

CONCLUSIONS

to risk, and in seeking advice when faced with risk.

A number of internet related initiatives have been introduced in Korea, including the Act on Promotion of Information and Communications Network Utilization and Information Protection, Etc. (the “Information Network Act”) and the Juvenile Protection Act, aimed at promoting healthy internet usage, cyber ethics, and online safety including content systems and filtering software (OECD, 2012; ILO, 2016; WIPO).

These regulations may have worked so far as 39% of Korean children reported to have seen age inappropriate content compared to the highest amount seen in Indonesia (53%).

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

A significant emphasis is placed on content filtering in Korea. As a result this report recommends to minimise overreaching content filters that might undermine a child’s access to information.

It also recommends to include enhanced digital literacy and internet safety in school curricula, and to foster extra-curricular activities promoting responsible internet usage.

THE RESEARCH

This multinational research explores the role of digital resilience intended as the ability to prevent and respond to online risk, and in providing children with the skills and characteristics needed to navigate the internet safely.

Analysing the findings from children aged 9-18 in Indonesia, Japan, Australia, South Korea and Taiwan; it investigates the ways in which young people can be encouraged to be resilient users.

ABOUT THINKYOUNG

ThinkYoung is the first think tank dedicated to young people.

Founded in 2007, ThinkYoung has expanded to have offices in Brussels, Geneva and Hong Kong. It is a not for profit organisation with the aim of making the world a better place for young people, by involving them in the decision making process and by providing decision makers with high quality research on youth conditions. Think Young produces research papers, surveys, documentary movies and education programs.

As of today, ThinkYoung projects have reached over 600,000 young people.

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DIGITAL RESILIENCE EMPOWERING YOUTH ONLINE

Practices for a safer internet use.
A major survey targeting Australia, Japan, Indonesia, Korea, and Taiwan.

COUNTRY BRIEFING: KOREA



INTRO

The following country profile presents the key findings from Korean children in response to a survey investigating the role of digital resilience in positively impacting children’s online engagement. Shedding light on how a digitally resilient young person responds to potentially risky online content, the research investigates the ways in which young people can be encouraged to be resilient users when online through the

analysis of data from Indonesia, Australia, South Korea, Japan, and Taiwan.

The survey targeted children and young people between the ages of 9-18 and was administered in two parts: the first directly to respondents above the age of 16, and the second with the consent of parents (9-16 years!).

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

In response to the growing policy debate between online risk and opportunity, the following research aimed to shed light on child attitudes in dealing with online risk. Moreover, a focus was placed on integrating safety concerns with the promotion of a positive uptake of online opportunities for children, through the concept of 'digital resilience'.

Based on the survey administered, this research has first measured levels of digital resilience by analysing the responses adopted by young people to varying online risks. From these results, it has then sought to **investigate how children prevent and react to online risk, taking into account:**

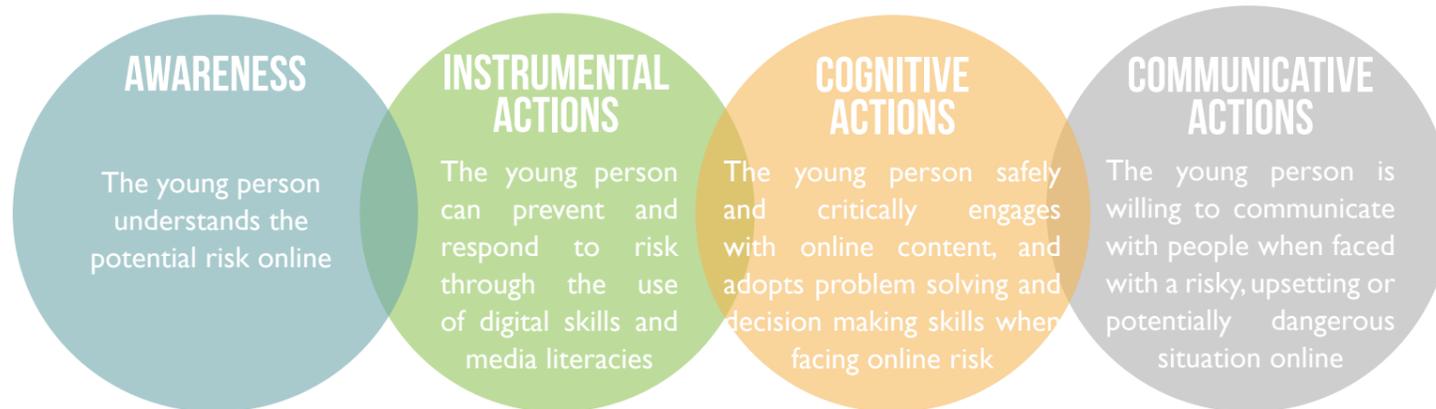
 The impact of awareness and self-regulation in understanding the potential for risk, and in engaging with online content in a resilient manner.

