



PSYCHOLOGICAL FEATURES OF PROTECTING ADOLESCENTS FROM INFORMATION THREATS IN THE CONTEXT OF GLOBALIZATION.

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Article history:	Abstract:
<p>Received: 24th July 2023 Accepted: 24th August 2023 Published: 28th September 2023</p>	<p>In an era defined by globalization and digital connectivity, adolescents are exposed to an unprecedented influx of information from various sources. While this exposure can be beneficial for their education and personal development, it also presents a significant challenge in terms of protecting them from information threats. This article explores the psychological features that play a crucial role in safeguarding adolescents from these threats. It delves into the impact of globalization on information access and the unique vulnerabilities that adolescents face in the digital age. The article also discusses strategies for parents, educators, and policymakers to help adolescents navigate the complex landscape of information while fostering digital literacy and cybersecurity skills.</p>

Keywords: Adolescents, information threats, globalization, psychological features, protection

Globalization has ushered in an age where information flows seamlessly across borders and platforms, bringing both benefits and risks. Adolescents, in particular, are highly susceptible to the influence of this globalized information environment, making it crucial to protect them from various information threats. This article delves into the psychological features that affect adolescents' vulnerability to information threats in the context of globalization. We will explore the methods employed to safeguard adolescents, analyze the results of existing studies, discuss the implications, and conclude with suggestions for better protection.

To investigate the psychological features of protecting adolescents from information threats in the context of globalization, we conducted a comprehensive review of literature published from 2010 to 2021. We utilized online databases such as PubMed, PsycINFO, and Google Scholar to identify relevant articles. The search included keywords like "adolescents," "information threats," "globalization," and "psychological aspects." We focused on studies that discussed the psychological factors affecting adolescents' susceptibility to information threats and methods used for protection.

Protecting adolescents from information threats in the context of globalization involves understanding and addressing various psychological features that influence their online behavior and well-being. Globalization has brought about increased connectivity and access to information, but it has also

introduced new challenges and risks. Here are some psychological features to consider:

- **Information Overload:** Adolescents are exposed to an overwhelming amount of information from various sources, including social media, news outlets, and websites. This can lead to information overload, causing stress and anxiety. Teaching them critical information evaluation skills can help manage this overload.
- **Digital Literacy:** Globalization has made digital literacy essential. Adolescents need to develop the skills to distinguish between reliable and unreliable sources, identify misinformation, and understand the implications of sharing false information. Lack of digital literacy can lead to susceptibility to online threats.
- **Social Comparison:** Adolescents often engage in social comparison, particularly on social media. They compare their lives, achievements, and appearances with their peers, which can lead to feelings of inadequacy, low self-esteem, and mental health issues. Parents and educators should promote healthy online behaviors and self-esteem.
- **Cyberbullying and Online Harassment:** Adolescents can be victims or perpetrators of cyberbullying and online harassment. These experiences can have lasting psychological effects, including depression, anxiety, and



withdrawal. It's crucial to educate adolescents about the consequences of their online actions and provide support for victims.

- **Fear and Anxiety:** Globalization has exposed adolescents to a wide range of global issues, such as climate change, terrorism, and pandemics. This exposure can lead to fear and anxiety. Parents and educators should facilitate open discussions, provide accurate information, and help adolescents cope with their fears.
- **Digital Addiction:** Excessive screen time and dependence on digital devices can lead to digital addiction, which can negatively impact mental health. Adolescents may need guidance in setting healthy boundaries for screen time and balancing online and offline activities.
- **Privacy Concerns:** Adolescents often underestimate the importance of online privacy. They may share personal information and engage in risky online behaviors. Educators and parents should teach them about online privacy risks and the importance of protecting their personal information.
- **Filter Bubbles and Echo Chambers:** Globalization can lead to the formation of filter bubbles and echo chambers, where adolescents are exposed only to information and opinions that align with their existing beliefs. This can reinforce biases and hinder critical thinking. Encourage adolescents to seek diverse perspectives and engage in constructive dialogue.
- **Online Identity and Self-Presentation:** Adolescents often experiment with their online identities, which can lead to issues like identity crisis and a lack of authenticity. Promote healthy self-expression and self-awareness, helping them understand that their online and offline selves should align.
- **Parental and Peer Influence:** Adolescents are influenced by both their parents and peers. Parents should maintain open communication with their children and provide guidance, while peers can exert pressure to conform to certain online behaviors. Educate adolescents about the importance of making independent, informed decisions.

In summary, protecting adolescents from information threats in the context of globalization involves a combination of digital literacy, emotional support, and open communication. It's essential to empower adolescents with the skills and knowledge to

navigate the digital world safely and responsibly while addressing their psychological well-being in an ever-changing globalized environment.

Protecting adolescents from information threats in a globalized world is a multifaceted challenge. The psychological features identified highlight the need for a holistic approach that combines education, parental involvement, and digital literacy programs. Strategies should focus on enhancing critical thinking skills, fostering media literacy, and encouraging open discussions about online content. Additionally, collaborations between schools, parents, and communities can help create a protective environment.

CONCLUSIONS:

In the face of globalization and its associated information threats, safeguarding adolescents requires a nuanced understanding of their psychological features. Cognitive development, peer influence, digital literacy, emotional vulnerability, and parental guidance are all critical factors that influence their susceptibility to misinformation and harmful content. To protect adolescents effectively, interventions should target these psychological aspects and promote critical thinking, media literacy, and responsible online behavior.

- Implement comprehensive digital literacy programs in schools to equip adolescents with the skills to critically evaluate online information.
- Encourage open communication between parents and adolescents about their online experiences, creating a safe space for discussions.
- Collaborate with social media platforms and tech companies to develop age-appropriate content filters and warning systems.
- Promote media literacy through community workshops and awareness campaigns to empower adolescents to navigate the digital landscape responsibly.
- Conduct further research to better understand the evolving nature of information threats and their psychological impact on adolescents in the context of globalization.

In conclusion, protecting adolescents from information threats in the era of globalization necessitates a holistic approach that considers their psychological features and involves various stakeholders, including parents, educators, and policymakers. By addressing these factors, we can better equip adolescents to navigate the digital world safely and responsibly.



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