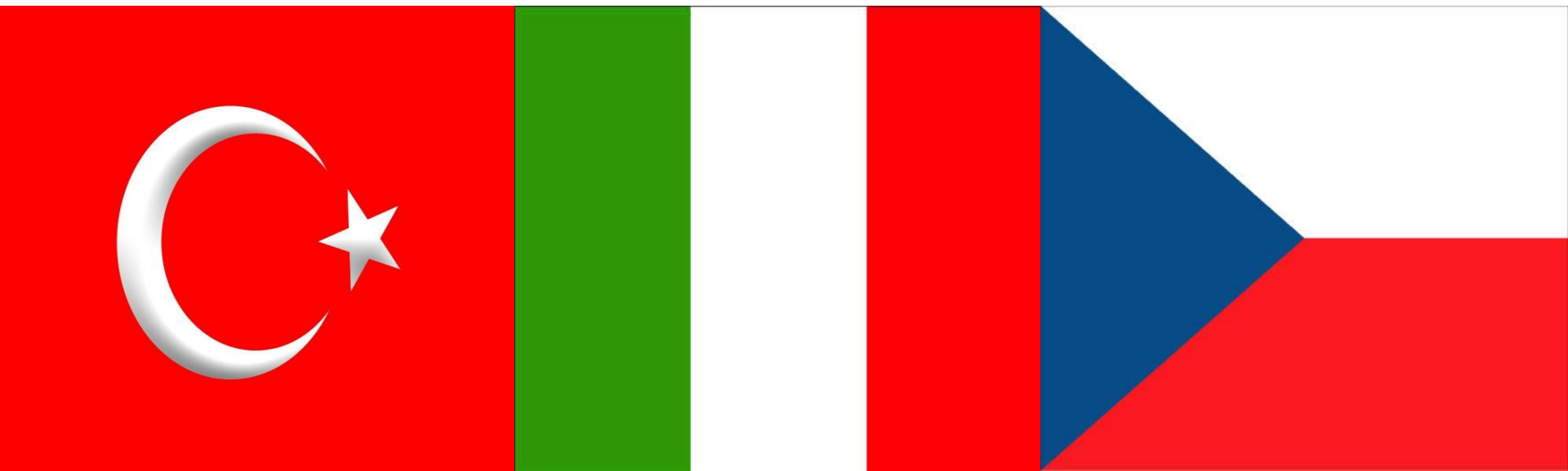Comenius

Teens Digital World

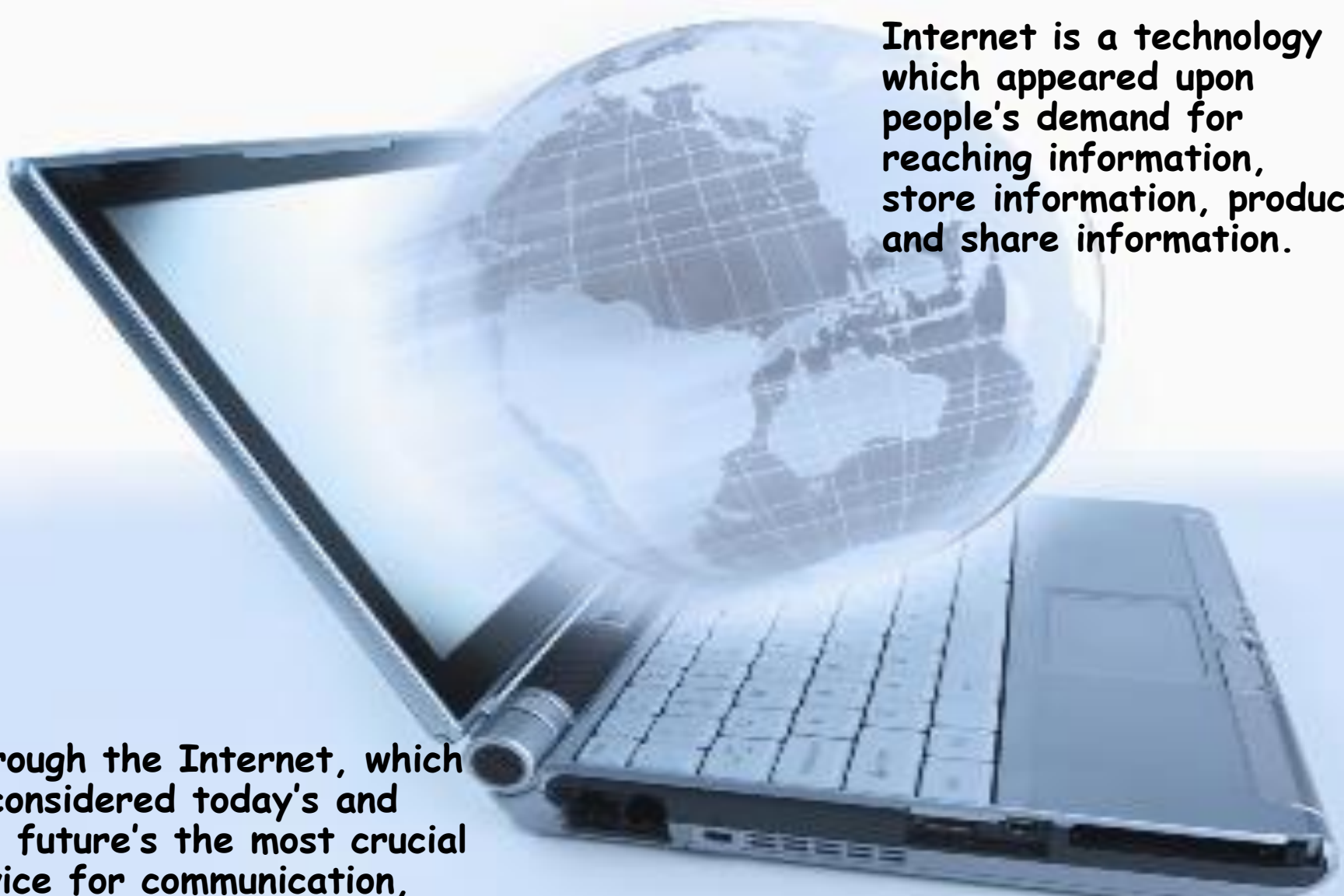# THE USE OF THE INTERNET IN EDUCATION

We see the biggest influence of technological development in the field of knowledge-based-society. With the process of transforming into information society, the use of the Internet and computer softwares has become inseparable part of our daily lives.

Internet

Connecting millions of computer users and thousands of social groups and allowing them to communicate with each other directly all around the world, the Internet is a continuously expanding communicative network.

Internet is a technology which appeared upon people's demand for reaching information, store information, produce and share information.

Through the Internet, which is considered today's and the future's the most crucial device for communication, information on various fields could be accessed rapidly, cheaply and safely.

The Internet has become a third place where individuals increasingly watch TV, communicate with their pals, listen to music and feel united with other people from all corners of the world and they are able to express themselves. (first being home, the second workplace)

- **By means of the Internet people are able to access to all kinds of information he needs rapidly, to be knowledgeable about the happenings all across the world, have fun and a great time, to have a chat with friends and beloved, conduct banking transactions and also do shopping.**

