Research on Potential Risks of College Students’ Network Application

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Abstract. With the rapid development of the Internet, the network is playing an increasingly important role, which has a significant impact on people’s work and life, either. Network is actually a double-edged sword, not only brings us infinite convenience, but also produces a lot of potential risks that are not easy to notice at the same time. College students are main users of the Internet who are affected a lot by the network. Thus, this thesis firstly analyzes the potential risks behind the application of college students, and then puts forward some countermeasures to eliminate the potential risks for college students in the use of the network.

1. The Situation of College Students’ Network Application

The rapid development of information technology has brought a wide use of the network, especially for advanced college students, they have been exposed to the network as early as they can. Currently, almost all college students need to use the Internet to study, work or entertain. Most college students have their own mobile phones and personal computers, and in the vast majority of our country, the data network and the wireless network have reached a comprehensive coverage. Therefore, we can come to the conclusion that the use of the network has been very common.

Generally, college students spend far beyond one hour on the Internet everyday, it takes up most of the time for college students. Some Internet addicts do not learn, work and even sacrifice their precious bed time for online entertainment. Of course, there are a lot of college students using the network as a tool to study and research, the time for these students is about three hours a day on average. So we can see, network application costs much college students’ time.

The main characteristic of college study is strong independent and freedom, so the college students can flexibly arrange their time of study, work and the entertainment by themselves. Furthermore, given the various categories and contents of college study, as well as the less pressure from teachers and parents than the junior education, the college students’ mental tension of learning is lower than high-school students accordingly. And even some college students relax themselves too much and enjoy most of their time on online games, chats and other entertainments.

2. Potential Risks Behind the College Students’ Application of Network

2.1 Network has huge impacts on college students

The entertainment of Internet not only occupies the students’ time on study and work, but also has great effects on their learning and working efficiency to some extent. Some of them are addicted to online games, so it is difficult for them to control the time of using internet, even to get out of the virtual world instead of dedicating to study or work in reality [1].

Due to the huge amounts of information on the Internet, there lie vast majority of work ideas, templates and even complete answers but these jobs should be done independently by college students. It seems that, most of the students have the tendency to take the reference answer online when doing their tasks. In the long term, college students’ thinking ability and innovative way of thinking will be weaker sooner or later. When they enter the society, they have to apply the
knowledge they got in college. In this situation, faced with many real life problems alone rather than the simple questions in school, all they need to do is to learn to think about the issues themselves thoroughly. Till that time, you will feel regret - just because it is too difficult to find the lost ability to idea and innovating.

College students have own learning tasks and a small amount of other work to do. If they spend most of their leisure time on the internet, they will shorten their free time at the same time. Clearly, online games, chats or other online activities can not enable college students to enjoy full physical and mental relaxation. Surfing on the Internet can not be a substitute for rest at all. Exposed to the computer’s or cell phone’s screen for a long time, they will feel anxious, depressed, tired, which can seriously affect the health of college students even lead to the death [2].

Some college students, addicted to the Internet world for a long time, are almost isolated from the real world and may not be able to accept the imperfection in the real world easily, even do not want to face the problems in daily life. Some of them will suffer from “Internet addiction”, “Network autism”, “Network syndrome” and other diseases over time.

Because college students have not yet gone out of the campus into the society, and they are still in youth or adolescence, their outlooks on life, values and world view are not mature yet. Information from the Internet will have a great influence on their views. The type of information on the Internet is various. Information that are pornography, gambling and anti-social cannot be completely eliminated, still appeared in many websites. In this situation, college students’ view will be easily distorted by these types of harmful information.

The network is open and free, thus, college students can look for the information on the Internet at random and have enough freedom to carry on the commentary by themselves. Sometimes, they tend to be irresponsible for their own words and behaviors in the virtual world. And when they return to the real world, they will lose self-control little by little just like what they do in the virtual world before, prone to develop wrong outlook on life, values and world view.

2.2 Negative effects of the Internet on the country

China is a developing country now. Compared with developed countries, our nation’s development process is relatively lagging, especially the development of Internet. The Internet is generally viewed as a Western-import. The network, which is an open tool, when lack the basic control, it will be easy to be penetrated by foreign cultures and values. College students are the country’s development potential, when they are exposed to other nation’s culture and values, there is a high probability that they will dilute their inherent national consciousness and lower their sense of national identity even fuzzy this identity. If this phenomenon is not uncommon and serious, it will soon be devastating to the nation as a whole.

Network technology combines database technology, data warehouse, multimedia, communication and software technology. GPS and satellite communication system, both of which we are familiar with, are likely to be attacked specially by some states. For example, they can implant special software in the college students’ cell phones, in order to get their geographical location at any time, from school to work, through the analysis they can easily draw some important geographical locations. And if we have always been in a state of ignorance, then the hackers can steal state secrets randomly, which can become a serious threat to national security [3].

The government fight against cult severely in reality, the cult can not appear in public view, so they use the network to erode college students’ idea. They sometimes release illegal video lectures in some irregular sites and rumors slander their motherland to promote their own illegal concept, cheating of college students so as to achieve their own purposes.

2.3 Impacts of the network on social security

With the development of the network, the development of social software is rising rapidly accordingly. Most people use social network to make friends and entertainment, while some criminals may take advantage of social networks to commit crimes. College students have been in the “ivory tower”, to a large extent, they have not taken on the examination of the real world, so they tend to believe the strangers easily through the social network. Some college students even
ignore the words from their parents and teachers, and then secretly meet with online friends. This type of cases finally led to numerous misfortunes.

