



THE INFLUENCE OF TERRORIST AND EXTREMIST IDEAS ON THE MINDS OF YOUTH THROUGH THE INTERNET

M.R.Saidov

Lecturer of the Department of Administrative Activities of Internal Affairs Bodies at the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Legal Sciences

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Abstract. The article highlights spiritual, educational, and upbringing measures aimed at preventing the infiltration of terrorist and extremist ideas through the internet and their negative impact on the minds of young people.

Keywords: Terrorism, extremism, international terrorism, internet, mass media, ideology, education.

Today we live in the information age. According to experts, the speed of information has increased several thousand-fold over the past hundred years.

Information has always been as essential to humans as water and air. Every piece of information has a specific purpose behind it. Each person, group, or country analyzes, disseminates, and receives information based on their own perspective. There are also certain purposes behind the dissemination or non-dissemination of existing information. In this context, the influence of terrorist and extremist ideas on the minds of youth through the Internet is one of the most pressing topics of today.

Of course, today we cannot imagine our lives without the Internet. However, it is true that while it makes our lives easier, it also creates a number of dangers. Although social networks are considered one of the most convenient sources of information, various groups use these channels to pursue their goals, attempting to change the worldview and ideology of young people by disseminating various types of information.

In this regard, it should be recalled that the President of our country Sh.Mirziyoyev emphasized the following in his speech. "As you all know, fierce competition, contradictions, and conflicts are becoming increasingly acute on a global scale. Threats such as religious extremism, terrorism, drug addiction, human trafficking, illegal migration, and "mass culture" are intensifying, undermining the beliefs and family values that humanity has adhered to for centuries.

Currently, terrorism and religious extremism have already gone beyond national, ethnic, and religious concepts and have become one of the most pressing problems of the international community.

In recent years, special attention has been paid in our republic to combating extremism and terrorism through education. In this regard, urgent tasks are defined as increasing the legal literacy of the population, pursuing a policy of forgiveness for those who have mistakenly joined extremist movements, whose hands are not stained with blood, and who sincerely regret their actions, and carrying out regular awareness-raising work to prevent the younger generation from joining various destructive movements. It should be remembered that destructive individuals under the guise of religion are skillfully using the internet to trap young people.

Today, the majority of the world's population uses the Internet to stay informed about events happening anywhere in the world, obtain necessary information from anywhere, and have the opportunity to effectively use it in all spheres. However, there are also those who use this tool intended to benefit humanity to achieve their malicious goals, incite people to misguidance and evil, and lead them astray from the right path. Extremist and terrorist organizations are actively using the capabilities of modern computer technologies. Today, 16 percent of the world's population is young people aged 15 to 24. By 2030, the number of young

people is expected to increase by 7 percent and reach about 1.3 billion people. In Uzbekistan, by the present time, the population aged 14 to 30 has approached 10 million[2].

One of the main features of terrorism is clearly manifested in the fact that its supporters act based on the idea that "violence leads to chaos, which destroys the state and facilitates the achievement of power." Another feature of terrorism is the desire to resolve political issues by force, deliberately denying alternative methods in a situation where there is no war, peace prevails, and democratic institutions operate in society.

It should be especially noted that extremism, which has become a global problem today, has never posed such a serious threat to public safety, stability, ongoing reforms, the life, health, and other constitutional rights and freedoms of citizens. Religious extremism remains one of the main links in the complex of causes of crimes against peace and security, the order of governance, and public safety in society[3]. The majority of those entering extremist movements are young people.

Today, when terrorism and extremism are not chosen by any state or nation, they are focusing on a single choice, namely, they are primarily trying to attract young people to the influence of their disgusting ideas.

Protecting our citizens, especially young people and minors, from various alien ideas, "mass cultural attacks"[4], especially the false ideas of religious extremism and terrorism, is one of the most important and urgent tasks.

