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Family and its changes in Cyberspace and the explanation of its future perspectives in the communication era

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Abstract

The advent of new communicative technologies in the present era with the created changes in Cyberspace has disrupted most family functions. In the subject of family pathology, one of the important aspects is the study of damages caused by family changes, the changes that cause deep and main transformations in communication types and family values. Most of these changes are imposed to family from outside. Since the Internet has entered human life, it has caused some concerns for families despite its all advantages and disadvantages. Due to the special features of Cyberspace and new phenomenon most parents have not achieved enough opportunity to identify this space and its functions. So that it caused a secret space for children and other members of family far from any concern and sense of monitoring. In this study, family and its changes in Cyberspace and the explanation of future perspectives in the communication era will be discussed by using review-library method. The results show that the inappropriate use of technology causes problems and social isolation. Thus, some solutions are provided in order to deal with and reduce the internet's threats in different social, cultural, educational and .. aspects

Keywords: family, changes, Cyberspace, communication era

Introduction:

Cyberspace is a new generation of social relations that despite its low age could be welcomed by people. Many people in different ages and social groups have come together in Cyberspace and communicate with each other from a very far distance in the real world. Every day, about 400 million people around the world use the internet and one of the main functions of the internet is establishing social relations with others. Most of us have a relationship with digital technologies and media. Since the generation of smart cell phones has entered the market, the question arises that how does the internet affect the lifestyle of a person? The internet has widely become a main part of our lives (Yung, Abreo) .Thus the present era is the era of the press, group media and communications (Moghtadayi). Today, the Iranian families are exposed to satellite channels, Cyberspace modern media and … that have targeted a part of family process and functions.

Problem statement :

Family is the fundamental basis of society, instructive cell of human life, foundation of society, main center of keeping values, norms and traditions, main basis of social links and relative relations and a center for the emergence and advent of human emotions and social education. It is a unit that is created by marriage and from the beginning, has involved human life as a safe privacy. A person in family learns the process of sociability that is a set of must and mustn't. The important thing in family is to pay attention to values especially family and social values. Social values are among the most basic elements of the social system through which society can be controlled and guided toward decline or ascent. Thus, family should know the factors which cause the creation, formation and strength of values and communications (Kafashi) .The main functions of family in society are: biological and breeding fucntion, supportive function, adjusting sexual behavior, sociability, Compassion and companionship, providing social base, economic function, social control, educational function, and family function as the provider of mental and collective health of members (Schaefer 1989, quoted by Gholam Emami) .

The above items show the significant importance of this small social entity and its effect in all aspects of human life especially children. But this system, like any other system faces adverse events and is not always safe and away from threats. The concept of family in our country has a broader meaning because the intimacy that dominates the Iranian family is not observed in the family of most countries like the west. Today, the methods of attack to the culture and national identity of a country have changed and enemies attack and collapse the foundation of family and the opinions and ideas of the youth through the software war (Sabouri Khosroshahi). Some satellite channels focus on family in a specialized way and the common message of these programs is removing ugliness, promotion of western lifestyle, normalizing the relationship of boys and girls, normalizing the relationships before marriage, and etc. The expansion of these spaces has created some changes in the field of the relationship between parents and children. For example the decrease of the role of family as a source, decrease of the relationship between parents and children, generation gap due to the growth of technology, destruction of privacy between parents and children and etc. In case of family, some issues like instability of marriage, change of marriage pattern, lack of skills for marriage, inability of parents in teaching their children, increased age of marriage and increased sexual diversity in men and etc can be named. The changes that occurred in the area of religion are: the decrease of religious teachings in family, distance between religion and family, decrease of religious privacies in family relations and etc. The cultural cart of the Iranian families has changed a lot that all of them promote the modern lifestyle and the origin of this lifestyle is the western civilization (Akbari). Identity crisis is another consequence of technology development. Three elements of identity namely person, culture and society play an important role in the development of personality. Personal identity forms the unique features of the person. Social identity is linked with different groups and is formed under the influence of them and finally cultural identity is derived from the beliefs that are inside

each person due to his/her interaction with the environment and his/her teachings from the birth to old ages. Since the Cyberspace is a cultural and social scene in which a person puts him/herself in different situations, roles and lifestyles thus the person feels identification and this is a context for the vulnerability of the user personality that will cause multiple personalities for him/her. in virtual Cyberspace, themes or issues of people emerge more than their appearance identity. Everyone tries to express his/her thoughts and interests. The secret personal identity and personal characteristics of people in the internet strengthen and develop personalities. The youth in this space are more vulnerable especially when their identity is being shaped, this risk become more highlighted (Rahimi).

With lots of options and facilities that are given to the youth by public media like the internet, they become familiar with new stimuli and a variety of behaviors. Such an uncertain and continuous identity creates content, in other words the internet is a social area that puts the person in different roles and lifestyles (Akbari). Technological changes have affected social values and norms. The internet has increased the gap between generations. Today, with the arrival of new technologies into family, we observe that parents and children sit together for several hours without talking. In current conditions, the relationship between parents and children have become cold and the two generations look at life from their own perspective and interpret it according to their own attitude because of different social and biological differences. The previous generation (parents) feel that they are wise and experienced and today's generation (children) that want to live according to modern progresses and technologies react against their parents and their deep and experienced advises (Rahimi) . According to the opinion of Iran's deputy of welfare organization the amount of talk between the members of family in the country is only 30 minutes that can be traumatic. Children have different information, tendencies and behaviors in comparison to parents although they live in a similar cultural space. Various factors affect this phenomenon and this gap becomes more day by day. The speed of changes and expansion of relationships with the developed world, more attention of the youth to the globalization programs of culture, the media, daily increase of associations and centers for the youth, except family, to join are some examples (Rahimi).

