

## **PARENTAL PERCEPTIONS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF COMPUTER USAGE IN THE EDUCATIONAL PROCESS OF THEIR CHILDREN IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS:**

### **AN EXPLORATORY STUDY**

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### **ABSTRACT**

At present, many families have access to computers that help them with their daily activities, such as finding employment and helping children with schoolwork. However, minority families residing in the Gaza Strip in general, do not own home computers. Questions are therefore raised as to whether parents who are unfamiliar with modern culture view computers as important teaching tools for themselves and their children. The present research was conducted to study parents' perception and young children's usage of computers. The sample for the study comprised 103 parents, majority of whom responded that computers have helped their children in exploring new technologies. Parental perception of computers was found to be independent of parental occupation and educational achievement. However, the duration of computer use by children varied in accordance with parental perception because parents with more positive perceptions of computers allowed their children to use computers more frequently. The study reveals the need to strengthen and support parental perceptions of the use of computers for children's learning process. An exploratory study was conducted by analyzing the perceptions of parents whose children were enrolled in a Rafah-Gaza Elementary School. Findings suggest that parents place a high value on computer usage and view it as vital for job success and academic achievement.

**KEYWORDS:** Computer Use, Parent Perceptions of Computer Use