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THE IMPACT OF SOCIAL MEDIA ON LEGAL AWARENESS AND SAFETY OF MINORS (CRIMINAL-LAW AND CRIMINOLOGICAL ASPECTS)

Abstract

The article examines the criminogenic influence of social networks on minors, as well as the factors and conditions associated with social networks. The negative impact of social networks on minors, their dependence on the Internet, the absence of supervision by adults, and the lack of engagement in constructive activities – all of these pose a “danger” to minors. This danger manifests as a threat to their legal consciousness and safety. It is therefore important to reduce the dependence of minors on social networks. As is well known, Internet addiction sometimes leads to serious consequences: participation in bullying, cybercrime, destructive effects on mental health, attempts at manipulation, and being driven to suicide. In Kazakhstan, in 2023, 15 percent of schoolchildren encountered online bullying, which, according to psychologists, exacerbates mental health problems. In Kazakhstan, according to a 2023 study by the National Centre for Public Health, approximately eight percent of adolescents show signs of Internet addiction, and 10 percent show signs of addiction to computer games. It is known that measures aimed at the legal regulation of social network content are timely, but insufficient. The article also addresses this problem and proposes possible ways of combating it.

Keywords: social networks, minors, criminogenic influence, bullying, legal consciousness, online safety, prevention.

Introduction

Since the research topic concerns the impact on the legal consciousness and safety of adolescents who use social media, it addresses a matter of considerable academic and social relevance.

The main objective of the research is to analyse the negative aspects of social networks that ‘poison’ the minds of adolescents and lead to addiction, and to examine – on the basis of criminal law norms – the prevention of abuses such as bullying and cyberbullying that threaten their safety.

It is evident that in recent years, under the influence of social networks, a decline in the legal consciousness of adolescents, a violation of safety boundaries, changes in their mood and psyche, and the widespread prevalence of aggressive behaviour on their part have all been observed. This constitutes the central relevance of the present study.

The result of establishing such relevance requires revealing the novelty of the research. It is not possible to make an entirely original discovery on a topic that has already served as the basis for scientific inquiry by many scholars. Nevertheless, in this study, by analysing the scientific works of domestic and well-known European scholars, and by comparing, examining, and synthesising scholarly perspectives in order to express our own viewpoint, certain scientific-legal conclusions have been drawn.

The practical significance of the research lies in its results and conclusions – namely: explaining to adolescents the positive and negative aspects of social networks; raising their legal consciousness and legal culture; ensuring their safety; restricting their access to social networks; and cultivating wisdom and prudence within them.

“The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (20.11.1989) is an international legal instrument enshrining the rights and freedoms of every human being from birth until the age of eighteen. The provisions of the Convention comprehensively address the protection of children from coercion, the preservation of family life, and the right of children to freely express their views [1].

In accordance with the Convention, the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan ‘On the Rights of the Child in the Republic of Kazakhstan’ (08.08.2002) was adopted. Pursuant to Article 10(2) of the Law, ‘...the protection of the child from abuse (bullying)...and from other forms of pressure on the rights and freedoms of the person and citizen enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan shall be ensured...’ [2]. The Law further explicitly provides for ‘...the promotion and encouragement of a healthy lifestyle for children...’ (Article 8, Section 3).”

Promoting and encouraging a healthy lifestyle for children means educating children to preserve their health, maintain a clean environment, and to receive a high-quality education and apply that knowledge in their future lives. From this perspective, promoting and encouraging a healthy lifestyle for children ought to mean that every minor stays away from delinquent behaviour, avoids the wrong path, and makes the right choices.

In recent years, as the Internet and information-telecommunications networks have become an inseparable part of our lives and one of the primary sources of information, and given that adolescents constitute the most active and predominant segment of their audience, their dependence on social networks should come as no surprise to anyone.

Social networks are well known to be platforms, online services, and websites designed for the creation, display, and organisation of social relationships on the Internet.

At the second session of the National Kurultai, Head of State Kassym-Jomart Tokayev stated: “...today’s younger generation is being raised through social networks. If we do not point children in the right direction and guide them, this is an extremely dangerous trend. There are young people who have fallen into the trap of radical religious movements through the Internet. If the younger generation develops bad habits, this is, first and foremost, the fault of adults. We are obliged to protect the younger generation from the dangerous influences of globalisation as much as possible,” and stressed the need to place particular emphasis on measures that influence the upbringing of the younger generation, while acknowledging that there are many shortcomings in this area [2].

