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PSYCHOLOGICAL CULTURE OF MODERN YOUTH: THREATS AND PROBLEMS OF VIRTUAL SOCIAL SPACE

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Jumaboyev Abbos Xasan ogli

Gulistan State University Faculty of Psychology and Social Sciences 2nd year student, Uzbekistan

ABSTRACT

The essence of such concepts as "information culture", "information literacy" and "information worldview" is considered. The conclusion is made about the high level of penetration of information technologies into the lives of modern youth, but the insufficient level of information literacy and information worldview among young people. Based on a quantitative sociological study, the key threats to modern youth arising in the information space are identified. Among the most acute problems for modern youth, we have attributed: Internet addiction of young people, the rupture of real social ties and their substitution with virtual connections, loss of personal freedom, leakage of personal information, involvement in criminal and destructive groups through the Internet. It was noted that the more actively virtual space replaces real social connections, the newer threats are recorded in the Internet space. It has been established that criminal work on the Internet is especially active against teenagers. It is determined that the level of information culture among young people is correlated with age. The younger the respondents, the lower their level of information culture. It is concluded that social norms in the virtual space lag behind specific practices. Thus, modern society needs to more actively develop rules and norms of behavior in a new environment for it - the virtual space. The recommendation is given to develop the norms of information culture and cultural competencies among young people more actively. Educational programs should include issues of information literacy, including information security. All organizations working with young people need to step up their efforts to raise awareness of personal information security issues, especially among young people.

KEYWORDS

Internet space, information culture, information worldview, information security, virtual space, online youth, psychological threat of the Internet.

INTRODUCTION

The socialization of the vast majority of modern young people takes place, to a large extent, through the Internet. Many modern children learn gadgets much earlier than books. Young people increasingly prefer to work with information in electronic form. Real social connections are increasingly being replaced by virtual ones. At the same time, digital computer literacy and even sufficient Internet experience in no way guarantee the protection of the user from potential risk and related harm, since the main question is not how often or for how long the user appears online, but how he works on the Internet, in other words, we are talking about the information culture of the individual, which differs from the purely practical computer or digital literacy of the user.

METHODS

According to the first approach, information culture is understood as "the ability to work purposefully with computer information, use it to receive, process and transmit data using modern technical means and methods". In this case, information culture means: skills in working with technical devices and knowledge of software products; the ability to extract information from various sources; knowledge of the basics of analytical processing of information; knowledge of the specifics of information flows in their field of activity. According to the first approach, information culture is

understood as "the ability to work purposefully with computer information, use it to receive, process and transmit data using modern technical means and methods". In this case, information culture means: skills in working with technical devices and knowledge of software products; the ability to extract information from various sources; knowledge of the basics of analytical processing of information; knowledge of the specifics of information flows in their field of activity.

Another group of researchers is inclined to believe that information culture is one of the elements of organizational effectiveness and, therefore, can be considered as the most important resource for the development of any organization. Such researchers include M. Gunman, who in the course of research came to the conclusion that "the transformation of intellectual resources always occurs in parallel with the transformation of material resources. The main resources for increasing economic efficiency in business today are various types of knowledge and information. The achieved results represent, first of all, a ready-made intellectual product, which is necessary for material activities in order to function and develop effectively." She concluded that information culture is a strategic resource and its development should be planned for the effective transformation of the entire organization and, above all, to increase revenue.

Indeed, information is a very significant value in the modern world.

From a philosophical point of view, information culture acts as the most important component of the spiritual culture of society as a whole, various social groups, and an individual [6, p. 68]. According to this approach, information culture serves as one of the characteristic features for defining the culture of modern society.

With the development of scientific and technological progress, the concept of information culture absorbed knowledge from those sciences that were the basis for the implementation of fundamentally new approaches to working with information, providing a solution to the problem of the information crisis.

In more recent Western studies, information culture is considered as socially shared patterns of behavior, norms and values that determine the meaning and use of information. Indeed, the stability and unity of these groups depends on how people in large or small social groups interpret and use information. Thus, the Internet becomes a platform for preparing for real social processes. Today, norms, rules and accepted patterns of behavior in society, broadcast through the media and the Internet, determine what behavior is normal and what should be expected in a group. It is in the virtual space, in particular in social communities, that people are being prepared for various social actions.

Information culture includes not only knowledge and skills, but also a certain worldview of the individual associated with information technology and working with information in general. The information worldview is understood as a system of human views on the world of information and a person's place in it, including values, beliefs, ideals, principles of cognition and activity. Information culture includes two main elements: information literacy and information worldview.

The first essential component of information culture is information literacy. Indeed, for successful existence in modern society, information literacy is becoming a necessary component of personality. The fact that our society is increasingly dependent on information technology is evidenced by the level of penetration of these technologies into our lives. Thus, according to a poll by the Public Opinion Foundation (POM), 78 million people used the Internet in Russia at least once a month in the fall of 2015. over 18 years old. The share of Internet users among the population of this age is 67%. Almost the same penetration (68%) was shown in the TNS Group Web Index study, which took into account users over the age of 12. Mobile Internet penetration is highest among young people - about 90% of users under the age of 35 regularly access the Internet from mobile devices.