Social network have broken the limits of time and space, so it can be carried out at anytime and anywhere. At the same time, through the social network, friends do not need to consider their social status, social relations and other inevitable factors exist in real life. Instead, they are free to express their true feelings, so most college students tend to choose social network. For a long time, some college students begin to ignore or even hate the interpersonal communication in reality. During dinner time, at the bus station or a party, we can easily find that most of the college students are accustomed to holding their mobile phones doing their own things, free from real life.

College students can freely express their views and speech on various websites, whether or not their views are accurate and objective, whether it causes harm to society or not, they often do not need to pay the responsibility for their comments. It is found that college students tend to lose self-control and destroy things under the unlimited network atmosphere. Accordingly, they tend to be undisciplined and immoral even destructive to society.

3. The Root Cause of Network’s Hidden Trouble

3.1 Network characteristics determine the existence of hidden dangers

The network is open, free and the invisible. College students use the network to carry on various activities for a long time, which cause them to be isolated from the real society and indifferent to people or matters in reality. Free from all kinds of behavior and moral norms in real life, college students tend to bring down his standard, while their undisciplined behavior is likely to lose the bottom line, and then go to the road of crime.

The development of China’s network is relatively slow, and the network legislation has not really been on the agenda yet. The lag of the network legislation leads to poor internal management of the network, while the major websites, game software and social software, such as these platforms mentioned above don’t disseminate related information properly. Furthermore, due to less investment in network management, there is no adequate human and financial resource to invest in the management of these informal websites and software, which leads to widespread of harmful information.

3.2 College students’ own characteristics is an important factor

Currently, the majority of college students are the only child in their family, and their childhoods are full of meticulous care, so many college students tend to be self-centered during that period. Once they enter the so-called “small society” - college, they can not be treated as a “center” any more, and no one can help them solve everything till then. There is a high probability that they cannot accept the frustration in reality and hate the people around them. Because of these feelings, they choose to escape the reality through the network. And worse then, the people who they “knew” through social network is likely to deceive them again, which led to a vicious cycle, at end they will lose the hope for life little by little.

Most college students have just liberated from the intense college entrance examination. At the same time, in front of them there is a very relaxed learning environment, so college students find it easy to be over-relaxed in this informal atmosphere and cannot moderately achieve a balance between their study and leisure time. Faced with all kinds of temptations on the Internet, the students can easily drop into it.

3.3 The measure is soft and weak on criminals

Network crime has strong concealment, when we face crime by internet is often at a loss what to do so for some. If it is not very serious internet fraud, we often choose to ignore, then it will encourage criminals for unfair activities through the internet. Furthermore, the internet as a new thing, the law is inevitable will appear lag, so it also allows some people who lack of legal awareness to utilize loopholes in the law.
4. Countermeasures of Network’s Hidden Dangers

4.1 Enhance their diathesis

College students should correctly understand the network, and view it as a tool to study, work and live instead of being negatively affected by it. As a college student, you are expected to have a clear pursuit of future as well as arrange the surfing time and leisure time properly. Whether in real life or in virtual world, college students ought to consciously observe moral standards and behavior norms in real life, and strengthen the self-discipline for the purpose of resisting bad behaviors at the same time.

4.2 Strengthen humanistic education

The major colleges and universities are required to strengthen the humanity education for their students and intensify the ideological and political education work. Given the fact that college students have not yet entered the society and their sense of self-control is still relatively poor, so it is necessary for colleges and universities to limit the surfing time and supervise the contents accordingly. Colleges can take measures, for instance, to power off the network during bedtime to prevent students from gaming all through the night, thus ensuring their sleep. Apart from this, colleges can also cooperate with student committees and other organizations to organize some activities, which should contribute to the health and harmony of students’ relationship. Furthermore, related organizations can set reward mechanism, such as adding-grade mechanism to encourage every student to participate in. It allows college students to enjoy themselves through activities instead of the network, which can also promote relationships between each other.

In addition to the cultivation of students’ professional skills, colleges and universities should also focus on cultivating their ability of distinguishing between right and wrong and developing students’ sense of self-protection. Through network platform, colleges can enhance the propaganda of positive energy and provide related methods of self-protection. In detail, they can use the Internet to recruit compositions and take advantage of “WeChat Subscription” to issue documents on the public essay, which will surely affect students’ way of thinking imperceptibly and guide them to set up the correct outlook on life, values and social values, either.

4.3 Strengthen administration of network

Increase investment in network management, set up network level and prevent the dissemination of information concerning college students’ physical and mental health to the utmost. Because the network coverage, hidden strong, high degree of freedom, if we want to make good management of the network, we have to invest a lot. But we can not give it though it need high investment, is difficult to flinch. Related departments are expected to strengthen the administration of the forum, micro-blog and other college students active network platform, improve the network behavior norms and accelerate the process of network legislation.

There is an old saying goes that, nothing can be accomplished without norms or standards. Only clear laws and regulations, norms and standards can make network administration migrate to the right track. Fight against online pornography thoroughly; manage game websites to certain standards, ban some websites which do harm on physical and mental health of college students promptly. In terms of formal websites, related departments can establish credit files, if they break the rule and disseminate harmful information, they will be fined and the people who are responsible should be investigated for legal responsibility, listed in the credit files and publicized timely. Websites that have bad integrity and discipline must be punished or even be canceled its qualification for further operation.

5. Conclusions

College students are viewed as new forces of our nation, and also rare human talents resources. It is very important for college students to use the Internet correctly. So, related departments have to strengthen the administration of the network. As is known to us all, network is a new thing with two
sides, and its administration faces enormous challenges. We must clearly grasp the pros and cons of the network to guard against the harm it brings. Besides, we are expected to actively take right preventive measures to eliminate the potential risks of network application, so as to promote the safe and healthy use of the network for college students.

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