

# The Influence of the Internet on the World Outlook of Modern Youth

M.A. Ivanova, Candidate of  
Economic Sciences, associate  
professor,  
Yaroslav-the-Wise Novgorod  
State University,  
173003, Veliky Novgorod, 41  
Bolshaya St. Petersburg Street 41  
(8162) 77-08-

30 [m\\_ivanova07@mail.ru](mailto:m_ivanova07@mail.ru)

E.A. Okomina, Candidate of  
Economic Sciences, associate  
professor,  
Yaroslav-the-Wise Novgorod  
State University,  
173003, Veliky Novgorod, 41  
Bolshaya St. Petersburg Street 41  
(8162) 77-08-30

N.A. Kanishcheva, Candidate of  
Economic Sciences, associate  
professor,  
Yaroslav-the-Wise Novgorod  
State University,  
173003, Veliky Novgorod, 41  
Bolshaya St. Petersburg Street 41  
(8162) 77-08-30

T.A. Subbotina, Candidate of  
Economic Sciences, associate  
professor,  
Yaroslav-the-Wise Novgorod  
State University,  
173003, Veliky Novgorod, 41  
Bolshaya St. Petersburg Street 41  
(8162) 77-08-30

O.S. Kukushina Candidate of  
Economic Sciences, associate  
professor,  
Yaroslav-the-Wise Novgorod  
State University,  
173003, Veliky Novgorod, 41  
Bolshaya St. Petersburg Street 41  
(8162) 77-08-30

V.A. Trifonov, Candidate of  
Economic Sciences, associate  
professor,  
Yaroslav-the-Wise Novgorod  
State University, associate Professor  
of "Economics and automated control  
systems", Yurga technological  
Institute of National research Tomsk  
Polytechnic University.  
173003, Veliky Novgorod, 41  
Bolshaya St. Petersburg Street 41  
(8162) 77-08-30

**Abstract – In this article we stated a problem of the Internet influence on personal growth of modern youth, we exposed its positive and negative influences on the world outlook formation of the modern youth. Based on the held research we formulated the role and the tasks of educational institution in grading of negative influence of the Internet on personality formation.**

**Keywords – nternet communications, social networks, informational society, basic values system, personality, virtual communication.**

## I. INTRODUCTION

The informational technology became the dominant factor of society development in the 20th - 21st centuries. It penetrates our daily life on a deeper and deeper level. Nowadays, it is hard to find a person who hasn't used the Internet or hasn't communicated in social networks. This especially concerns the youth.

The electronic media pushes out the traditional media more often.

With epy growth of society computerization and rise of the Internet accessibility, it is impossible to ignore the discussion on how it influences the life and the world outlook formation of modern youth.

The issues of information technology influence on society sparks more and more interest in academic circles. The reason for this is in questionable influence of the Internet on people and society in a whole. This influence leads to the appearance of both negative and

positive consequences. If we speak about negative ones, it is the phenomenon of the Internet addiction, which is the subject of discussions among Russian and non-Russian sociologists. In modern life the use of Web technologies for communication is a common thing. Basically, we speak about a new progressive tool for setting and organizing communication. This change of communication forms sufficiently influences its content. It is no doubt, that such changes lead to sufficient quality and, at times, non-reversible transformations in the structure of modern society and behavioral standards of people, as well as their mentality.

In other words, the Internet, being a worldwide informational system, forms the cyberspace and a special unusual reality. It gives birth to cyber culture with its own terms, values and ways of thinking. This is the image of the Internet we have today as one of the main components of modern informational society formation. The novelty of this term and ambiguousness of the Internet and, foremost, social networks influence on youth sparks great interest among scientists [1].

## II. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Youth represents a part of society which is only in the process of elaborating its value system. The formation of this system depends largely on surrounding events. In its turn, the system of life values of modern youth, which is being currently formed, will

in some definite years influence the events in countries and in the world.

The movement in the direction of creating the information society to a large extent sets the rapidly developing electronic communications and computer networks, which provide instant connection with different parts of the world. In the age of information, information and knowledge become the main resources of society and they play a significant role, because they are factors of economic welfare.

