The Impact of Social Networks on Education and Social and Psychological Problems of Modern Youth

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ABSTRACT

Changes in modern Russian society affect primarily young people. Students have always been the most progressive part of youth. The paper describes various aspects of the impact of Internet communications on education and the social and psychological problems of young people. Today, almost all the students are registered in at least one of the currently popular social networks. Young people learn, develop, discover the world, get to know each other, work, grow up with the Internet. What seemed to be impossible a couple of decades ago today has become the norm.

Keywords

Youth, values, problems, Internet communications, educational environment, social networks, virtual communication.

1. INTRODUCTION

Social networks today have become an integral part of our lives, affecting virtually all of its aspects. On the one hand, this has brought many advantages and conveniences to our lives, on the other hand, it also has negative features. Together with the Internet and social networks we enter the world of constant progress, constant upgrade and growth of electronics, into a world where automation will soon replace everything, normal libraries will become a thing of the past, the era of electronic information media will come. But some people, especially young people, can easily get lost in this ocean of information, entertainment and temptations.

2. DETAILS

In modern Russian society, socio-economic, structural and cultural changes are taking place that affect young people. The youth is a special socio-demographic group, which is characterized by a susceptibility to the new, high level of mobility, ability for critical thinking. The value orientations of young people and cultural attitudes largely determine the future of the society [1].

During a crisis, a restructuring of the existing habitual way of life occurs in the society, which generally results in a significant decline in production, bankruptcy of enterprises, massive layoffs, rising of unemployment, deterioration of living standards and welfare of the population, increasing tension in the society, deterioration of the psychological state of the population. First of all, the problems of the crisis hit the youth. The issue of youth is always actual, primarily because this social group is less integrated into social ties, less stable in its behavior, in its views, in its attitude to the world around it [2].

Therefore, the conditions, in which young people live and study, are of ultimate importance. Modern young people often face various problems that do not allow them to reveal their potential.

Every person at any age has needs that should be satisfied. The main needs of the studying youth include as follows: the need for the obtainment of a proper education for further competitiveness in the labor market, the need for self-realization and self-esteem, the need for communication, and so on.

In accordance with statistical data of the respondents` answers to the question about the main type of activity for young people aged 16-24 years, show that education is primary indicated as their main activity:

- 16,4% of respondents indicated that they are currently studying at school;
- 23,75% study at the university;
- 25,3% study at technical school;
- 23,4% of respondents combine work and education;
- 10,35% respondents chose the answer "other" [3].

No doubt that it is almost impossible to imagine modern education without the Internet. Of course, this greatly facilitates the life of a modern student: there is no more need to go to the library, to waste time and energy, looking through the dusty books, searching for the right information during a long period of time. The Internet makes information available in any weather, at any time of the day or night, and in almost any physical condition. That is, the merits of information networks in education are difficult to overestimate. Obviously, this also makes education more accessible to many people who had previously been deprived of such educational opportunities due to either remote residence or any physical limitations. Nevertheless, unfortunately, this accessibility of information has its own negative sides:

1. Receiving ready-made information, makes young people lose their ability to be creative in solving problems.

2. Working only with the screen of an electronic device completely negatively affects the spatial imagination. Getting used to the screen, young people often lose the ability to independently navigate, not only in the street, but even indoors. For example, many students, unfortunately, often even the majority, being in the classroom, cannot answer basic questions, such as: "show the direction, where the entrance to this building is situated", "which side did you come from?", etc. Young people no longer remember the names of streets, cannot explain the road, etc.

3. The Internet becomes for students the unquestionable and trustful source of information. Quite often, while giving a response, students refer to the Internet: "This is written in the Internet." At the same time they forget to name any site, author, textbook, etc. This gradually deprives a young student of the ability to analyze information and compare the different sources, from which it is received, it also goes against the important principle of critical attitude to information.