 How children and young people can enhance their levels of resilience through communication and from seeking advice.

 The role of media skills and digital literacies in improving resilience, and the types of responses used by technologically adept young people.

WHAT IS DIGITAL RESILIENCE?

Drawing on the most prevalent scientific literature on resilience, the report presents the fundamental characteristics of the ideal digitally resilient young person, encapsulated by:



The concept of digital resilience includes both a preventive and reactive phase where at first young people are able to self-regulate and avoid online risk and, when faced with risk, are able to employ coping mechanisms in order to respond to the risk or harmful situation in a problem focused manner.

 **PREVENTIVE RESILIENCE**
Resilience strategies employed to avoid risk including instrumental (using technical skills to avoid risk) and behavioural (avoiding risk through specific safety behaviours and online awareness).

 **REACTIVE RESILIENCE**
Resilience strategies adopted after coming into contact with an online risk. These include:

- 1 Instrumental (using technical skills).
- 2 Confrontational (confronting the source of the risk).
- 3 Communicative (seeking advice).
- 4 Disengagement (ignoring the risk).

¹In gaining parental permission for the 9-16 year olds a very clear statement of intent was given to parents/guardians in advance, outlining the exact purpose of the study, sharing the exact questions and giving assurances that the data would be treated anonymously.

KEY FINDINGS

Children in Korea are somewhat confident in preventing risk through instrumental actions, with 61% likely to modify privacy settings to avoid unwanted contacts. Amongst all Korean children, only 39% had been exposed to inappropriate content (compared to an average of 43%). Furthermore, 86% are likely to keep their password completely secret.

Moreover, when responding to risk Korean children are relatively confident using digital skills, with 47% who would change their password when personal information is misused. 10% of the children surveyed had experienced this risk.

While only 11% had experienced cyber-bullying, amongst the top reactions in responding to this risk, 45% of children in Korea would block and report the person, and 37% would seek advice from a parent/guardian.

Children in Korea are relatively comfortable in disengaging from risk with 47% stating they would immediately ignore a stranger who contacted them online. Moreover, 23% would seek advice from a friend to see if they knew the contact. Amongst all Korean children, 23% had experienced this risk.

Young people in Korea show a critical awareness in their use of the internet, with 90% very careful or somewhat careful about what they say or post online, and 40% avoiding suspicious material.

In response to a request from an online contact to meet in person, 63% would refuse to meet and 29% would seek help from a parent/guardian.

Children in Korea are likely to keep their password completely secret



Children in Korea change their password when personal information is misused



Children in Korea would block and report a bully



Children in Korea would immediately ignore a stranger who contacted them online



Children in Korea are very careful about what they say or post online



Children in Korea would refuse to meet an online contact in person



THE ONLINE RESILIENT YOUNG PERSON

The graphical representation below illustrates how well children in Korea fare in comparison to the ideal digitally resilient young person, who would score 3 points in each area of resilience. Each child obtains a score from 0 to 3 depending on how many cognitive, instrumental and communicative strategies he or she is likely to adopt. It also compares the results in relation to the average resilience scores from the APAC region.

