

***The Adolescent's Media Use Pattern :
Focusing On News Consumption and its Benefits***

Inhye Choi, Education Broadcasting System, Korea
Honglim Jeong, Daewon Foreign Language High School, Korea

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Abstract

The study examined a changed media use pattern of Korean adolescents, which is due to the arrival of smart media era. The research focused on issue which was not dealt heavily in previous researches : adolescents. The study specifically concentrated on their news consumption pattern.

To obtain empirical data, the research conducted an online survey, with teenagers in various academic steps and regions as participants. Out of 59 responses, 50 responses were used for the study, excluding 9 incomplete or insincere responses.

The survey showed that social media, such as Facebook is most used media among adolescents, recording average use of 2 hours per day. The smartphone was most frequently used media platform, through which adolescents watch the news. The next most used media platform was SNS, through mobile Internet. In term of time spent on seeing the news, the social media again is rated as most used platform, recording 51 minutes, over other platforms such as television and Internet websites. For the usefulness of news, many participants answered "average", and further analysis of such results was performed, utilizing word cloud and sorting participants into different groups. Lastly, the research explored how adolescents expressed their opinions and studied reasons for limited consumption of news.

This study had revealed that social media is a major source for media among adolescents. It also confirmed that SNS's dominance reaches to news as well, with most adolescents using SNS as news platform and subscribing news via SNS. Interestingly, the difference between sexes was also shown, in media platform used to see the news: fixed, stationary Internet such as personal computers were used more among male participants, while female participants used mobile Internet, such as the smartphone, more.

Based on survey results and previous studies, the research examined adolescent's media and news consumption in a digital age, in which media and news are offered in many digitalized platforms. The research also raised an issue of media literacy and education through such examinations.

Keywords : Adolescent, News Consumption, Social Media

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I. Introduction

The media is a significant factor in adolescent's life. As the adolescents often spend most of their time in a limited space of school, they communicate and share information with others through various media. The media has become a way to indirectly experience various aspects of life, and the most popular pastime for them. The significance of media is an undeniable part of adolescent's life.

Such significance is supported by previous studies. According to the survey report from the previous research, the adolescents responded to the question that asked, "What is a factor that influenced you the most in your life?" by listing "mass media(18.6%) and "Internet(10.3%)" as their significant influencers next to their parents and friends (Bai, Sang-Ryul, 2015). This study was performed to high school students from four nations, which were Korea, United States, China, and Japan. The Korean high school students had the higher rate of a student who counted "mass media" as an influential factor, compared to high school student from other three nations, showing that mass media has a considerable influence over Korean adolescence. (Bai, Sang-Ryul, 2015)

Even within such influential, but fast-changing media, one remains as unchanging and notable : news. Despite advances of multimedia and media convergence, the news remains to be our media from which we gain news most conveniently in our lives. However, we are doubtful if adolescents now days have an interest in news. This research will examine adolescent's media consumption, with the concentration on their news consumption, and their perception of news.

As there is no clear statistics regarding adolescent's news usage, the study utilized surveys which were conducted to adult participants. According to '2014 Research on Media Consumer's Consciousness' by Korea Press Foundation, how an individual approach news article has changed dramatically over the past four years. The traditional paper newspaper showed a continued decrease in use for four consecutive years, rating 30.7 percent of usage on 2014. On the other hand, news usage through mobile internet has dramatically increased starting in 2012, and rated a high percentage of usage of 60% in 2014.

Though the research was conducted with the adult participant over the age of 19, the adolescent's news consumption will differ dramatically with these results. The traditional paper newspaper is in decline, and seeing news through the mobile internet is on rise. The text-oriented news is receiving less attention, and "Card News", which mixed text and images is receiving more attention and fanfare, not only in online websites but also on social media. Considering such tendency, seeing "Card News" via smartphone may have been a natural turn of news consumption for adolescents.

To further analyze the changed media environment and adolescent's lives within such environment and to see how adolescents are attaining information and communicate with others, the research aim to examine the media consumption patterns of adolescents. Therefore, this research will investigate the media consumption pattern of adolescents, which has changed upon entering an era of smart media, with the focus on adolescent's news consumption which previously lacked academic attention.

