

**SAFE MEDIA OCEAN: ISSUES OF FORMING MEDIA SECURITY IN THE
EDUCATIONAL PROCESS**

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Abstract

This article analyzes the pedagogical and educational aspects of creating a safe media environment in the conditions of a modern information society. In the era of globalization, the widespread use of the Internet and mass media by young people significantly influences their worldview, spirituality, and social behavior. At the same time, the increasing spread of misinformation, cyber threats, violence, immoral content, and manipulative information through media platforms negatively affects the consciousness and moral values of youth. The article scientifically examines issues of media literacy, critical thinking, and information security from a pedagogical perspective. In addition, effective methods of creating a safe media environment in educational and moral upbringing processes are discussed. The role of teachers, parents, and educational institutions in protecting young people from harmful information is highlighted. The study emphasizes the importance of developing digital literacy and responsible media consumption in ensuring the spiritual and intellectual development of students.

Keywords: media security, media literacy, education, information security, internet culture, digital education, youth upbringing, social media, cyber security, critical thinking.

Introduction

The twenty-first century has become an era of rapid technological progress and digital communication, significantly transforming human life. The development of the Internet, social media, and electronic information platforms has changed the way people communicate, learn, and interact with the world. Particularly among young people, media technologies have become an inseparable part of everyday life. Consequently, ensuring media security in educational and upbringing processes has become one of the most urgent issues of contemporary pedagogy.

Young people today obtain most of their information through online sources, including websites, blogs, social media platforms, and digital communication applications. Although this environment provides quick access to information and educational opportunities, it also exposes youth to misinformation, cyberbullying, harmful ideologies, and manipulative content. Therefore, the concept of a “safe media ocean” has emerged as a significant topic in educational sciences and moral upbringing.

Media security refers to an individual’s ability to use media consciously while being protected from harmful, false, or manipulative information. In this regard, teaching students how to critically analyze information, identify reliable sources, and develop responsible digital habits is becoming increasingly essential.

The importance of media education has expanded due to the growing influence of social networks on the moral and intellectual development of younger generations. In many cases, uncontrolled media consumption leads to addiction, misinformation, and psychological pressure. Therefore, the educational system must develop effective mechanisms to improve students’ awareness of media risks and digital responsibility.

The Concept and Importance of a Safe Media Ocean

A media environment plays a significant role in shaping human consciousness, behavior, and values. Therefore, ensuring safety within media spaces is not only a technological issue but also an educational and moral one. The term “safe media ocean” refers to an environment in which individuals can access useful, educational, and morally beneficial information while

remaining protected from harmful and manipulative content.

Media security includes several important components:

1. Information Security

Information security involves protecting individuals from false, misleading, or dangerous information. Since digital media contains enormous amounts of data, young people may struggle to distinguish reliable sources from fake information.

Educational institutions should therefore focus on teaching students information verification skills.

2. Cyber Security

Cyber security is related to protecting users from online dangers such as hacking, cybercrime, identity theft, and online harassment. Students should be taught safe internet practices, including password protection, privacy settings, and secure online behavior.

3. Media Literacy

Media literacy is the ability to critically understand, analyze, evaluate, and create media messages. Media-literate students are better equipped to question the reliability of information and resist manipulative content.

4. Moral and Ethical Security

The digital environment often contains immoral or harmful materials that may negatively affect the psychological and moral development of youth. Moral security involves protecting young people from violence, hate speech, inappropriate content, and destructive ideologies.

Young people are increasingly exposed to risks such as fake news, cyber fraud, cyberbullying, extremist propaganda, and privacy violations. These risks can negatively influence their mental health, social behavior, and academic performance. Therefore, promoting a culture of responsible media use has become an educational priority.

The Role of Media Security in Education and Upbringing

The main purpose of education is to develop intellectually mature, morally responsible, and socially active individuals. In today's digital age, this goal cannot be achieved without considering the influence of media technologies. Therefore, integrating media literacy and media safety into educational programs is highly important.

Teachers have a major responsibility in helping students navigate digital environments safely. Educational institutions should encourage students to analyze media critically and responsibly.

Developing Critical Thinking Skills

Students should not automatically accept every piece of information they encounter online as true. Instead, they must learn to evaluate sources, compare information, and identify misinformation.

Promoting Media Culture

Media culture encourages ethical online behavior, respectful communication, and responsible social media use. Students should understand digital etiquette and the consequences of inappropriate online behavior.

Teaching Cyber Security Skills

Students should gain practical knowledge about online privacy, password security, and digital risks. Educational institutions can organize seminars and training sessions on internet safety.

Encouraging Positive Media Content

Teachers and parents should guide young people toward educational, scientific, and culturally enriching digital resources. Promoting national and universal values through positive media content can contribute to students' moral development.

The Influence of Social Media on Youth

Social media platforms have become an inseparable part of young people's lives. Platforms such as Instagram, Telegram, YouTube, and Facebook provide opportunities for communication, entertainment, and education. However, excessive or uncontrolled use of social media may cause several problems.

One of the major issues is digital addiction. Many young people spend excessive amounts of time online, which negatively affects their academic performance and social relationships. Additionally, misinformation on social media can lead to misunderstanding, fear, and manipulation.

Cyberbullying is another serious issue. Online harassment can cause emotional stress, anxiety, and psychological problems among teenagers. Exposure to harmful trends and unrealistic lifestyles portrayed online may also negatively influence young people's self-esteem and values.

Therefore, teachers, parents, and educational institutions must cooperate in monitoring and guiding students' digital behavior. Creating awareness about responsible social media use is essential for protecting young people from harmful influences.

Methods of Creating a Safe Media Environment

Creating a safe media environment requires a comprehensive educational approach. Several pedagogical strategies can help improve media safety among students:

- introducing media literacy lessons into educational curricula;
- organizing internet ethics and cyber security training programs;
- strengthening cooperation between schools and parents;
- using child-safe internet technologies and monitoring systems;
- encouraging students to use educational and scientific digital platforms;
- promoting critical thinking and fact-checking skills.

Educational institutions should regularly conduct awareness campaigns about online safety and responsible digital citizenship. Such activities can significantly improve students' media awareness and help them make informed decisions online.

Conclusion

In conclusion, creating a safe media ocean is one of the most important tasks of modern education and upbringing. In the context of rapidly increasing information flows, improving students' media literacy, developing critical thinking skills, and protecting them from harmful information are essential. The integration of media security into educational systems can contribute significantly to the intellectual and moral development of younger generations.

Teachers, parents, and society must work together to ensure a healthy and secure digital environment for youth. Promoting responsible media consumption, digital ethics, and cyber awareness will not only reduce online risks but also prepare students to become informed and responsible members of society.

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