

3rd Period The realities, damages and troubles associated with social media etc.

Cases children fall victims

- A girl got to know a woman (who was actually a man pretending to be a woman) on social media. As she consulted the person about her appearance etc., she ended up sending not only her facial photos but also her pictures wearing only underwear on the phone as the other person told her to. Then, the person threatened her by saying "Send naked photos or I will spread your pictures with underwear." and made her send naked pictures.
- A boy was persuaded to exchange naked photos with a woman he knew on social media and sent her a photo of his private part, "woman" threatened him by saying "Send money, or I will spread your shameful photo."
- A girl was asked to "play game together" on chat by a man who she met through an online game which was free to download. She met the man on a street near her home, then she was strangled her arms and legs and was confined in the man's house.
- A runaway girl was looking for someone who could provide a place to spend a night through social media. A man did indecent act against her in exchange for providing her a place to stay.

Cases of Inappropriate Use

- A boy took a photo lying in an ice cream display freezer in a convenience store with his friends and posted it on social media, which he meant it as a joke, Then, he was later accused of forcible obstruction of business by the convenience store.
- A boy kept adding cash to a mobile social game to play characters or items only available for a limited time from his allowance. He kept adding cash every time new characters come out and ended up stealing his parent's money and it was revealed that he spent over 500,000 JPY.
- A girl was addicted to a smart phone after using it repeatedly for watching videos or playing games, which made the day and night reversed and she stopped going to school. After her parents tried to take her phone away, she started to behave violently in her home and even used violence on her parents.
- A boy posted a composite photo of a celebrity's face and someone else's naked body on social media, and was accused for libel by the celebrity afterward.
- A girl said "She (victim) is ugly. Hope she dies" regarding victim's post on social media, and was accused for contempt by the victim.



Children likely to be targeted

○ Anyone can be targeted

Not only so-called delinquent boys or children who don't listen to what their parents say, but anyone can be involved in troubles.

○ Children are targeted because they tend not to suspect information online and easily be influenced by it.

Children easily consider someone they don't know to be a friend, or feel close to others just because they have something in common such as same interest.

○ Children from household without any rules for using smartphones or Internet are also targeted.

Children from a family which has no rules on using smartphones etc. such as where to use or when to use tend to be involved in troubles without any buffer because they don't have any restrictions on smartphone usage. That is, it is not too much to say parents' indifference expose their children to danger. They also may be led to so-called "Internet addiction" because there is no end to stop them.



Any children and any family can be involved in troubles associated with the Internet usage.