October, 2023

Of course, social media is an amazing tool for staying connected with the people in your life. It's great for staying up-to-date on friends' and family members' lives, sharing pictures and memories, and even making new connections. There are so many different platforms, each with its own unique features, so you can pick and choose which ones work best for you. Whether you use Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, or any other social media platform, you'll be sure to stay connected with the people that matter most to you. Because social networks feed off interactions among people, they become more powerful as they grow.

Besides social media has proven to be an effective tool for facilitating the learning of new skills and concepts. Different social media platforms encourage learning by bringing together educators and professionals with students and learners from different age groups. With social media tools, it becomes possible for you to connect with instructors and learn at your own pace. Social media also promotes significantly better flexibility in the overall learning process.

But there are some drawbacks in terms of cyberbullying, which is one of the worst aspects of regular social media usage, topping the list of disadvantages associated with the same. Bullying that takes place online on social media platforms is cyberbullying. It uses false social media accounts to psychologically disturb or tease victims. False social media accounts are often untraceable. Bullying happens via sending derogatory material (such as photographs and videos) and inappropriate text messages.

Being aware of this disadvantage is crucial when navigating an online presence. In addition to cyberbullying, hacking is also regarded as one of the most severe drawbacks of social media that affect many people. Hacking refers to the process of gaining access to another individual's personal information. Often, this information can cause harm rather than good.

Thanks to the Internet, each person with marginal views can see that they're not alone. And when these people find one another via social media, they can do things - create memes, publications, and entire online worlds that bolster their worldview, and then break into the mainstream.

Teenagers need to fit in, to be popular, and to outdo others. This process was challenging long before the advent of social media. Add Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, and Instagram into the mix, and you suddenly have teenagers subjected to feeling pressure to grow up too fast in an online world.

Teenagers can misuse social media platforms to spread rumors, share videos aimed at destroying reputations, and to blackmail others.
WE PRESENT YOU WITH THE OPINIONS OF OUR STUDENTS ON THE PROBLEM.

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Online hate. The Internet has become an integral part of modern life, offering us the opportunity to communicate with people from all over the world, acquire new knowledge, and share our thoughts. However, along with all the benefits of this great invention, certain drawbacks have emerged. One of the most significant problem areas in today's internet landscape is online hate. Online hate is the expression of hostility, hatred, aggression, or simply negative emotions towards other internet users. It can manifest in comments under posts, in offensive messages, videos, or even in online harassment.

Online hate can take many forms, but it always harms both the victim's personal psychology and the overall internet atmosphere.

One of the main reasons why online hate has become so prevalent is the anonymity factor. Users often feel that they can hide their true identities and freely express negative emotions without consequences. They forget that behind computer screens are real people with their own feelings and emotions.

Currently, we witness numerous instances of how online hate can impact the lives of others. Internet celebrities and public figures, in particular, are frequent targets of constant criticism and attacks. This can lead to deteriorating physical and mental health. However, online hate also ruins the lives of ordinary people who simply want to express their opinions or share their creativity.

To combat online hate in social media, we need to take responsibility as individuals and as a community. Firstly, we should strive to understand others and show more tolerance and empathy. Instead of responding to negative comments with aggression, we can attempt to engage in conversation and resolve conflicts peacefully. Moreover, social media platforms themselves can play a vital role in addressing this issue by implementing stricter policies and better moderation to deter online hate.

In conclusion, online hate in social media is a pressing issue that affects both individuals and the virtual community as a whole. To build a more positive and respectful online environment, it's essential for us to recognize and address this problem collectively, fostering empathy, tolerance, and understanding among all internet users.

Denys Ovcharenko, gr.918

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Hate speech. Social media platforms have become a part of our lives. They serve as means for us to connect with friends and family, stay updated on news and share our thoughts and experiences. However, alongside the aspects social media has also introduced phenomena, one of which is the presence of hate speech.

