

Cyberbullying and its Damages: The Digital Age in Connection with Young People

Gennaro Imperatore

Ministero Grazia e Giustizia - Italia
ass.paideia@inwind.it

Antonella Casino

Associazione "Paideia" - Italia
ass.paideia@inwind.it

Abstract

The digital and highly technological age in which we live involves adults and minors and in particular the world of school and teacher professionalism, which has had to quickly adapt the way of teaching and relating to children. While young people are digital natives perfectly at ease with the new forms of communication and knowledge, teachers are still partially affected by the digital device. However, digitization certainly offers new and broad possibilities in the field of teaching, research, and communication but at the same time, it has generated sometimes pathological forms of depersonalization and an impoverishment of the social dimension. The complex network of globalization and fast communications characterize the contemporary world but this phenomenon is investing, damaging it, the web of human and social relationships of the so-called post-modern society that Bauman defines as a "LIQUID" society where this term means a substance at the same time immaterial and elusive state, fast and impalpable and therefore provisional. Reflection is all the more urgent with respect to this provisional and inconsistent character that implodes in the new generations. Let's consider that according to the data communicated by the European Commission, two out of three children between the ages of 8 and 10 regularly access the internet; half have a new generation mobile phone and according to data released by the Italian Ministry of Communications, 30% claim to have been bullied through these technologies. The aspect of anonymity, of the rapid circularity of the data and of the denial to the oblivion of what happens on the net, amplifies and makes this phenomenon even more dangerous and pervasive which involves many pre-adolescents and adolescents, induced by emulation or by lack of empathetic feeling (the recent alexithymic pathology) to perpetuate such aggressive actions towards their peers.

Keywords: digital natives, digital device, "LIQUID" society, alexithymic pathology