Social features of youth are set by their special position in the process of performing the social structure and also by their ability not only to follow, but to change the existing social relationships. Contradictions that appear inside this process make the base for the whole complex of specific youth problems.

The system of basic values, that in the end influences the decisions and acts, is formed in a person by his age of 18-20. In the end, this system of moral guides stays almost unchanged with the flow of time. Sufficient value rearranging in the consciousness of an adult is possible only under the influence of a hard stress and life crisis.

When information and communication technology developed and entered the life process, it gave young generation powerful stimulus for increasing the computer literacy and efficiently, and widened the possibilities of self-fulfillment and self-education. However, nowadays the priorities of youth development get distorted and so do their methods of self-understanding and self-esteem.

The results of many research works show that moral values are not mostly a part of basic values list of young generation. Moral and cultural values are on the lowest positions in this list. Such situation happens because young people obtain their value system judging from the life success criteria, which is in the first place.

For youngsters it is typical to have a careless attitude towards some ideals, and a cynical view on life [2]. At the same time, the spread of cynical moods is mostly typical for the youngest representatives of young generation. Besides this, according to research works, during last two decades youth became more unprincipled. A lot of representatives of young generation agree that they live in a different period of time and a lot of life standards and moral values have grown old and are not actual anymore.

Though we can note a lot of negative moments, it is impossible to accept that today the Internet has one of the most important functions in society - the communicative one. Social networks, different groups and communities help young people with self-fulfillment. Appreciation and approval by age-mate group is more valuable than approval by some abstract

society. One of the reasons of high popularity of social networks is the absence of conventions, which are impossible to escape in real life communication. For a lot of people it is easier to express their thoughts in a written form, than to communicate in real life.

The main motive for the use of social networks is search for friends, course mates and classmates and communication with them.

It is important to notice that social networks have taken a big part of modern youth's free time. When representatives of modern generation, who have not got their world outlook formed yet and due to their age have not defined the significant positions for themselves, use the Internet resources independently and uncontrollably, they get under the influence of uncontrolled flow of information.

Some psychologists believe that social networks help modern youth feel less lonely and misunderstood and communication in social network helps fight depression. However, the supervision of the living space of youth proves otherwise: a child gets so much used to the fact that he is constantly being evaluated and noticed, that the real life becomes difficult and he is lost. As a result, he becomes depressed or gets into such a state when he is fully immersed into the virtual world and distances himself from the society [3].

The development and spread of the Internet led to the creation of virtual space. For youth it became the territory, where the new cultural practices, new types of communication and new types of communities are tested [4].

Young people, who were brought up in social networks, do not know how to read people and they are not able to have a proper discussion. They cannot empathize. But this is not all. The young people have some more important borders erased: they do not feel responsibility. For example, they choose with whom they want to be friends by themselves, but if they are not happy with their choice, the friend can be easily blocked, and you do not need to explain anything to anyone. It is also easy to humiliate or offend a person. One can get away with this and not see the suffering of their Internet enemy and thus he will not feel ashamed [3].

Nowadays, most of the young people use the social networks mostly in entertainment purposes, which potentially can lead to blurring of individual and collective identity.

Being the most popular and youth attractive Internet services, social networks are convenient and quite efficiently used as a channel for broadcasting your thoughts. Social networks become the source of information about upcoming events and interesting meetings. Young people enroll the interest groups via

social networks; organize movements, exchange music and videos.

Nowadays more and more representatives of young generation prefer blogging in order to get opinions of other people on different issues. The network makes it possible for an insecure person to feel needed, to make new acquaintances, not worrying that later there would be nothing to talk about with this person. [5]. Young people post photos and videos without fear of condemnation and they do not pay attention to criticism of others. On the Internet they are not afraid of being misunderstood or underestimated. Anything that can be rejected by society is accepted by the social network. When a young person creates a personal page, he forms his virtual image, which does not always match the reality (someone else's or edited photo, giving you unreal qualities, etc.). Soon this person develops and lives such an Internet life that he would like to have in reality.