II. Literature Review

1. The Internet Usage of Korean Adolescents.

Contrary from popular conception, the adolescents are not disinterested in issues related to politics, society, and government policies. According to '2014 Survey In Actual Status Of Information Culture' by National Information society Agency, 31 percent of teenagers are shown to search for news regarding politics, society, and governmental policies. Moreover, 9.8 percent of teenagers are shown to participate in public consensus or vote regarding such issues (NIA, 2015). Such rate of information search within online environment among adolescents was seconded on by rates from the population in their 20's and 30's, proving that adolescent's online activities are not limited to online gaming.

'2014 Statistics in Actual Status Of Internet Use' by Korea Internet & Security Agency also shows a similar tendency regarding online activities of different age groups. The 91 percent of teenagers had answered that they use the Internet to search for resources and information and 94.4 percent of teenagers answered that they utilize the Internet for communication (KISA, 2015). 'Statistics on Adolescents', published by Korean Statistics Agency also shows adolescent's active Internet use.

According to 2014 statistics report, the adolescents spend an average of 14.4 hours per week, rating a slight increase of 0.3 hours compared to prior year's survey. With 95.2 percent of teenagers utilizing the Internet more than once, almost all adolescents are using the Internet daily. It has been reported that they use the Internet mostly to communicate (Korean Statistics Agency Press releases, 2015.04.24). Such statistic clearly reflected the characteristics of adolescents who utilize profile-based SNS such as Facebook and mobile messenger to communicate with their peer group.

The high use of SNS among adolescents are presumably due partially to Korea's high smartphone penetration rate. With 90 percent of middle and high school student using the smartphone, use of mobile Internet through the smartphone is steeply increasing, with the use of stationary Internet in decline. The teenager's average hours spent on smartphone rated as 2 hours and 50 minutes, recording a longest average hour among age groups ranging from 10 to 60 years of age (Hankyoreh, 2015.09.23).

2. The Changes On Adolescent's Media Consumption With Advance of Social Media.

Now days, how adolescents approach the news, are changing. The previously mentioned statistics from Korea Internet & Security Agency, reports that 91 percent of teenagers use the Internet for information search, and 94.9 percent of teenagers use it for communication. Such statistics is stating that majority of adolescent utilizing Internet and SNS for information and communication. It is no longer a surprise to see adolescent finding information through SNS, rather than using news broadcasts and newspapers.

With an era of mobiles and smartphones, not only the media consumption but also the media itself had changed. Adapting to the changes, the media started to produce a new type of news: "Card News". The most visible advantage of the Card News it that it easy to read. It is consisted of succinct writing, posed with several images, often

under ten photos per news. Such news is made to deliver a touching story and to persuade people to reconsider about an issue. Due to such characteristic, Card News is shared actively on SNS. However, such SNS-friendly nature of Card News also causes side effects as well. It has been found that Card News frequently posts provocative and eye-catching information only to attain more attention, such as "Like" on Facebook.

On the other hand, the adolescents are also paying attention to video clips. Such tendency is due to increased public Wi-Fi and advances of Unlimited Data phone plans, which reduced the burden of overusing the mobile data plans. Such phenomenon is proven with various researches. Especially the teenagers are shown to watch more Youtube contents than other age groups. In case of United States, it is shown that 46 percent of adolescents aging from 16 to 19 years of age watch Youtube more than an hour a day (Ericsson Consumer LAB, 2015). The Korean adolescents are expected to exhibit a similar tendency, considering the increased number of Korean Youtubers, who rapidly update intriguing contents for adolescents, such as games and cosmetics.

The debut of social media has greatly transformed how adolescents consume media. Moreover, an increasing number of adolescents are taking a step further than being a viewer. They produce the contents themselves. The number of active BJ in 'Afreeca TV' is over 30 million. According to the article by Cine21, the adolescents comprise a significant part of such numbers. The interview by Cine 21 depicts a nineteen-year-old producer, Mr. Kuk Buem Geun who established a self-maintained media named G Pictures. He uploads contents in many genres, from a parody of current issues to stories that adolescents can relate to (Cine21, 2015.10.13). The adolescents are already serving a part of a content provider within online environments. The adolescents who were raised as "digital natives" are nor creating new careers within this new, digitalized era.

3.The Media Consumption of Adolescent in Other Nations.