The internet is a neutral tool that was first created to facilitate studies in scientific and military institutions but how people use it has created a main problem for society and mental health. (Yung 1999, quoted by Omidvar and Saremi) According to some, using the internet is considered as a type of addiction that can highly affect the life of those who use it and create significant disorders (Omidvar and Saremi, quoted by Soroushpour). In general, the internet addiction can be defined as : a type of using the internet that can cause psychological, social, educational or job problems in life (Omidvar and Saremi) .There are a lot of reports about the highs statistics of divorce due to such uses from these technologies,(Beck 1996) Because people may become involved in the internet in such a way to lose spending time with their families. In case of marital relationships, the internet Intervenes in daily functions and creates this feeling in the wife/husband of the addicted person that she/he is an internet widow (Davis 2011). Too much use of the internet has disrupted the lessons and Curricula of many students. In a feeback of teachers, staffs, library and computer staffs, 86% reported that using the internet did not improve the educational efficiency of students because the information in the internet is so much unorganized and unrelated to lesson subjects and does not help them to gain higher scores in standard tests (Barber 1997: quoted by Omidvar and Saremi).

Another disadvantage of the internet is social isolation. Today, the internet is replaced instead of friend and family relations. Those who spread several hours on the internet websites destroy most social values because the person has left his/her social activities and does personal activities. The studies show that perhaps the users of the internet are not aware of their depression and isolation in case of awareness, they may not approve it but the identity of using the internet drowns the person in itself. The performed studies show that the social world in the future is perhaps an isolated world because the internet addicts teenagers according to its development and fake attractions that creates for teenagers (Sabouri Khoramshahi).

The significance of the study:

Since family in all cultures is a center for the formation of identity, no person can be defined apart from his/her family is the main basis for the person and his/her personality (Sanayi). The holy center of family is the best place for educate body and soul (Farasat). One of the biggest social problems in modern societies is the weak basis of family. Since problems in family emerge as abnormal, family and its health are of great importance. On the other hand, the rapid growth of technology affects the functions of family. The amount of using the internet and cyberspace is developing to such an extent that the current generation is called the internet or network generation. This generation includes those who were born from the middle 1990s onward. There is not a considerable difference between the use of different generations from social networks and their motivation to join cyberspaces. The results of studies show that mothers use facebook more than fathers and most facebook friends of mothers are their family members and relatives but fathers communicate more with their facebook friends out of facebook (Bartholomew et al 2012). cyber threats are rapidly transforming into global phenomena. Teachers, parents and policy makers are trying to limit this negative and sometimes destructive behavior. Since most cyber threats and violations are originated from home computers, parents can play an important role in the prevention of these threats (Cassiday brown 2012). Today, one of the challenges of cultures is to deal with this phenomenon because basically the arrival of the internet with western values has created new challenges in other countries. Thus, since some elements in this phenomenon are not consistent with Islamic-Iranian values, thus it can be said that the inappropriate use of the internet can cause many damages. An experimental study showed that using the internet by the youth has decreased family values (Zanjani zadeh) .Thus, it is necessary to perform this study.

Research *method*:

The method used in this study is review-library method.

Discussion and conclusion:

Communication through cyberspace in recent years has found a considerable status among our young people. Social networks affect the personal and social aspects of people, have a role in shaping identity and also affect different economic, social, and cultural aspects of societies. Today, the internet is an appropriate tool to develop human thoughts, on condition to be used in an appropriate way. Healthy communication in virtual world and the need to be aware and conscious about cyber threats has the first priority. Preventing social damages and paying attention to the behavior of children by parents are very important and parents should be proficient and aware of new technologies in the world in order to prevent the dissolution of families. A change in the behavior of children means a change in their attitude and way of thinking. On the other hand, in today's machine world where parents do not have much time to spend with their children, parents select the easiest way to entertain their children. They provide their children with some tools like cell phone, laptop, personal computer and the internet to make them busy in their own rooms, while children go to their rooms physically but enter a bigger space through these facilities especially the internet and face the issues that most parents are not aware of. Thus, parents should increase their knowledge to prevent such dangers and financial, social and family problems.

Solutions:

- Since most users of cyberspace are teenagers and young people, culturalization is necessary to reduce its consequences thus it can be useful to teach how to use this technology appropriately.

- Using capacities like the Mainstream media, newspapers, and magazines for the Institutionalization of culture, holding training sessions and meetings by resources of cultural affairs in cities in order to familiarize and inform parents about new technologies especially the internet and virtual social networks.
- Holding training classes in school to inform teenagers and young people about the advantages and disadvantages of new technologies and how to use them appropriately.
- Setting more strict rules to deal with the Criminals of the internet crimes and implementing these rules. More awareness and consciousness of cyber police about new computer crimes and making efforts to make the deceits of enemies inefficient in this area.
- Spending more times with children outside of home so that children would not feel an emotional gap and go to cyberspace in order to compensate this shortage.
- Designing computer games in such a way to improvise a variety of risks in cyberspace and solutions to familiarize and deal with them.
- Designing and developing some parts of lesson books in order to familiarize students with new technologies, the internet and its potential risks.
- Using the religious teachings such as Enjoining good and forbidding wrong as a social control by every person.

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