

POINT OF VIEW

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SUICIDE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

ABSTRACT

The article provides a viewpoint, linking the decline in the suicide rate the last two decades throughout the world, according to the WHO data, with the development of information and communication technologies. Communication in social networks leads to a reduction of emotional alienation in people, contributes to the disappearance of feeling of loneliness. The feeling of community, involvement in various groups of people, joint activities lead to the realization of oneself as a full-fledged person, not prone to suicide.

In the last two decades there has been worldwide a clear trend of reduce the number of suicides and crime. The average global suicide rate from 2000 to 2012, decreased by 26%. Marked reduction in suicidal index and aggression on a global scale in recent decades cannot be explained in «sociological» hypothesis for the origin of suicide. The decrease of suicide and crime can explain the massive use of messengers. Instant messaging applications allow communication and to communicate easily, quickly. Social networking leads to a decrease in the level of «alienation» among people and contributes to the disappearance of loneliness. Alienation is a psychological cause of suicide. Communicate through instant messengers leads to a sense of community, involvement in various groups of people, sharing activities that leads to the realization of themselves as a person. Humanization of communication leads to a decrease in the level of alienation among people, leads to the disappearance of feelings of loneliness and existential «abandonment» in the world. The globalization of social, cultural, economic and political processes led to positive phenomena - reduced the number of indicators of aggressive behavior of personality. Aggressive behavior of personality is manifested in acts of self-aggression and external aggression. Suicide is now considered an extreme form of self-injurious behavior. The rate of external aggression of the individual – level violence and crime reduced. Crime in the United States during 1996-2005 has declined by 30%. During 2001-2010, the rate of violent crime in this country decreased by 20%. The introduction of information technology strongly affects the socio-historical development of human society. Humanization of communication leads to a decrease in the level of alienation among people, leads to the disappearance of feelings of loneliness and existential «abandonment» in the world. Humanization of interpersonal relations in modern society is the cause of the decrease of aggressive behavior around the world.

Keywords: suicide, suicidal index, messengers, crime, humanization, aggressive behavior, autoaggression, existential «abandonment» into the world, cybersocialization, interpersonal relations, «sociological» theory of suicidal behavior.

The problem of suicide agitated the minds of human society since ancient times. According to the eminent philosopher of the twentieth century by A. Camus believed that there is only one serious philosophical problem – a suicide problem. In the book “The Myth of Sisyphus”, he writes on the first page: “To judge that whether there is a life to be lived or it’s not worth it – so to answer the fundamental question of philosophy” [3].

The World Health Organization in 2014 published its first report on suicides in the world “Preventing suicide: a global imperative” in order improve the understanding of the public health value of suicide and to make suicide prevention one of the priority issues in the global agenda for public health [7]. According to the report in the world every year due to suicide kills more than 800 thousand people – around one person every 40 seconds.

The beginning of the XXI century differs from the past the XX century a marked decline in the number of suicides. According to the WHO, average global suicide rate from 2000 to 2012, decreased by 26% and amounted to 11,4 per 100 thousand population [7].

The rate of suicide in all parts of Europe decreased by 24-40%, following an increase observed in the mid 1990 [8].

The leading countries in the number of suicides per 100 thousand population:

Guyana, Belarus, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Latvia, Russia, Estonia, Sweden and Finland – demonstrate a sharp decline of suicides during this period. In Belarus in 2012 the suicide rate was 18.3 per 100 thousand (in 2000 – 35,5), in Hungary in 2012 to 19.1 (in 2000 – 25,7), in Kazakhstan, respectively – 23,8 (37,6), in Lithuania – 28,2 (44,9), in Latvia 16,2 (29,0), in Estonia – 13,6 (25,0), Japan is 18.5 (18.8 in) in Finland was 14.8 (20.8 per). In Guyana, where the highest rate of suicide in the world also recorded a decrease in the number of suicides - 44.2 (48,4). Of those affected by suicide countries, only in Finland in 1986 was developed in a successful national project for the prevention of suicide aimed at improving the diagnosis and treatment of depression, improving the availability of mobile mental health teams [4].

In the UK in 2012, the suicide rate was 6.2 per 100 thousand (in 2000: 7,8) in Germany – 9,2 (11,2), in France, and 12.3 (14,9), India - 21,1 (23,3), in China and 7.8 (19,4).

