The Development of “Fact-Checking” Skills among Youth: The Main Condition for Establishing a Legal Democratic State Based on Spiritual and Moral Values

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Abstract: Today, globalization and information processes are developing more and more intensively, “mass culture” and moral corruption are spreading worldwide, as well as attempts to achieve goals by harming the spiritual and moral values and education of young people in the fight against ideological processes, the social danger is increasing and becoming more and more clear. Therefore, the formation of information analysis skills among students is one of the most important issues, and in this article, the formation of “fact-checking” skills among students is taken as the main condition for the establishment of a legal democratic state based on moral and ethical values.

Keywords: “information analysis”, information space, morality, value, democracy, democratic state, informational - psychological threat.

If any state or society wants to create a perfect “moral and spiritual place” in its territory, first of all, it is necessary to enrich the spiritual world and outlook of citizens, especially young people, with national and universal values. It is clear that when values change, people change, and when people change, society changes. So, it turns out that values serve as one of the main criteria not only for personal development, but also for the development and well-being of society.

Informational and psychological threats lead to the erosion of the nation’s spiritual, moral and universal values, indifference to the fate of the country, irresponsibility to the life of the community, immorality, violence, insensitivity, the weakening of the family institution, and the rooting of unforgivable vices, as well as from one’s own history, national mentality, religion and spirituality. causing it to hang up. In such a complex and dangerous environment, preserving moral and ethical values, strengthening independence, meaningfully enriching the life of society and the consciousness of citizens, as well as ensuring socio-economic stability in the context of this, remains one of the most important tasks facing every state.

In fact, the issue of spiritual and moral values is regarded as one of the most urgent issues not only in Uzbekistan, but also in all democratic secular countries of the world. The supply and demand model of information sources assumes that the average consumer of news, on the one hand, wants to receive reliable information, to have objective information about events happening in the world, and on the other hand, he prefers information that matches his views. Since news agencies receive income from advertising, which varies depending on the number of their audience, we can see two situations that encourage them to lie: first, there is no other means of obtaining information about the event; and secondly, the desire to deliver messages in accordance with the wishes of the audience. But this model cannot be applied to fake news aggregators: they do not aim to spread news that is neither relevant to their audience’s interests nor reliable. Fake news sites and blogs created for a political, economic or other purpose usually
do not “live” for more than three to four months.

“In recent years, mass media has become a means of exchange of ideas rather than channels of information transmission. With the increasing activity of bloggers in social networks, the opinions of community leaders are gradually taking the audience away from traditional mass media and Internet information resources. Materials published in social networks, blogs, forums, photo and video hosting are widely discussed among users. Modern means of communication are increasingly becoming sources of unverified or hearsay information” [2]. Such information, consisting of lies, fabrications, and fake information, is called “fake news” in journalism.

Experts call the period in which we live “post-reality” - the period after the truth. Such a definition actually applies to the state of the modern digital society, where facts are less valued than people’s feelings. Now, in the face of subjectivity such as feeling, assessment, impact, personal confession, real-life events and the facts and evidence related to them seem insignificant. For example, the US government has a hard time convincing a person who says a priori that a crime is impossible to prove again with facts that it is possible to commit a crime. In such a situation, the clear presentation of facts loses its real value, but around those facts, various approaches to fake news multiply.

We said that “fake news” is not news for today. So, when did fake, fabricated information in this direction start to be given in the newspaper pages? Such news, which is officially recognized and recognized, has existed since the beginning of printed publications. Experts note that this phrase appeared for the first time in Germany more than three hundred years ago, more precisely in the 17th century. There was a saying in newspapers about unverified information: “the newspaper is there”. “Editors who wanted to increase the number of newspapers and the frequency of their news and considered themselves to be orderly, put a sign consisting of two letters ”NT” - after suspicious, unverified, but attention-grabbing news. It meant “non testatum” – “untested”. Under this sign, information similar to the following was distributed: “A child with two heads and six fingers was born in the territory of Taxis county” [3].

Initially, fake news was distributed in order to win people’s hearts, fabrications that were “unheard of by the eyes and ears”, and distract the public’s attention. On the other hand, typical of traditional publications, the “newspaper on the ground” often has a humorous character, and mainly gives the impression of an attempt to express the author’s imagination and thoughts through laughter.

