

INCLUSIVE APPROACH AGAINST RISKS IN THE CONDITIONS OF THE GLOBAL INFORMATION ENVIRONMENT

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Abstract

The rapid development of globalization and digital technologies has fundamentally transformed modern social life and expanded the influence of the global information environment on human consciousness, social behavior, and value orientations. Along with new opportunities for communication, education, innovation, and civic participation, the digital environment has also generated complex risks related to cyber threats, misinformation, psychological instability, digital inequality, and ideological influence. These risks particularly affect young people, who are the most active participants in virtual communication and online interaction. Under such conditions, the necessity of developing inclusive approaches against information risks becomes increasingly important. This article analyzes the sociological foundations of inclusive approaches aimed at reducing risks in the global information environment. The study examines the concepts of information security, media literacy, digital inclusion, and social resilience within the context of globalization and digital transformation. Particular attention is given to the protection of vulnerable social groups and the importance of equal participation in the information society. The article also considers international experience and the socio-cultural conditions of Uzbekistan in implementing inclusive information policies and risk prevention strategies. The research is based on sociological theories, comparative analysis, and contemporary empirical observations. The findings demonstrate that inclusive approaches contribute to strengthening social stability, reducing inequality, and ensuring sustainable development in the digital era.

Keywords: Global information environment, inclusive approach, information risks, digital inclusion, youth, media literacy, information security, globalization.

Introduction

The contemporary stage of social development is characterized by the rapid expansion of digital technologies and the growing influence of the global information environment on all spheres of human life. The emergence of social networks, online communication systems, virtual educational platforms, and global digital media has transformed the traditional mechanisms of socialization and social interaction. Information technologies today influence political processes, economic relations, cultural values, and individual behavior, creating a fundamentally new social reality [1].

In the conditions of globalization, information flows spread rapidly across national borders and affect the consciousness and worldview of millions of people simultaneously. The internet and digital communication systems provide broad opportunities for education, innovation, professional development, and participation in public life. At the same time, however, the global



information environment also generates serious risks associated with misinformation, cybercrime, ideological manipulation, online violence, psychological pressure, and digital dependency.

The increasing complexity of these risks requires new sociological approaches aimed not only at technological protection but also at ensuring social inclusion and equal participation in the digital environment [2]. The concept of inclusiveness has therefore become highly important in modern social policy and information security strategies. Inclusive approaches seek to create equal opportunities and effective protection mechanisms for all members of society regardless of gender, age, social status, geographical location, or physical abilities. The relevance of this research is connected with the necessity of understanding how inclusive mechanisms can reduce social vulnerability and strengthen information security in the digital age. This issue is especially significant for countries undergoing rapid modernization and digital transformation, including Uzbekistan, where youth constitute a large and socially active segment of the population [3].

The sociological analysis of risks in the global information environment is closely connected with modern theories of globalization, digitalization, and social transformation. One of the most influential approaches is the theory of the “risk society” developed by Ulrich Beck. According to Beck, technological modernization creates new global risks that are difficult to predict and control. Unlike traditional industrial risks, information-related threats are transnational, invisible, and capable of influencing entire societies simultaneously. Another important theoretical perspective is the concept of reflexive modernity proposed by Anthony Giddens. Giddens argues that individuals in modern society continuously adapt to changing social conditions and increasingly depend on information systems in making decisions about everyday life. In the digital environment, this process becomes more complex because people must constantly evaluate the reliability and accuracy of information.

The theory of the network society developed by Manuel Castells also plays an important role in understanding contemporary information processes. Castells emphasizes that digital communication networks reshape social interaction, political participation, and identity formation[4]. The global information environment therefore becomes not only a technological system but also a social space where values, norms, and behavioral models are constructed.

Inclusive approaches are closely connected with theories of social equality and social justice. Inclusiveness in the digital environment means ensuring equal access to technologies, educational opportunities, and information resources for all groups of society. From a sociological perspective, inclusive policy seeks to reduce digital exclusion and strengthen social integration. Methodologically, this article is based on comparative analysis, interpretation of international reports, sociological literature review, and theoretical generalization of contemporary approaches to information security and social inclusion.

The rapid development of digital technologies has significantly expanded the scale and complexity of information risks. Cybersecurity threats have become one of the most important challenges facing contemporary society. Cybercrime, hacking, online fraud, and personal data theft negatively affect social trust and create insecurity within digital communication systems[5]. The expansion of online financial services and digital transactions further increases vulnerability to cyberattacks.

The spread of misinformation and fake news represents another major risk within the global



information environment. Social media platforms enable information to circulate rapidly without proper verification, creating conditions for manipulation of public opinion and social instability. During periods of political crises, social conflicts, or global emergencies, false information can intensify fear, panic, and distrust toward institutions[6].

The information environment also creates significant psychological risks, especially for young people. Continuous exposure to social networks and virtual communication often contributes to anxiety, emotional instability, internet addiction, and identity crises. Young individuals frequently compare themselves with unrealistic online images and social standards, which negatively influences self-esteem and psychological well-being.

