CURRENT STATE OF YOUTH INTERNET DEPENDENCE

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Annotation. *This article analyzes the current state of youth dependence on the global network in modern society and the research of scientists related to it. Proposals and recommendations were also given to prevent young people from becoming dependent on the global network.*

Keywords: *global network, digital technology, information society, virtual, social space, gadget.*

Global development trends require the transformation of the lifestyle not only of society as a whole, but also of each individual and the formation of practical skills for the effective use of modern means. Digital technologies serve as the main tool in this. Because today, computerization of social, educational, production, cultural, and many other activities, as well as connecting them to the global network space and their effective use, is defined as one of the main tasks [1].

For the implementation of such tasks, modern approaches to teaching young people the targeted use of digital technologies are being developed. As a result, a rapid increase in the number of users of the global network space is observed worldwide.

Because today's youth have the opportunity to use modern mobile devices in the global network space at any time. Mobile phones, smartwatches, laptops, computers, tablets, and iPads have become the main devices used daily by modern youth, representatives of Generation Z [2, 3]. The term "Z

generation" is synonymous with the term "digital personality." Representatives of Generation Z actively use modern gadgets. Here the question arises: how do they affect the development of young people? Along with the positive significance of computerization, there are also negative consequences of this process. The entire rhythm of a young person's life changes in a certain way, with the emergence of many new sources influencing the formation and development of personality, interesting online games, modern formats of communication, learning, and hobbies[4]. Precisely because of this situation, the problem of dependence on the global network space arises.

To solve this problem, it is necessary to identify the causes of addiction in young people in the global network space, describe the phenomenon of addiction to it, study its effective use, and identify and substantiate the possibilities of preventing addiction to the network. For this, it is first necessary to study the concept of dependence on the global network, the research of scientists on the causes of dependence.

In this regard, research on the concept of dependence on the global network is presented in the works of M. Weber, E. Durkheim, G. Simmel, R. Merton, P. Bourdieu, E. Giddens, Z. Bauman, P. Stompka, and others. According to them, dependence on the global network space has emerged as a virtual social space, through which people satisfy their specific social needs. Therefore, in an information society, it is important for individuals to be well-oriented in this space and connect their ideas with active activity [5]. In the works of these scientists, it can be understood that they put forward the idea of dependence on the global network space as a connection to virtual environments.

M.B. Kolesnichenko noted that as a sociological approach, issues of identity, manifested as the involvement of young people in the socio-

communicative space through flexible, mobile social practices, are of increasing interest [6]. According to M.B. Kolesnichenko, as young people develop their personalities, important questions arise: is dependence on the global network only a form of deviant behavior, or is it a new, acquired characteristic of modern society? Can modern people control their access to the global network?

Based on the above analysis, it can be said that the most characteristic changes occurring among young people in the use of the global network space. First, scientists have found that excessive use of global network space leads to distraction. Secondly, young people's egocentrism intensifies, and they become separated from their friends and family in real life. Regularly posting selfies, focusing entirely on oneself, constantly sharing passing thoughts, location, and other details on social media leads young people to be confident that only their friends in the global network space will understand them correctly. Thirdly, impersonal messages deprive them of the opportunity to fully understand the meaning of any message, as they hinder the perception of the subtleties of emotional interpersonal communication. Fourthly, the emergence of global network slang reduces the overall cultural development of young people, including their vocabulary, literacy, etc. [5].

Studying the conditions that contributed to the development of addiction in the global network space, experts determine the time spent online as the main, and sometimes the only, indicator of this specific form of addiction without negative consequences. Experience shows that many people regularly spend a significant amount of time online without developing dependence on the global network space. This is a necessary requirement for work or study. Therefore, time alone cannot be the only criterion for the existence of dependence, separate from other mandatory indicators of dependencies that do

not have a negative impact. The essence of addiction lies in the development of a new dominant value - the need for virtual space, which allows one to achieve a comfortable state by realizing fantasies and avoiding real-life problems[2].

Thus, based on the results of the conducted research, a generalized description of the criteria of dependence on the global network space, the negative consequences of student involvement in online and social networks, and methods for identifying this vice were presented. The possible negative impact of the global network space on young people allowed us to identify measures and solutions to prevent existing dependence. First of all, to reduce dependence on the global network space, one of the important issues is changing relationships with family and friends, strengthening their involvement in interesting, useful, and meaningful life activities. This is an important step in preventing the development of dependence on the global network space and involving young people in real life. It is also necessary to develop the educational immunity of young people to use the global network space.

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