



## PSYCHOLOGY PREVENT EXTREMISM

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### Counteraction to extremism in the cyberspace

*In the article it is raised a problem of youth extremism and the Internet-media influence on formation of the young generation's world outlook. It is described carrying out of the first All-Russia Internet festival of student's, scientific and creative youth on counteraction to the extremism ideology in the Internet "the Internet users against extremism" which passed on the basis of the faculty of psychology of the Southern federal university.*

**Key words:** youth extremism, mass-media, the Internet dependence.

For today there is a sharp problem of the ideology of terrorism and extremism spreading in the territory of the Russian Federation. Growth of terrorist activity and cultural-moral intensity promotes escalating of the potential of extremist groupings influencing key structures of life. The variety of forms of extremist and terrorist activity, aspiration to achieve a public resonance and population intimidation thus becomes perceptible. In some regions of the Southern and North Caucasian federal districts expansion of information, ideological, psychological, resource coherence of extremist communities and groups is observed. In these conditions the rising generation of the south of Russia has appeared the most unprotected category of the population, in cultural sense, which is in original value and spiritual vacuum. The youth part has appeared disorganized, subject to influence of extremism and xenophobia, national cultures and religions of people of the SFD and NCFD blasting traditional values. Here it is expedient the formation of tolerance, understanding of national-cultural features in the environment of student's youth that should allow to generate the young man's personality with the steady civic stand, capable to resist to ideology of xenophobia and various extremist tendencies.

The youth extremism as an adherence to extreme views and actions in modern Russian conditions became a daily reality of our existence. The problem of struggle against youth extremism becomes a nation-wide difficult and multidimensional problem. It is impossible to ignore the complex character of this problem.

The basic sources of youth extremism in Russia are, first of all, sociopolitical factors: crisis of sociopolitical and economic system; socio-cultural deficiency and criminalization of the mass culture; spreading of social manifestations "leaving from life"; absence of alternative forms of carrying out of leisure; crisis of school and family edu-



cation. It allows to assert that the basic circle of problems with which the youth in Russia should deal, lies in the sphere of disputed relations, first of all, in a family and in relations with contemporaries [1].

Now among priority problems within the limits of counteraction to extremism they distinguish information-psychological counteraction to spreading of the ideology of extremism in the youth environment. The necessity of this is defined by that the executors of acts of terrorism are mainly young of 30 years or less. It poses real threat to public safety as far as youth is an active subject of social interaction.

At the same time it is a common feeling that modern terrorism is inseparably linked with activity of the mass media. Thereupon it is urgent rather pressing question on a role of mass-media in formation and development of social representations about terrorism which simultaneously grow out of communications and form its basis, providing parted codes of social interaction and group identity. It is necessary to underline, that in the very interactive processes the representing social representations are raised, modified, exchanged and extend on social groups. And they constitute social groups and define their borders. Accordingly social representations set dispositions of interpretations and expectations of situations of interaction perceived by the individual.

This century the increasing value is got by mass communication which, according to D.V. Olshansky, is medium of formation, spreading and functioning of various samples of perception of thinking and behavior [3]. In the system of mass communications there are included the printing and the Internet-media, one of which base functions is population informing on pressing questions of internal and international life. In a modern information society a special role is played by mass-media as an important component of formation of a civil society.

The phenomenon of mass media became the object of steadfast research of both Russian, and foreign psychologists, political scientists, sociologists, linguists since the 1850s, and has been studied within the limits of the theory of social learning (A. Bandura, G. Rotter, W. Mishel), cultivation theories (G. Gerbner), socialization theories (I. Meiroviz, N. Poustmen, M. Rosenberg), use and satisfaction theories (G. Bloomer, E. Katz, F. Palmgrin, K. Rozengren), theories of imposing of the agenda (D. Shou, M. Maccoms), cognitive theories of mass-media.

Despite difference of approaches to studying of mass-media, all researchers converge in one thing: mass media have huge psychological influence on audience in sphere actually activity in its real realization and in the value-sense sphere of the person, transforming his motives, needs, attitudes, value orientations and forming stereotypes. This process concerning youth as the group subject to the greatest influence due to unformativeness of the mechanisms of counteraction to information influence of mass-media appears the strongest and, thus, mass media practically design the young generation's image of the world. From all mass media they separately and especially distinguish the Internet.



At present the Internet-dependence is not an independent disease and is defined by psychologists as a phenomenon. Clinical psychologist K.Young and psychiatrist I. Goldberg are considered as ancestors of psychological studying of phenomena of dependence on the Internet. For the first time the term "Internet dependence" has been offered by I. Goldberg and he understood it as the disorder of behaviour as a result of use of the Internet and the computer, having fatal influence on household, educational, social, working, family, financial or psychological fields of activity of the person. Now the Internet dependence is understood as compulsive desire to enter into the Internet, being off-line, and impossibility to leave the Internet, being on-line.