Allowing to navigate in information flows, information and communicative skills of an individual are an important factor of the formation of citizens' activity, especially of young people. There are many points of view on the prospects of development of social networks and these prospects depend on the target audience on which they are oriented.

Today, with a high degree of certainty, we can talk about such a concept as virtual computer socialization or human cyber socialization.

Socialization of an individual in cyberspace is a process of changing the structure of a person's self-awareness, which is happening when a person uses modern information and computer technologies in the context of life activity.

The cyber socialization of a person is especially vivid in the cyberspace of the virtual socializing Internet environment, that is, due to usage of its resources and in the process of communication with virtual agents of socialization, that can be found in the worldwide Internet network (first of all, in social networks). In the process of cyber socialization, a number of new expectations and interests, motives and goals, needs and attitudes arise in a person, as well as forms of psychological and social activity directly related to cyberspace - in fact, a new virtual living space of a person [7].

Communication of modern young people shifts in the direction of substituting true feelings and emotions for virtual sensations. Adolescents, who have weak will, unstable psyche and self-doubt, fill the lack of interpersonal interaction in social networks. This is the place where young people get self-assertion and compensate the lack of communication and attention from others. Such pastime threatens to turn into a painful addiction. With such virtual communication,

the linguistic means, with which the Russian language is so rich, are not fully used and get lost. Language is simplified and turned into slang. Teenagers on the web often give themselves a new name. Under the influence of this factor, duplicity is formed. At the moment, there is a real threat that social networks make traditional socialization institutions - the family, an educational institution, real friends and peers - less important.

To a significant degree, the behavior of a young person, whose personality has not been formed yet, changes under the influence of the group and so the crowd law works. This contributes to dumbing down the masses and reducing the overall level of intelligence. It is possible that every individual person would not have acted in this specific way, but in a crowd the personal responsibility is lost [3].

The influence of social networks on human communication and on the development of a person is ambiguous. We come to the conclusion that, on the one hand, social networks make it much easier to maintain relationships, open up more possibilities for meeting new people, finding friends, old acquaintances, and sometimes even a job. But on the other hand, the so-called electronic communication gives rise to a number of problems, the leading one being separation from reality and communication with close people. Instead, a person hangs out on the Internet all of his free time and there is a shortage of real-life communication. There can be a situation when a person, who spends a huge amount of time in social networks and communicating with other users, forgets about his studies, work, duties and important matters. People become reserved and waste all their emotional energy on communicating with people, whom they may have never even seen. And this can happen at the expense of real relationships.

The results of numerous studies suggest that young people who use Internet communication with the greatest intensity are less interested in spiritual and moral development. Money, material well-being among users with medium and high intensity of the Internet communication use is twice as likely to reach the first positions in their value hierarchy. The higher the intensity of the Internet communication, the less often users indicate moral qualities and morality as the most important thing in their lives. On the contrary, social status, authority, power and leadership are the most recurring main values in life among respondents who use the Internet communication intensively. With the increase in the intensity of Internet communication, education also loses its value [8].

Contradictory attitudes, the absence of a complete and integral picture of the world is quite typical for modern youth. In the minds of the representatives of the modern young generation, there

is a loss of socially significant values and an orientation towards the individual achievements.

When the virtual, unreal world is functioning according to the laws of reality – it looks very attractive for young people. Due to the dissatisfaction with the surrounding reality, the Internet addiction is gradually increasing, leading to the preference given to the virtual world as the most comfortable for younger generation.

This leads to the fact that young people are transferring the social norms created in the virtual world into real life, thereby destroying the established foundations of society, that have already been greatly deformed over the past decades, and their virtualization leads to an even greater distortion of social consciousness and behavior.

Our study confirms the previous conclusions.

The survey involved 90 people (students) aged 17-22 of various educational background, including secondary, secondary special, incomplete high and high.

The majority of respondents (94.44%) uses the Internet every day, no less than 2-5 hours. A significant proportion (32.22%) among the surveyed students spends 6-12 hours a day on the Internet and considers this to be absolutely normal.