A sufficient level of information literacy is necessary for a modern person. At the same time, the high

penetration of information technology into our lives can have a negative impact on the social life of our society. Our society is just beginning to learn how to work with the threats and challenges of the Internet space. Young people are exposed to such threats. There are various types of threats and challenges for young people in the Internet space.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Among the most acute problems for modern youth, we can include: Internet addiction of young people, the rupture of real social ties and their substitution with virtual connections, loss of personal freedom, leakage of personal information, involvement in criminal and destructive groups through the Internet, etc. The more actively virtual space replaces real social connections, the more we detect new threats in the Internet space.

The presence and increasing severity of these problems indicate an insufficient level of development of information literacy in society. The study of this problem requires the close attention of the scientific community.

Perhaps the most discussed problem in scientific circles is the Internet addiction of young people. Constant presence in the Internet space has become one of the markers of youth lifestyle. For their new quality - to be constantly in touch - young people even received their own definition in sociology - online youth (youth go online).

The Sverdlovsk Region belongs to the leading regions both in terms of the number of Internet users and the activity of news agencies. More than 70% of all news reports in the Ural Federal District come from Yekaterinburg. Yekaterinburg has the largest number of news sources (about 40% of all mass media) and bloggers (50% of all Internet diaries in the Ural Federal District). Currently, Internet access is available in all general education, secondary and higher educational institutions of the city.

The data of our research conducted in the Sverdlovsk region in the youth environment confirmed the high penetration of the Internet into the youth environment (98%). At the same time, 68% of respondents strive to be constantly "online" and feel uncomfortable without such a connection. Such behavior can already characterize young people as an extremely Internet-dependent social group. At the same time, about half of the time young people spend on the Internet irrationally, i.e. they play online games, surf the Internet, etc.

Next, we asked how much, in the opinion of the respondents themselves, the Internet in general and social networks in particular harm real social connections. More than half of the respondents are confident (54%) that social networks help to find and maintain social contacts. But the older the respondents, the clearer their position regarding the negative role of social networks on real relationships

between people. So, between the ages of 14 and 17, only 14% of young people believe that social networks harm real relationships, and in the age group from 25 to 30, there are already 20% of such people.

The next threat we have highlighted in the Internet space for young people is the theft of personal information.

As the results of the study have shown, threats and illegal actions that our youth are exposed to in the virtual space are not uncommon. For example, more than half of the respondents (51.4% of the respondents who answered) had their personal social media page hacked by hackers, and 30.7% had their email inbox hacked. All groups of young people were subjected to such crimes, regardless of social, economic or demographic factors. As a result, criminals gain access to confidential information such as personal data, personal correspondence, photographs, personal documents, etc. This problem makes young people more vulnerable not only to financial fraudsters. A number of scammers can, by reading personal data and subsequently determining a psychological portrait, offer certain "interesting" goods and services for a particular person or directly steal money. Some of the criminals subsequently also incline young people to various illegal actions. Stolen information can be used against an individual. At the same time, we can state that in addition to the threats associated with a possible information confrontation, there are also

quite important internal threats caused by the wide possibilities of using modern information and communication technologies to manipulate public consciousness within the framework of political management by the state and the relevant political elites.

The answers of the respondent's record only the revealed cases of offenses in the virtual space, the real numbers of crimes may be higher. If an attacker or a computer virus has not been detected, then the user may not be aware of the information leak. For example, a user may not know about hacking a webcam on a computer or phone, since only an antivirus program with advanced features for webcams can uncover such crimes.

The low level of information culture among young people is also evidenced by the fact that 14.2% of respondents lost certain funds due to the actions of scammers on the Internet; 7.4% of respondents were involved in destructive groups (sects, "suicide" groups, etc.); 5.8% were involved in extremist groups on the Internet; 5.6% bought prohibited goods on the Internet (drugs, spices, etc.). These results indicate that very serious problems are brewing, the consequences of which our society will face in the near future, in the absence of proper intervention by the authorities.

Criminal activity on the Internet is especially active against teenagers. Thus, between the ages of 14 and 17,

6.5% of respondents were involved in extremist groups, while for the age group from 25 to 30, this figure is two times lower.

CONCLUSION

The results of the study confirmed that the Internet space today harbors not only opportunities, but also threats to our society, especially with regard to young people. All threats are directly or indirectly related to the low level of information literacy of young people, as well as an undeveloped information worldview. Social norms in the virtual space lag behind specific practices. Our society needs to more actively develop rules and norms of behavior in a new environment for it - the virtual space.

We can also state a number of key problems identified in the Internet space in relation to youth.

Firstly, the level of Internet penetration into the youth environment has come close to 100%, but at the same time, the level of information culture of young people can be considered insufficient. The level of information culture is especially low among young people from 14 to 18 years old.

Secondly, criminal activity on the Internet is especially active against teenagers. For example, they are more often inclined towards extremist and terrorist activities.

Thirdly, being active users, young people use the Internet for educational and entertainment purposes. At the same time, young people do not seek to use the Internet to solve social problems. In this regard, we can state the low level of civic participation of young people in solving public issues through the Internet.

In order to form and develop norms of information culture and cultural competencies, certain efforts are required on the part of public institutions and, above all, on the part of educational and cultural institutions.

Educational programs should include issues of information literacy, including information security. All organizations working with young people need to step up their efforts to raise awareness of personal information security issues. Prior to advanced training in information culture and information security, teachers themselves and people working with young people on these issues should undergo training, since the level of information culture is low in our society in all age groups of the population.

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