THE METHOD

- In the study, a questionnaire has been prepared with a view to determining the conditions where students use the internet and how much it affects their education. During the survey, in total 26 questions are directed so as to determine about the influences of the internet on studenst (education-learning), their use of internet, and their opinions on social networks. The statistical findings has been presented in the results and evaluation section.
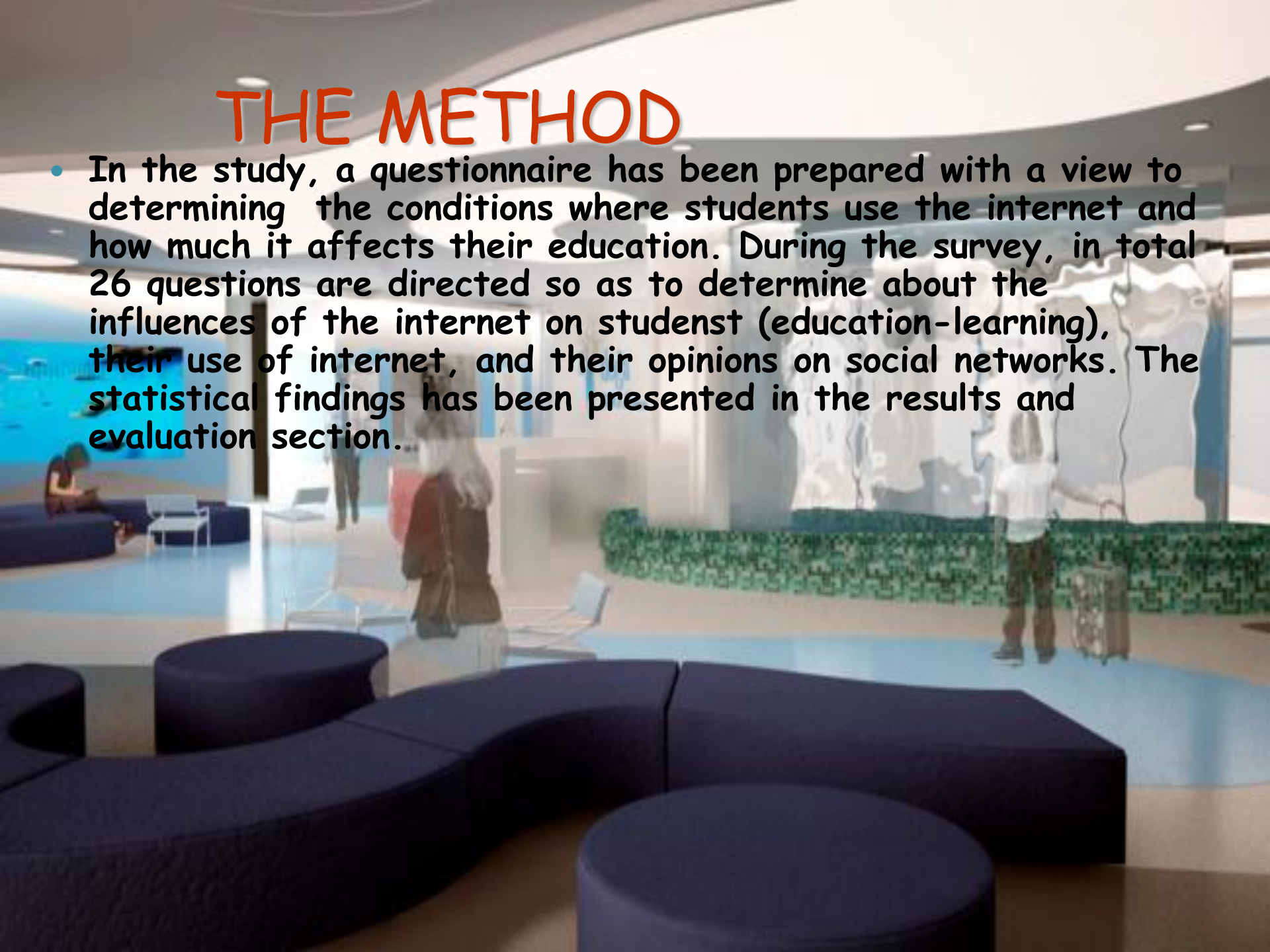
RESULTS AND SUGGESTIONS

- **The questionnaire prepared under the framework of this study has been conducted on our students (Kahramanmaraş Hotel Management and Tourism Vocational High School). After the questionnaire form that have missing data or incomplete answers have been left out, in total 164 answered forms have been obtained. The questions and the findings of the questionnaire are presented in table I.**

THE FINDINGS OF THE SURVEY

- 105 of the participants that took the questionnaire are male, 59 are female students. 63% of the students said they are online less than 2 hours daily, 24% said they are online between 2 and 4 hours, 13% said they are online more than 4 hours daily. The survery also studied the students' memberships in social networks and their reasons for membership. 77 % of the students taking part in the survey stated that they are members of social networks. Their main reason for becoming members is chatting and friendship.