A large number of students (83.33%) use the Internet as the main means for meeting people, with whom 73.34% of the people continue to maintain relationships.

It should be noted that 25.56% of the surveyed students postpone household chores in order to be on the Internet. When entering the Internet, most of them first check their email (58.89%), and only then proceed to other things. But the positive moment is that the greatest number of respondents do not prefer surfing the net in recreational purposes (73.33%) and the number of the people, who can refuse the Internet for a long period of time is 61.11%.

74.44% of respondents consider themselves to be confident users of the Internet and use it for communication (48.89%), studying (work) (35.56%) and entertainment (28.89%).

Mostly, the people visit social networks (56.67%) and search engines sites (38.89%). The least popular are gaming and entertainment sites of the Internet (8.89%). 55.56% of respondents visit sites and forums about art.

66.67% of respondents use the Internet to communicate with friends, but they do not consider it equivalent substitute for real communication. Only 7.78% of respondents do not see the difference between real and virtual communication.

A significant proportion of respondents (55.56%) use the Internet to track news, 12.22% - to visit groups according to their interests.

For 65.56% of the surveyed, social life has improved significantly with the appearance of social networks in it (they got more friends and acquaintances and also, they got the opportunity to find out news and self-educate), although 34.44% believe that their lives have not changed.

44.44% of respondents prefer to discuss questions (problems) with friends in person or by phone (33.34%). The smallest number of respondents discusses issues in social networks. Therefore, in the absence of the Internet access, 57.78% of respondents will take this easy, 4% would be upset, but do not see anything terrible in it. Most respondents (80%) prefer to meet friends, relatives and read a book in their free time (16.67%), only 3.33% choose socializing through networks.

Although 88.87% say that the information provided on the Internet is unreliable, 82.22% believe that the Internet addiction exists.

The Internet has a significant impact on the worldview of modern youth. 45.56% of students believe that the Russian economy should develop according to the market path, but with the state controlling it. Considering such a historical peculiarity as the development of monopolies, first of all in industry it is necessary to improve the antimonopoly and labor legislation. 21.11% of respondents are confident that the economy should develop along the market path with elements of state ownership, primarily in extractive industries.

About 18% of respondents believe that the Russian economy should be command, but with market elements, when, for example, individuals carry out small-scale production and trade.

15.55% of respondents expressed confidence in the need for rigorous planning, or full economic freedom.

The influence of the Internet on the formation of political outlook of youth is obvious. Most respondents (78.89%) profess democratic views on political structure of the state. The remaining part of the respondents (22.11%) believes that effective governance of the state is possible if there is either personal or group or elite dictatorship power.

The Internet (electronic networks) has a huge influence on the formation of the youth's civil position. The majority of respondents (76.67%) believe that the state should ensure a normal standard of living for all citizens. 11.11% of respondents are sure, that the state should support the poorest and unemployed citizens. 10% of citizens voted for the unchanging quality of life.

Freedom of speech for each person has its own meaning.

36.67% believe that you can say whatever you want as long as your statement does not offend the feelings of others. 24.44% think you can say anything, if it is not directed against the foundations of morality or the state, and a quarter of the respondents are for complete freedom of speech.

The smallest proportion (13.33%) of respondents believes that people's lives should be controlled by the state, through censorship, that everyone should live in accordance with a certain ideal.

One of the most intimate feelings of people of any age is religion. One third of the respondents indicated belonging to one of the confessions. About 19% believe in the divine beginning of everything that happens, but do not believe religious texts and objects of worship. A bit over 22% of the young people doubt that God exists or think that he does not exist.

More than 62% (the main group of respondents) are sure that innate characteristics of the person are important, but education and upbringing are more effective. A person is forming a personal value system all his life, which includes such elements as Homeland, health, family, friends etc. But not without a reason, 2% of the respondents believe that personal characteristics and common values are laid on the genetic level.

However, more than 85% of respondents strongly believe that upbringing and education mainly form personal characteristics - components of the value system.

