DIGITAL AGE AND DEVIANT BEHAVIOR OF ADOLESCENTS

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Abstract. Problems of deviant behavior among adolescents and young people are extremely important in the world. The prevalence of social deviance among adolescents, who are the most socially vulnerable and psychologically vulnerable members of society, is of particular concern. The era of digitization creates both opportunities and challenges for teenagers. During this period, they acquire more information, build wider social relationships and express themselves differently. But not managing this process properly can have a negative impact on mental and emotional health. It is important that parents, education professionals and society provide more support for adolescents to use this period more beneficially. In the article, what is deviant behavior, what are its sectors, and the existing problems in this direction are comprehensively analyzed. The article also analyzed the concept of digitization, which is one of the main requirements of the modern era, and its negative and positive aspects on teenagers.
Key words: social environment, deviant behavior, digitalization, parental strategy, psychological factors.

Introduction. It should be noted that the article is dedicated to a very relevant topic. In particular, we must emphasize that in our society attention and care towards teenagers is manifested at a high level. The role of society is irreplaceable in the birth of teenagers as individuals and their formation as personalities. The digital age has a significant impact on the behavior of teenagers. The Internet and social media are changing the way they communicate and their friendships. These changes may lead to an increase in deviant behavior in some adolescents. The age of digitalization has seriously changed the lives of teenagers, especially in recent decades. The impact of this period can be both positive and negative, but in general, digitalization affects their social, emotional and mental development in different ways. To better understand these influences, we can examine the areas in which they affect one's life. Social relationships and communication: Digital technologies have changed the way teenagers interact with other people. Social media platforms (Instagram, TikTok, WhatsApp, etc.) allow them to connect with friends more easily and quickly. However, these relationships can sometimes take the place of candor and face-to-face communication. This can make it difficult for some young people to develop social skills in the real world. Mental and emotional development: Spending long periods of time in the digital environment can distract teenagers and negatively affect their emotional well-being. Studies show that engaging in intense social media can lead to increased problems with depression, anxiety and low self-esteem. At the same time, the information obtained through digital tools can improve their worldview and way of thinking, but sometimes the development of the ability to check the accuracy of information and critical thinking can be weakened. Education and learning: Digitization has revolutionized education. Online courses, educational applications, virtual classrooms and databases provide young people with more extensive and accessible learning opportunities. This was especially important during the pandemic. However, for some young people, the distractions and readily available information in the digital environment can make the learning process more superficial. Health and lifestyle. Another effect of digitization is the effect on the physical activity of teenagers. Cell phones, video games, and other digital entertainment can reduce their physical activity. Also, looking at the screen for a long time can cause eye strain, headaches and other health problems. In some teenagers, this condition leads to insomnia or sleep disturbances. Innovations and career prospects: The digital age offers young people new career and development

opportunities. They can gain experience in different fields through the Internet, develop their skills by participating in online jobs and projects. The digital work environment and 'entrepreneurial' culture offer new ways for teenagers to set up their own jobs and run their own (Suleymanova, 2010, p. 23).

In the modern age, in the age of digitalization, the study of adolescents from a psychological and pedagogical point of view, their upbringing in accordance with the requirements of high culture and awareness, requires the development of new scientific methods to overcome and prevent forms of deviant behavior among young people. Despite the fact that deviant behavior is found in different social and age groups in this period, the problem of prevention and elimination of deviant behavior among teenagers in psychological science is acute and belongs to the most important universal problems around which various studies and discussions do not stop. These discussions are conducted in legal psychology, pedagogy, sociology, medicine and a number of other sciences and reveal the need for new research. In the era of digitalization, special attention is paid to preventive measures aimed at reducing and eliminating the level of deviation in the environment of teenagers, which imposes certain requirements on school psychologists and subject teachers to organize work in a planned manner to eliminate the possibility of the existence of adolescents of the "risk group" in the educational environment (Suleymanova, 2010, p. 22).

The main research methods of the article. Principles and approaches form the methodological basis of the study of deviant behavior of teenagers in the era of digitization: T. Parson (socialization theory), the concept of anomie by E. Durkheim, its structural and functional analysis, justification of the use of the social diagnostic method. working with deviant adolescents, R. Merton's position on the dysfunction of social systems, allows studying the mechanism and structure of deviant behavior (Bayramov; Alizade, 2002).

Analysis of previous research on the topic. In particular, we should note that in the scientific works created in this field, the topic was analyzed in various aspects, and some suggestions and recommendations were noted. As an example, let's note that in the articles "Recommendations for parents of teenagers with deviant behavior", "Features of deviant behavior of teenagers" (Mirzaghayeva, 2024), "The problem of deviant behavior of minors" (Suleymanova, 2010) the explanation is touched upon in a complex way.