There is positive and negative use of media. There must be various reasons for the adolescents to misuse a media, but it must also be noted that they had not received a public, appropriate education regarding media usage.

To overcome such educational limitations regarding media, the Korean government is attempting to include media education in a public curriculum. More and more schools are planning to include media education, which was previously absent, into their curriculums through a "free term system" which is fully implemented in 2016. This chapter will examine the cases of developed nations, which implemented media education in their academic curriculums prior to Korea.

The previous studies and case-studies of other developed nations report that such nations do not utilize media platforms singularly, but used multiple platforms, with each platform mutually supplementing the other medium of news. The case of Britain, such mutual supplementation between various media platforms was used for news. For instance, SNS is utilized most popularly and estimated highly as it offers many individual opinions, and has a high participant rate from users. However, SNS lacks accuracy, credit, and equity, in comparison to other platforms, and such aspects are

supplemented by using other media platforms such as TV (Media & Future Institute, 2014). Such Cross-Platform form of news consumptions is a characteristic and common practice with Britain.

The young generation in Germany is reported to gather information through the various platform such as cellphone, TV, computer, and radio. The use of television is preferred for news regarding current social phenomena and issues, while the radio is recognized as a most significant source for daily news. The Internet is mainly used for communication. Such tendencies show how German youth use diverse media platforms mutually to find their desired information (Media & Future Institute, 2010)

The case of Finland shows more clear connection to adolescents. According to Foreign Trend Report by Korean National Youth Policy Institute, in Finland, media education is handled with importance in every institution, from kindergarten to university (NYPI, 2014). The education that highlights comprehension of and communication within the media platforms within a fast-changing media is held significantly.

The studies that compared the media use of Korean and Finnish adolescents shows a difference between these adolescents. The Korean adolescents participate in online activities more actively but is found to be less criticizing of the information they encounter online. Moreover, in contrast to Korean adolescents who discredit the online security and information, the Finnish adolescents are found to examine sources and published dates of the information they found online, and judge the credibility of the news provided by the media (Media Today, 2015.11.19).

Such discretion to distinguish, estimate, and judge the information comes from media literacy education of Finland. The media literacy is not a grand theme. It refers to critical reading skills, through which one can read, comprehend, and analyze the information provided by the media. In past three years, the media usage via Internet has steadily increased, and Internet media usage rate had been recorded as 92%, as of July, 2015 (MSIP, 2016). It is also notable that "reading news" has been rated as highest motivation for consuming media through Internet, with the rate of 82.7%. This is a higher rate than other motivations such as "watching movies"(66.7%) and "watching TV programs"(44.8%). Such results prove that even in this Internet era, news-reading remains as significant part of media and its consumption.

Traditionally, the newspaper has been a window to a sea of information, through which one can comprehend the currents of the world. Such roles remain the same even now, in 2016, where the news is presented to us not only through newspapers but also through television and the Internet. The news can be a prism, looking-glass, and the window through which one can see societal issues in varying perspectives. I believe that news can encourage an individual to learn about problems through news, comprehend them, and encourage him or her to have own opinions regarding the issue. Moreover, such power of critical thinking is best raised in adolescence. Yet, despite such importance, there had not been an in-depth study regarding the news use of adolescents.

III. Research Question

This study has examined both international and domestic studies, reports, and broadcasts concerning adolescent's media use. However, if there is something amiss from such diverse researches and report, it is that of adolescent's news consumption. The studies regarding news consumption with adolescents as their main topic, are scarce. The studies that reflected a rapidly changing media environment and asked whether adolescents are reading news, and if they do, what platform do they use, are near to non-existent. Therefore, this study aims to examine the news consumption of adolescents, which lacked prior discussion. Moreover, study researched how present-day adolescents, who are living in a smart-media era communicate and express their opinions online. Following are clarified research questions :

<Question 1> What is Korean adolescent's media consumption pattern?

<Question 2> How is Korean adolescent's news consumption pattern?

<Question 3> How does Korean adolescent express their opinions?

IV. Research Method

1. Research Method and Subject.

This study conducted a survey with Korean adolescents as subject to gain empirical information. As the previous studies showed a tendency to set a minimum age of media users as 10 and categorized adolescents as those under the age of 19, this study has selected subjects aging from 14 to 19 year to take the survey.

