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THE CULTURE OF USING THE INTERNET BY CHILDREN

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The rapid use of mobile devices and global networks, such as the internet, among young people due to the development of the economy and technology is increasing. While the internet provides useful information, it can also have negative effects on users due to the spread of harmful information that can affect their behavior. The number of websites with adult contents has increased to 4.2 million, with 42% of children and teenagers using them.

38% of young people worldwide are affected by materials that promote violence and aggression, while over 9,000 websites encourage suicide. In recent years, the number of websites promoting terrorist activities has exceeded 7,000, which poses a threat to national security.

It is important to teach young people how to obtain necessary information safely on the internet. Cybercrime, cyberbullying, and technical hacking are becoming more common, and users need to be aware of the risks. First, the ability to filter information and exchange ideas should be taught in the family and then in educational institutions. Therefore, it is recommended to hold discussions on internet safety and promote the use of free resources for young people and families in local communities and educational institutions. Experts should also provide special TV and radio programs and analytical articles on public information channels. It is also important to prohibit the distribution of untested computer games and films in internet cafes and clubs, and to hold competitions for the "Best Internet Blog" among students. Finally, it is necessary to place banners and posters in residential areas to raise awareness of internet safety.

The internet has become an integral part of our lives, and the number of users in Uzbekistan is increasing rapidly, especially among young people. Although most young people do not have a clear idea of life, they are still attracted to the internet for research, music, shopping, and forums.

The internet is a great tool for learning, socializing, and communicating with friends, but it is important to remember that it is not a substitute for real life. Thus, if we look at life with a realistic eye, the internet is not free from danger: it has its own unique risks, criminal world, harm, and disadvantages. Virtual communication can also be a source of harm to children. In recent times, there have been many cases of cyberbullying and social media threats. It is important for adults to pay attention to their children's use of the internet to protect them from these dangers.

Today, we need to know enough information about the news that happened in one part of the world, and a few seconds is enough to do so. We can manage any topic by controlling the electronic device in front of us. The internet has become a global network within a few decades, bringing together the entire community of information exchange, and has become an important factor in the acceleration of globalization around the world.

THE MULTIDISCIPLINARY JOURNAL OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

VOLUME-3, ISSUE-3

The internet is a product of human thought. We cannot simply look at the computer on our desk as an electronic device. The internet is the most effective and convenient means of obtaining, exchanging, and disseminating information. Its multimedia (image, sound, text) service and other conveniences are transforming humanity into a virtual world. However, there is also a second, completely different aspect that requires attention. In some countries, it is not uncommon for people to become accustomed to the virtual world and to harm themselves or others. Or, in some countries, hospitals are being established to treat mentally ill patients who have been transferred from real life to virtual life.

Users of computer services are becoming a wide range of people who do not care about their time, money, or health. Today, is it correct to compare the use of the internet by our youth, especially children and adolescents, with these two situations?

Unfortunately, there are many situations that are disturbing to the heart in recent times.

- Today, internet users can be divided into two categories. The first category is those who use the internet for their profession or to obtain necessary information and knowledge, while the second category is those who are simply curious and visit pornographic or dating sites or spend their time playing online games.

THE MULTIDISCIPLINARY JOURNAL OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
VOLUME-3, ISSUE-3

The virtual world manipulates people. Manipulation means to influence someone through mental coercion. Now, it is not uncommon for children or adolescents to turn internet cafes into their "second home." Studies show that online game players are mostly adolescents. Adolescence is a unique period in a person's physiological and social development. If a boy or girl is given aggressive online games during this period, it can lead to negative consequences. The time perception system of a person is disrupted in the virtual world, and social activity decreases.

The negative effects of virtual tools do not stop at moral and ethical degradation, but also weaken the immune system, causing eye and neck diseases.
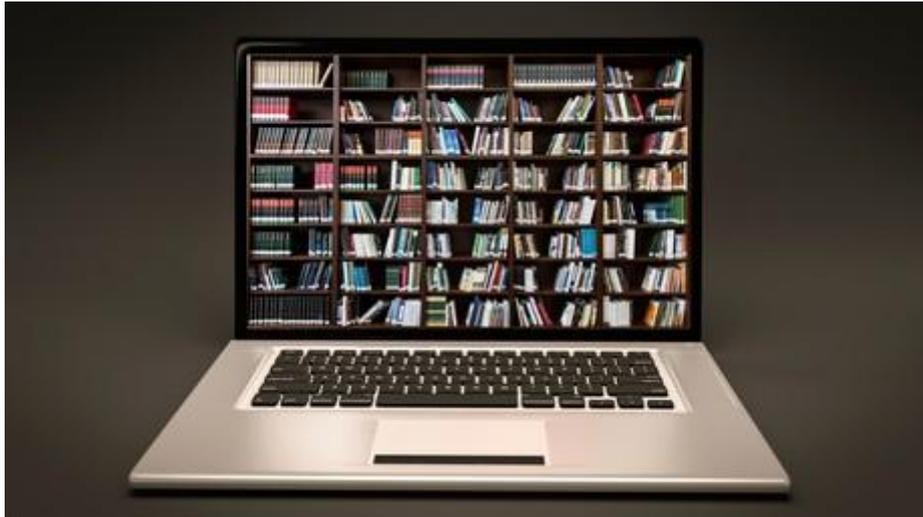
- Five or ten years ago, children used to play in playgrounds around their homes. Now, they spend more time in internet cafes that are everywhere. Children are more interested in computer games than in active games. Of course, it is pleasing that our children's knowledge and skills related to modern information technology are developing. However, this does not mean that it is not causing certain losses.

During our student years, we used to spend a lot of time searching for books in the library. Nowadays, students can easily find electronic copies of the books they need on the internet, without wasting too much time and effort. This is a worthy achievement.

By monitoring internet users, it can be concluded that the internet enhances a person's ability to develop their thinking, observation, analysis, research, and memory skills. Our previous generations, such as Navoi and Fuzuli, memorized hundreds of lines of poetry, while today's youth cannot even remember four lines without relying on their personal computer's memory. Computers, especially the internet, do not teach our children how to think and live, which is a concern.

In my opinion, the main responsibility falls on parents and educators to teach students how to use the internet wisely and to shape their cultural attitudes towards internet usage. In today's information age, there is no such thing as a completely safe or reliable service. Therefore, we must rely on our own strength, abilities, national values, and beliefs to work together in a complex world where different countries' economies, cultures, and people are interconnected.

In conclusion, it should be noted that the internet has both benefits and drawbacks for humanity. Although having all the necessary antivirus and other security programs can help ensure internet safety, one's online activity can never be 100% secure. In the information age, young people need knowledge and experience to use information sources correctly, especially reliable ones, and to protect their spiritual and mental well-being from harmful influences.

THE MULTIDISCIPLINARY JOURNAL OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

VOLUME-3, ISSUE-3

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