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UDC 172:176

Original scientific work

Received: 24.04.2020

Approved: 07.05.2020

Page: 29-40

THE INTERNET AND SOCIAL NETWORKS AS UNLIMITED SPACE FOR CONCENTRATION AND MULTIPLIED PRESENCE OF PEDOPHILES

Summary: The transformative influence of the Internet on every aspect of human life and activity is so all-reaching that only by deep abstraction we can recall how life went on before its broad distribution. In its essence a communications technology, the Internet brought the most drastic change to the way we receive and send messages of every kind. And while in most cases it was an exceptional benefit, human nature remained unchanged, so a part of the vast global network became a ground for the expression of various negative tendencies, from asocial and antisocial to outright criminal ones. Due to its decentralized nature and a practical impossibility for the regulation of the largest part of the Internet, it began to host and make available content and possibilities that are on the other side of both the law and the public morals. Pornography is generally the most searched term on the Internet, and pornographic websites and platforms host vast collections of pornographic content. And while the mainstream part of the Internet is regulated in a certain measure, the remaining part is not, and in that virtual and practically unlimited space sexual predators, including pedophiles, can satisfy their urges and tendencies in ways that are not possible in the purely physical world. Internet pedophiles can contact potential victims far easier, as well to access and distribute child pornography content. Almost every communications platform on the Internet brings the danger of involvement of pedophiles, and they can communicate with potential victims without fear of being noticed and caught. Security services fight pedophilia on the global network as well, but due to the nature of the problems results are marginal. The key role in the prevention of the Internet pedophilia is in raising of awareness level of importance of security culture on the Internet in parents and children – as the parents have prepared children for dangers in the physical world, they have to prepare them for potential dangers in the virtual world of the global network as well.

Key words: The Internet, pedophilia, child pornography, social networks, security culture

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Introduction

Video game manufacturers claim that it is difficult to make a video game, especially a multiplayer online one, without having to listen to accusations and mostly unfounded comments about the presence of pedophiles in multiplayer video games. Those who are not gamers consider pedophilia an irremovable part of the gaming culture¹.

On the other side, the corporations that earn money on the Internet have no moral problem whatsoever, despite the odium that threatens to contaminate the Internet, which even now seems an independent being. Child pornography and pedophilia on the Internet invoke protective ethical mechanisms of society. Nonetheless, these mechanisms, aside from many words, for time being have no significant effect. That is so because these mechanisms put the blame solely on the Internet while abolishing everyone else who is much more suited to react and protect the children – from parents, schools, to countries that can and shall do much with their criminal protection mechanisms. Still, the numbers are frightening. They, in general, always have an equivalent in adequate amounts of money that creates a strong dam that repels every effort from competent social factors to point to dangers that threaten the children and young adults from the bad content on the Internet.

The Internet and sexuality

The term “pedophilia” originates from Greek words *παιδί*, a child, and *φιλία*, friendship. The pedophiles, as defined in the fifth edition of Diagnostic and Statistical Manual for Mental Disorder² are individuals who are mostly or exclusively attracted to prepubescent children, generally under 13 years of age. There is a clear classification of pedophiles regarding which developmental stage of children attracts them. Those attracted to children entering puberty are called hebephiles. Those attracted to pubescent children are called ephebophiles. American Association of Psychiatrists in their *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorder* from 1994 defines pedophilia as an act of imagined joining in sexual activities with a prepubescent child as a preferred or exclusive way of achieving sexual pleasure. Sexual abuse of children is defined as a relation be-

¹ <https://www.killerguides.net/blog/social/which-online-games-attract-pedophiles>, retrieved April 20th, 2020

² Diagnostic and Statistical Manual for Mental Disorder (*DSM*) is published by American Psychiatric Association. In the manual mental disorders and diagnostic criteria are listed. The manual is widely used around the world. *DSM* was first published in 1954, and its fifth edition, *DSM-5* was published in May 2013

tween a child younger than 14 and an adult, where a child is an object for sexual pleasure or an object for fulfilling the sexual needs of an adult³.

Pedophilia as an unnatural attitude and sexual deviance toward children of prepubescent age exist as long as the sexuality itself. In earlier times it was not particularly punishable⁴, and only in modern times states and societies introduced legal codification of this behavior, promoting the legal term “age of sexual consent” as the basis for legal liability or the absence of it for any sexual act between an adult and a child or a young person⁵.