56% of the participants said that social networking sites are very useful. As an answer to the question as to the purpose of their using social networks, 32 % stated that they are online for chatting, 25 % are for friendship and 3% are for other reasons.

56 % of those who took part in the survey stated that social networking sites are not used beneficially, and 49% of the participants emphasized that they spend more time on the Internet than they expected.

In the survey 53% of the participants claimed that the Internet help them develop their reading – writing skills, 45% said the students take part in learning process actively; however, 59% stated that Internet is making students tend to laziness and 48% said that the Internet steals their time.
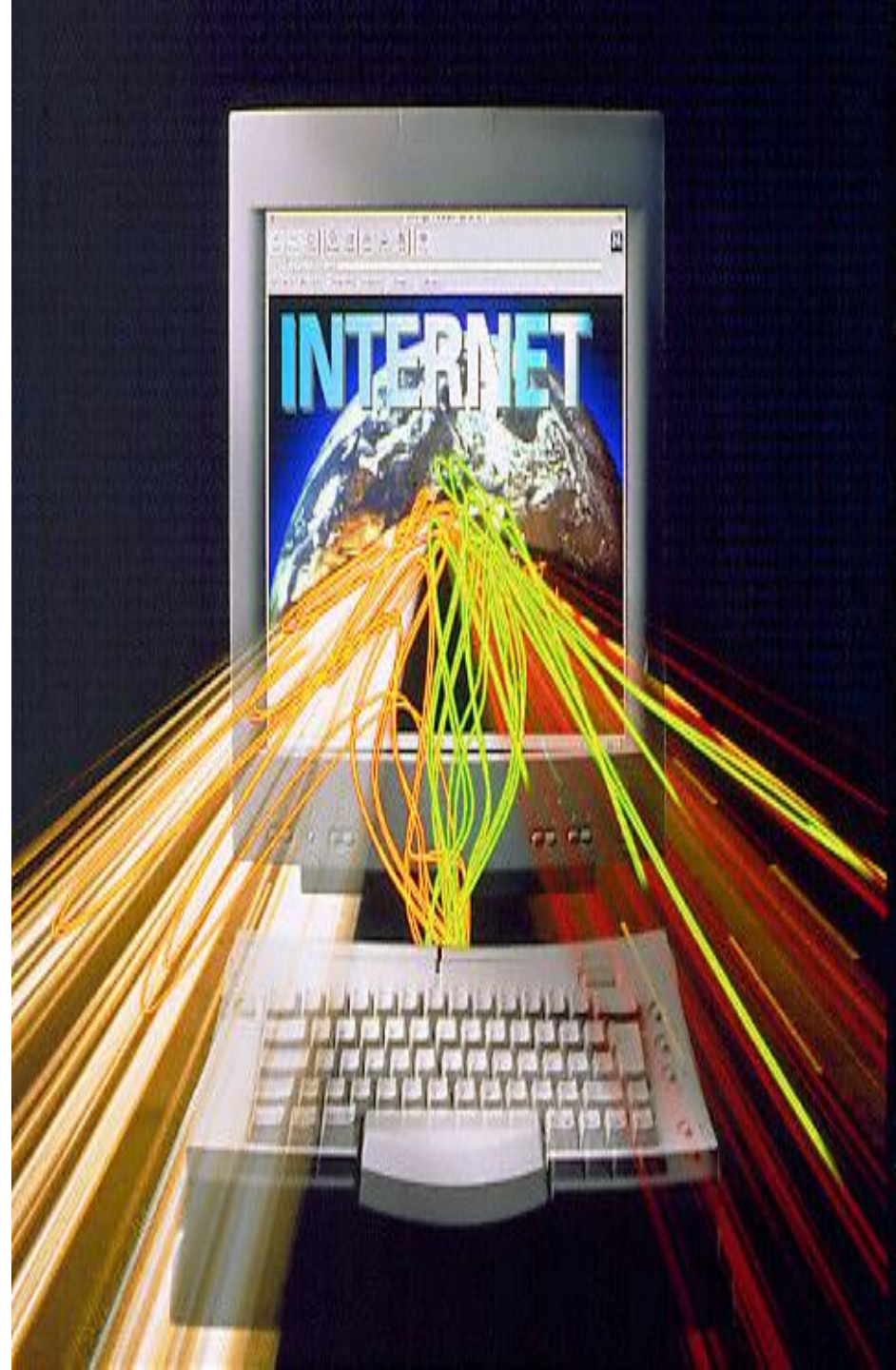
73% of the students in the survey stated that the Internet has a major role as an educational tool and more than 50% of theparticipants said that the Internet increases the students' educational competence. 56 % of the participants claimed that the Internet causes addiction, 54 % said it destroys the communication within family, 59 % said it leads to laziness among people.