2. Composition of Survey

The survey was made with Google Survey. Firstly, the survey's main topic and usage were introduced, and it was specified that subject's answers will not be used for any other uses. The survey comprised of 16 questions, which were made after consulting both domestic and international reports regarding adolescent's media use. Firstly, the survey placed questions to examine the adolescent's average media usages. Secondly, it asked adolescent's news usage, and lastly their usual method of expressing their opinions. In last part of the survey, basic demographic information such as sex, age, grade, and type of school was asked. The specific questions are included in a later chapter which concerns the result of the survey.

3. Participants

The study recruited volunteers for survey over a month, starting from December. The adolescents who participated in the survey totaled 59. The total of 50 answers was used for the analysis. Nine answers which were either incomplete or whose respondents were in a different age than intended age range were not used. The average age of respondents was 17.88 years. The survey had higher correspondence rate from female students, with 19 male correspondents(38%) and 31 female correspondents(62%). In term of academic progression, the correspondence rate of high school students was considerably higher, with 41 correspondents in high school (82%) and 9 correspondents in middle school (18%).

As for school types, the correspondents were from diverse types of schools, reflecting that answers represented students from various types of schools; 9 correspondents were from middle school (18%), 33 from average high school(66%), three from specialized high schools(6%), and four from Foreign Language or Science high schools(4%). The students from average high school had most correspondences. As for regions of correspondents, students from diverse parts of Korea participated in the survey, with 22 correspondents were from Seoul, 4 from Gyeonggi Province, 23 from Dae-gu, 1 from Chueng-Buk.

V. Results

1. Adolescent's Media Consumption.

Before analyzing the adolescent's news consumption, this study will discuss the adolescent's overall media usage. The survey questioned average time spent on TV, newspaper, the Internet, SNS, to answer <Question 1>, which is “What is Korean adolescent's media consumption pattern?”. The participants reported spending average of 64.2 minutes per day in media. The time spent on overall media consumption is only approximately an hour, due newspaper, which takes considerably more time in reading compared to other platforms. The specific time spent on each platform shows that each platform has a varying use time.

[Chart 1] Average Time Spent On Media Per Day (Measure : minute)

Media	Television	Newspaper	Internet	SNS
Average	54.12	6.32	81.34	115.06
Male	58.42	8.95	118.95	78.32
Female	51.48	4.71	58.29	137.55

With average rate as a standard, it is shown that SNS is a most used media among adolescents, with approximately 1 hour and 55 minutes per day spent on SNS. It is followed by the Internet (approximately 1h 21m), TV (54 minutes), and lastly newspaper (6 minutes). The time spent on newspaper are significantly lower, while the time spent on SNS is notably high. Such tendency is also in accordance with review of previous studies, which was discussed earlier in the research.

With overwhelming use of SNS, high use of smartphone can be assumed, and such deduction complies with ‘Media Platform Usage Report’ by Korea Communication Commission. In this survey, 67.9% of teenagers counted smartphone as a necessary platform in their daily lives. Also, the adolescents who participated in this research's survey answered that they spend lengthy hours on SNS or Internet, and exhibited the same tendency with Media Platform Usage Report.

The result of the survey shows an interesting difference between both sexes. The time spent on watching television is approximately 50 minutes, and there is no significant difference between sexes. However, in case of Internet, the male participants spent twice as much as female participant did, spending 118 minutes. On the other hand, the

female participant spent 137 minutes, which is 1.8 times more than their male counterparts spend in SNS. In conclusion, there is no difference between sexes in television-watching. Yet, in case of internet and SNS, male participants spent more time on the Internet, and their female counterpart in SNS.

2. News Consumption of Adolescents.

The <Question 1> has focused on the overall media use by adolescents. In this chapter, this research will concentrate on adolescent’s news consumption, which had provided a starting point for this research. To answer <Question 2>, the survey asked participants categorize their method of seeing news, their frequently observed news genre, and time spent on seeing news. Next, the research sought to investigate the adolescents' perception of news, by asking how helpful news is to them, and what are their reasons for not seeing the news, if they do not see news.

1) Methods for Approaching News.