Diverseness of sexual behavior through historical eras and spatial continuums confirms the standpoint that it is not separate from the way of life of a community as a whole, and that with entering the world of the ICT and the Internet communication the subject becomes if not sentenced, but predisposed for “loss of directness of reality⁶” which gives place to the virtual and combining and intertwining in, at moments, unrecognizable entity.

Before the ICT was implemented in everyday life, the pedophiles had a narrowed field of maneuver for their activity. They were visiting playgrounds, schoolyards, and they had usual methods of work that were consisting of watching, following, asking questions, giving sweets, bubble gums, chocolates, which implied serious exposure of pedophiles to serious risks.⁷

Usage of the Internet changed the world and initiated a new “civilization in the making” where sexuality is not a taboo in the form it was even in the late 20th century. This is only one of the phenomena promoted by the coming generation. The demand “all and now”, a *credo* of the armies of young people mostly relates to the sphere of intimate relationships and sexuality in general, which sometimes gives shockingly bizarre results⁸. Oversimplified sexuality reduced to Freud’s Id is a phenomenon that joined other phenomena of the modern society out of which the coming generation created a dominant view on life and moral good and evil.

³ Schnelder, H, J: Seksualna zaporaba djece - nova viktimološka i kriminološka saznanja, Split, 1999, p. 183

⁴ *Flowers, Ronald B: The Victimization and Exploitation of Women and Children: A Study of Physical, Mental and Sexual Maltreatment in the United States. McFarland, Jefferson, 1994*

⁵ Pedophilia flourished in Europe until the end of the 18th century. The juveniles comprised 50% of all the persons involved in pedophilia in Paris. A scandal in England from 19th century led the government to raise the age limit of sexual consent from 13 to 16 years. The reports depict a girl, Elisa Armstrong, who was sold for five pounds and then taken to midwife to confirm her virginity. In England prepubescent girls from English, Scottish and Irish villages were lured to London with promises of regular and lucrative job.

⁶ Žižek, Slavoj, *Ispitivanje realnog*. Novi Sad, Akademska knjiga, 2008, p. 171

⁷ Жељко Бјелајац, *Безбедносна култура, умеће живљења*, Правни факултет за привреду и правосуђе, Нови Сад, 2017, pp, 343 - 344

⁸ “A girl from Zagreb had sex with 100 partners in a month because of a bet“

<http://www.pressonline.rs/info/politika/189592/zbog-opklade-spavala-sa-100-muskaraca-za-30-dana.html>, retrieved April 20th, 2020

In the last decade usage of the Internet got a universal social and ethical form. Considering that the Internet has an ever-growing auditorium the sexuality received a new form of expression and showing. It is not just an intimate and secretive matter of couples anymore. A third of all Internet users in the world participates in some form of online sexual activities⁹. The freed sexuality and sexual expression on the Internet becomes a phenomenon that includes a string of cultural implications important for the future of human sexuality.¹⁰ Pornography and pedophilia are socially unwanted byproducts of these implications, but simply they are a part of the freed sexuality.

Child prostitution and pedophilia

Internet pedophilia is a specific form of cybercrime as pedophiles wander the electronic networks seeking victims, naïve and impressionable children. The Internet became a new playground accessible to pedophiles, where the children are permanently exposed to inappropriate sexual content and disturbing and hostile messages.¹¹ Modern criminal and victimology researches changed the appearance of the sexual abuse of children. Sexual offenses toward children are happening frequently, they are under-researched, they are difficult to control, and the perpetrators are mentally immoral only in rare cases. After survived victimization consequences for the majority of children are heavy and long-term. Today there are two well-organized forms of pedophilia. One is known as sexual rings, and the other as child prostitution¹².

“The Internet network is more often used for pedophilic activities, which poses a specific problem due to a lack of oversight on the Internet. Pedophiles often possess large collections of child pornography. In that sense, pedophiles are divided into three types:

- 1) closed type (collector hides his affinity from the public and generally does not disturb the children, simply gathers and enriches own collection, but keeps it to himself/herself);
- 2) isolated type (collector disturbs children and shows his material to the victims);
- 3) sharing type (likes to be in contact with other pedophiles and disturbs the children)”¹³.

