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Digital citizenship as a Mechanism to Counter Juvenile Digital Delinquency

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Abstract:

This article addresses the issue of juvenile delinquency in the digital space. It highlights how children's heavy use of technology exposes them to risks such as cyber bullying, inappropriate content and digital piracy. These risks pose increasing challenges to the legal and educational systems. Digital citizenship is presented as a key solution to this problem. It aims to raise awareness among minors and promote safe and responsible use of technology.

In doing so, it helps to prevent behavioural problems related to the misuse of digital technology. Teaching digital citizenship allows young people to navigate the online world in an ethical way. Ultimately, it contributes to reducing delinquency among children and adolescents in digital environments.

Keywords: *Juvenile delinquency, digital means, digital crime, digital citizenship.*

. INTRODUCTION

Juvenile crimes are a social phenomenon that dates back to earlier times, and is related to the nature of the age stage that the juvenile is going through, with its psychological and behavioral transformations, but the shift towards the digital space due to rapid technological development, contributed to the restructuring of this phenomenon, as new patterns of deviation related to the illegal use of digital media have emerged, leading to the emergence of a category known as juvenile information deviants, namely those who commit electronic crimes using technology, whether targeting information systems or using technology as a means of committing a criminal act.

In the same context, modern technology has become a double-edged sword; despite the positive opportunities it provides for children and adolescents, such as expanding the horizons of knowledge, facilitating self-learning and developing technical skills, but excessive use of it without an educational or legal framework can lead to behavioral and health disorders such as digital addiction, social isolation, imitation of cultural and behavioral patterns contrary to societal values, as well as engaging in deviant electronic practices.

Hence, the importance of digital citizenship as an educational and legal framework contributing to the Prevention of juvenile delinquency in the digital environment is highlighted.it seeks to empower the child with the necessary skills for positive and responsible interaction with technology and to consolidate the values of good digital behavior and awareness of the laws and regulations governing the use of digital media, which enhances the juvenile's self-control and limits his susceptibility to engage in deviant acts. citizenship also enables the child to distinguish harmful content, protect his data and respect the rights of others within the digital environment, making him an active partner in society instead of being a victim or a source of behavioral threats within him.

The importance of research on this topic is highlighted by contributing to enriching the legal and criminal library with a relatively new field in which traditional delinquency intersects with informational criminality, identifying the terms associated with digital delinquency and distinguishing it from other types of delinquency, which supports future research efforts in criminology and criminal justice, as well as highlighting one of the most important challenges faced by the family and society in the era of modern communications technology, where delinquency has extended to the virtual space and is no longer limited to the poet. By researching the role of digital citizenship in the face of juvenile delinquency, we aim to achieve the following goals:

• Understand the causes and motives behind juvenile delinquency through technical means and develop preventive strategies to reduce the aggravation of the phenomenon

• Assess the adequacy and effectiveness of the Algerian legal system in addressing this emerging pattern of delinquency and identify shortcomings

• Provide recommendations that could be useful in amending legislation or formulating a criminal policy more in line with digital transformations.

• Introducing digital citizenship and how to consolidate it in the digital community of events.

The problem of the study is: to what extent does digital citizenship contribute to the Prevention of juvenile delinquency in the digital space?

To answer this problem and achieve the objectives of the study, we followed the descriptive approach in describing the phenomenon of juvenile delinquency and digital citizenship as a mechanism to confront it and identify concepts, definitions and analytical approach in analyzing the legal texts associated with it.

2.The Concept of Juvenile Delinquency in the Digital Space

The phenomenon of juvenile delinquency is one of the most prominent social issues with a serious impact on the structure and stability of society due to its negative repercussions affecting public order and threatening social peace.

The seriousness of this phenomenon has increased in light of the rapid technological boom witnessed by contemporary societies, where technology has a direct and tangible impact on various age groups, including the category of juveniles. The digital space has provided these people with increasing opportunities to engage in deviant behaviors, whether through crimes targeting the information systems themselves or using these information systems to carry out various criminal acts. Accordingly, we have divided this research into two requirements, which we address in the first requirement: the definition of juvenile delinquency in the digital space and its causes, and in the second requirement: the juvenile's criminal responsibility for Digital Crimes.

2.1. Definition of Juvenile Delinquency in the Digital Space and Its Causes

Due to the fact that juvenile delinquency is of great importance within the family structure and its pivotal role in the formation of Man and the building of society, positive laws have paid special attention to this age group, both in terms of rehabilitation and protection, and from this point of view it became necessary to address the concept of delinquency as one of the behavioral phenomena that affect juveniles and threaten their psychological and social stability and require careful treatment within an integrated legal and educational framework. We divided this requirement into two branches; the first branch: the definition of juvenile delinquency in the digital space, the second branch: the causes of juvenile delinquency in the digital space.