How one sees news, has become a question with multiple answers, as ways of seeing the news has diversified from traditional method of watching television and seeing news. To have more clarified categories to distinguish media platform for news, the research referenced from a credible research report. The survey questions from ‘2014 Research on Media Consumer’s Consciousness’ by Korea Press Foundation were used for the research. Considering the participants, the stationary Internet was stated as “websites through desktop/laptop” and mobile Internet as “websites through tablet PC/smartphone”. The scores are ranged from 1 to 3 (1 : Rarely, 2: Average, 3 : Frequently), and higher number are explained as more frequency.

[Chart 2] Frequently Used Media Platform for News (On Scale of 3)

Platform	Television	Newspaper	Website via desktop/laptop	Website via tablet PC/smartphone	SNS
Average	1.78	1.32	1.80	2.38	2.16
Male	1.74	1.37	2.05	2.26	1.84
Female	1.81	1.29	1.65	2.45	2.35

The survey results show that adolescents in their teens approached news by visiting a website through tablet PC/smartphone, (scored 2.38 point). The next most popular platform of seeing the news was SNS(2.16), followed by website via desktop(1.8), television(1.78), and newspaper(1.32).

The approach to news also exhibited a difference between sexes. More male participants are found to use website news through stationary Internet than female participants. In contrast, the female participant used mobile internet such as smartphone to see the news more, with frequency score of 2.45. Lastly, the previous chart showed that female adolescents spend more time on SNS, and it is also shown with the result of this chart that female adolescent also use SNS more frequently than male to see the news.

As it can be seen from the charts, it is no longer a surprise to read the news through smartphone, which represents a mobile internet, instead of stationary internet. For present-day adolescents who are nicknamed as "Digital Nomad", such online affinity and subscription are natural. In this chart, that adolescents are receiving news through SNS should be noted. It can be seen that SNS became more than a way to share their lives with their friend. It became a window through which they see the world. That new platform through which adolescent can approach the news easily may be a good news. However, whether the news through SNS can deliver an unbiased and credited news is concerning factor in such media consumption.

2) Time Spent for Reading News.

To investigate a specific amount of time spent for news, the survey included questions that asked the average amount of time spent on reading the news on each media platform. The survey results showed that adolescents spend 51.2 minutes reading the news on SNS, 37.6 minutes on websites, 20.1 minutes on televisions. Such results are also in accordance with results of <Question 1>, which showed similar results, with SNS as a leading media platform, followed by websites and television. The difference between times spent on each platform, as did <Question 1>, shows SNS as a most popular platform, in both frequency and time spent on SNS. Such results illustrate how SNS has become a most popular platform for news among adolescents, and the time spent on reading newspapers has transferred to time spent on reading news on SNS.

[Chart 3] Average Time Spent On Platforms For Seeing News (Measure : Minute)

Platform	Television	Internet Website	SNS
Average	20.10	37.64	51.20
Male	16.84	41.32	30.26
Female	22.10	35.39	64.03

This research has examined whether there is a difference in time spent on each media platform by sexes. The chart three shows the results of survey divided by sex and type of platform. The platform which showed a significant difference was SNS. As it was repeatedly seen in the survey result, female adolescents spent more time on SNS. They spent twice as much as their male counterparts, spending the total of 63 minutes on SNS. From such results, it can be estimated that female adolescents spend more time in news through SNS as they spent more time on overall SNS. Additionally, female participants reported longer hours on television than male participants, while male participants reported longer hours on website news than female participants.

3) Most Frequently Seen Genres of News (On Scale of 5)

Next, the survey investigated what kind of news the adolescents see most frequently by asking the participants to rate their most-read genre by scale of 5, with 1 as "Never" and 5 as "Very Frequently". The categorization of news followed popular category of news genres. However, considering the characteristic of adolescents,

culture, societal, international news had been categorized as one genre. Consequently, the survey categorized four genres of news : politics, economy, culture/societal/international, sport/entertainment.

[Chart 4] Frequently Read Genre of News (On Scale of 5)

Genre	Politics	Economy	Society/Culture/ International	Sports/Entertainment
Average	2.2	2.42	2.92	3.04

The most read genre of news among adolescents has been found as Sports/Entertainment(3.04), followed by Societal/Cultural/International(2.92), Economy(2.42), and Politics(2.2). The Sports/Entertainments are found to be the most popular genre. However, in that even Sports/Entertainments scored little over 3, which is a median within the scale of five, the results are not promising. Moreover, as the other genre’s average has been rated as under “average”, it appears that this survey suggests that most adolescents do not, or “Never” see the news.

