation is not statistically significant but occurred by chance. This may be mediated by the small sample size or restricted variation within the data that affects the statistical power to yield a meaningful relationship. Though the correlation was both weak and not significant, the results provide preliminary information on the possible role of parents' monitoring, hence calling for further investigation with an enlarged and more heterogeneous sample to give a more realistic estimate of the influence of monitoring practices on children's online safety behavior.

Existing studies provide substantial evidence regarding the relationship between parental monitoring practices and children's online safety, highlighting that active supervision, guidance, and monitoring are fundamental to effective digital parenting (Banić & Orehovački, 2024)**.** It consistently emerges from the literature that children whose online activities are monitored through various strategies, such as checking device use, reviewing privacy settings, and discussing internet risks show better awareness of online threats, safer browsing behavior, and more responsible information management. Furthermore, research shows that technical monitoring tools, in conjunction with behavioral guidance, can reinforce protective habits and help children navigate social media, gaming platforms, and other digital spaces safely. In addition, the literature on monitoring points out that the quality and consistency of monitoring are as important as frequency; proactive and supportive engagement works better than mere restrictive monitoring. Altogether, these studies confirm the importance of

parental involvement in enhancing children's online safety and point out that direct supervision and education play a crucial role in shaping responsible digital behavior (Martín-Criado et al., 2021)**.**

The results imply that while monitoring practices are an important aspect of safeguarding children online, they alone may not significantly influence children's safety behavior without complementary factors such as active parental engagement, education, and open communication. This suggests that parents should not rely solely on monitoring tools or restrictive measures but should integrate these practices with ongoing guidance, discussions about online risks, and instruction on safe digital habits. By combining consistent monitoring with education and modeling appropriate behavior, parents can more effectively promote responsible online practices and enhance their children's overall digital safety and resilience.

## IV.     CONCLUSION

The study concludes that parents in the selected barangay demonstrate high levels of awareness and strong monitoring practices regarding their children's online activities, which align with children's correspondingly strong online safety behaviors. Although statistical tests did not show significant correlations among parental awareness, monitoring practices, and children's online safety behavior, the consistently positive trends suggest that parental involvement remains essential in shaping responsible and safety-conscious digital habits. These findings highlight the importance of continuous parental guidance, proactive monitoring, and sustained digital safety education in fostering a secure online environment that supports children's well-being and reduces potential cybercrime risk.

## V.     RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings, it is recommended that programs aimed at enhancing children's online safety prioritize strengthening both parental awareness and monitoring practices. Parents should be provided with accessible workshops and training sessions that equip them with updated knowledge on online risks, digital tools, and effective communication strategies for guiding their children. Schools and community institutions are likewise encouraged to implement structured digital literacy programs that reinforce safe online behaviors and responsible decision-making among children. By integrating parental involvement, educational initiatives, and available technological resources, stakeholders can develop a comprehensive and sustainable approach that supports children in navigating the digital environment safely and confidently.

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