Indeed, social networks have fundamentally transformed the leisure time of children. The reason for this is that many children today spend their time in the virtual world instead of playing outdoors and engaging in face-to-face interaction. For modern children, social networks have become an important tool of socialisation – through social networks, they find friends with similar interests, learn to express their thoughts, and are able to voice opinions on topics relevant to their particular group. Is this right or wrong?

It is difficult to offer a one-sided view; nevertheless, if we consider social networks as a virtual world, the prevailing opinion is, of course, that they are not beneficial. Communicating without seeing one another in person and “finding common ground” in this way is also, upon reflection, not ideal. Therefore, any format of interaction by a minor on social networks undoubtedly requires careful supervision by parents.

Materials and methods

Determining the influence of social networks on adolescents means identifying their specific impact on the adolescent’s consciousness. Although an adolescent may not initially fully understand the harm of social networks, it is well known that over time this leads to addiction – the adolescent’s consciousness becomes dominated by it, and even when they understand the danger, breaking free is difficult.

The study employed systemic (collection and systematisation of information), comparative-legal, and empirical (generalisation of experience) methods. In the course of the research, the following approaches were applied: analysis of scientific works by well-known scholars, statistical reviews, reliance on concrete statistical data, and the analytical examination of findings.

Results and discussion

It is well known that social networks play an important role as a means of communication in society. Networks not only bring people closer together, but also open up new opportunities. Nevertheless, it is important to use social networks correctly and thoughtfully – using time efficiently and being attentive to the accuracy of information.

Social networks can affect the legal consciousness and safety of minors in various ways. On the one hand, social networks help adolescents find like-minded individuals, receive support, and learn new skills. On the other hand, using them without appropriate adult supervision can lead to adverse consequences:

- ♦ participation in bullying;
- ♦ cybercrime;
- ♦ destructive impact on mental health;
- ♦ attempts at manipulation;
- ♦ being driven to suicide.

When speaking of adverse consequences, it must be noted that adolescence is a period of searching for one's identity and social environment. Why? Because the developing psyche of an adolescent is highly sensitive to external influences. It would be no exaggeration to say that social networks play one of the most significant roles in influencing the psyche during this sensitive period. Firstly, social networks "help" adolescents find friends and acquaintances. Secondly, social networks provide a public space for adolescents who feel shy expressing their emotions in real life to voice their thoughts and feelings. This may be valuable at the time; however, we must not forget that there are also negative consequences, and we must explain this to adolescents and make them aware of it.

Today, there are numerous scholars writing about the impact of social networks on the legal consciousness and safety of minors.

Doctor of Legal Sciences, Professor Zh.S. Zhekebayev, while noting that it is the surrounding environment that influences changes in minors, did not rule out that social networks may also have an effect [3, p. 126].

Professor Ye.O. Alaukhanov states that behind criminal violations committed by minors there are always underlying causes that have pushed them towards delinquent behaviour [4, p. 68].

Other scholars, in addition to the causes identified by Ye.O. Alaukhanov, do not rule out the influence of social networks – the very subject of the present discussion – as one of the many contributing factors [5, p. 98].

Many authors (A.Ye. Voyskunsky, V.S. Sobkin, P.A. Lomakin, and others), examining the psychological state and behavioural characteristics of adolescents when using social networks, have recommended paying greater attention to this issue.

It is also well known that Western scholars A.K. Goldberg, K.S. Yang, and D. Greenfield published the first scientific works describing the impact of virtual computer space on adolescents in the late 1990s.

Among the negative effects of social networks on minors, one can point to insults and harassment, which frequently occur at the hands of peers of similar age.

Indeed, social networks, as a communicative space, create a number of specific conditions that enable bullying and other acts of violence to be carried out with near-total impunity.

American scholars J. Nesi, S. Choukas-Bradley, and M.J. Prinstein-Stein, who have extensively researched insults and harassment directed at minors, noted in a comprehensive analytical study how social networks affect the communication and interpersonal interaction of both psychologically typical adolescents and those exhibiting signs of depression.

According to J. Nesi, S. Choukas-Bradley, and M.J. Prinstein, several unique characteristics of the communication processes that distinguish social media from authentic, traditional communication are identified. Specific features of social network communication that may give rise to online insults and harassment include:

- ♦ Anonymity: the ability to conceal information about oneself (choosing one's age and gender) and to present only one's best qualities.