New communication technologies and the Internet offers individuals fresh opportunities to set up new atmospere to communicate and get rid of the limitations in the real world. Today the Internet, which is used widely and for many purposes everywhere and at all levels is expanding in terms of education and with the possibilities it offers it becoming an inevitable technology.

IN TERMS OF EDUCATION

- It enables us to reach information rapidly
- It offers vast opportunities for teachers and students in therir fields of research
- It allows those in education field to renew their knowledge
- It allows them to get in touch with collegues or those who are relevant to their field all around the world
- It enables people to follow the latest developments quickly
- It allows people to actively take part in tele - conferences in various different places
- It offers distant education facilities
- It is a fast communicative instrument in terms of information and vision
- Specifically with the practical Technology it brings, it enhances creativity, sharing by founding WEB sites easily.
- It gives us many opportunities such as sending e-mails and files in moments.

The only aim of using technology in education is to improve the current conditions and enhance the productivity in the process of education. That is, it is important to realize that technology is not a magical baton to eradicate all the problems existing in education but it is merely an enriching secondary instrument in educational experience
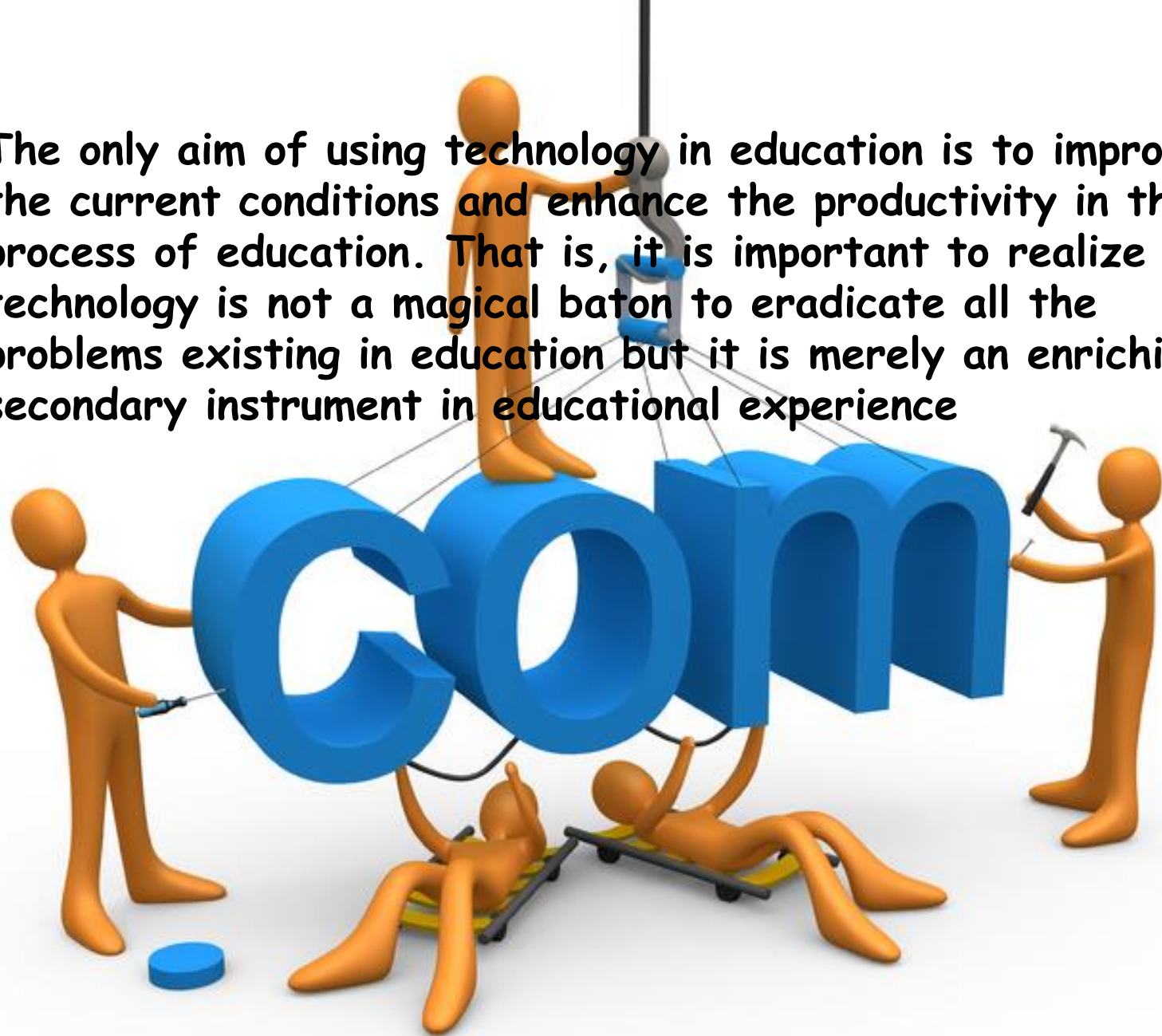
There are obstacles to be overcome as to the usage of technology in education and many of them are not peculiar to our country. To begin with, the technology required for the infrastructure must be considered. A country's educational technology is built on its national tele –communicaitons.