4) The Usefulness of News (On Scale of 5)

The survey asked participants to rate the usefulness of news with scale of 5 (1 as Unhelpful to 5 as Very Helpful) through the question, “How much do you think does reading news helps you?”. The average of scores was 3.2 point. Overall, the adolescents perceived news as neither helpful or unhelpful them, maintaining a neutral position. As the average score was unfit for in-depth analysis, the study divided participants into groups, according to how they rated the helpfulness of news.

The study grouped Group A with participants who rated helpfulness of news as 4 or five, stating that news was “Helpful” or “Very Helpful” to them. The Group B was constituted with participants who rated helpfulness as 3, as “Average”. The Group C was comprised with those who rated helpfulness of news as 1 and 2, marking it as unhelpful. The chart below shows how each group has answered to helpfulness of news, and how each group consists of the survey’s entire participants. The below is chart of the results.

[Chart 5] Group Category and Group Average

Group	Ratio to Overall Participant	Usefulness of News
Group A : Participants who answered news as helpful	17(34%)	4.23
Group B : Participants who answered helpfulness as average	26(52%)	3
Group C : Participants who answered news as unhelpful	7 (14%)	1.42

The participants answered to news’s helpfulness as “average” the most. It appears that as the average score was lowered to 3.2 point, with 52 % of the participants rating e helpfulness of news as 3 points.

In Group A, which rated news as helpful to them, the average score of helpfulness scored up to 4.23 and differed from an overall average of 3.2 by 1.03 point. In contrast, the Group C, which stated the news as unhelpful, had the average helpfulness rate of 1.42 points, showing that each group differed greatly in their perceived helpfulness of the news.

Then why does the helpfulness of the news differ greatly among groups? The survey comprised a question to learn about participant’s opinions regarding the issue. Each answer was analyzed through word cloud after distinguishing them/categorizing them by their keywords.

(1) Reasons for Perceiving News as Helpful



[Figure 1]

The participants answered to the question Why is news helpful, by using keywords such as “information”, “society”, and “could know”. Considering that these keywords were most frequent keywords, it can be observed that they mostly see news as beneficial because they could know about information and society.

The second most popular keywords were “how”, “help”, “happens”, “going on”. “gain”, “daily life”, “know”, “world”. Such sum of words indicates that adolescents read news as it can help them know what happens around the world, and gain information. The above is a word cloud made from responses, with frequently appearing keywords in more bold, bigger letters.

(2) Reasons for Perceiving Helpfulness of News as Average



[Figure 2]

As for why helpfulness of news remained as average, the participants responded with keywords such as “information”, “common sense”, “help”, “understand”, “could know”, which coincides much with answers for the earlier question, “why is news helpful.” It appears that participants who answered helpfulness of news as “Average” agree with helpfulness of news to a degree, but fail to estimate the helpfulness highly, as their usual purposes for news are limited, such as weather forecasts. Above is a word cloud made with the response, with frequent answers highlighted.

On the other hand, the group which rated helpfulness as average are also shown to have a negative perception regarding news. The results included responses which answered that they do not have a specific reason for not seeing the news, such as “Don’t See”, or “Just Not”. The negative keywords were also found. For instance, words such as “no reason”, “don’t”, “cannot trust”, “don’t know”, and “can’t” were among the news, describing that many adolescents do not agree with benefits of news.

(3) Reasons for Perceiving News as Unhelpful

There were seven responses which rated news as “Unhelpful”. These answers were “same things are repeated”, “It seems that there is no issue in living without the news”, “because news has many words that we can’t understand”, “knowing does not change things” and lastly “no particular reason”. For such reasons, these participants felt that news are unhelpful. What would be a reason for such negative reaction?