There are 20 million Internet users in Uzbekistan, and 1.6 million active users of social networks in one day. These numbers show that the Internet has already become a platform where the public’s attention can be focused, and whether the content is credible or not is becoming more important. When we analyzed the national virtual space, we saw that social networks have more messages with links than the first sources of information. The most interesting thing is that official sites refer to information from various social groups without checking. For example, a number of groups in the Facebook social network have become a source of information for our official sites. Therefore, information verification is the main task of mass media and journalists.

Thus, it is wrong, in our opinion, to indicate social network users as a source of information to official sites registered as mass media. Because social network users have a very subjective approach to reality. That is, they sometimes post “fake” information on the network based on thoughts, opinions, considerations, or completely invented reality based on different characters, moods, situations, conditions. The negative consequences of this can be seen on the example of the experience of our registered national sites in recent years. In particular, on March 13, an article entitled “EB may lose its “mandatory” status” was published on the official channel of the “Telegram” social network and the website khabar.uz. The press service of the General Prosecutor’s Office of the Republic of Uzbekistan, which gave an official response to it, should note that the information stated in the article published on the above-mentioned website is completely contrary to the truth. “The Enforcement Bureau is carrying out its work in accordance with the procedure established by the President’s Decree No. PF-5059, signed on
May 29, 2017, and in the future, it is not planned to change or replace the Bureau’s activities, its name, and its directly subordinate superior organization” [4] is written on the official website of the press service.

In February 2017, Science magazine, one of the most prestigious scientific publications in the world, turned “fake news” into an issue topic. Scientists collected 126,000 fake and real news stories that were shared on the Twitter social network over a decade. In their analysis, it was found that lies spread much faster than the truth [5]. Some authors give detailed comments on the distorted form of information such as “fake news”: laughter (joke), incorrect information, manipulative information, organized information, misleading content, misinterpreted information [6]. But it is necessary to distinguish between fake news and misleading and false information content. Information breaches often take the following three forms:

- **Disinformation** – false information: to a person, social group or false information that is intentionally created to harm a person.

- **Misinformation** – incorrect information: information is false, but was not created to deliver.

- **Malinformation** - accurate information, but it is used to harm a person, social group or country.

Disinformation is a type of information that creates a false picture of reality in the audience. Total or partial distortion of facts, concealment of information, incorrect emphasis on the message in communication, etc. are disinformation tools.

As a result of the invention of the Internet, every user who has access to the network has the opportunity to produce information, distribute it and receive information. This opens the door to great opportunities for a person with an active citizenship position. Entrepreneurial bloggers begin to act as journalists, they reflect the changes in reality quickly. On the one hand, this demonstrates the victory of democratic values, on the other hand, it does not recognize the principles of working with the facts of the mass media, and as a result, fakes begin to appear.

Recently, non-professionals have had great opportunities to create “innovation”. An example of this is the news about the flood in Crimea in 2012. In relation to this incident, the official authorities preferred “silence”, as a result, “fake news” began to spread on various blogs. The material that caused the greatest resonance was Yulia Antopropova’s information about the opening of the Neberzhaev Reservoir, published in “Live Journal”, “Facebook”, and "V Kontakte": “If it is not opened, it will block the water of Novorossiysk, if it is opened, Crimea will be washed away”. We had to spend a lot of energy trying to stop people from panicking because of the repetition of unconfirmed information. As can be seen from the above example, even non-professionals in journalism today can spread fast information (not based on the truth) as the latest news of the day. This is mainly done for commercial or entertainment purposes.

It should be noted that the generation of fake news has spread beyond the boundaries of social media and has been popularized by traditional media, primarily television. This is largely due to countless international conflicts and information wars.

Therefore, by the present time, the criteria of a new, creative approach to value and appreciation are being decided, which require the harmony of national and universal values in the field of social-political, historical-philosophical knowledge. Especially researching the place and role of our spiritual and moral values in the formation of the worldview of young people is considered one of the most important tasks of today, not only from a theoretical and methodological point of view, but also from a practical point of view.

**List of used literature**


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