- ♦ Persistence, or immutability: this is characterised by the fact that a text or video message sent once on social networks remains permanently available for repeated reading or viewing in unchanged form.

- ♦ The absence of non-verbal signals in the communication process – such as tone of voice and eye contact (gestures and facial expressions) [6, p. 267] contributes to depersonalisation and, as a result, facilitates the onset of aggression.

Another foreign scholar (A. Brighi, D. Menin, G. Skrzypiec, A. Guarini), while examining the characteristics of online harassment on social networks, drew attention to cyberbullying. In their view, defamation and the spreading of false information about a victim-adolescent constitutes a widespread trend among adolescents [7, p. 18].

Scholars such as A. Brighi, D. Menin, G. Skrzypiec, and A. Guarini reveal in their research that “...another method of intimidation is hacking into the victim’s account and sending various offensive messages to other users from that account” [7, p. 20].

Many scholars (M.K. Bergman, D. Baier) have noted that intimidation through social networks is motivated by the desire to influence minors’ behaviour, to entertain and amuse oneself at their expense, and to seek revenge – and that such behaviour reflects the emotional instability of the cyberbully, their aspiration for power and control, and their strong sense of impunity [8, p. 56].

Another foreign scholar, M. Garaigordobil, has specifically identified among the “negative” aspects of social networks their direct impact on and harm to minors. According to the scholar, “...the online cyberbullying that has been occurring recently has become a vivid manifestation of adolescent aggression” [9, p. 235].

According to 2015 cyberbullying statistics from the i-Safe Foundation, more than half of adolescents had been harassed online, and approximately the same proportion had engaged in cyberbullying themselves [10].

This negatively affects both the bully and the victim, and the intensity, duration, and frequency of the abuse are three factors that amplify the adverse impact on both parties [11, p. 527].

Bullying is an aggressive and purposeful act involving repeated or habitual deployment of force to inflict physical or emotional harm on the targeted individuals [12, p. 338].

This act often seizes upon situations where the victims are physically younger, weaker, outnumbered, or unable to defend themselves [13].

The characteristics of bullying behaviour commonly include a proclivity for aggression, limited control over aggressive impulses, and a higher tolerance for such actions [14].

Bullying features power dynamics in certain settings, particularly hierarchical institutions such as schools, colleges, and universities. The long-term consequences of bullying may lead to significant psychological distress, necessitating additional support to counteract its adverse effects [15, p. 120].

Bullied individuals are likelier to exhibit poor academic performance, high absenteeism, low self-esteem, and significant mental health concerns than their non-bullied counterparts (Shin et al., 2021). Victims often become anxious, socially isolated, and insecure [16, p. 410].

According to the Health Behaviour in School-Aged Children (HBSC) survey on bullying and peer violence among adolescents in 44 countries, including the Central Asian region, while overall trends in school bullying have remained stable since 2018, cyberbullying has intensified owing to increased engagement of young people in digital environments, potentially exerting a profound impact on adolescents’ lives.

According to the National Centre for Public Health of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan (27.03.2024), 13% of Kazakhstani adolescents (approximately one in eight) have experienced cyberbullying, with the rate being higher among boys (15%) than girls (12%). Around 11% of adolescents (one in nine) have engaged in cyberbullying against others, with boys (14%) more commonly reporting cyberbullying than girls (8%). The study also found that approximately 5% of adolescents aged 11–15 are involved in school bullying, and around 7% of students have been subjected to bullying [17].

This is clearly wrong both from a human and a legal standpoint. However, it is not possible to explain the wrongfulness of such behaviour to adolescents at the very moment it occurs, because the behaviour arises and develops within certain adolescent social media circles and therefore initially assumes a covert character. By the time it becomes public and widely known, the harm it has caused

will already have generated a social resonance that cannot be undone. A further reason for this is the delayed emergence of the consequences of intimidation into the open. It cannot be ruled out that this emergence may itself be the result of the harm that has already been caused.

At this point, it is worth citing the words of Russian researcher K.S. Zhmyrko, who stated that social networks exert a powerful influence on the behaviour of adolescents [18, p. 10].

Cyberbullying (cyber-intimidation or online intimidation), mentioned above, is a form of harassment or persecution using electronic means.

Researchers such as Smith Peter K., Mahdavi Jess, Carvalho Manuel, and others are of the opinion that cyberbullying has become especially prevalent among adolescents since the 2000s, in connection with the growing use of social networks by young people [19, p. 376].

