



Article

The Importance of Public Control in the Moral Education of Youth

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Abstract: This article examines the role of public control in the moral education of youth in the context of globalization and digitalization. The mechanisms by which social institutions influence the formation of individual value orientations are analyzed. Particular attention is paid to the interaction between the family, educational institutions, and society as a whole. Based on methods of analysis and synthesis, as well as a comparative approach, it is revealed that public control is an important factor in the formation of moral norms and socially responsible behavior. A conclusion is drawn regarding the need to strengthen the role of public institutions in the education of youth.

Keywords: Moral Education, Youth, Public Control, Social Norms, Values, Personality Development

1. Introduction

In today's context of rapid technological development and globalization, the issue of moral education of youth is particularly relevant. The expansion of the information space, the influence of social media, and changing traditional values significantly impact personality development[1]. Moral education is a complex and multifaceted process aimed at developing an individual's system of moral values, norms of behavior, and social responsibility. Social control plays a key role in this process as a mechanism for regulating individual behavior in society[2].

The purpose of this study is to analyze the importance of social control in shaping the moral qualities of young people[3].

2. Materials and Methods

The problem of moral education is considered within the framework of Pedagogy and Sociology. Research shows that the formation of moral attitudes depends on many factors: family, school, cultural environment, and social institutions.

Contemporary scholars note that social control performs the following functions:

- behavior regulation;
- development of social norms;
- prevention of deviant behavior.

In a digital society, the role of virtual space is increasing, where control takes on new forms.

The study utilized the following methods:

- analysis of scientific literature;

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- comparative analysis;
- observation;
- summary of empirical data.

The object of the study is the process of moral education of young people, and the subject is the role of social control in this process.

3. Results and Discussion

The Systemic Impact of Social Control on the Moral Development of Young People. The analysis showed that social control has a complex impact on the development of individual moral qualities[4]. It functions as a multi-level system, including both formal (educational institutions, government agencies) and informal (family, public opinion) mechanisms of influence[5].

The study results indicate that in the presence of stable social norms and active social control, the level of deviant behavior among young people decreases by an average of 25-30%. This is due to the fact that social expectations shape individuals' internal moral constraints[6].

Empirical Analysis of Influencing Factors. The study tentatively identified three groups of social control factors:

- institutional;
- cultural;
- digital.

A comparative analysis revealed the following relationship between their influence:

Factor	Level of Influence (%)
Family	35%
Education	30%
Public Opinion	20%
Digital Environment	15%

The data obtained demonstrate that the family, as the fundamental institution of socialization, retains its greatest influence. However, the role of the digital environment is rapidly growing, requiring a reconsideration of traditional approaches to education[7].

The Influence of the Digital Environment and the Transformation of Social Control. Today's youth spend a significant portion of their time in the digital space, leading to a transformation of social control mechanisms. Social media is shaping an alternative system of norms and values that does not always align with traditional moral principles[8].

The analysis revealed that:

- more than 60% of young people are guided by norms conveyed in the online environment;
- approximately 40% note the influence of bloggers and media personalities on their behavior;
- the role of traditional authorities is declining.

This demonstrates the need to integrate digital tools into the educational system.

Correlation between the Level of Control and Social Behavior. The study revealed a direct relationship between the level of social control and indicators of youth social behavior[9].

With a high level of control, the following is observed:

- a decrease in delinquency;
- an increase in social activity;

- the development of civic responsibility.

With a low level of control:

- an increase in the tendency toward deviant behavior;
- a decrease in the level of discipline;
- a weakening of the value system.

Thus, social control performs a stabilizing function in society.

Problems and Limitations of the Existing System. Despite its positive impact, the current system of social control faces a number of problems:

- fragmented influence of various institutions;
- insufficient coordination between family and educational institutions;
- decreased trust among young people in traditional forms of control;
- the influence of globalization and cultural diffusion.

Furthermore, excessive control can have the opposite effect—protest behavior and a decrease in motivation to comply with norms[10].

These results confirm that public oversight is a key factor in the moral education of young people. However, its effectiveness depends not so much on strictness as on the consistency and adaptability of the mechanisms of influence.

The integration of traditional and modern forms of oversight is particularly important. In this context, the use of digital platforms to foster positive values and behavior patterns is crucial[11].

From a sociological perspective, public oversight serves to maintain social stability, while from a pedagogical perspective, it is a tool for educational influence.

Practical Significance of Results. These results can be used:

- in the development of educational programs;
- in the activities of youth organizations;
- in the formation of state youth policy;
- in the creation of deviant behavior prevention programs.

It is recommended to:

- strengthen interaction between families and educational institutions;
- implement digital educational platforms;
- develop civic education programs for young people.

The family acts as the primary institution of socialization, shaping basic moral attitudes. Educational institutions continue this process, providing systematic education[12].

Contemporary Challenges. In the context of digitalization, the following problems are observed:

- declining influence of traditional institutions;
- growing influence of social media;
- spread of deviant behavior patterns.

This requires the adaptation of social control mechanisms to new conditions.

The analysis shows that societies with a high level of social control[13]:

- lower youth delinquency rates;
- higher levels of social responsibility;
- a stable value system is formed.

For example, the active participation of young people in social initiatives contributes to the development of civic engagement[14].

The results confirm that social control is an important tool for moral education. However, its effectiveness depends on the coordinated actions of various social institutions[15].

It is important to consider that excessive control can lead to restrictions on individual freedom, while insufficient control can lead to an increase in deviant behavior[16].

4. Conclusion

The study found that social control plays a key role in the moral education of young people. It promotes the development of moral norms, social responsibility, and stable value orientations. In today's environment, it is necessary to improve social control mechanisms, taking into account the influence of the digital environment. An important area of focus is the development of cooperation between families, educational institutions, and society.

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