

Chinese Teen Chops Hand Off To ‘Cure’ Internet Addiction

An estimated 24 million Chinese teenagers are said to be addicted to online games

By [Tom Phillips](#), Beijing

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Note from Pastor Kevin Lea: *I hope that this and the related articles listed at the end will help parents realize that “electronics” have the potential to pose a great danger to your children. If your child can’t be away from their iPhone, tablet, computer games, online gaming, etc., then there is a very serious spiritual problem. The solution will be as hard to find as trying to get a drunkard off of the bottle, because those addicted are normally averse to the cure, which is a spirit filled walk with the biblical Jesus in a born again relationship with Him.*

Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed. John 8:34-36 NKJV



←There are currently an estimated 24 million young 'web junkies' in China Photo: Kim Kyung-Hoon/Reuters

A Chinese teenager has been rushed to hospital after chopping off his hand in a desperate attempt to cure his addiction to the internet.

There are currently an estimated 24 million young “web junkies” in China according to official estimates and a growing number of clinics and [military-style “boot camps” designed to rehabilitate them.](#)

However, hoping to rid himself of the vice, one 19-year-old from the city of Nantong in Jiangsu province took drastic measures of his own. He hacked his left hand off, according to a report on the Jiangsu TV channel. “We cannot accept what has happened. It was completely out of the blue. He was a smart boy,” his mother, who declined to be identified, told reporters.

The woman said she had gone to her son’s bedroom at around 11pm last Wednesday only to find that he had disappeared. She found a handwritten note on the bed in which he should have been sleeping. “Mum, I have gone to hospital for a while,” it read. “Don't worry. I will definitely come back this evening.”

By then, her son, who was identified only as "Little Wang" had already smuggled a kitchen knife from their home and snuck out. Safely out of sight, the teenager severed his left hand at the wrist. He called a taxi to take him a nearby A&E and left the hand lying on the ground. Local television broadcast gory images of a bloodstained bench on which the boy had reportedly been sitting when he cut off his hand.

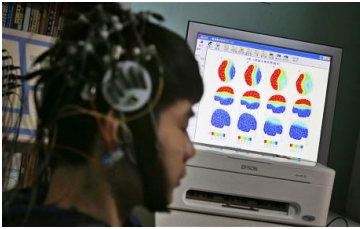
Surgeons at a local university hospital managed to reattach the hand after it was recovered by police but said they could not guarantee full mobility would return. One of the boy’s teachers, who was not named, blamed his actions on an internet addiction which had made him “impetuous”.

Campaigners say Asian countries such as China, [which boasts some 649 million internet users](#), are in the midst of a major online addiction epidemic.

Tao Ran, an army psychologist who runs a well-known Beijing rehab centre for internet addicts, estimated that around 14 per cent of his country’s youth were now hooked. Symptoms ranged from young people who skipped lessons at school to others who were so severely addicted that they rarely left their bedrooms and inhabited an almost entirely virtual universe. “They only do two things: sleeping and playing,” said Mr Tao, who traced the crisis back around a decade.

Politicians are also starting to take note. Last month Taiwanese lawmakers approved changes to legislation that meant authorities could fine parents who allowed their children to spend excessive amounts of time using “electronic products”.

In Japan, [internet “fasting camps” have been set up](#) in response to claims that hundreds of thousands of teenagers are abandoning the real world for the virtual one.



An internet addict has his brain scanned at a rehabilitation centre in Beijing (Reuters)

In late 2013, Shanghai approved new laws demanding that parents take action to “prevent and stop minors smoking, drinking alcohol, roaming the streets, or being overindulgent with online and electronic games”.

Mr Tao, from the Beijing rehabilitation centre, said even more radical steps were needed...

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27 Aug 2013

To read this article in its entirety, go to:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/china/11386325/Chinese-teen-chops-hand-off-to-cure-internet-addiction.html>