Speaking of national question, more than 50% of respondents believe that immigration can be allowed only if people, who enter the country, are trustworthy; otherwise they must be immediately deported. A significant number of respondents (12.22%) are confident that the state should be national, and people of non-titular nationality should be limited in rights. 7.78% of respondents say that immigration should be limited and allowed only in isolated cases.

Thus, summing up the questionnaire in relation to life in general, the largest number of respondents (63.33%) believes that they live in accordance with established norms and rules, and external restrictions are necessary for the organization of society. But it is worth noting a significant proportion of respondents (52.22%), who say that one must live for one's own pleasure, and people's actions are done in order to get the enjoyment. 11.11% of respondents consider it absolutely normal to disregard the social norms of morality and can call themselves self-centered to some degree, they do not think that loving yourself more than others is bad.

### III. CONCLUSION

There is no doubt that the Internet communications have entered our life quite rapidly and they have become a necessary part of our everyday life.

The Internet communication is our reality nowadays. No matter what attitude you have towards it, reality is inevitable. The outlining of the negative aspects of this type of communication should not remain only as a statement of fact. In our opinion, the most important task of the society is to maximize the positive effect of this type of modern communications and minimize its negative consequences. The positive and negative sides of Internet communications can be summarized as follows:

#### 1. Positive aspects:

- these communications increase computer literacy and information culture;

- they are sources of information themselves;
- they develop communications.

#### 2. Negative aspects:

- they lead to lack of real life communication;
- they lead to being out of touch with reality;
- they substitute true feelings and emotions with virtual sensations;

- they cause the erosion of individual and collective identity;

- they promote loss of oral communication skills and language simplification;

- they reduce the importance of ethical and moral values;

- they develop a cynical view of life and indifference to ideals.

The task of the educational institution, including the university, is not only to form knowledge, skills and competences (professional competences), but also to bring young people up. Solving these problems in the information society must be based on the methods of prohibitions. We need to talk with young people in their language, that also includes using the Internet technologies, but we need to use them in a way to minimize its negative impact though. It is necessary to improve the culture of using the Internet.

In higher education it is possible to implement this through the organization of an educational process, as well as through the intensification of an upbringing process.

An educational process should contain methods that enhance information culture. This goal can be achieved through the use of active forms of education. Such tools as writing essays, organizing meetings, holding discussions and doing some creative work should be included as evaluation tools.

These means of teaching and knowledge control, skills and habits contribute to the development of communication skills, personal and group



responsibility.

Development of modern youth communication skills deserves particular attention. It is communication level that determines success of a person. At the same time, one should remember, that communication skills require clear understanding of young person's particular place, time and personality. In the process of interaction, it is important to clearly and correctly formulate and transfer information to the opponent. The second important aspect of interaction is the ability to receive and analyze information. In other words, sociability implies the presence of certain luggage of knowledge among the interacting sides, including terminology.

It is very important not only to form the ability to organize work in a small group in the process of learning, but also to form the skills of public speaking as a means of communication.

A well structured educational process forms the Internet culture and helps master professional competences, staging and solving specific problems.

Upbringing work at university is carried out at all levels of communication, and, first of all, on the verbal level. In this regard, the organizer should be the bearer of culture, including the youth culture, which has been formed and is developing in the Internet networks.

Nowadays the priority directions of upbringing process are volunteerism and patriotic education.

Volunteer work involves multiple interactions in various areas. In this sense, the Internet allows you to structure the activities of the participants, to carry out interaction on an ongoing basis and do that quite abundantly. At the same time, real life communication requires the shortest amount of time. Psychologically, this is necessary for the mentality of the Russian youth.

In the process of organizing patriotic upbringing, the Internet makes it possible to determine the main lines of activity and gives a large volume of structured knowledge, which is especially important from the point of view of Russian history. This allows to form pride, teaches youth to respect the identity, culture and spirituality of the country. In the upbringing process, the Internet allows young people to clearly define the directions, personal goals and tasks necessary to achieve certain results and purposeful live communication.

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