

## CURRENT RISKS AND THREATS TO MINORS SPREAD USING THE INTERNET

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The development of digital technologies has opened up wide opportunities for learning, communication and entertainment, but along with this, new risks and threats have emerged for minors. Due to the increasing influence of the Internet on the daily lives of children and adolescents, it is important to consider the potential dangers that arise online [1]. One of the threats to minors spread using the Internet is cyberbullying. Cyberbullying is an aggressive online activity aimed at humiliating or intimidating the victim. It includes harassment on social media, spreading false information, insults and threats. The consequences of cyberbullying can be a decrease in self-esteem, depression, psychological trauma, and even suicidal moods. An urgent threat related to cyberspace for minors is sexual exploitation and online grooming. Online grooming is the process of establishing a trusting relationship with a child for the purpose of his further sexual exploitation. The use of social networks and instant messengers makes it much easier for attackers to access potential victims. The phenomenon of sexting also poses a serious threat, as teenagers can become victims of blackmail and exploitation. Involvement in destructive

communities poses a threat to minors. There are groups online that promote dangerous ideas, including radicalization, suicide, violence, and drug propaganda. Algorithms of social networks can facilitate the entry of minors into such communities, which creates a risk of their negative influence. The dissemination of false information, manipulative content, and destructive ideologies can have an impact on the psyche of children and adolescents. In addition, dependence on the Internet and social media leads to decreased learning motivation, problems with concentration, and deterioration of interpersonal skills. Thus, in modern conditions, the Internet carries not only opportunities, but also significant threats for minors. In this regard, comprehensive cooperation between the state, educational institutions, parents and children themselves is necessary to create a secure digital environment. Improving digital literacy, technical protection measures, and legislative initiatives are key tools in combating Internet threats.

## References

1. **Grigg, D.** (2010) Cyber-Aggression: Definition and Concept of Cyberbullying. *Journal of Psychologists and Counsellors in Schools*, (20), pp. 143–156.