Hate speech refers to the dissemination of offensive or demeaning statements targeting individuals. On media platforms hate speech can manifest in forms such, as offensive comments, fake content, harassment and other types of bullying.
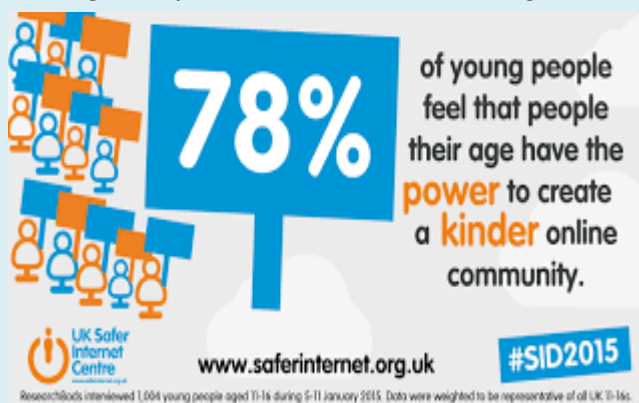
Hate on social media has serious consequences. It can lead to psychological problems such as anxiety, depression and even suicide. In some cases, hazing can even lead to physical injuries.

Every individual has a role to play in combating hate speech. It is essential that we respond by condemning acts of hate while providing support for those affected by it. Reporting any instances of comments to the administrators, within these social networks can make a difference.

Max Butov, gr.918

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Building a Kinder Digital World. In today's interconnected world, social media has become a powerful tool for communication, bringing people from diverse backgrounds together. However, this technological marvel has a dark side - online hatred. This virtual venom often thrives in the shadows of anonymity, and its consequences are real. Online hatred corrodes the very fabric of our digital society. Hateful comments and cyberbullying harm not only the victims but also the perpetrators. It perpetuates a cycle of negativity and division, hindering meaningful discourse. It is vital for all of us to confront this issue head-on. Firstly, education is key. Schools and parents should teach digital etiquette and empathy. Understanding the real impact of one's words on the internet can go a long way in fostering a more compassionate online environment. Secondly, social media platforms must enforce stricter policies against hate speech and harassment. They should invest in AI systems to detect and remove hateful content promptly. Lastly, individuals can make a difference by promoting positivity and reporting abusive behavior. By choosing kindness over hatred, we can collectively create a safer and more inclusive digital world. It's time to turn the tide against online hatred and build a brighter online future!

Polina Bondarenko, gr.918

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Social media addiction. I would like to speak about such problem as social media addiction, which is considerably widespread nowadays. Social Social media addiction is the compulsive and harmful use of social media platforms like TikTok, Snapchat, Instagram, Twitter, Pinterest, Reddit, or Discord. It can involve endless scrolling through feeds, compulsively seeking external validation in the form of comments or likes, a heightened fear of missing out (FOMO), low self-esteem from comparing ourselves to others, and withdrawing from our lives to spend more and more time on our screens. The scientists underline that as a subset of internet and technology Addiction, over time social media addiction can lead to changes in

the brain that compromise our ability to focus, prioritize, regulate our mood, and relate to others. This can lead to other negative consequences including mental health issues like depression, social anxiety, or strained relationships with loved ones. There is widespread consensus from both researchers and clinicians that the problematic and compulsive overuse of the internet, social media, and smart devices has been rising over the past two decades, and that the prevalence of this behavioral addiction is associated with a variety of mental, emotional, physical, interpersonal, and professional problems.

Of course, the effects of internet and technology addiction are not only reflected in the structure of our brains, but in our daily lives as well. Internet and technology addiction is strongly associated with impulse control disorder, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), anxiety disorders, increased substance abuse, and depression. Perhaps most tragically of all, individuals with internet and technology addiction have much higher rates of suicidal ideation, planning, and attempts - roughly three times the average. The negative impact of these effects can be exasperated by unethical or problematic social media use, such as cyberbullying or stalking.

And what are the ways out? The following action to be of significant help in finding long-term, sustainable freedom from our compulsive and problematic use of social media: face-to-face meetings, nothing can replace real communication. It provides a feel of friendliness which, in turn, boosts the success of your relationships, whether they are personal or business relationships.

Nastia Kazakova, gr. 727

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A double-edged sword. Social media is everywhere! In some ways, it's made the world feel smaller by bringing distant people together, reuniting long lost relatives, and otherwise giving people a space to connect. However, as social media has grown over the years, so has the risk of data breaches.

But getting hacked is one of the biggest disadvantages of social media. As more and more information is getting placed online, there is an increased danger of hackers, companies, and malicious interlopers mining your data in ways that undermine personal privacy. And in some cases, your data is outright stolen.

For example, business owners not only face the risk of losing money, but they can also lose sensitive data. By the way, social media hacking is not only restricted to friends playing jokes on each other. Even famous pop stars have been targeted. So, social media is a double-edged sword!

Sophiia Holobok, gr.727