Abstract

The Internet has revolutionised the ways in which people interact and access information. While a majority of the contents found in cyberspace are useful and beneficial to communities, there are some which are not suitable for children and adolescents. Specifically, contents that are suitable only for adults can be easily accessed by children. This poses a significant challenge to children’s normal development. Further, individuals, groups and organisations have misused certain cyberspace facilities, such as social interaction websites and online game sites, to specifically target children and abuse and harm them. Police and other law making authorities are seriously challenged by rapidly developing Internet technology and newly emerging techniques in which anti-social elements target children. Communities living in the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) region are no exception to these challenges. This paper using critical theory analyses the cyber challenges faced by children in this region and suggests ways in which policy makers can take firm steps to protect them to ensure their safety and maximise the benefits of online contents.
References


Child Safety Issues in Cyberspace: A Critical Theory on Trends and Challenges in the ASEAN Region


18. JakartaPost(2015).Thai Junta chief defends controversial cyber law plans,
What is the minimum age to register for prepaid SIM card? Malaysian Communications and
media commission, http://www.skmm.gov.my/FAQs/Prepaid-Registration/
Institute of Technology.
25. Mahassni, D. (2015). What is the age of consent in
26. Media Development authority of Singapore (2014). Regulatory options to facilitate the
Documents/Consultation%20Papers/Public%20consultation%20paper%20for%20Internet%20pa
on 22 August 2014.
Report, Our children at risk online, The example of Thailand, ECPAT International 2013: 15.

pornography on adolescents: A review of the research, Sexual addiction and compulsivity 19
Post 12(2): 5.
on 2 March 2015.
34. Rao, M (2015). Regulatory challenges in the emerging
on 18 March 2015.


Index Terms

Computer Science  Security
Keywords

Cyberspace, Child safety, Policy making, Community development, ASEAN, critical theory