⁹ Cooper, Al 2004. *Online Sexual Activity in the New Millenium*. Contemporary Sexuality, no. 38: 1-7, retrieved April 20th, 2020

¹⁰ Cavanagh, Allison 2007. *Sociology in the Age of the Internet*. Berkshire: Open University Press, retrieved April 20th, 2020

¹¹ Bjelajac, Željko, *Cyber Crime and Internet Pedophillia*, Western Balkans from Stabilization to Integration, Institute of International Politics and Economics, Belgrade, 2011, pp. 437 - 456

¹² See: Stočanin, Selma: Pedofilija, jedan od oblika seksualne nastranosti, *Kriminalističke teme* (2013), 3-4, Sarajevo, pp. 125-142

¹³ Stočanin, Selma: Pedofilija, jedan od oblika seksualne nastranosti, *Kriminalističke teme* (2013), 3-4, Sarajevo, pp. 125-142

The concealed presentation as a curtain for the true intent of users greatly helps in the dissemination of pornographic and pedophilic contents. On the other side, the wide availability of electronic devices capable to generate photos and videos and then sharing it online helps the spread of pedophilia and abuse of children and minors on the Internet. This capability created a trend, promoted by young people, to share personally created content with a wide audience, generally unknown or not enough known to the user of social networks¹⁴.

According to the data published in March 2020 by the website Internet World Stats¹⁵, on December 31st, 2019 the Internet was used by 4,574,150,134 citizens of Earth, which is 58,7%. More than half of users live in Asia, while percentage-wise, North America (94,6% of the population) and Europe (87,2%) have the most users.

With the global use of the Internet, sexuality arrived everywhere where a man did. The nature of often primal human impulses got its “citizenship right”. Video depictions of pornography, pedophilia, and child prostitution dominate the network. Research by the website *ExtremeTech* showed that a third of total Internet traffic is for content with a sexual connotation, and the largest website for adult content distribution, Xvideos, has 4,4 billion monthly visits¹⁶. Around 29 petabytes of pornographic content are sent over the Internet monthly, which means that each second 50 gigabytes of explicit sexual content are transferred¹⁷.

The largest and most visited pornographic websites are Xvideos – 4,4 billion monthly visits, Pornhub – 2,5 billion monthly visits, YouPorn – 2,1 billion monthly visits, Tube8 – 970 million monthly visits and LiveJasmin – 710 million monthly visits. These numbers shall be considered conditionally, as the numbers related to pornography and sex on the Internet grow every day.

According to statistical data gathered by the website Online Education, each day around 300 new websites containing pornography are created. The numbers that describe the volume of content with sexual connotation on the Internet is changing, but in one moment we could say that 12% of all the websites on the Internet contain pornographic content, 25% of all queries on Google and Yahoo search engines are related to pornography, 2,5 billion e-mails per day are related to sex, in each second 30,000 of the Internet users watch pornographic content, 20% of men and 13% of women admit they watch pornographic content on the Internet from work, 35% of all downloaded content from the Internet is related to pornography, 43% of all users of the Internet watch pornographic content, 70% of sexual content is visited during work hours, only 3% of websites with sexual content ask users to confirm they are of legal age, children

¹⁴ Moore, R: *Cyber crime: Investigating High-Technology Computer Crime*, Anderson Publishing, Cleveland, 2005

¹⁵ <https://www.internetworldstats.com>

¹⁶ Mark Roeder, *Unnatural Selection: Why the Geeks Will Inherit the Earth*, Arcade Publishing, New York, 2014

¹⁷ Kerry-Ann Ferreira, *Protecting Our Children in Cyberspace*, E-book, Kerry-Ann Ferreira, 2014

on the Internet see their first pornographic content aged 11, and terms “sex” and “porn” are among five most-searched terms for persons younger than 18 years¹⁸.

The American The National Center on Sexual Exploitation¹⁹ is a non-profit organization that discovers a connection between all forms of sexual exploitation, such as sexual abuse of children, prostitution, sexual relations trading, and public health crisis of pornography. The organization particularly stresses pornography as a cradle for pedophilia in a network of sexual exploitation that the society systematically neglects. To promote the complete solutions the National Center for Sexual Exploitation annually publishes the *Dirty Dozen List*²⁰ of corporations that help sexual exploitation of children and through Agenda for freedom from sexual exploitation that gives recommendations to the Congress about many questions, including sex trafficking, pornography and sexual abuse of children.

Considering that no corporation must not profit or make sexual exploitation easier, the Center concludes that, unfortunately, many renowned brands, companies, and organizations do exactly that. The Dirty Dozen List exists to name and shame main players that deepen the sexual exploitation – whether it is pedophilia, pornography, prostitution, sexual objectifying, sexual violence, or human trafficking.

The list for 2019 is comprised from corporations that received an attribute of “a major contributor to sexual exploitation“, and on the list are companies Amazon, Google, Message Envy, Netflix, Nevada, Seeking Arrangement, Sports Illustrated Swimsuit Issue, Steam, Tik Tok, Tweeter, Visa, Wish and Wyndham.