Scholars S. Hinduja and J. Patchin demonstrate that social networks exert a powerful and far-reaching influence on changes in adolescent behaviour and present a high level of risk. This risk lies in their vulnerability to abuse.

The results of research conducted by S. Hinduja and J. Patchin found that the prevalence of online intimidation ranged from 4.8% to 73.5%, and that the number of online intimidation victims increased from 10% to 20%. What is most alarming here is that adolescents underestimate the consequences of their own actions – with figures reaching between 15% and 35% [20, p. 210].

Scholars who have discussed extensively the negative effects of social networks (K.L. Modecki, J. Minchin, A.G. Harbaugh, N.G. Guerra, K.K. Runions) synthesised the results of 80 studies in a meta-analysis and estimated that victims of social network harassment represent approximately 36%, while online cyber-intimidation victims represent approximately 15%.

According to scholars' analyses, the most common forms of online cyber-intimidation are: harassment on forums and social networks (38.4%), the publication of inappropriate images on the Internet (32.4%), and harassment via email or SMS messages (29.9%) [21, p. 608].

According to V. Bilić, G. Buljan Flander, and B. Rafajac, a minor victim of harassment on social networks has no means of defending themselves, while the chances of identifying and punishing the perpetrators are minimal [22, p. 22].

According to UNICEF, in 2020, 63% of children in Kazakhstan reported experiencing acts of violence and discrimination. Instead of preventing such acts, school administrations preferred to conceal incidents of bullying [23].

According to data published by Zakon.kz, one in eight school-aged adolescents in Kazakhstan is subjected to cyberbullying. The same figure was confirmed by the international HBSC study.

Based on data disseminated by the National Centre for Public Health of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan (27.03.2024), 13% of Kazakhstani adolescents (approximately 1 in 8) have experienced cyberbullying – with a higher figure among boys (15%) than girls (12%). Approximately 11% of adolescents (1 in 9) have engaged in cyber-intimidation against others; among these, boys (14%) reported involvement in cyberbullying more frequently than girls (8%). The study also showed that approximately 5% of adolescents aged 11–15 are involved in school bullying, and approximately 7% of students have been subjected to attacks [24].

As we can see, the impact of social networks on the legal safety of minors is substantial.

In our view, beyond the impact of social networks on the legal safety of minors, their influence on the legal consciousness of minors is also significant. Legal consciousness requires consideration as the form and outcome – i.e., the result – of mental activity, intertwined with legal purposes, views, intentions, habits, traditions, illusions, legal persuasion, emulation, and law-abiding model behaviour. This is because it is well known that any legal norms are directed at the consciousness of citizens.

Drawing on the research of well-known scholars G.S. Sapargaliyev and A.S. Ibrayeva, legal consciousness is the totality of views, ideas, concepts, and awareness by means of which individuals and social units express their relationship to law as it exists in society and in accordance with their aspirations and inclinations [25, p. 127].

The conceptual framework of these distinguished scholars applies equally to adults and minors alike. Applying it specifically to adolescents, the “totality of views, ideas, concepts, and awareness through which they express their relationship to law” tends to somewhat “pass them by.” This is because factors such as adolescents' difficulty in immediately grasping their legal relationship to events, their rapid emotional reactions, and their tendency to assess their actions superficially without

due recourse to legal consciousness all contribute to a shallow understanding. And when they finally come to understand the specific situation they created and its consequences, the belated realisation that there is no going back is well known to lead to a severe deterioration in their emotional state.

At this point, the view of R.S. Bainiyazov is also worth noting: "...legal consciousness finds expression in the emotional-rational sphere of consciousness, while legal culture finds its place within consciousness itself, as well as in legal actions, phenomena, and institutions. If legal consciousness reflects spiritual values, then legal culture encompasses the material-spiritual... practical mastery of law" [26, p. 127].

Our point is that social networks exert a powerful influence on the legal consciousness and safety of minors, and that the need to protect minors from this influence is clear.

The words of distinguished criminologist and Doctor of Legal Sciences Ye.I. Kaiyrzhan come to mind: "...knowing the negative traits of a juvenile delinquent and the absence of parental supervision is not enough to rehabilitate them and set them on the right path." It is impossible to disagree with this eminent scholar. Indeed, the presence of comprehensive upbringing would not be superfluous in studying the maturity of minors' legal consciousness. The objective therein – that the adolescent has a precise knowledge of the law, is able to form and articulate their views on law and the requirements placed upon it, and stays continually informed so as to enhance their legal knowledge – would all undoubtedly yield results. Additionally, conducting surveys to identify adolescents' outlooks on life is of great importance [27, p. 127].

