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# THE ROLE OF THE INTERNET IN THE LIFE OF YOUTH AND THE PRACTICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF HISTORICAL CHRONOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT

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### Abstract

This article analyzes the role of the Internet in the lives of young people, its historical and chronological stages of development, and its practical significance in modern society. The scientific basis of the impact of the Internet on the worldview, learning methods, social activity, and communication skills of young people is covered. It also discusses the positive and negative aspects of the introduction of internet technologies into the lives of young people. The study provides conclusions on the effective use of the Internet and its role in the development of young people.

**Keywords:** Internet, youth, digital technologies, information society, historical development, social networks, education, communication, globalization, media literacy.

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### Introduction

In the context of the globalization processes and digital transformation of the 21st century, information and communication technologies have become one of the important factors in the development of society. In this process, the Internet has emerged as a key tool in shaping the global information space, penetrating deeply into social, economic, cultural, and educational spheres. The youth audience, in particular, stands out as the most active user group of the Internet. The Internet plays an important role in accelerating their learning process, developing independent research skills, expanding social communication opportunities, and meeting their information needs. At the same time, the expansion of the digital environment is also creating positive and, in some cases, negative factors that affect the minds of young people.

The historical development of the Internet began in the mid-20th century based on scientific and military needs, and later gradually evolved into a global network. As a result of this evolution, the Internet is now widely used not only as a means of exchanging information, but also as a platform for education, innovation, and social activism. This article scientifically analyzes the role of the Internet in the lives of young people, its historical and chronological stages of development, and its practical significance.

### Main part

The formation and development of the Internet dates back to the second half of the 20th century. Its initial concept was developed in the 1960s by ARPA (Advanced Research Projects Agency) under the US Department of Defense, and the ARPANET project is considered the first prototype of the Internet.[1] In the 1970s, as a result of the development of network technologies, data exchange systems based on the idea of packet switching were improved. During this period, the TCP/IP protocol was developed by Vinton Cerf and Robert Kahn, which formed the basis of the modern Internet architecture.

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In 1983, when ARPANET switched to the full TCP/IP standard, the process of unifying global networks accelerated. In 1990, the World Wide Web (WWW) system was proposed by Tim Berners-Lee and subsequently put into practice in the CERN laboratory[2]. This innovation simplified the use of the internet, making it an open information space for the general public. As a result, web browsers emerged and the Internet became a global communication tool. Since the mid-1990s, the Internet has become popular and has penetrated the educational, economic, and social spheres. By the 2000s, however, the internet had reached a new level as a result of the development of broadband internet, mobile communications and social networks (e.g. Facebook, YouTube) [3].

Today, the internet is developing with integration with artificial intelligence, cloud technologies and mobile platforms. This is further reinforcing his role in the life of society, specifically youth. In the context of current globalization and digital society, the internet is manifested as a socio-informational environment that has become an integral part of youth life. It is widely used not only as a means of obtaining information, but also as an important platform for education, communication, creative activity and personal development [4].

First, the internet is having a significant impact on the educational process of young people. Access to knowledge has expanded through e-learning resources, online courses, and digital libraries. This contributes to independent learning, rapid information retrieval, and the formation of modern competencies [5].

Secondly, the Internet, as a means of social communication, has significantly enhanced communication among young people, making it faster, more convenient, and more comprehensive. Today, social networks and messengers (see Figure 1, for example).

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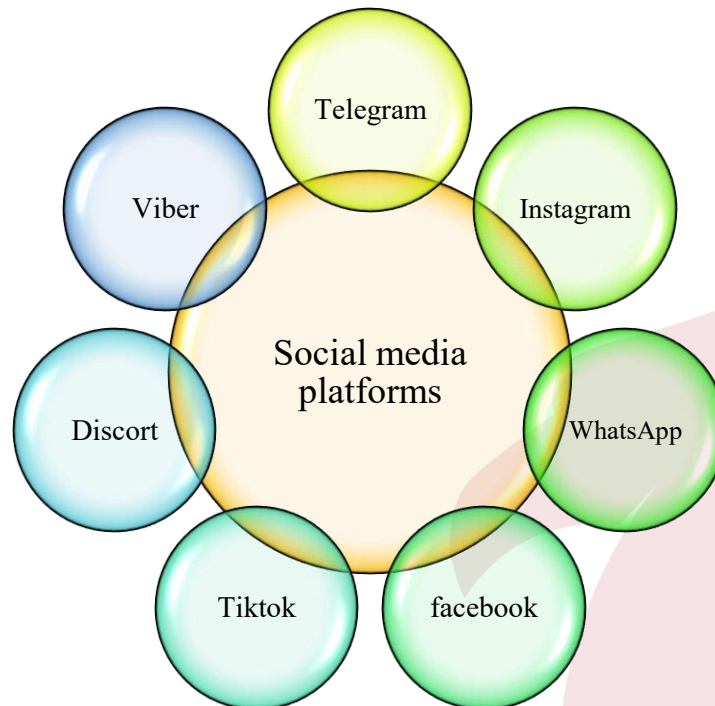


Figure 1. Digital communication tools

Through the platforms presented in this picture, young people have the opportunity to communicate not only with their peers in everyday life, but also to exchange ideas with people from different countries. This serves to develop their language skills, explore different cultures, and increase their interest in global processes. The internet has also become a space for youth to express themselves. They are actively participating in community discourse by blogging, creating content, and participating in online discussions. This process is increasing the social activity of young people, turning them into information creators, not just consumers. In addition, the opportunity for global communication is expanding young people's horizons, helping to reduce stereotypes and accept different cultural values. As a result, they are forming as active, open-minded and competitive individuals in modern society.

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Thirdly, the internet is also an important platform for the development of youth creative potential. Opportunities for self-expression expanded in areas such as blogging, video content creation, design, and programming. This is creating the basis for the formation of new professional areas in the digital economy [6].

However, there are also some negative consequences resulting from improper use of the Internet. For example, situations such as wasting time, exposure to harmful information, cybersecurity issues, and social media addiction can negatively affect the development of young people. In general, the internet is manifested as a multifaceted social phenomenon in the life of young people, the influence of which has both positive and negative aspects. Therefore, the rational use of the internet and the development of media literacy is one of the pressing issues of today [7. B-47].

### Conclusion

According to the results of this study, it was found that the Internet has become an important social, educational, and communicative tool in modern society, particularly in the lives of young people. Its historical-chronological development has gone through a process of transformation from a simple military-scientific network to a global information system, an evolution that is inextricably linked to humanity's need for information and technological progress. Analyses show that the Internet plays an important role in accelerating the learning process of young people, developing independent learning skills, and expanding access to global information resources. It also provides ample opportunities for social communication, creative activities, and professional development.

However, some negative factors are also observed in the process of using the internet. In particular, uncontrolled information flow, cybersecurity threats, internet addiction, and misinformation effects can negatively affect youth consciousness [8]. Therefore, it is important to use the Internet wisely, increase media literacy, and develop information culture. Therefore, the Internet is a

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complex social phenomenon with a dual impact on the lives of young people, and effectively utilizing its positive potential and reducing its negative consequences is an important task for the modern education system and society.

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