The list contains detailed information on reasons why these companies are on the list²¹.

Cyber dens

The moral panic that enveloped the Internet accusing it of numerous bad things nearly treats it as an ethical being that has its personality and responsibility. Still, the Internet is more like a Roman Forum, or medieval *trivius* where people were willingly coming to play or watch. Nobody is on the Internet forcefully, the Internet is no one’s and everyone’s, nobody is asked to come online. How everything is connected in the global network completely mimics the living systems, where every part is dedicated to the whole, and the whole survives only

¹⁸ Jenkins, Philip, "Law Enforcement Efforts Against Child Pornography Are Ineffective," in *At Issue: Child Sexual Abuse*. Ed. Angela Lewis. Greenhaven Press, San Diego 2005

¹⁹ The National Center on Sexual Exploitation (NCOSE), <https://endsexualexploitation.org/> retrieved April 20th, 2020

²⁰ The name of the list is association to title of a movie *The Dirty Dozen*, directed by Robert Aldridge in 1967.

²¹ <https://endsexualexploitation.org/articles/top-contributors-to-sexual-exploitation-revealed/>, retrieved April 20th, 2020

through the interaction of all of its parts. The Internet is owned by nobody, but everyone owns a part of it. Every device connected to the Internet – a phone, a tablet, a computer – is a consisting part of the global Internet network and its co-owner.

When we talk about pedophilia and the Internet as a surrounding that opens new possibilities and new space for concentration and multiplied presence of pedophiles, it is still just a possibility that can be used but not necessarily is used. As in sports, when good play can be canceled with “one dribbling more”, one can get in trouble on the Internet with “a click more”. The apologists of the innocence of the Internet claim that there is always a choice. You can click “yes” or “no”. If you click “no”, there is no trouble, but if you click “yes” you allow the possibility of trouble to happen. Naturally, the problem is when you are a child or a person who is not mature enough. But, the parents are there, and they know how to protect their children from nearly everything except from “a click more”, and that click often leads children to dark depths of pedophilia.

The American National Center for Missing & Exploited Children²² (NCMEC) estimated that one-third of total pornographic content traded with on the Internet is child pornography and that over last 20 years the number of child pornography pictures and videos available on the Internet was increased for 1,500%²³ American Department of Justice estimates that “in any given moment there are more than a million of pornographic files with children on the Internet, and that 200 new files are published daily”. The files are either photographs or video clips. The NCMEC reminds us that a single offender arrested in Great Britain owned 450,000 child pornography pictures and that the cyberspace for child pornography had a million monthly visits. A large part of child pornography trade is done on hidden levels of the Internet. It is estimated that between 50,000 and 100,000 pedophiles are involved in the organization of *sex rings*²⁴ around the world and that a third from them works from the United States. Digital cameras, Internet distribution, credit cards, and ease of transferring the files across state borders made access to a rapidly increased number of resources easy to users of child pornography²⁵.

Recently in Serbia, foreign citizens²⁶ were arrested who photographed naked girls in a house and broadcasted their pornographic shows live²⁷. This event

²² www.missingkids.org, retrieved April 20th, 2020

²³ Child Porn among fastest growing Internet Bussineses, *National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, USA. 2005*, https://web.archive.org/web/20071018231331/http://www.ncmec.org/missingkids/servlet/NewsEventServlet?LanguageCountry=en_US&PageId=2064, retrieved April 21st, 2020

²⁴ Sex rings are most common in countries of Western Europe, where the children are recruited through their parents or guardians, or through children already recruited in a sex ring.

²⁵ Wells, M.; Finkelhor, D.; Wolak, J.; Mitchell, K. (2007). *Defining Child Pornography: Law Enforcement Dilemmas in Investigations of Internet Child Pornography Possession*, *Police Practice and Research*. 8 (3): 269–282. doi:10.1080/15614260701450765.