(4) Reasons for Infrequent Consumption of News

To investigate the reason for the adolescent’s disinterest toward news, the survey asked participants about reasons for not seeing the news. To the question, “If you do not see news often, what is your reason for doing so?”, the participants were encouraged to choose one among the options; “lack of time”, “lack of interest/fun”, “difficulty in comprehending the news”, “too much news”, and “low quality of news”. For this chapter, out of 50 responses, 41 responses were used for analysis and responses from 9 participants who answered that they see news frequently. The specific survey result can be found in the chart below:

[Chart 6] Reason For Not Seeing News

Reason	Lack of Time	Lack of interest/fun	Difficulty in understanding news	Too much news	Low quality of news	Total
Frequency (%)	17(41.5)	17(41.5)	3(7.3)	1(2.4)	3(7.3)	41(100)

The research focused on the frequency of each option. Among the response options “lack of time” and “lack of interest/fun” had been selected as the most frequent responses. For Korean adolescents who are renowned for their study load, finding time for news is not a common or easy practice. Unless the adolescents, in their senior year at high school, sees news to prepare themselves for Logic Tests, which are often part of university acceptance tests, the adolescents in their middle, high school years find it difficult to make time for news. For adolescents within such environment, the result of this survey which states that the adolescent does not see news due to their lack of time, may be an apparent conclusion.

Moreover, “lack of interest/fun” also showed an identical frequency rate with “lack of time”. Such also appears to be a result of education system which focuses heavily on college entrance, which starts as early as senior years in elementary school in some extreme cases. The adolescents do not have sufficient time nor environment to develop an interest in non-academic subjects. However, if the curriculum encourages news-reading, for example by including an education about children’s news-reading starting from elementary school, the adolescents will be encouraged to continue their interest throughout middle to high school years.

As the adolescents have insufficient time and interest for news, consequently they find it difficult to comprehend the news that consisted of multi-dimensional perspectives on the issue. They also find that their ability to perceive and select the news with critical perspective is lacking. Given such circumstances in which interest and approach to news are blocked, the responses that news is difficult to understand (7.3%) and that news is too many (2.4%), appears to be natural consequences.

3. Expressing Opinions

This research aimed to approach how adolescents express their opinion, which has received an insufficient attention in previous studies, for investigative purposes. This research approached and studied how adolescents express their opinions, given that the topic received an insufficient attention in previous studies. Unfortunately, Korea lacks environmental supports that encourage adolescents to voice out their opinions. Only a few selected adolescents, such as those in Youth Participant Board, Youth Administration Committee, can voice their opinions, through representative positions. Then, how do most adolescents voice their opinions? This research classified adolescent’s expressive behaviors into a diverse and multi-dimensional options for the participants to choose from.

Speak out refers to expressing one’s opinions in public. To estimate how adolescent speak out, the survey asked “What do you do to express your thoughts?” and provided nine expressive behaviors, to which the participant can response by either choosing “do” or “don’t”. Such expressive behaviors were divided into online and offline expressions, as the settings of these two expressions are different. While expressing one’s opinions online is facilitated through its accessibility and anonymity, the expressing one’s opinion offline does not provide anonymity. The research esteemed that such difference between online and offline settings will also make difference in expressing one’s opinion. The specific results are provided in below, in Chart 7. In reading Chart 7, it should be noted that percentage within a parenthesis is not a percentage of a particular answer among entire responses, but a percentage for “do” and “don’t”.

[Chart 7] Expressing Opinions

Expressive Behaviors	Do	Don't
Clicking Agree or Like button	33(66%)	17(34%)
Commenting on article in SNS	12(24%)	38(76%)
Commenting on article in Website	7(14%)	43(86%)
Sharing news one agreed with on SNS	16(32%)	34(68%)
Posting on SNS	18(36%)	32(64%)
Uploading photo on SNS	17(34%)	33(66%)
Writing for News	3(6%)	47(94%)
Participating on street/online campaign	13(26%)	37(74%)
Participating on Related Organization's meetings or gatherings.	5(10%)	45(90%)

Clicking “Like” or “Agree” button for the article or issue are found as a most popular way of expression. As a simple click can express whether their opinions agree or disagree with the article or news, it appears to be most widely used option of expression.

Next, expressing opinions on SNS is found as second most popular method of expression. It is estimated that as adolescent spend prolonged time in SNS, consequently they speak out within SNS frequently. The participants are found to express their opinions in SNS through various ways, from posting on SNS (36%), uploading photo (34%), sharing the news they agreed with on SNS(32%), commenting on news posted on SNS(24%). Lastly, 26 % of participants are found to participate in online/street campaigns.

