



The impact of digital technology on parenting in the modern family
Tomsk Polytechnic University

Natalia Ufa ^a

^a School of Core Engineering Education, Tomsk Polytechnic University

Abstract

Today the family in its classical understanding has lost its dominant role in the society and has begun to fulfill an auxiliary function. Information technologies affect family relations greatly as they sometimes substitute processes that have been previously provided by the family. In this paper the issue of digitalization processes in the particular features of child education in modern families are identified and evaluated. In particular, issues related to the digital safety of children and the impact of information and communication technologies (further ICT) on family relations have been considered. The necessity of a balanced approach to the usage of digitalization possibilities is presented and analyzed. The up-to-date typology of families used in modern scientific sources is given.

Keywords: ICT, digital technologies, digitalization, family, patterns;

1. Introduction

Digitalization has penetrated into all spheres and areas of human activity, and it has not bypassed the family and family relations. Comparing the traditional and modern family models, it is obvious that there is a gap in the stereotypes that characterize each type. The process of family formation in society, the basic rules of family functioning and the features of child upbringing in the digital age have changed.

Like any phenomenon, the emergence of digital technologies in the daily life of the family, having an undeniable positive effect has risks and problems that create new difficulties for people [1]. Even without going into a serious analysis, you can immediately identify a number of problematic aspects associated with the processes of digitalization, and the risks that follow from it. If we take a definite group of family members, the risks will be different. In this paper, I would like to focus on the issue of the impact of digitalization on the children education.

2. Discussion

Digital technologies have an impact on the functioning of modern families, changing the usual roles of its members. In the digital age, a child can have a father and a step-father or a mother and a step-mother, or only one parent can raise him/her. In any case, it is necessary to understand that the main purpose of education and upbringing is to learn to use the needed information and benefits correctly, thereby to adapt to the speed at which our world is developing.

Scenarios for developing modern family relations differ from the usual traditional ones. Now no one is surprised by a family where mother runs a business, and a father raises children. The most common situation is when parents raise their children together, that is, they are either

engaged in freelancing, or have the opportunity to combine the process of children's education and career. It can be explained by the fact that the development pace of digital technologies and their penetration into people's everyday lives is very high. And people are trying their best to keep up with current trends. There is no clear answer if it is good for children or not. But it is worth understanding that they are a completely different generation: the protection from cartoons, gadgets, computers can be bad for them, since modern socialization is built primarily on the information flow. We are raising a generation that needs new trends and we must try to find the balance between virtual and real realities.

The issue of upbringing is also affected by global digitalization. In addition to security in its usual form, parents of the digital age must provide computer security for their child. Parental control is no longer a pointless new fashion gadget feature.

Children began to spend too much time in virtual space. There are many useful things, but there are also people who use child's naivety and trustfulness for their own selfish purposes. Due to the universal availability of information and uncontrolled display of unacceptable materials, the issue of children's digital safety is becoming a national problem. However, the parents are the first people who can guarantee the security; they are responsible for the first Internet familiarity.

There is a system of families' typology, specifically on the use of digital technologies. The traditional type is characterized by low technology density and the intermediate density includes more tele- and audio systems, while multimedia family types possess a greater amount of new technologies (e.g. the Internet and email). Parents in the explorative family type tend to have a higher knowledge of communication services thus they have a greater control and an ability to monitor their children's engagement through ICT [2].

It can be assumed that additional parental control often becomes a cause for misunderstanding of parents and children, and this leads to the creation of tense relations in the family. It is ICTs that increase the "gap" that already exists between generations (for example, relations between grandparents and grandchildren) (tabl.1). Thus, courses for training digital culture are a perfect solution for our society.

Table 1. Communication devices used by different family members

Family role	Smartphone,%	Computer,%
Fathers	80,4	81,4
Mothers	83,2	83,2
Children	80, 2	70,4
Grandmothers	31,8	34,1
Grandfathers	27,6	40,8

3. Conclusion

Today ever - changing world puts new challenges before us that simply did not exist a few years ago. Social groups as well as individuals sometimes have difficulties in adapting to these new phenomena. In terms of their internal dynamics and their position in the modern world, families are often burdened with the overwhelming use of technology by some members, typically by young generation, and also underutilization of technologies by others, mostly elders, creating a communication barrier within the family.

However, ICT help families to organize their life together better, leaving more time for communication and leisure. It turns out that the winner is the one who uses digital technology for

some benefits, but at the same time independent of them. Moreover, the ICT are used much easier by children than by their parents.

References

1. Atici, Bunyamin (2016). Virtual Communities as a Social and Cultural Phenomenon. *Journal of Education and Learning*, Vol. 5, No 3, pp. 149- 158.
2. Trilar, J., Kos, A., Jazbinšek, S., Jensterle, L., Stojmenova Duh, E. (2018). ICT to Promote Well-Being within Families.[Available at www.preprints.org/manuscript/201807.0105/v1][Accessed 05/07/2018].