In addition to that, the students need to communicate and increase self-esteem, can often be realized with the help of Internet resources. It is much easier to make it online, because virtual life seems to be something else, completely different from the real one: on the internet, every person can call himself by any other name, create almost any image, easily make many interesting friends, say everything he wants without thinking about the consequences. It may come

to an addiction when a person wants to spend all his time in a social network, climb groups, communicate, watch something. And now a modern student often eats at the computer, not at the table.

Family as a social institution serves the task of transferring of the existing cultural values to the younger generation. It is in the family that the elements of the development of abilities are laid through the objective activity, the success of which also determines the development of the individuality of a young person in the future. Notwithstanding the above mentioned, the family crisis, which exists in the modern society leads to the weakness of the sense of family duty and responsibility, changes the ideas about morality, causes the decline in the material and social status of the family, which in its turn leads to both negative psychological consequences and social differentiation of young people [4]. It is important to say that networks play a dual role in this issue. On the one hand, there are many sites, main the main purpose of which is to assist young people in the matter of morality and family relations: they help in finding answers to some private questions, advise on pedagogical and legal issues, help you compile a selection of necessary literature. On the other hand, there are many sites that promote a lifestyle, which is far from traditional ideals of family and righteousness. Also quite often, personal communication in social networks is unstable and transient in nature due to the anonymity of communication participants.

It is also essential to note that nowadays social networks are often used by young people in order to make money. In particular, the owners of successful groups and so called publics (public pages) in the social network Vkontakte earn money for advertisement, in addition to that the promotion of the groups in the named social network is a well-paid business.

However, very often virtual life begins to replace the real one for young people. Meeting with friends and going out seems to be impractical when a person can watch the pictures of all of his friends without leaving his house. Many people, once registered in the social network, become addicted, automatically updating their pages, reading news or playing. For such young people the real life becomes difficult. Some of them deliberately refuse to meet with their friends, naming the lack of time as a reason, while in fact, they are just collecting cucumbers in a new online app. There are also those who pay money in order to obtain votes and high ratings or exchange the real money for the virtual ones. One of the main problems is that most people cannot acknowledge their addiction. One of the first signs of the social networks addiction is the necessity to constantly update the page. The interest in the new messages, friends photos and updates in the news chain becomes extremely high, and although, in fact, all these things have no links to his real life and cannot affect it anyhow, the person still constantly checks for the updates.

Getting back to the statistical data, the situation should be described as follows:

- about 80% of respondents admitted that it is difficult for them to refuse to check their page at least once a day;
- about 35% update their page more than five times a day;
- the idea that something can happen to their online profile terrifies all of the respondents.

Without any doubts, modern students receive information from various sources, including interpersonal communications, traditional media, the Internet and mobile communications. However, according to the respondents` answers, today the majority of young people receives information about events taking place in the world through the Internet and mobile communication:

- 61.4% respondents named Internet sites as the main source of information, which is used by them;
- about 35% use Internet blogs or forums to obtain information about events in the world;
- 14.2% receive information through news channels in messengers [2].

Such psychological dependence, which is reflected in the need to use social networks is very strong. By its strength, it may be compared with the cigarettes addiction. Some American psychologists even call it a psychological disorder. At the same time, it should be taken into account that the main users of Internet networks are adolescents, which means that their personality is not yet fully formed and is easy to influence [5].

While it is impossible to consider the total rejection of the use of the Internet, the question of restricting the time spent in the virtual world should be raised.

Nowadays, there is even a special kind of Internet connection - "Internet for children", and special seminars are held in order to get people acquainted with the way of obtainment the maximum benefit from using the Internet. Some acquaintances in social networks may make contribution to meeting a future spouse or an employer, but there are also the negative ones, which lead to the aggression and should be stopped right at the beginning.

In order to make a conclusion, it should be said that the named problems deserve the particular attention from the state`s side. It is the task of the competent authorities to solve the socio-economic problems of the society and effectively implement the youth policy.

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