The powerful influence of social networks on the legal consciousness and safety of minors, and the resulting need to protect them, is clear.

Some researchers – B. Martinez-Ferrer, D. Moreno, and G. Musitu – have noted that special attention must be paid to online intimidation based on race, religion, social status, gender, and gender identity [28, p. 29].

B. Martinez-Ferrer, D. Moreno, and G. Musitu observe that adolescents who use social networks are most often "aggressive, quick to anger, and ready to use force." It is therefore necessary to continue preventive measures [28, p. 29].

In conclusion, social networks are a tool for exchanging information, communicating, and saving time. Social network culture is the set of general principles governing social network use – determining what any social network user may or may not do and defining the boundaries of their intended activity. Nevertheless, there are adolescents who use social networks 24/7, who, even knowing the limits, are unable to impose restrictions on themselves and have become addicted. That is the reality. Therefore, explaining the benefits and harms of social networks, and setting limits, remains the duty of parents.

Conclusion

Reducing the negative impact of social networks on minors and decreasing the number of internet-dependent members of the younger generation is a demand of today. Internet dependence limits an adolescent's environment, reduces their interaction with peers, alters their worldview, and exposes them to cyber-intimidation – or may cause them to engage in such behaviour themselves.

Such a list could go on indefinitely. Concrete steps must therefore be taken to prevent Internet addiction.

At the third session of the National Kurultai on 15 March 2024, Head of State Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, speaking about the influence of the Internet on the upbringing of young people, stressed that only the beneficial aspects of modern information technology should be used.

In the words of the Head of State: "unfortunately, the uncontrolled use of the Internet is having a negative impact on the upbringing of the younger generation. Today, not only children but even adults are excessively engrossed in consuming meaningless content on social networks. First and foremost, we must awaken young people's love of reading books. In this way, we will become a book-reading nation. In those difficult, indifferent times at the break of dawn, our country faded into the background, thousands of libraries were closed, and we lost millions of books from our collections."

We fully concur with this view and place the cultivation of adolescents' interest in reading as our first priority – followed by sport, various school activities, and so forth. All of this is correct; but,

as we know, addiction does not willingly “give up” immediately, and extensive work with minors is therefore necessary.

At present, preventing the impact of social networks on the legal consciousness and safety of adolescents is an urgent matter. In order for this issue to be addressed effectively, the following measures must be prioritised:

- ♦ explaining to adolescents the harmful and beneficial aspects of social media;
- ♦ the adoption by the state of specific legislation or programmes restricting the minimum age for adolescents’ access to social networks;
- ♦ the imposition of age-based restrictions on the basis of such legislation or programmes;
- ♦ increased supervision by parents and schools with regard to adolescents’ contacts and connections on social networks;
- ♦ in cases where cyberbullying of adolescents occurs on social networks – prompt reporting to law enforcement agencies, timely detection, and thereby the prevention of further harm.

We are far from claiming that all adolescents are addicted to social networks – the discussion here concerns only those children in whom social network addiction has taken hold. The scale of that number speaks for itself. Nevertheless, we are a nation that has raised a clear-minded and conscientious generation. In such a nation, there should be only legal consciousness, legal culture, the cultivation of legal culture, prosperity, and development. Where legal consciousness, legal culture, prosperity, and development are present, the dependence of minors on social networks will also disappear.

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ӘЛЕУМЕТТІК ЖЕЛІНІҢ КӘМЕЛЕТКЕ ТОЛМАҒАНДАРДЫҢ ҚҰҚЫҚТЫҚ САНАСЫ МЕН ҚАУІПСІЗДІГІНЕ ЫҚПАЛЫ (ҚЫЛМЫСТЫҚ ҚҰҚЫҚ ЖӘНЕ КРИМИНОЛОГИЯЛЫҚ АСПЕКТІЛЕР)

Аңдатпа

Мақалада кәмелетке толмағандарға әлеуметтік желі, әлеуметтік желілердің криминогендік ықпалы, факторлары мен жағдайлары қарастырылған. Кәмелетке толмағандарға әлеуметтік желінің кері әсері, олардың интернетке тәуелділігі, ересектер тарапынан бақылаудың болмауы, пайдалы іспен айналыспауы – бәрі-бәрі кәмелетке толмағандарға «қауіп» төндіруде. Ол қауіп – олардың құқықтық санасына, қауіпсіздігіне

