

Research on Influencing Factors and Countermeasures of Adolescents' Values Formation in the Era of Online New Media

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ABSTRACT

With the rapid development of online new media, it has produced unprecedented impacts on the formation of adolescents' values. This paper delves into the factors influencing the formation of adolescents' values in the era of online new media from the perspectives of family environment, school education, online new media information, and peer group interactions. Furthermore, it explores adolescents' behavioral manifestations and motivations within online new media and proposes policy recommendations to promote their healthy development.

KEYWORDS

Online new media; Adolescents; Values; Influencing factors; Countermeasures

1 Introduction

Online new media, characterized by the immediacy, extensiveness, and interactivity of information dissemination, have profoundly altered adolescents' ways of thinking and lifestyles. Adolescence is a crucial period for values formation, and their values not only influence individual behavioral choices and lifestyles but also hold significant implications for cultural heritage and moral construction in society as a whole. Therefore, studying the impact of online new media on adolescents' values not only helps reveal the internal mechanisms of their values formation but also provides valuable insights for adolescent education and social governance.

2 Influencing Factors of Adolescents' Values Formation in the Era of Online New Media

2.1 The Influence of Family Environment

As the initial social environment for adolescents' growth, the family's internal atmosphere, educational approach, and interaction patterns among members constitute the micro-foundation for adolescents' values formation. Family members, particularly parents' behaviors, values, lifestyles, and the harmony of the family atmosphere, exert profound and lasting influences on adolescents' values. Positive and healthy family education can subtly guide adolescents to establish correct worldviews, life views, and values through words and deeds, fostering their positive moral qualities and social responsibility. Conversely, negative factors in the family environment, such as conflicts, emotional neglect, or poor behavioral models, may distort adolescents' values and hinder their healthy development.

2.2 The Shaping Role of School Education

School education serves as a crucial external factor in adolescents' values formation, providing a comprehensive framework for learning values and ethical norms through systematic curricula, diverse educational activities, and rich social practices. Beyond imparting knowledge, schools emphasize cultivating students' thinking abilities, critical thinking, and moral judgment, enabling them to make correct value choices in a complex and ever-changing society. Additionally, schools reinforce adolescents' recognition and identification with correct values through various means, such as campus culture, teacher role models, and peer interactions, promoting the consolidation and development of their values.

2.3 The Guidance and Impact of Online New Media Information

The rapid development of online new media has unprecedentedly accelerated the speed and breadth of information dissemination, significantly impacting adolescents' values formation. On the one hand, online new media offers adolescents a window to diverse cultures, broadening their horizons and stimulating their thinking, contributing to the cultivation of open and inclusive values. Adolescents can access values from different regions and cultural backgrounds through the internet, enriching their value systems and enhancing their cross-cultural communication abilities. On the other hand, harmful information in online new media, such as violence, pornography, and false information, may mislead and impact adolescents, leading to deviations in their values or even inducing criminal behaviors. Consequently, effectively guiding adolescents to utilize online new media resources correctly and fostering their information literacy and media critical thinking skills has become an urgent issue for society.

2.4 The Facilitating Role of Peer Group Interactions

Peer groups are an integral part of adolescents' social circles, where they share opinions, exchange experiences, and form shared values and behavioral norms. Peer group interactions not only help adolescents establish self-identity and social belonging but also significantly influence their values through mechanisms such as group norms and social comparison. Positive factors and role models within peer groups can motivate adolescents to pursue progress and take responsibility, while negative factors and undesirable behaviors may negatively impact adolescents, leading to deviations in their values. Therefore, paying attention to the influence of peer group interactions on adolescents' values and guiding them to establish healthy peer relationships are crucial pathways for promoting the healthy development of their values.

3 Adolescent Behavior and Motivation in the Era of Online New Media

3.1 Behavior Manifestations and Motivations

Under the pervasive influence of online new media, adolescent behavior displays unprecedented diversity. Ranging from basic information retrieval and knowledge acquisition to proactive engagement in social interactions and the establishment of group belongingness, and further to personalized entertainment and emotional release, each behavior is a unique way for adolescents explore and express in cyberspace. These behaviors are underpinned by a complex and profound motivational system, encompassing the pursuit and demonstration of self-worth, the aspiration for social recognition, and the mitigation and regulation of life pressures. Self-presentation motivation stands out as one of the most salient behavioral drivers among adolescents in online new media.

Through meticulously crafted personal profiles, dynamic updates, and social media interactions, adolescents seek to portray an idealized self-image in cyberspace, attracting attention and admiration from others. This motivation stems not only from individuals' affirmation and pursuit of self-value but also reflects adolescents' reliance on and emphasis on external evaluation during their developmental journey. The motivation for seeking identity embodies adolescents' need for belongingness in the process of socialization. In the virtual communities constructed by online new media, adolescents can find peers who share similar interests and values, enhancing their sense of group belongingness through information and experience sharing and joint activities. This sense of belonging not only provides emotional support and psychological comfort but also fosters the formation and development of social identity. The motivation to relieve stress serves as an important avenue for adolescents to find psychological solace in online new media. Faced with challenges and dilemmas in real life, such as academic pressure and interpersonal difficulties, adolescents often turn to online games, videos, and social media for distraction and tension relief. While this behavior may have a certain degree of negativity, it also reflects adolescents' proactive coping strategies and self-regulatory capabilities in managing stress.

