

Regulating Children's Entry To I-Cafés

September 14, 2009 · by EdZee · in I-Café Business



In the absence of a national law regulating the registration and operation of Internet cafés, many local government units (LGUs such as towns, cities and provinces) enact their own ordinances with provisions mostly based on the [Local Government Code of the Philippines](#). I had already written many articles about the [various local regulations](#) already in place in many areas. I am adding this one to summarize the different rules being applied by LGUs in their effort to regulate entries of students of minor age (I will call them 'children' in this write-up) to Internet cafés and avoid truancy.

The issue of truancy among school children is the concern of everyone. First and foremost, I believe that preventing truancy should be a collective effort of the community and mainly by the parents and teachers of young students. The existence of Internet cafés in many localities where truancy exist are getting cited to be the major cause of the problem. Playing online games instead of attending classes are observed to be prevalent in many areas; hence, the need to pass ordinances that would regulate the entry of school children to these business establishments.

As I said, the rules on the entry of school children to Internet cafés vary from one LGU to another. Below are the different rules being implemented in different areas of the country and my personal comments on them.

- **No Entry During School Days** – This is the strictest rule being implemented by some LGUs. This means that no children are allowed inside café premises from Monday to Friday. Children can only go to an Internet café on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays either to play games or do their assignments where they need to make research on the Internet.
- **No Entry During School Hours** – A more common provision on many local ordinances, this one prevents entry of school children to Internet cafés from say 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM or even up to 9:00 PM depending on school schedules in an area. Under this rule, school children can play games or make their homework inside computer shops in the evenings (until before curfew time) and on weekends only.
- **No Entry During Class Hours** – While there are just few LGUs that impose this rule on their ordinances, this is the ‘win-win’ situation for both the school children and the café owners. Under this regulation, school children can enter computer shops to do their assignments and homework or play games as long as it is not their class hours (normally classified as morning, afternoon or evening class). It may be a little difficult to monitor compliance to this rule. The school and other local authorities have to coordinate closely with the Internet café owners regarding the class schedules of the children.

- **No Entry For Children In School Uniforms** – This should be a ‘must’ on any local ordinance regulating the entry of school children to Internet cafés. Having school children wearing uniforms inside a café will not only give bad image to their schools but also to the Internet café allowing such. Anyone who sees school children wearing their uniforms inside Internet cafés will readily have the impression that those young café customers skip their classes.

Above are the existing regulations in different areas that some LGUs who do not yet have or in-process of amending their local ordinances may consider. I suggest that Internet café owners seek ways to present the best options to their local legislators. Having a thorough discussion on the issue can go a long way in having a fruitful co-existence of schools and Internet cafés in any locality.

Ref.: <http://xicowner.jefmart.com/index.php/2009/09/14/regulating-childrens-entry-to-internet-cafe/>

Parental Supervision Of Kids Who Overstay In I-Cafés

December 9, 2010 · by EdZee · in I-Café Business



In an interview by **TV5's *Balitaang Tapat***, I was asked what pointers can I give to parents whose kids overstay in i-café. We all know that when kids overstay in i-café especially when they do so while playing online and/or network games, the tendency for them to get addicted is high which could lead to the problem of truancy later on. This is precisely the reason why local government units legislate ordinances that regulates the entry of minors to i-café. While ordinances may help control game addiction and truancy, parents of kids who overstay in i-café also have the responsibilities to supervise and control their children's use of i-café facilities.

Below are some pointers for parents to minimize if not avoid their kids' overstay in i-café:

1. **Know the i-café frequented by your kids** – Ask about it from your child and visit the place. Have first-hand information on what kind of an i-café your child visits. Is it purely a gaming shop? A shop without games? Who are with your child inside the i-café?

2. **Take note of the frequency and length of stay of their stay in i-cafes** – Doing research for their homework is the frequent reason or alibi that they give. Check out with their teachers how often they give homework. 2 – 3 times a week and 2 hours per visit should be alright but definitely not everyday.
3. **Teach your kids what to share with their friends in a social network** – Tell them not to post information that could do harm to family and real friends. Or maybe simply prohibit them posting anything about the family affairs.
4. **Know who their companions are in going to i-cafes** – Ask them and if possible see for yourself who are with him inside the shop he frequents.
5. **Give them just enough money to pay for what they should do in i-cafes** – Ask them how many hours will it take them to do their homework. How many pages to print? Calculate how much and give them only how much is needed.

The above suggestions can help parents in supervising their kids stay in i-café. If followed, conflicts between i-café owners and parents of kids patronizing their shops would be avoided. Let us all understand that protecting the children on their use of technology is the responsibility of all.

Ref.: <http://xicowner.jefmart.com/index.php/2010/12/09/parental-supervision-of-kids-who-overstay-in-i-cafes/>

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