²⁶ Brigitta Szabo (35) and Georg Karl Sutter (47)

²⁷ <https://mitrovica.info/sta-su-sajber-jazbine-pedofili-preko-interneta-vrebaju-srpske-devojcice/>, retrieved April 12th, 2020

completely fits the basic definitions of “cyber dens” and generally in profiles of the Internet pedophilia. The victims mostly after the suggestion of their friend begin to participate in cybersex and its surrogates about which they are informed that it pays good and that the audience is foreigners they will never meet or see live. Pedophiles pay through money transfer agencies, and children need adults who will withdraw the money. It was registered in the practice that usually families or relatives of the girls are involved and that they withdraw the money.²⁸

According to findings of the Department for Combating High-Tech Crime of the Serbian Ministry of the Interior, the problem is that the police find evidence that is invisible, intangible, not in Serbia, but somewhere abroad. Police have to find it, document it by legal procedures in a short period. One person who was arrested around 720,000 photographs and 3,700 video clips of sexual molestation of children and juveniles were found. The Serbian police cannot provoke any crime, as the FBI also cannot. It cannot pose as an underage girl, communicate with pedophiles, set meetings, and arrest them²⁹.

In the explanation of this action, the Ministry of the Interior referred to a research made in Serbia that gave disappointing results.

“In that research, the key question was how much our children accept invitations to friendship from unknown people. Such friendships with unknown persons are accepted by 43% of elementary school children and 71% of middle schoolers. Two-thirds of them communicate with unknown persons via Messenger and other chat applications. The most shocking statistic is that 6% of elementary school children and 15% of middle school students accept to meet unknown persons. We realize the measure the parents are not aware of the seriousness of the situation whenever we arrive at the fact that the parents are those who open Facebook accounts to their pre-school children³⁰”.

The police forensics tried to create a profile of the Internet predator from our country. Still, “pedophilia is an internationally classified disorder, and we could not define whether these are people from rural or urban areas, what is their education level. Among pedophiles in our surroundings, we have profiles from farmers, PhDs, to priests, so we could not make a proper conclusion³¹”.

Social networks

Social networks³² are social structures defined by social interactions by individuals or groups, organizations, or societies as a whole. The goal of a social

²⁸ Ministry of the Interior of Republic of Serbia, Department for combating high tech crime

²⁹ Ibid

³⁰ Lecture of Saša Živanović, the head of the Department for combatting high tech crime of Serbian Ministry of the Interior, at a conference “Security and Responsibility”, organized in Subotica in 2017 by Foundation Tijana Jurić

³¹ Ibid

³² First scientific articles on theory of social networks were written in late 19th century by Emile Durkheim and Ferdinand Tonnies by announcing the idea of social networks in their theories and research of social groups

network is maintaining and strengthening of such created congregation. The main social units in such a formed structure are knots, and interactions between social units are connections. An individual (a group, organization, society) can be a member of multiple social networks.

Development of web technologies allowed the formation of social communities on the Internet –online social networks. The online social networks kept the basic concepts of traditional social networks and added some new concepts. The difference between online and offline social networks is in the manner of organization. Offline social networks usually gather around a joint topic or content, while online social networks are organized around individuals, groups, or societies, meaning the central actors are Internet users.

In modern times the social network is synonymous with an online social network. The social networks are one of the most popular Internet services, with quantitative and qualitative expansion. Still, the expansion has its bad sides as well. In parallel with the expansive use of social networks and hysteric desire for likes, one can notice the expansion of criminal activities on social networks. In that context, as the most frequent forms of criminal activities on the social networks, we have fraud, identity theft, piracy, pornography, pedophilia, terrorism, peer violence, hate speech, various forms of anti-governmental activities.

Numerous activities on the social networks that can be filed under illegal activities mostly remain “below the radar” of the law, but, luckily, moderators on social networks explicitly forbid and very efficiently remove pornographic and pedophilic content. Nonetheless, the nature of the phenomenon of pedophilia makes it regenerate easily and change its mutations and reincarnations as it goes. Pornography and pedophilia are so present in the real-life that they easily replicate on the social networks and in all categories of the ICT in general. Because of the large numbers, the social networks are suitable for quick and massive dissemination of pornographic material, but for the finding of pornographic and pedophilic sex rings as well. Numerous software tools that allow search with filtering of data about the users help the pedophiles to relatively easily find, identify, and recruit victims for their deviant desires on social networks.

Conclusion

In an earlier paper³³, we concluded that children began to use the Internet aged just four, and before they arrive at school age they mastered Internet surfing. For several hours a day, the kids spend time in a world without any limitations, so different from the world they live in. As they are naïve and innocent, they easily become prey of Internet predators. The predators acquired quick and anonymous access to the children, a place where they can hide their identity and

³³ Бјелајац, Жељко, Филиповић, Александар: *Перспективе заштите деце од злоупотреба на интернету*, Култура полиса, год. XVII (2020), бр. 41, pp. 259-271

wander over the network without limitations. Internet predators are generally sexual predators. We usually picture them as persons who wander around schoolyards and lurk their potential victims. Nonetheless, the reality has changed. Modern sexual predators lurk for their victims while hiding behind monitors, and they use great curiosity and credulity of children, as well as the anonymity offered by the Internet.

