

# Socio-cultural and philosophical problems of the information society

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**Abstract**—In the transition to the information society, a number of sociocultural and philosophical problems arise that change the worldview of modern man. The study of these changes in the minds of people was engaged in philosophers of the 20th century: M. Castells, E. Toffler, D. Bell etc.

**Keywords**—information society, social consciousness, individual consciousness, worldview

## I. INTRODUCTION

There are various ways of communicating people among themselves in the modern information society, but this often leads to a decrease in personal contact and expansion of the virtual space.

The modern information society forms a new image of modern reality - consumer, entertainment reality (supermarkets, hypermarkets, entertainment centers, electronic services, etc.), that is, the opportunity for any person to receive any "service".

Moreover, practically any sphere of life activity of a modern person in modern society falls under the category of "service". Modern man is represented in relation to the "consumer" when referring to any area of human activity: education, health, tourism industry, etc.

## II. METHODOLOGICAL BASIS OF THE STUDY

In this article, we use the method of "philosophical comparative studies", which allows revealing the general and the particular in various sociocultural and philosophical systems based on a comparison. Using "philosophical comparative studies", we can identify common sociocultural and philosophical problems of the information society.

## III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In the 17th and 18th centuries, both in Russia and in Western Europe, people sought to "unravel the secrets of the world, the Universe", and were interested in both natural science issues and humanitarian issues. Nowadays, it is much easier to access information and communication resources on the Internet and "just read", practically without thinking about what they read.

The "spiritual values" of modern society — friendship, love, mercy, compassion, empathy, etc. — have changed, transformed. The modern world of consumer culture considers "material values" much more important than "spiritual values", sometimes even the cultural relationship between generations is lost [1].

The main social problems of the modern information (consumer) society are considered further:

1. Areflexivity. We called this problem "areflexivity" in contrast to "reflexivity". Areflexivity is the ability of a person to conceptualize and draw conclusions, emphasizing the absence or, more often, the unwillingness of a modern person to analyze social events taking place in the modern world. It is much more convenient to take a different social position.

2. Loss of ability to think independently. Modern man is "used" to the fact that he has helpers (technical means) almost at any moment. Currently, scientists are conducting experiments, trying to understand the influence of "information culture" on the consciousness of modern man. Among the negative consequences of this influence, scientists note the "destruction of logic" in modern man. For example, students are not able to write off a simple sentence from the blackboard, read the text from the book; even an adult often writes with spelling mistakes in a letter. As Luciano Floridi (Italian philosopher who studies the problems of the modern information society) writes that a person simply "copies" texts from the Internet, sometimes without thinking about the correctness of writing phrases and sentences [2]. One of the brightest negative phenomena is the "unwillingness" of modern schoolchildren to "read books". No "tricks" and even exams (OGE, EGE) can not fully "turn" the modern student to the book.

3. Change the most cognitive question to being. Earlier, I. Kant, a German philosopher, asked questions: "What can I know?", "What can I do?", "What can I hope for?". At present, a modern person asks a single question: "Where can I find information about any phenomenon or event?" without even going into the essence of this information. The philosophers of the 20th century write that modern man has become a simple "compiler" of past ideas and events.

4. Virtualization of modern life. One of the complex social problems is the so-called "return" of a

person from the “virtual world” to the “world of reality”. According to scientists, too long a stay of people in the “virtual world” is “addictive”; therefore when “returning”, people experience psychosomatic disorders and even inappropriate human behavior. Some scientists are trying to prove that it is quite possible to speak already about the “Internet addiction” of a modern person.

For example, E. Toffler in his works speculated that social institutions will change in the modern information society. According to E. Toffler, many people in a modern family will live in "electronic cottages", and only information will become the main product of modern society. “Information” will be the main consumer product in the modern information society. A person will be immersed in the information environment, where he will, on the one hand, consume already created “information”, on the other, create new “information”, and on the third, distribute, sell “information” to other people (consumers) [3].

M. Castells in his research highlights the features of the modern information society:

1. Modern information systems create a single source of information throughout the world and in many respects influence the worldview of a modern person;

2. In the modern information, society there is a social and cultural division of the participants of communication: the user - the viewer.

3. Ability to select the method (channel) of obtaining information. At present, there are a lot of ways to obtain information; each person chooses “information” in accordance with his goals and needs, the value and educational orientation of a person [4].

#### IV.CONCLUSION

The modern philosophy of the 20th century (especially futurology) predicts the transformation of the entire social space into a “global computerized space”, where people’s activities will focus on processing and producing various “information”.

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