2.1.1 .Definition 0f Juvenile Delinquency in the Digital Space

The use of the term **"juvenile delinquency"** in the context of crimes committed by minors reflects a societal perspective that tends to reduce the severity of the conviction compared to that directed against crimes committed by adults. Juvenile delinquency is often considered as the result of circumstances beyond the control of the minor. This explains the approach taken by legislators in many legal systems, where a minor is not considered an offender unless it is proven that his behavior has reached a level of severity requiring judicial intervention.[1]

According to this perception, juvenile delinquents are perceived as victims of unstable socio-economic conditions, often characterized by low living standards and the spread of manifestations of family and social disintegration, which negatively affects their behavior and contributes to their delinquency, and although external factors are not the only cause of crime, they are one of the most prominent causes that affect the behavior of the juvenile and

contribute to their deviation. While external factors are not the sole cause of juvenile delinquency, they are widely recognized as among the most influential elements shaping a minor's behaviour and guiding them toward delinquent or criminal pathways.[2]

Juvenile delinquency from the perspective of psychologists is "an expression of maladaptation arising from various physical and psychological factors and preventing the correct satisfaction of the needs of the juvenile".[3]

Therefore, the child is not born motivated by a criminal self or a perverted reformist motive, but criminality arises, if any, as a result of the social and environmental influences that degrade him during the stages of his upbringing, and in order for the child to grow up in a healthy environment, appropriate conditions must be provided to ensure his proper development, including the provision of equal opportunities and the provision of necessary resources, in addition to a balanced health upbringing that is no less important than physical, mental and psychological development, and therefore the responsibility for preventing juvenile delinquency does not lie solely on the child, but requires a social institutional combination of factors that may lead to their deviation.[4]

From a legal perspective, the delinquent in Algerian law, according to the second article in its third paragraph of law No. 15-12, which contains the child protection law, is "a child who commits a criminal act and who is at least ten years old. The relevant age is determined based on the child's age on the date the offense was committed".[5]

Digital delinquency refers to the set of illegal acts committed by juveniles within the digital space, which is an extension of deviant behaviours that takes a modern character beyond the manifestations of traditional delinquency, and this type of deviation includes acts such as; cyber bullying, information hacking, invasion of privacy, and other behaviours criminalized by national and international legislation related to cybercrime.[6]

Some modern technology experts have called a category of juvenile delinquents who practice illegal digital acts the term "Informatics neophytes" in reference to young people who are fascinated by the world of digital technology and related tools and fields, and this category has aroused increasing interest as a result of their involvement in information violations that are a clear violation of the law, as their behaviours went beyond just encroaching on the memory of personal computers to attacking advanced information systems and centers, often located at far geographical distances, reflecting the ability of these juveniles to penetrate the physical borders of states and technical systems.[7]

According to the aforementioned discussion, in order for a juvenile to be considered a "digital delinquent," a set of essential elements must be present, as follows:

• **Juvenile status (the delinquent)**: The perpetrator must be a minor who has not yet reached the age of eighteen at the time the criminal act was committed, in accordance with national laws concerning child protection and the legal age of criminal responsibility.

• **Criminal act:** the behaviour issued by the juvenile should be an illegal act that is criminalized by the law and punishable under an applicable legal provision and the act is contrary to the law and requires criminal accountability.

• **Digital means:** the act is committed using a digital means such as a mobile phone, computer, or any electronic tablet device connected to the internet network, which gives the crime its digital character.

2.1.2. Causes of Juvenile Delinquency in the Digital Space

Among the reasons that make the juvenile delinquent in the digital space we find the following:

• Acquiring the technical skill where the digitally delinquent juvenile is characterized by possessing advanced technical capabilities, especially in the fields of digital processing of texts and data, and dealing efficiently with digital programs and applications, and his technical skills are clearly highlighted in financial-related information crimes, as he seeks through them to achieve illicit material gains, and information crime-unlike traditional crime, which is predominantly violent - is a criminal pattern that requires a high level of technical competence and skill in using digital means[8].