In the Russian Federation is the peak of suicides occurred in 1995, 41.1 cases per 100 thousand population and in 2001 to 40 cases per 100 thousand population [1]. In the country since 2002, he planned a steady trend towards reduction of suicide, despite the economic crisis in 2008 and 2013, According to the

WHO, in 2013-2014 in Russia per 100 thousand inhabitants accounted for 19.5 suicides. Therefore, the suicide index in the Russian Federation for 13 years has decreased by 50%.

Most researchers of suicide see the main cause of suicide in the socio-economic crisis, causing massive unemployment and declining living standards («sociological» hypothesis of suicidal behavior). The founder of «sociological» theory of the origin of suicide by E. Durkheim considered suicide as the result of a rupture of interpersonal relations of the individual, his alienation from the social group to which he belonged for a long time: «the Rate of suicide depends on sociological reasons, and the contingent of voluntary deaths is determined by the moral organization of society» [2].

Reduction of suicidal index on a global scale over the last decades was not due to «sociological» theory of the origin of suicide put forward by E. Durkheim. He linked the surge in suicides with the economic and social crises.

Over the last 20 years the world experienced two big economic crisis – the Asian financial crisis in 1998 (at that crisis were involved Russian Federation) and the global financial crisis of 2008. These crises have not led to a surge in suicide index.

The globalization of social, cultural,

economic and political processes led to positive phenomena - reduced the number of indicators of aggressive behavior of personality. Aggressive behavior of personality is manifested in acts of self-aggression and external aggression. Suicide is now considered an extreme form of self-injurious behavior.

The rate of external aggression of the individual – level violence and crime reduced.

Doctor of legal sciences V. E. Kvashin in the scientific article «Crime in the United States: trends and countermeasures» writes that the crime in this country over the 1996-2005 decreased by 30% [9]. Within this General trend, particularly noticeable is the annual decline in violent crime. Its level decreased by 33.4%, including murders – on 36.7%, robberies by 40%. During 2001-2010, the rate of violent crime has decreased 20%, including homicide by 14%, robbery by 20%.

The decrease of suicide and crime is due to the universalization and globalization of interpersonal relationships in modern society. Communication between people today has reached the highest level of adaptability. Progress in the development of personal computers in the 90s of the XX century (for example, «chat» communication) and mobile phones has made possible the exchange of messages within seconds (or instantly). It allows people to communicate in real time, while being even tens of thousands of kilometers from each other.

Since the production of the first cell phone by Motorola in 1983 the massive use of mobile cellular communication began in 1995. With the help of instant messaging, you can exchange not only text messages but also images, audio signals and videos.

What is an instant messenger (SMS, Whatsapp, Instagram, Skype, etc.), knows almost everyone. It is an indispensable attribute of modern society, allowing to build communication and to communicate easily, quickly and often for free. Social networking leads to a decrease in emotional alienation from people contributing to the

disappearance of a sense of loneliness and existential «casual abandonment in the world.» Alienation is a psychological cause of suicide. Communication through instant messengers leads to a sense of community, involvement in various groups of people, sharing activities that leads to the realization of themselves as a person.

The introduction of information technology strongly affects the socio-historical development of mankind, the fate of the individual, his place and role in this global historical process. In this regard, the candidate of pedagogical Sciences V. A. Pleshakov allocates one-fifth of the information technology revolution associated with the development of digital, mobile and Internet technologies [5]. In his opinion, if the evolution of humanity viewed from the point of view of evolution of information technology (cyberevolution), we can say that at the turn of XX-XXI centuries in human society has entered a new stage of development – the era of cybersocialization of the person – the life of the individual in cyberspace. Changing even the mind of modern man: «Cybersocialization – socialization of the individual in cyberspace is a process of qualitative changes in the structure of self-consciousness and the requirement of motivational sphere of the individual, occurring under the influence and as a result of human use of modern information and communication technologies...» [6].

Extensive development of communication technologies, humanity unites in a single socio-cultural integrity. Gradually formed a new humanistic culture in which a person will be treated as an end in itself of social development. A person in such a society is less likely to be exposed to forms of aggressive behavior. As a result of the universalization and globalization of interpersonal relationships has decreased the number of homicides and suicides in the modern world.

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