While the Internet can be considered useful, it can also be harmful.

The defects that have been observed over the Internet are as follows:

- Students are becoming more dependent on the internet in learning activities
- They have problems with respect to behave emphatically and interact with their peers.
- They have an easy access to improper publications and sites irrelevant to their ages.
- Their language developing skills will be affected negatively and/or their writing habits will be shaped by the channels on the internet.
- Internet leads to the waste of a long time.
- Deteriorates the communion within the family.
- Causes disturbances in your body parts such as neck, waist, wrists and eyes.

For this reason, it is claimed that a new generation is coming with deficient in Turkish grammar, and because of the fact that they spend a lot of time on social networks, they lack the habit of reading or are losing this habit and as a result of this they have a limited vocabulary. While all these are partly justified, with proper orientation and sufficient guidance, such negative effects could be minimized and maximum benefit could be derived from technology.

- In our country it is being observed that the Internet is affecting the majority of population primarily children and the youth. Families support the use of computers educationally and the Internet with respect of rearing their chidren well. However, it is also observed that families are not sufficiently conscious about the out of control use of computers and the Internet.

- Youth who are not ready to use the information technologies yet cannot know how to evaluate the complicated information they encounter. This situation affects them negatively at emotional, conscious and behavioral levels. For this reason, it is important that parents supervise and monitor their kids. Therefore, the matter must be considered as a whole, analysed and for the sake of the society's future, precautions must be taken to prevent a social collapse, which is very significant.