Among such options, “Sharing the news they agreed with on SNS” and “Commenting on News posted on SNS” are most notable expressive behaviors. Even though the percentage of such answers is low, with less than half percentage, it confirms that the adolescents, at least part of adolescent population, is actively speaking out their thoughts through news. Sharing news on SNS means that they are spreading the news they agreed with to their social circle in SNS. Such sharing encourages other adolescents to read or take interest in the news, as their friends shared it. Even if news discusses an uninterested topic, the friends are encouraged to take a glance at the title, or read the news. Sometimes such shared news becomes a topic of their offline discussion.

On the other hand, commenting on news on SNS can be seen as more active form of expression. Not only can such method enable adolescents to either agrees or disagree with the contents or nuance of the news, but also enables adolescents to voice their thoughts to the existing comments. Through such various method of expressions, it

can be seen that adolescents are expressing themselves gradually online, with news as their medium.

VI. Conclusion

1. Summary of Results

This study has conducted a research on media usage of adolescents, who lives in a fast-changing media environment. The research focused specifically on news, which provides adolescents a window to the world. To investigate such issues, the research conducted an online survey, with 59 adolescent participants. Through the survey, the research analyzed following results.

The analysis of <Question 1>, which examined Korean adolescent's media use, found that most used media is SNS, to which adolescents spent the average of 2 hours per day. Next, the analysis of <Question 2> showed that adolescents observed news mostly through mobile internet, such as smartphone, followed by SNS. To examine the specific time spent for news, the survey asked for average time the participants spent on each media platform to see the news. The social media has been selected as a most used media platform for news, over television and Internet websites, with approximately 51 minutes spent per day. As for helpfulness of news, many participants rated it as average. Lastly, examination of <Question 3> has concluded that speak-out through SNS was most active form of expressing opinions among adolescents.

Through such results, this research has confirmed that SNS is a most used platform for adolescents, and that SNS is a most used platform for news consumption, in both frequency and time. Moreover, there was a distinguished difference in each platform's use and news consumption depending on the sex. The male adolescents are found to use stationary Internet more, while female adolescents consumed media through mobile internet such as SNS and smartphone more.

2. Research Conclusion

This study has significance in that it delved into adolescent's media usage and news consumption, and their method of expressing their opinions. Yet, the research had few limitations. Firstly, the sample population of the survey was small to represent the adolescent population more accurately. Therefore, result of the survey cannot properly represent the entire Korean adolescent population. Secondly, the research is limited in that it failed to conduct a further analysis based on academic progression of adolescents. Even though the survey had both middle and high school students as participants, the survey was not able to conduct analysis based on their academic progression, as there was a significant difference between middle and high school participants, with only a handful of participants from middle school. The additional analysis based on adolescent's academic progression, with even participants from middle and high school, will be a notable research as well.

The news is like a breath in daily life. Like breath, news is with us, whether we are conscious of it or not. Moreover, with advance of Internet, the news is omnipresent than it ever was. In this age in which news are overflowing, "curation service" which

finds needed news for an individual is being implemented. However, such catered news cannot essentially be the only necessary news for the individual. The world we live in consists of a complex knot, made with entangled interests, that we cannot see it properly only by perceiving it with one perspective.

Then what would be a solution? The answer to this question relies in education. The adolescent can find their way through such difficulties if they are equipped with ability to read news and analyze the information with critical perspective. The recently published study regarding media literacy stated that media literacy and critical thinking increase as one spends more time on paper news, books, and magazine, while such traits decrease as one spend more time watching television. Moreover, in Britain, it was published that 10 percent of children and adolescents between age of 8 to 15 does not suspect the credibility of information they encounter through SNS (Nownews, 2015.11.23). With such recent researches, the significance of media literacy education is rising, as such education will train adolescents to select correct information and have diverse perspectives.

Whether it be a newspaper, or a television news, everyone is aware of news's importance. The research has concluded that the adolescents sees such news through SNS. The SNS has become an essential tool of communication for the adolescents. Now, the adolescent should learn, through news, how to interact with world and communicate with others. Our society is needed to develop a quality media education to provide a much-needed media literacy education to our adolescents.

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