**Pandemic By-product: Online Literacy Education for Parents and Children since Covid-19**

The Covid-19 pandemic forced those that were not present online previously to end their lagging, crucially amongst them children aged 5-10. According to the 2021 Ofcom report, nearly all of the children in the UK, aged 5-15, were online during the year 2020, with over half them present on social media. The new profound reality of millions of more children being online has developed concerns for their safety, and questions the level of internet and technological literacy among the parents in keeping them safe.

This study utilizes semi-structured interviews with parents of children aged 5-10 during the pandemic, to evaluate their online literacy levels, as well as their perceptions and experiences. Using a thematic analysis to categorise codes deducted from interview responses, results displayed parent’s anxieties surrounding cyber bullying and internet safety, as well as their lack of knowledge in safeguarding their children. Results also indicate the urgency of government supported online literacy courses for children as young as 5, and their parents, particularly when considering that the literature has confirmed the insufficiency of online safety governmental regulations, due to them being short-term solutions that can and have been overcome when desired.

**Keywords:** Media Literacy, Online Safety, Online Education, Covid-19, Thematic Analysis.