Discussion. Traditionally in the domain of deviantology and legal psychology what is understood as deviant behavior is persistent, recurring behavior which violates social norms, is not in line with the conventional values and rules, is negatively judged by other people, leads to the individual's maladaptation, is harmful to both the person and the society. In different classifications certain parameters serve as the criteria for deviant behavior. They are: the violated norm type, the psychological aims for the behavior and its motivation, implications and damage done, as well as individual and stylistic parameters of the behavior. Researchers' attention is in particular drawn to one's online search behavior, which is able to reflect one's current needs, as well as cognitive styles. One should mention the involvement into online behavior (probably into its specific manifestations and not generally) which is influenced by the user's psychological and social characteristics, his/her skills and expectations (Shulman; Steinberg; Piquero, 2013).

Addiction, a deviant-role character type of social behavior, is inextricably linked with personality conflict. In general, addiction is a desire to get away from the state of internal psychological discomfort, to change one's own mental state characterized by internal struggle (Adler, 2007).

In addition, they distinguish the following forms of deviant behavior:

1) Aggressive and autoaggressive (suicidal) behavior;

2) Excessive use of substances that cause changes in mental activity (alcoholism, narcosis, etc.);

3) Food behavior disorder (overeating, hunger);

4) Characteristic and pathocharacteristic reactions (emancipation, grouping, opposition, terrorism, etc.);

5) Communicative deviations (autization, excessive sociability, conformism, narcissism, etc.);

6) Non-aesthetic behavior (Mirzaghayeva, 2023).

Impacts of the Digital Age:

1. Social media: Teenagers spend more time on social media platforms, which can sometimes lead to toxic environments. Fake news and deviation from normative behavior can lead to deviant behavior.

2. Anonymity: Anonymity on the Internet can make some teens more open to behavior outside of social norms. They can do things online more easily than they would in real life.

3. Addiction: Addiction to digital technologies, especially mobile devices, can lead to psychological problems such as distraction and depression. This can lead to an increase in deviant behavior.

4. Information flow: Teenagers can easily access all kinds of information. In some cases, this information can have a negative effect on them, leading them to engage in risky behavior (Mirzaghayeva, 2023).

Let's compare the deviant behavior of teenagers in the digital age from two different perspectives: the traditional age and the digital age.

1. Family environment

Traditional period: There is more face-to-face communication in the family, the role of parents in the formation of behavior is more important, it is easy to encourage positive behavior in the family environment.

Digital age: Parents may have less contact with their children as technology can distract them, social media discussions with family decrease, which can lead to reduced positive influence in shaping behaviors.

2. Social influences

Traditional period: Behaviors are more influenced by close friends and the school environment, with more opportunities to interact with hundreds of people face-to-face, which improves social skills.

Digital age: Influences on social networks are wider and more diverse, anonymity makes risky behavior easier to accept.

3. Access to information

Traditional era: Information is mostly available through books and teachers, information about risky behaviors can be hard to come by.

Digital Age: With all kinds of information readily available through the Internet, the spread of information about harmful behaviors can lead to an increase in these behaviors (Mirzaghayeva, 2023).

Conclusion. The era of digitalization has opened many changes and new opportunities in the lives of teenagers. These changes have both positive and negative aspects. As a result, it is important to assess both the opportunities and challenges of this era in order to gain a broader and deeper understanding of the impact of digitalization on young people. During our research, we found that the digital age is changing the factors that shape the deviant behavior of teenagers. Some of the positive influencing factors in the traditional period may be reduced in the modern period. For this reason, it is important to develop new approaches to understanding and supporting adolescent behavior. As a result of the research carried out on the article, we can make several suggestions regarding the deviant behavior of teenagers in the digital age:

Educational programs: Organizing educational programs that teach teenagers about the consequences of their behavior in the digital environment. These programs should cover topics such as ethical behavior, cyberbullying, and online safety.

Public awareness: To implement campaigns on social media platforms reflecting the risks of deviant behavior. Showing the real-life consequences of such behavior among teenagers.

Support groups: Creating support groups where teenagers can discuss among themselves, share their feelings and experiences. This can help them manage their stress and anxiety in healthier ways.

Trainings for parents: Organizing informative workshops on how parents can support their children in the digital age. Parents will be able to monitor their children's online behavior and be more effective in guiding them.

Mentoring programs: Modeling good behavior for teenagers through mentoring adults and professionals. Mentors should support teenagers in the challenges they face in life.

These approaches can help adolescents avoid deviant behaviors in the digital environment and develop healthier behavior patterns.

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