The propaganda of this type of false ideas is carried out from within or outside of a country, pursuing certain material and political interests, and attempts are made to use any methods, people's spiritual feelings, national feelings, existing socio-economic problems in any society, as well as modern technologies, telecommunications, mass media, and the Internet. Since propaganda carried out through the Internet and social media pages is distinguished by its effectiveness from other types of activities, propagandists of the ideas of terrorism and extremism carry out their propaganda by creating virtual communities based on a well-developed strategy in order to quickly and easily gain the trust of young people. For example, the negative consequences of the unrest carried out through social networks alone can be seen in the events of the Twitter revolution that occurred in a number of Arab countries in early 2011. In particular, the unrest in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, Bahrain, Iran, and Syria was controlled by external forces using social networks Facebook, Twitter, and the proxy-IP service. It cannot be overlooked that the bloody conflicts that tear apart the human soul did not arise suddenly, that targeted information attacks were carried out against these countries for many years. Another example is the mass riots organized in Iran at the end of December 2017 and the beginning of January 2018. At the same time, the fact that the propagandists skillfully used the Telegram and Instagram networks to spread various destructive ideas against the state's governing system among the population at a very high speed means that they have achieved their goals to a certain extent.

At the same time, various religious and political groups in different regions of the world, who are surviving with the help of their patrons, are trying to actively carry out their actions. In particular, the "Akromiylar" community and organizations affiliated with them formed a movement called the "Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan." Members of this movement use attractive concepts such as "freedom," "freedom of religion," "human rights," and various media outlets note that they are trying to recruit the youth of our country into their ranks through various means, for example, through the Internet system.

At this point, a question naturally arises: why has the internet become the main means of propaganda today? To do this, it is enough to list some of the capabilities of a single internet tool:

- unregulated use of information;
- the availability of the information distributor's ability not to disclose themselves when using the Internet;



- simplicity and convenience of using the Internet;
- excessive coverage of the Internet user base compared to any other type of information dissemination;
- the availability of the possibility of placing in it any form of information with a combination of text, image, and sound;
- ultra-speed of information delivery;
- among the general population, especially young people, there is a complete dependence on the internet today, and it is enough to list several such opportunities to assess the capabilities of this social network.

According to experts, the terrorist organization "Islamic State" conducts 99 percent of its ideological propaganda through internet networks, and it can be observed that this propaganda manifests itself in various forms. These are:

- Disruption of the individual's psyche;
- Attempting to convince others of the correctness of one's ideas based on various distorted religious Sharia rules.
- Increase the number of members of the organization.
- Remote control of subordinate structures.
- Conducting "master classes" in various areas for a wide audience interested in the field.
- Constantly replenishing one's budget through various sponsors, etc.

Propagandists of terrorism and religious extremism justify their actions religiously and present themselves as defenders of religion. They are blowing up the "belt of martyrdom" and taking the lives of innocent people. Their declaration of criminals as "sultans of martyrs," portraying them as unhindered entensers of paradise, and setting this process as an example for young people is causing many young people who lack independent thinking and field knowledge and understanding to fall into easy traps.

In society, citizens, especially young people, should know that the information disseminated today on the Internet is correct, reliable, and harmless, or they should be able to distinguish such information from each other. In many cases, the public is concerned that young people perceive any disseminated information as truth. In this regard, it is worth recalling the words of the country's first President I.A. Karimov: "It should not be forgotten that today even a small, seemingly insignificant message directed against human spirituality, drawing strength from the intensity of globalization in the information world, can cause enormous damage that is invisible, but the damage cannot be compensated by anything"[5] - although we emphasized this idea ten years ago, today, when technology and techniques are rapidly developing, we can observe that the practical expression of these ideas is manifesting itself in the life of our society.

In such conditions, one of the important tasks in the upbringing of the younger generation is to educate them in the spirit of love for the Motherland, respect for national and religious values. Therefore, in protecting the youth of our society from the influence of various forms of ideological attacks, it is necessary to pay special attention to the following aspects:

- firstly, through the upbringing of healthy and independent-thinking youth, increasing their spiritual, educational, political, legal, and socio-economic knowledge, embodying the national ideology in their consciousness, and as the final result of education and upbringing, strengthening their sense of love for the Motherland, achieving the formation of immunity to the crimes of terrorism and extremism;

- Secondly, strengthening work on the constant readiness of youth for the threats of terrorist and extremist groups, vigilance, awareness, and alertness, and the constant enrichment of their knowledge and worldview based on the requirements of the time;

- thirdly, in order to further enhance the legal awareness and culture of young people, it is necessary to equip them with spiritual and legal ethical norms based on historically formed national values, and for this, it is necessary to consistently organize and implement work based on mutual cooperation in educational institutions, mahallas, and families.



