

SOCIAL NETWORKS: CRISIS OR DEVELOPMENT?

Maslova A.V.,

Scientific advisor lecturer Bukhtoyarova A. A.

Krasnoyarsk State Pedagogical University

We are all aware of the situation in the world. Now we have really deep and big crisis in all spheres of our life such as social, economical, financial and political. My question here is if there is a crisis that is now getting into the social networks influencing this idea as it is.

Actually it is not a secret that a lot of countries are involved in some crisis but for this topic I'd like to talk about the one between Russia and Ukraine as an example. These nations have lived as neighbors for a really long time. We are often called "Brother nations".

But now we cannot quite feel it because of special sanctions from Ukraine for Russia and from Russia for Ukraine. Our partner country tries to boycott us and states that Russia acts badly. Our normal relationship is very questionable now.

Ukraine makes new plans of its own development according to the current political situation. It becomes obvious when we consider recent changes in social networks. In particular we can see new Ukrainian social networks, for example WEUA that means "WE UkrainA". This social network is really new, it is 10 days old. There are about 40000 Ukrainians in it at this moment. This website is relatively closed because of massive hacking attacks. Some people get special invitations to their e-mails and only after that they can register their accounts there.

I think that closed country's social networks can't be as good as social network which operate all over the world because main reason of making is communicating. No one own country's network can't give us communicating with people all over the world and that's main problem in the countries which have this form of social communicating in the Internet. All the sources are under control of the state, people can't have veritable picture of the world.

Nowadays there are a lot of popular social networks in the world, for example, Facebook, Youtube, Qzone, Tweeter, LinkedIn and some others.

Facebook is the winner. This networks is really big and widespread all over the world. It has more than one billion users which is fantastic! It includes millions of "Likes", billions of photos, millions of people who seek communication and friendship but... Facebook is forbidden and rejected in Syria because of the authorities' opinion. The official point of view there is Facebook contradicts their moral foundations, religion and national obligations of a citizen.

Let's look at Egypt and Egyptian revolution. That's a fact that Twitter and Facebook played a really big role in it. Why? Because the insurgents used them to coordinate people and their actions. It's fast, massive and effective. The authorities ordered to the operators of mobile connection to block protestants' messages and to close social networks at all. Yes, social networks can be dangerous for the authorities in every country but it's not a reason to close them when we have a peace regime. Also in Egypt the head of the Muslim church declared Facebook and others social networks as spawn of debauchery and sins because the last statistic showed that Muslims became to divorce their marriage more often and in every fifth pair husband or wife had an account in social networks, that's a reason to jealous partner and to think about his or her betrayal. The prime-minister of Turkey Recep Erdogan said that Twitter, Youtube and other networks will be prohibited in Turkey this year. The reason of this decree is in politics. Earlier were downloaded secret files which have some important information about Turkish economy. The authorities disproved this facts but...decided to close social networks because of national menace.

North Korea, Vietnam and China are closed countries with total control of ruling authorities and their people should not get wrong and bad information from all over the world. Facebook is considered to be against their rules and laws that's why it is closed there.

Only limited number of people have permission to use the Internet when they want and need. These people are ministers, officials, foreign companies and 3 universities. But North Korea has own closed social network called "Quanmyon", it has chats, forums and some other functions. Koreans can use them only from the embassies and from the offices of the biggest firms. The Internet in Korea is really slow. China has 4 social closed social networks: Qzone, RenRen, Pengyou and Kaixin 001. There are 190 (!) millions of active users in Qzone! RenRen has 95 millions of active users, Pengyou has 80 millions of active Chinese and there are 40 millions of users in Kaixin001. The main part of users of the RenRen is student auditory while Kaixin001 actively used by office workers. People say that RenRen is "a miniature local copy of Facebook". Closed countries have alternative local networks which have less functions of global social networks, but people are glad to have even if something.

The most popular Russian social network Vkontakte (vk.com) is restricted in Italy because there are a lot of pirated files and materials which violate copyright.

Ukraine does not shut down Russian networks for Ukrainians. Their state authorities just ask people to boycott and ignore Vkontakte and Odnoklassniki because they do not want to be depended on Russia. So "if we want to be independent we should make our own networks", Ukrainian politicians say.

I don't agree with Ukraine's position, I don't think that every country should have it's own social network to be truly independent. Every country is already independent because every country has it's own territory, laws, politics. I think it's enough to be considered as independent country. We have good international domain .com why can't we use it freely and be quiet? Free communicating is really important now, people move all over the world so why should they endure tricks of the governments? As far as I know Ukraine is a democratic country that's why the authorities shouldn't do that they do now. Now Internet plays a great role in people's life, we can't refuse from it at all but we can use it in a right way and have a good results. We shouldn't take a part in this unnecessary information war.

In my opinion it is impossible to make Ukrainians stop using Russian social networks because most Ukrainians have relatives in Russia, Belarus or other countries of the former Soviet Union. The authorities understand that people won't understand their restricting actions. That would cause massive protest for their sanctions on the Internet.

We all live in the 21st century which is believed to be the century of progress, information technologies and great changes in the world. The changes are considered to be a new crisis by many people in the world. This crisis may affect many parts of our life but does it now influences the Internet as a new environment of people's life, a virtual one? What will happen with social networks in future?

I think that there are here to stay for a long time. Social networks won't disappear at all. Why? Because it's a really easy way to communicate with people from other continents and countries online. You have the advantage of speed when you don't need to wait for friend's letter for 2-3 months. Instead you'll get it next morning in your private social network messages. Also you can see your friend's photos, watch interesting videos and movies and read some really useful information from your newlines.

I think that social networks will be alive because people won't refuse from really good and fast way of communicating but maybe countries will make new own social networks for every state, it's own network for it's people. Also I presume that Facebook and Twitter will function because these networks are really good, useful and popular, people from all over the world like them very much. Or maybe people will make a new global social network for all the

people and the authorities will control them but it is too dangerous, it gives a lot of menaces from the terrorists, hackers and other bad guys.

People won't abandon this easy way of fast communication. Some countries may close some networks but people will make new ones and will find the ways to overcome the barriers.