Online violence and cyberbullying have also become serious social problems. Women, adolescents, and socially vulnerable groups are particularly exposed to harassment, humiliation, and discrimination in virtual space. Such experiences often lead to social isolation, psychological stress, and reduced participation in online communication [7].

Another important challenge is digital inequality. Although globalization expands technological opportunities, not all social groups have equal access to digital resources. Economic differences, geographical location, educational level, and social status influence people's ability to participate effectively in the information society. Digital exclusion limits opportunities for education, employment, civic participation, and professional development[8].

Inclusive Approaches to Risk Prevention In the conditions of growing digital risks, inclusive approaches become essential mechanisms for strengthening social protection and information security. Inclusiveness in the digital environment means ensuring that all individuals have equal opportunities to access technologies, develop digital competencies, and participate safely in online communication.

One of the most important components of inclusive policy is the development of media literacy and digital education. In modern society, individuals must possess critical thinking skills that enable them to evaluate information sources, recognize manipulation, and distinguish reliable information from misinformation. Educational institutions therefore play a central role in preparing young people for safe participation in the digital environment.

Media literacy education should include knowledge about online ethics, cybersecurity, privacy protection, and responsible digital behavior. Such educational initiatives contribute not only to reducing risks but also to strengthening democratic culture and civic responsibility.

Inclusive approaches also require the expansion of accessible digital infrastructure. Governments and social institutions must ensure that rural populations, economically disadvantaged groups, women, elderly individuals, and people with disabilities are not excluded from digital transformation processes. Equal access to internet services and technological resources is an important condition for reducing social inequality[9].

Psychological and social support mechanisms also represent essential elements of inclusive risk prevention. Social institutions should provide support systems for individuals experiencing cyberbullying, online harassment, or psychological pressure resulting from digital communication. Counseling services, community support initiatives, and mental health programs can reduce the negative social consequences of information risks. Gender-sensitive approaches are equally important in the digital environment. Women and girls often experience specific forms of online discrimination, cyber violence, and privacy violations. At the same time,



young men are more vulnerable to radical ideological content and aggressive online communities. Inclusive policy must therefore consider the different experiences and vulnerabilities of various social groups.

International Experience Many developed countries actively implement inclusive strategies aimed at reducing information risks and strengthening digital security. In Finland, media literacy education is integrated into school curricula from an early age. Students are taught critical thinking, responsible internet use, and methods of identifying misinformation.

Estonia has become one of the leading examples of inclusive digital transformation. The country has developed accessible electronic governance systems, universal digital services, and advanced cybersecurity infrastructure. Public participation in digital services is supported through widespread technological education.

In South Korea, cybersecurity awareness and digital ethics programs are actively promoted among youth. Government institutions cooperate with educational organizations to strengthen safe online behavior and prevent cybercrime.

The European Union has adopted multiple initiatives focused on combating online hate speech, disinformation, and digital exclusion. European policy emphasizes the importance of protecting human rights and ensuring inclusive participation in digital society.

International experience demonstrates that effective information security requires cooperation between governments, educational institutions, civil society organizations, technological companies, and local communities.

Uzbekistan is currently implementing large-scale reforms aimed at digital modernization and the development of the information society. Internet access, electronic governance systems, and digital educational platforms continue to expand throughout the country. Young people increasingly use social networks and online communication technologies in education, employment, and social interaction.

At the same time, several challenges remain significant within the Uzbek information environment. Differences between urban and rural areas in access to technologies continue to influence digital participation. Certain population groups still face difficulties related to digital literacy and online safety awareness.

The rapid spread of information through social media also creates risks associated with misinformation, ideological influence, and cultural instability. Young people, due to their active participation in virtual communication, are particularly vulnerable to manipulative information and psychological pressure. The Uzbek government has adopted several programs focused on youth development, women's participation, digital innovation, and technological education.

Initiatives supporting IT education and digital entrepreneurship contribute to expanding social opportunities and reducing inequality. However, further development of inclusive approaches remains necessary. Strengthening media literacy education, expanding psychological support systems, improving cybersecurity awareness, and ensuring equal technological access can contribute to increasing social resilience against information risks.

The sociological importance of this issue lies in balancing technological modernization with social stability, cultural values, and human security.



Conclusion

The global information environment has become one of the defining characteristics of contemporary society. Digital technologies and communication systems influence social interaction, identity formation, political participation, and value orientations. Alongside numerous opportunities, however, the information environment also creates complex risks related to misinformation, cybercrime, psychological instability, and social inequality.

The research demonstrates that inclusive approaches play a central role in reducing social vulnerability and strengthening information security. Inclusive policy seeks to ensure equal access to technologies, digital education, psychological protection, and safe participation in online communication for all members of society.

Media literacy, digital inclusion, cybersecurity awareness, and gender-sensitive protection mechanisms are essential components of effective risk prevention strategies. International experience confirms that cooperation between governments, educational institutions, civil society, and technological organizations is necessary for creating secure and inclusive digital environments.

For Uzbekistan, the development of inclusive approaches against information risks is particularly important in the context of rapid modernization and digital transformation. Strengthening sociological research, educational initiatives, and social support mechanisms will contribute to the formation of socially resilient, informed, and active citizens capable of adapting successfully to the challenges of the global information society.

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