AS FAMILY AND SOCIETY

- **Parents mustn't forget that their duty is over when they have bought a computer and Internet connection. On the contrary, they must minimally know about computers and the Internet 'to supervise their kids at home' and to protect their children against risks from the Internet.**

- **They must search for how old their children should start using computers and the Internet and they must search for and behave accordingly how computers and internet contribute to children's development.**
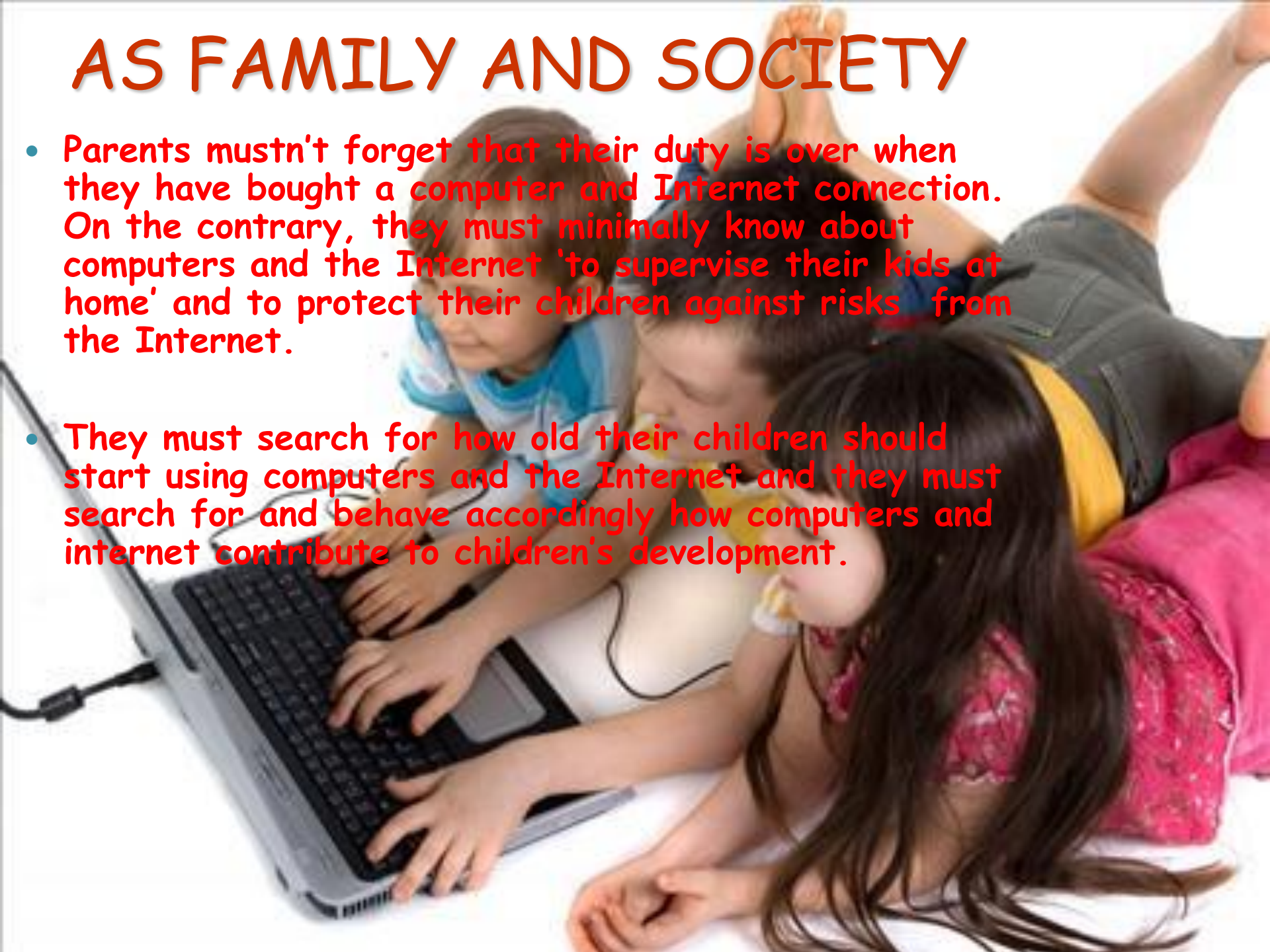
AS FAMILY AND SOCIETY

- The culture of the Internet mustn't be allowed to outshine the culture and morals of the society.
- The kid's engagement mustn't be solely computer and the Internet. Parents must show a good pastime since young ages. These hobbies will shield the child against many psychological disturbances.
- It must be observed that virtual world's borders mustn't exceed the real world's border. Children must be encouraged to spend time with their peers naturally and they must be given new possibilities.