Young people are the most important link in any religious, political, or social movement or organization. According to research, the majority of social network users are between the ages of 16 and 30[6]. Considering the active participation of most young people in social networks today, it is not difficult to imagine how serious these networks are.

It is known that every social network has the opportunity to make as many friends as you want, join various groups, check shared links, like distributed materials, and promote your views. This increases the likelihood of danger.

Every scientific discovery has more or less negative consequences, and humanity always racks its brains trying to mitigate these consequences. The invention of the airplane later led to the discovery of the parachute, the creation of machines - to the emergence of traffic rules and traffic safety tools. At a time when social networks are becoming a powerful weapon in the hands of various evil forces, it is advisable to jointly develop and popularize modern, reliable methods of protection from them.

Restricting social networks or the internet, as in some countries, is not the best way to prevent such a threat. The following methods should be used to reduce the risk without abandoning their beneficial aspects.

Virtual method. Leaders of major international and national social networks, leading specialists, in cooperation with authoritative international organizations, must come to a unanimous conclusion on searching for and deleting the accounts of organizations threatening global security and stability, and preventing the spread of their ideas on these networks.

Legal method. For the proper flow of information and protection from its harmful consequences, every state must create a solid legal basis for the use of the Internet, in particular, social networks. It is necessary, in accordance with the established procedure, to increase administrative and criminal liability against the dissemination through online publications and social networks of such terrible ideas as aggression, racism, chauvinism, organized crime, the overthrow of the constitutional order, terrorism, religious fanaticism, violence, cruelty, obscenity, elements of "mass culture," drug trafficking, illegal arms trafficking, human trafficking, incitement to suicide, and to strengthen the existing legislative framework in this area.

Educational method. That is, it is necessary to form the etiquette of using the Internet and social networks in every young man and woman. For this, parents should monitor which network their child is on, what they are doing, who they are meeting, and which groups they are joining. From a Western perspective, this may be considered an infringement on the rights of young people. However, from the point of view of Eastern values, it is not harmful to restrict the rights and opportunities of young people in a positive sense. At the same time, we believe it is time to introduce training sessions on the culture of using the internet and social networks in schools and educational institutions. In this regard, it is necessary to create textbooks and teaching aids by specialists in the field.

Propaganda method. To prevent young people from falling under the influence of various harmful trends and information attacks, it is necessary to create and popularize social networks in each country that reflect their political, social, and cultural views and national interests. It is necessary to create groups against the aforementioned global problems on Facebook, Twitter, Odnoklassniki, Vkontakte, LinkedIn, and other social networks, and to more widely involve young people in them.

Perhaps, in the eyes of today's Western analysts, the regulation of users' activities on social networks, the introduction of certain restrictions, and the introduction of amendments to legislation in this area may seem contrary to democratic principles, a threat to human rights and personal inviolability. However, any democratic values, the rights and freedoms of a certain group of people should not threaten the lives and security of others.

In other words, it is necessary to form the internal immunity of social network users against information attacks that may spread through these networks. We must not isolate our

youth from social media, but transform them into representatives of an intellectual society who can properly use it and distinguish right from wrong.

Speaking about this process, our President firmly emphasizes: "People who are responsible for the spirituality and ideological education of our youth - be it the mahalla or religious organizations, law enforcement officers, or creative intellectuals with great influence - all of them must be especially active"[8].

Our negligence and indifference only bring tragedy. It will bring disaster to our children, our families, our entire country. Tell me, does anyone who considers themselves human, who has conscience and faith, want this?

No, of course not. We often feel at ease, thinking that our child is at school, studying, or working abroad. But our simplicity and carelessness are being cunningly exploited by enemies. If our beloved child becomes a weapon in the hands of enemies, who is primarily to blame?

"Isn't it us?" Therefore, we must pay extremely serious attention to education and upbringing in schools, lyceums and colleges, and higher education institutions, primarily attendance[9]."

In conclusion, it can be said that if today we educate young people as individuals capable of boldly entering society through independent thinking through high spirituality and strong knowledge against terrorism and extremism, the results of this education will certainly bear fruit in a very short time. Because today the world community welcomes us with open arms for our country, which has begun a new stage of development. It is no secret that even the most prominent countries of the world look with envy at the opportunities created for young people at the state level.

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