How can we protect the children? Generally, there are two fronts where the children shall be protected. The first is the protection from classic, contact pedophilia, or protection of children from physical contact with a predator. Although the danger for the child, in this case, is greater, it is easier to defend them. A far greater challenge is the protection of children from sexual predators on the Internet. The age limit of first-time users of the Internet is lower with each year, and the great number of prepubescent children seek online games and new friendships. Their innocence, curiosity, and credulousness make them suitable for the influence of pedophiles. Uncontrolled use of the Internet exposes the children to contact with pedophiles, hebephiles, ephebophiles, and other sexual deviants.

Pedophiles use the Internet in various ways, whether to connect with children, make friendships, organize live meetings, or as a means to find, keep, and distribute child pornography. The Internet is also used as a means for interconnecting in pedophile networks, where they share experiences, advice, and visual content.

Still, the Internet is not usable to pedophiles only because of the easy access to children, their identity, and child pornography. The internet is an ideal tool for pedophiles as it offers them complete safety and absolute anonymity. The majority of pedophiles live seemingly normal lives. In the past, most of these people did not dare to fulfill their sexual fantasies because of the fear of the reaction of society. Now the Internet gives them that possibility. Far from the prying eyes, from the safety of their homes, they can enter the private virtual worlds of others where they have the opportunity to watch child pornography and where they can live out their illegal and unfulfilled sexual fantasies. As Internet users, they are not subjected to ethical grading of the society, as they do not have to exist in the real, visible world where they would be subjected to critical judgment.

Education and raising awareness is of the greatest significance in combating Internet pedophilia. The organization of various seminars dedicated to the education of both parents and children is the most efficient method in the prevention of these crimes. We are capable to protect ourselves and our children only as much as we can spot the dangers threatening us from the Internet and to teach the children how to safely use the Internet, as well as to report potential misuses. It is very important to report any incident we spotted the police, as it helps to combat pedophilia on the Internet. Any misuse can be reported directly

to the police, but we can also use hotlines, anonymous phone lines, or web locations that allow anonymous reporting, such as WebEye.

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ИНТЕРНЕТ И ДРУШТВЕНЕ МРЕЖЕ КАО НЕОГРАНИЧЕНИ ПРОСТОР ЗА КОНЦЕНТРАЦИЈУ И МУЛТИПЛИЦИРАНО ПРИСУСТВО ПЕДОФИЛА

Сажетак: Трансформативни утицај интернета на сваки аспект људског живота и деловања је тако свеобухватан да једино дубоком апстракцијом можемо да се сетимо како се живот одвијао пре његовог широког распрострањења. У својој бити технологија комуникације, интернет је најдрастичније изменио начин на који примамо и преносимо поруке сваке врсте. И док је у највећем броју случајева то представљало изузетан бенефит, људска природа је остала непромењена, па је тако један део непрегледне глобалне мреже постао полигон за испољавање разних негативних тенденција, од асоцијалних и антисоцијалних па све до неприкривено криминалних. Због своје децентрализоване природе и практичне немогућности регулације највећег дела интернета на њему су се нашли и постали доступним садржаји и могућности који су са оне стране и закона и друштвеног морала. Порнографија је генерално најпретраживанији термин на интернету, а порнографски сајтови садрже изузетно велике количине материјала. И док је мејнстрим део интернета до одређене мере регулисан, остатак није, и у том виртуелном и практично неограниченом простору сексуални предатори, укључујући педофиле, могу да задовољавају своје склоности на начине који су у чисто физичком свету немогући. Путем интернета педофили могу да на далеко лакши начин ступе у контакт са потенцијалним жртвама, као и да дистрибуирају садржаје дечије порнографије. Безмало свака комуникациона платформа на интернету носи опасност од уплива педофила, а они могу да неометано комуницирају са потенцијалним жртвама без страха да ће бити примећени. Органи безбедности воде борбу са педофилијом и на глобалној мрежи, али резултати су због природе проблема занемарљиви. Кључна улога у превенцији интернет педофилије лежи у подизању свести о значају безбедносне културе на интернету код родитеља и деце – исто као што су родитељи припремали децу на опасности у физичком свету, морају их припремити на потенцијалне опасности и у виртуелном свету глобалне мреже.

Кључне речи: интернет, педофилија, дечија порнографија, друштвене мреже, безбедносна култура