3.2 Correlation between Values and Behavioral Motivations

Adolescents' values serve as the root and guide for their behavioral motivations, shaping their choices and tendencies in online new media. Specifically, adolescents' values mold their cognitive frameworks, emotional responses, and behavioral norms, providing clear guidance and constraints for their actions in cyberspace. Meanwhile, their behavioral motivations manifest the practical expression and realization of their values, reflecting their deep-seated beliefs and aspirations through specific behaviors. Consequently, guiding adolescents to establish correct values is crucial for regulating their behavioral motivations in online new media. Through the combined efforts of family education, school education, and social culture, fostering positive, healthy, and rational value systems among adolescents will facilitate their making sound choices in the online new media environment, safeguarding them from the allure and corruption of harmful information. This will also promote adolescents' healthy growth and comprehensive development in online new media, laying a solid foundation for their future social life.

4 Policy Recommendations for Promoting the Healthy Growth of Adolescents in the Era of Online New Media

Amidst the rapid development of online new media, its increasing penetration into adolescents' lives has profoundly impacted their behavioral patterns, values formation, and even mental health. Confronted with this reality, concerted efforts from all sectors of society, notably the government, families, schools, and communities, are imperative to devise and implement a series of scientific and effective policies and recommendations aimed at fostering a conducive online environment conducive to adolescents' healthy growth.

4.1 Strengthening Online Regulation

The openness, anonymity, and swift dissemination of online new media facilitate the spread of malicious information and illegal activities, often in a more concealed manner. Hence, the government, as the guardian of public interests, must shoulder the responsibility of enhancing online regulation to safeguard adolescents. Firstly, accelerate the improvement of legal and regulatory frameworks pertaining to online new media, clearly defining the scope and criteria of

harmful content, thereby providing a legal basis for regulation. Concurrently, intensify punishments for violations to elevate the cost of illegality, creating an effective deterrent. Given the interdisciplinary nature of online new media regulation, encompassing departments such as cyberspace administration, public security, culture, and education, establish a cross-departmental collaborative regulatory mechanism to enhance information sharing, communication, and coordination, forming a unified force. Ensure the efficient operation of regulatory work through a way of regularly holding joint meetings and establishing joint law enforcement teams. Leverage modern technologies like big data and artificial intelligence for real-time monitoring and filtering of online new media content, promptly detecting and eliminating harmful information. Furthermore, tighten the reins on online new media platforms by mandating robust content review and management systems to curb the dissemination of harmful content at its source.

4.2 Enhancing the Quality of Family Education

Families serve as the cradle of adolescent growth, with family education playing an irreplaceable role in shaping adolescents' values. Consequently, enhancing family education quality is crucial to constructing a healthy online environment for adolescents. Parents should recognize the significance of family education, fostering correct educational perspectives with adolescents' holistic development as the priority. Beyond academic achievements, parents should attend to adolescents' mental health, moral character, and social responsibility cultivation. As adolescents' first teachers, parents' words and deeds exert profound influences. Thus, they must lead by example, fostering positive role models through optimistic lifestyles and honest behaviors. Strengthen communication with children to understand their inner worlds and growth needs, fostering strong parent-child relationships through attentive listening and equitable dialogues. Additionally, monitor adolescents' psychological developments, promptly addressing their challenges and confusions to facilitate healthy growth.

4.3 Reinforcing School Educational Guidance

Schools, vital institutions for adolescents' systematic education, play a pivotal role in nurturing social responsibility and moral values. Therefore, schools should strengthen ideological and political education and values guidance. Integrate these into the curriculum, imparting correct values and moral concepts through courses and seminars, ensuring content is engaging and practical to stimulate interest and participation. Organize diverse educational activities like thematic class meetings, social practices, and volunteer services, enabling adolescents to experience, comprehend, and grow through practice. Given the rising prominence of cybersecurity issues amid online new media's proliferation, schools must bolster cybersecurity education, enhancing adolescents' information literacy and self-protection awareness. By introducing cybersecurity courses and drills, adolescents can grasp fundamental knowledge and precautions, learning to protect themselves from harmful information.

4.4 Facilitating Healthy Peer Interaction

Peer groups constitute a vital component of adolescents' social circles, with their interactions significantly influencing adolescent growth. Thus, fostering healthy peer interactions is essential for building a healthy online environment for adolescents. Schools and society should organize diverse peer activities like interest groups, club activities, and outdoor adventures, providing platforms and opportunities for adolescents to interact and bond. While promoting peer interactions, enforce regulation and guidance, ensuring healthy and orderly interactions through established monitoring

mechanisms and behavioral norms. Prevent and intervene in undesirable behaviors to avert their occurrence and spread. Educate and guide adolescents to foster correct social perspectives, fostering respect, understanding, and tolerance towards others. Emphasize listening to others' opinions, negotiating, compromising, and collaboratively solving problems and facing challenges. Such social perspectives contribute to a positive social atmosphere, promoting adolescents' healthy growth.

5 Conclusion

The formation of adolescents' values in the era of new media networks constitutes a complex and profound social phenomenon, shaped by a myriad of factors encompassing familial environments, school education, information disseminated through new media networks, and interactions within peer groups. To foster the healthy development of adolescents, it is imperative to adopt comprehensive measures from multiple perspectives. By reinforcing network supervision, enhancing the quality of family education, strengthening school guidance, and promoting healthy interactions among peer groups, we can cultivate a salutary and proactive environment conducive to the growth of adolescents, guiding them towards the establishment of righteous values.

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