For today after the quantity of the Internet users Russia overtakes Australia, Spain, Italy, France, Great Britain and Brazil. During the 2002–2009 period the number of the Internet users in Russia has grown from 8 % (8,7 million persons) to 30 % (34,4 million persons), and the level of daily audience is from 2 % (2,1 million persons) to 16 % (17,7 million persons). The basic Internet users in Russia for today are young men at the age of 18–25 years. Alongside with augmentation of the quantity of the Internet users the level of the Internet dependence steadily increases in the world, that is also connected with the fact that a quarter of the Internet users form dependence already after half a year use.

Against this background carrying out of the first All-Russia Internet festival of student's, scientific and creative youth on counteraction to ideology of extremism in the Internet "Internet users against extremism" which passed on the basis of the faculty of psychology of the Southern federal university became especially actual. The Internet festival has passed on September, 3rd, when in our country they celebrate the Day of solidarity in control of terrorism. It is the day of memory and sorrow at victims of the act of terrorism in Beslan.

The festival passed on the basis of several high schools of the country, students, young scientists and teachers of high schools of several regions of Russia have taken part in its work, among them: the Southern federal university (Rostov-on-Don), Moscow state university, Kuban state university (Krasnodar), Siberian federal university (Krasnoyarsk), Stavropol state university, Tomsk state university, Chechen state university (Grozny), Kabardian –Balkar state university (Nalchik) and other high schools.

The festival was opened by the dean of the faculty of psychology the SFU Ermakov P.N. who welcomed all participants and has sounded the main thesis of the festival: "The ideology of extremism is a real threat of our days, threat to national interests of Russia".

Then with a salutatory word there spoke the chairman of the festival organizing committee, rector of the SFU Zaharevich V.G. He has noted the importance of carrying out of the Internet festival when some regions take part in discussion of the problem simultaneously. The Internet was not such a safe thing as it was possible to present it, he told, in the Internet space there were no restrictions and there was no certain culture. The worldnet is used not only by cultural, competent people, but also by people with very specific understanding of culture, people who put themselves above all the



others and use the Internet for achievement of the purposes. Vladislav Georgievich has complained of small quantity of researches of the Internet which practically don't exist, scientists of all countries only start to study the given space that once again underlines the necessity of carrying out of similar discussions, and has wished successful work for all participants of the festival.

Further there has been shown the short-length film which has been filmed shortly before the Internet festival carrying out, – poll in streets of Rostov-on-Don: how the inhabitants of the Don capital treat the extremism? There has passed the immediately problem discussion, representatives of all high schools told about the necessity of counteraction to the ideology of extremism in the Internet, shared the thoughts and workings out in this area.

Within the frameworks of the festival there have passed some more arrangements.

*Competition presentation* "What should be a site of counteraction to extremism and terrorism in information space", as the participants there were invited students and pupils of the senior classes, as the curator of the presentation the associate professor A.V. Miroshnichenko has acted. The first place with the project of the site "ANTI-TERROR" was occupied by the undergraduate of the faculty of psychology of the SFU Igor Shingelevich who with his project will go to the Moscow State University on conference.

*The round table* "The policy of information security: borders of permissibility in counteraction of destructive information influence" which leader was the doctor of Psychological Science, professor, manager of the chair of the general psychology and the psychology of development of I.V. Abakumova. In the work of the round table there have taken part not only young scientists from various regions, but also there have express the ideas the representatives of television and press.

In the Online regime the doctor of Philosoph. Science, professor V.A. Shkuratov has given a *lecture on the War in the Internet: blitzkrieg or not blitzkrieg*.

Following the results of work there have been formulated and discussed references on optimization of counteraction to the ideology of extremism.

1. For higher educational institutions to counteract spreading of the ideology of extremism and speed up the work on information and propaganda ensuring of antiextremist actions in the youth environment, among the Internet users.
2. For higher educational institutions to involve scientific and student's community in working out of theoretical and methodological bases of counteraction to extremism (in all its manifestations) on concrete directions of activity.
3. At the sites of high schools to explain the essence of extremism and its public danger, to form a society's proof aversion of the ideology of violence, and also to get youth to take part in counteraction to terrorism, extremism, nationalism, religious fundamentalism at the Internet resources.
4. On the basis of establishments of high and secondary education to establish a network of the interrelated and constantly operating Internet resources of an antiextremist orientation.



5. To develop the Statement on formation and filling of a substantial part of the Internet resources of higher educational institutions on an antiextremist orientation.
6. To make "The peace to the Caucasus" site <http://mirkavkazu.sfedu.ru> the Zone coordinator for high schools of the SFD and SCFD.

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