

The impact of the Internet and social media on adolescents' moral decisions

Sultanov Sherzod Azatjanovich

Independent researcher of Urgench State University named after Abu Rayhon Beruniy

Abstract.

This article examines the impact of the Internet and social media on the decision-making of adolescents growing up with modern digital technologies. The purpose of the article is to examine the positive and negative effects of Internet technology on the adolescent and his or her development of good decision-making skills. It discusses the psychological processes involved in adolescent thinking and decision-making. It is mentioned that adolescents can distinguish between good and bad, right and wrong, and shape their actions according to moral norms and values, based on information of what content and what ideas are based on.

Keywords: emotional feelings, mental shock, upbringing, cognitive abilities, pessimist, optimist, artificial intelligence, willpower, mental development, smartphone, internet technologies, motivation, self-assessment, social networks.

Introduction

In our modern technology and globalized life, the Internet and smart gadgets are becoming the content of life. Many parts of the work that humanity needs to do are also being performed by technologies. It is undoubtedly worth saying that gadgets and technologies are making our lives easier. Many young people are using this opportunity productively, and many are using it in a harmful way. Each person carries a database in their hands on only one smartphone. This is a great help and a great harm to the future and life and development of the teenager. Why two different situations, because a child can get one of two different opportunities depending on his worldview and psychology. Worldview, decision-making, development and work on himself depend on the psychological upbringing, mental experiences and environment of the teenager, and emotional feelings. The values of the country in which he was born and raised also affect the thinking and worldview of the child. That is why our President supports the education and development of every Mother, that is, our daughters. Because Mothers provide more education to children. Scientists, great inventors, intelligent and educated Mothers raise and educate. As evidence of this, Thomas Edison, the famous inventor, created the electric lamp, phonograph, film protector, and his mother Nancy Edison, when her child was called mentally retarded at school, began to teach him herself, saying, "My child is smart," and that is why Thomas Edison grew up to be a great inventor and scientist. Worldview and his inner feelings and experiences play a big role in making the right decisions for children of any age.

Materials and Methods

Many research scholars have studied the impact of the Internet and social media on adolescents.

The term 'social media' refers to the various internet-based networks that enable users to interact with others, verbally and visually (Carr & Hayes, 2015). According to the Pew Research Centre (2015), at least 92% of teenagers are active on social media. Lenhart, Smith, Anderson, Duggan, and Perrin (2015) identified the 13–17 age group as particularly heavy users of social media users, with 87% having access to a computer, and 58% to a tablet device. Almost three-quarters of adolescents aged 15 to 17 use a smartphone, and 68% of those aged 13 to 14 (Pew Research Centre,

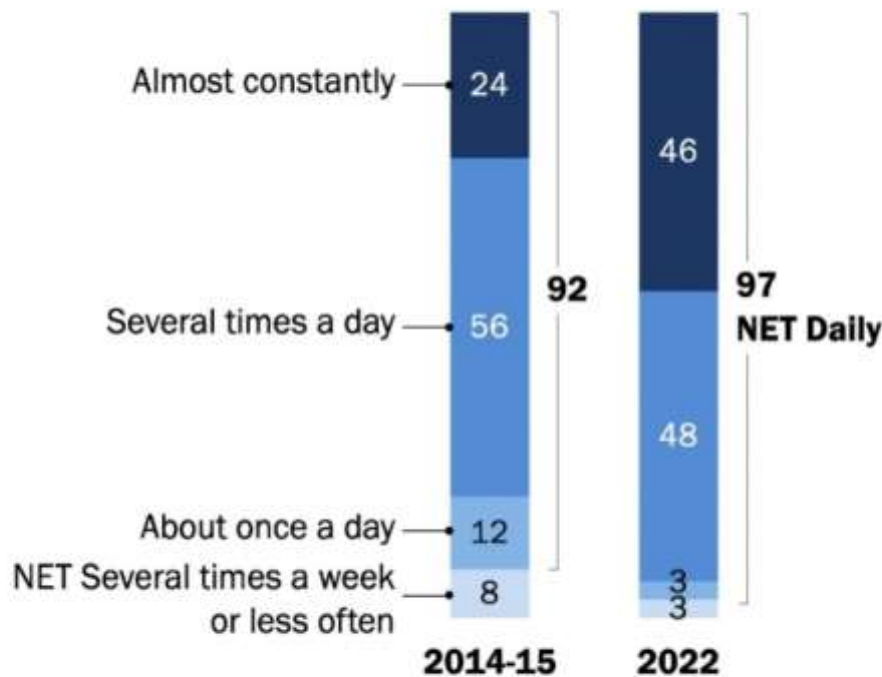
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2015). Understanding the impact of social media on adolescents’ well-being has become a priority due to a simultaneous increase in mental health problems (Kim, 2017). Problematic behaviours related to internet use are often described in psychiatric terminology, such as ‘addiction’. However, some activity in younger people could be misconstrued as abnormal. For example, young people who frequently post images of themselves (‘selfies’) may appear narcissistic, but such behaviour has emerged as a social norm in younger social networks (McCrae, 2018). Nonetheless, warnings have been issued by psychologists and other experts on how younger people are engaging with social media and related impairment to personal and social development (Greenfield, 2014; Twenge, 200).

Nearly half of teens now say they use the internet ‘almost constantly’

% of U.S. teens who say they use the internet ...



Note: Teens refer to those ages 13 to 17. Figures may not add up to the NET values due to rounding. Those who did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey conducted April 14-May 4, 2022.

“Teens, Social Media and Technology 2022”

Many researchers have studied the statistics of social media usage and its psychological effects on adolescents. A child who grows up in a cognitively developed and optimistic environment tends to use everything as an opportunity and to absorb every piece of knowledge that serves for personal development. I showed two teenagers a video posted on social media, and they both had different opinions. This video was a motivational video, about a child who grew up in difficulty and achieved success through hard work.

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The first child's opinion was that no one can achieve such success alone, and that there is someone behind him to support and encourage him.

The second child said, "How great, if I continue to study hard, I can also achieve such success." I will show you the main psychological reasons for coming to these opinions now.

Results

A child who is cognitively developed and grows up with the understanding that effort is necessary for results, thinks that if he works, he will succeed. This method was used by the scientific researcher V. Sukhomlinsky to make the child think like this.

Experimental process

1. Preparation: Father and child plant seeds together. The father explains to the child about nature, growth, and patience.
2. Observation: The child waters every day, but there is no result. He has some doubts.
3. Symbolic intervention: The father secretly plants a sprouted branch in the evening.
4. Result: The child rejoices in the morning when he sees a flower growing, and believes in the results of his labor.
5. Psychological analysis: The child forms a strong belief that "I worked hard - there was a result."

The second child always used ready-made things. For example, when his parents were standing near an apple tree and picking apples, they told him not to touch them. This kind of putting everything in a state of readiness leads to the child's concept of action and thinking without consequences. With this kind of thinking psychology, the child thinks negatively about information on social networks.

Discussion

Based on the above considerations, the impact of social media on a child's psychology depends on their worldview and thinking style. Teenagers with low self-esteem and lack of independent thinking tend to accept and support the opinions of people who are trending on social media. Those who strive for intellectual maturity analyze the information and express their own opinions. Who is right or who is doing a good job and who can be a role model, moral education and decision-making, worldview and internet information can be analyzed and modeled accordingly.

Conclusion

Every teacher, educator, and parent should teach their child knowledge that improves their psychology and mental capacity, not by limiting their access to the internet or social media, so that they can make the right moral decisions. Then, even when the child has social media and databases at their disposal, they can make the right choices for themselves and their moral decisions.

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