AS FAMILY AND SOCIETY

- While virtual libraries are used, real ones mustn't be neglected and the habit of reading books mustn't be forgotten.

- Parenst mustn't consider computers and computer games as a tool to keep their children busy and not to disturb them. In other words, computers are not nursemaids.

- From time to time parents must play computer games with their children.

AS FAMILY AND SOCIETY

Parents mustn't tell off their children if they happen to see them visit pornographic or gambling websbites. They must try to talk to their children stating that what they have dtone is wrong and harmful.

They must monitor their children about Internet Cafe visits and must make their children report the problems they witness in internet cafes, as to physical, hygienic conditions. These problems must be reported to the authorities in charge.

1 Sex?	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Male	105	%64
Female	59	%36
Toplam	164	%100
2. Daily online time?		
Less than 2 hours	104	%63
Between 2-4 saat	39	%24
More than 4 hours	21	%13
Total	164	%100
3. Are you a member of a social networkı?		
Yes	127	%77
No	37	%23
Total	164	%100
4.What are you mostly using the social networks for ?		
friendship	41	%25
Have a new circle	20	%12
chatting	52	%32
others	51	%31
Total	164	%100

5. When online I always spend more time than I expected.		
Yes	**50**	**%31**
No	**81**	**%49**
Not sure	**33**	**%20**
Total	**164**	**%100**
6. I believe social networks causes addiction.		
Yes	**42**	**%26**
No	**105**	**%64**
Not sure	**17**	**%10**
Total	**164**	**%100**
7. I think social networks are very useful for me.		
Yes	**91**	**%56**
No	**39**	**%24**
Not sure	**33**	**%20**
Total	**164**	**%100**
8. I believe social networks hinder my studies.		
Yes	**60**	**%36**
No	**80**	**%49**
Not sure	**24**	**%15**
Total	**164**	**%100**
9. I think social networks are not used beneficially.		
Yes	**92**	**%56**
No	**45**	**%28**
Not sure	**27**	**%16**
Total	**164**	**%100**

	(1) disagree	(2) no idea	(3) agree
1. Do you agree that Internet has an important role as a teaching instrument in education?	% 13.4	% 13.4	%73.1
2. Do you agree that Internet helps develop writing and reading skills?	%15.8	%30.4	%53.6
3. Do you agree that Internet help develop creative thinking skills?	%18.9	%23.7	%57.3
4. Do you agree that Internet help develop critical thinking skills?	%18.9	%31.1	%50
5. Do you agree that Internet is efficient in teaching concepts?	%15.8	%27.4	%56.7
6. Do you agree that Internet is important in preparing the lessons and doing researches?	%12.1	%10.3	%77.4
7. Do you agree that Internet is important to establish a communication with other school administrators, parents, students and teachers?	%22	%25.1	%52.7
8. Do you agree that Internet makes students join in the process of learning actively?	%20.1	%34.7	%45.1
9. Do you agree that students' success is increasing with the Internet use in the classroom?	%28	%25.6	%46.3
10. Do you agree that Internet causes addiction?	%18.2	%25.6	%56.1
11. Do you agree that Internet take people away from social life?	%26.8	%28	%45.1
12. Do you agree that Internet destroy the communion in the family.	%18.2	%26.8	%54.8
13. Do you agree that Internet makes people lazy?	%17.6	%23.1	%59.1
14 Do you agree that Internet is stealing people's time for no reason?	%25	%26.2	%48.7
15. Do you agree that technology use in the classroom increases students' free thinking skills?	%21.3	%40.8	%37.8
16. Do you agree that technology makes people forget old traditions?	%18.9	%21.9	%59.1
17. Do you agree that technology passifizes people and make them lose their power to struggle?	%20.1	%18.9	%61