төнген қауіп. Сондықтан, кәмелетке толмағандардың әлеуметтік желіге тәуелділігін азайту маңызды болып саналады. Өзімізге белгілі, интернетке тәуелділік кей кездері зардапқа әкеп соғып жатады. Ол – қорқытуға қатысу, киберқылмыс, психикалық денсаулыққа деструктивті әсер ету, манипуляциялау әрекеттері және өзін-өзі өлтіруге итермелеу. 2023 жылы Қазақстандағы мектеп оқушыларының 15 пайызы онлайн қорқытумен бетпе-бет келген, бұл психологтардың пікірінше, психикалық денсаулық проблемаларын күшейтеді. Интернетке тәуелділік – бұл интернетте уақыт өткізуге деген құштарлық, бұл адамның өмірін бақылауды жоғалтуға ықпал етеді. 2019 ж. Дүниежүзілік денсаулық сақтау ұйымы ойынға тәуелділікті аурулардың халықаралық классификациясына ойындардың пайдасына нақты істерден басымдылығын жоғалтуымен сипатталатын психикалық бұзылыс ретінде енгізді. Қазақстанда Қоғамдық денсаулық сақтау ұлттық орталығының 2023 ж. арналған зерттеуіне сәйкес, жасөспірімдердің шамамен сегіз пайызында интернетке, 10 пайызында компьютерлік ойындарға тәуелділік белгілері байқалады. Симптомдары мыналарды қамтиды: желіде өткізілетін уақытты қысқарта алмау, гаджеттерге қол жетімділік болмаған кезде ашуланшақтық, оқуға және отбасымен қарым-қатынасқа немқұрайлылық. Әлеуметтік желілердің мазмұнын құқықтық реттеуге бағытталған шаралардың уақытылы, бірақ жеткіліксіз екені белгілі. Мақалада бұл проблема да көтерілген, күресудің ықтимал жолдары ұсынылған.

Тірек сөздер: әлеуметтік желілер, кәмелетке толмағандар, қылмыстық ықпал, қорқыту, құқықтық сана, желідегі қауіпсіздік, алдын алу.

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ВЛИЯНИЕ СОЦИАЛЬНЫХ СЕТЕЙ НА ПРАВОСОЗНАНИЕ И БЕЗОПАСНОСТЬ НЕСОВЕРШЕННОЛЕТНИХ (УГОЛОВНО-ПРАВОВЫЕ И КРИМИНОЛОГИЧЕСКИЕ АСПЕКТЫ)

Аннотация

В статье рассматривается криминогенное воздействие социальных сетей на несовершеннолетних, факторы и условия социальных сетей. Негативное влияние социальных сетей на несовершеннолетних, их зависимость от Интернета, отсутствие контроля со стороны взрослых, отсутствие полезной деятельности – все это представляет «опасность» для несовершеннолетних. Эта опасность заключается в угрозе их правосознанию и безопасности. Поэтому важно снижать зависимость несовершеннолетних от социальных сетей. Как известно, интернет-зависимость порой приводит к последствиям. Это участие в травле, киберпреступность, деструктивное воздействие на психическое здоровье, попытки манипуляции и доведение до самоубийства. В РК в 2023 г. с онлайн-буллингом столкнулись 15% школьников, что, по мнению психологов, усугубляет психические проблемы. Интернет-зависимость – это навязчивое желание проводить время в сети, что способствует потере контроля над своей жизнью. В 2019 г. ВОЗ включила игровую зависимость в Международную классификацию болезней как психическое расстройство, характеризующееся утратой приоритета реальных дел в пользу игр. В Казахстане, по данным исследования Национального центра общественного здравоохранения за 2023 г., около 8% подростков проявляют признаки интернет-зависимости, а 10% – зависимость от компьютерных игр. Среди симптомов: невозможность сократить время пребывания в сети, раздражительность при отсутствии доступа к гаджетам, пренебрежение учебой и общением с семьей. Известно, что меры, направленные на правовое регулирование контента социальных сетей, своевременны, но недостаточны. В статье также поднимается эта проблема и предлагаются возможные пути борьбы с ней.

Ключевые слова: социальные сети, несовершеннолетние, криминогенное влияние, буллинг, правосознание, безопасность в сети, предупреждение.

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