• The tendency toward challenge and entertainment is a fundamental characteristic of juveniles and a key factor contributing to the commission of minor digital crimes. Juveniles often seek to test their abilities within a framework of challenge and enjoyment. They may also pursue social recognition through such behaviour. In some cases, this conduct serves to reinforce a sense of courage or audacity. These motivations are not always limited to the individual level. They may extend to collective participation among groups of juveniles. This collective involvement gives digital criminal behaviour a group-oriented character.[9]

• Another significant factor is that the juvenile is generally characterized by behavioural instability. He can be described as a personality with a lost identity, lacking a clear sense of self. He swings between conflicting desires and tendencies, and suffers from vague and undefined ambitions. He is neither a child who willingly submits to adult authority, nor an adult who enjoys full autonomy and free will. Consequently, the juvenile struggles to achieve self-realization, which requires overcoming inherent deficiencies by confronting the obstacles that hinder his development and controlling the opposing forces that limit his growth.[10]

• The spread of modern communication technologies, especially in developing countries, has led to a socio-demographic imbalance, which led to the decline of moral values and the disintegration of social ties. These means have facilitated the transmission of extraneous cultures and their imitation in other societies. In the same context, psychologists believe that the exposure of juveniles to violent content and sexual viewing through communication may affect their behaviour, as it increases their tendency to imitate aggressive behaviour.[11]

• The absence of family awareness and school guidance, where the family, and in particular the parents, are the main responsible for caring for and guiding the juvenile, as they contribute mainly to the formation of his personality and guide his behaviour[12], Nevertheless, parental supervision alone cannot be considered a sufficient means to reduce the risks of

digital delinquency. The lack of proper awareness and education in schools—specifically through programs focused on internet culture and child protection—constitutes a major contributing factor to the spread of this phenomenon. The absence of guidance or oversight from educational institutions increases juveniles, exposure to digital risks that may negatively affect their behaviour and orientation.[13]

2.2. Juvenile Criminal Liability for Digital Crimes

This design is aimed at balancing the principle of justice and pedagogical considerations in order to ensure the inequality of a juvenile with an adult while maintaining the principle of accountability according to the degree of maturity and awareness. We divided this requirement into two sections; the first section: the concept of digital criminal responsibility, the second section: types of digital crimes committed by juveniles in cyberspace.

2.2.1 .The Concept of Digital Penal Liability

The term criminal liability refers to a legal obligation borne by an individual as a result of committing a criminal act, after proving the availability of the elements of the crime against him, responsibility is not considered part of the legal structure of the crime, but arises as a subsequent effect of its realization, that is, after the availability of all its legal elements, and the content of this responsibility is to be subject to criminal punishment, which may take the form of a criminal penalty or a precautionary measure, depending on the nature of the crime and the person who committed it.[14]

The legislator did not limit the establishment of criminal liability to the mere occurrence of the criminal act, but also stipulated that the perpetrator of the crime must be a person with reason and will as the essential elements for the establishment of responsibility. the Penal issue is based not only on the verification of criminal behaviour, but on the actor's capacity to bear the consequences of this behaviour. he expresses the modern concept of responsibility, which concerns the person's ability to discriminate and control his actions , which explains the exemption from liability in cases of insanity, loss of will or lack of discrimination, as is the case with children under a certain age.[15]

Digital criminal responsibility is based on the same traditional bases of criminal responsibility, represented by error, damage, and causation, and responsibility is not imposed on the juvenile only by reaching the age of discrimination for the availability of the elements of Science and will, and therefore digital responsibility is based when the will of the juvenile tends to commit a criminal act using modern means of communication such as the internet and computer, which converts the crime from its traditional form to digital, this adaptation is a response to technological development and responsibility in this context is based on what is known as digital error, which is a contemporary basis for accountability in digital crimes, especially when dealing with children.[16]

In order to ensure that the juvenile is not treated like adults, which may affect his psyche and dignity, most legislations have divided the age of the child into age stages, each of which is allocated an appropriate penalty ranging between educational measures and light penalties according to the degree of maturity of the juvenile and his distinction, these stages are as follows:

- **Refrain from Criminal Liability of the Child**

The Algerian legislator defined the stage of criminal irresponsibility of a child as the period from his birth until he reaches the age of ten, as provided for in Article 58 of the child protection law (15–12 2015), Which prevents the criminal prosecution of a child under this age while holding the legitimate representative civil liability for the damage caused by the child to others.

This exclusion is based on the principle of moral responsibility adopted in criminal legislation, which assumes that a child at this age lacks awareness and will, which are essential pillars for the establishment of criminal liability, and thus the legislator reflects a protective orientation that takes into account the psychological and mental privacy of children under the age of discrimination.[17]

- **Criminal Liability of a Juvenile Aged 10-13 years**

Based on the second paragraph of Article 49, second paragraph of the Algerian Penal Code (66-156 1966), This stage begins when the child reaches the age of ten and ends when he completes the age of thirteen, provided that he has not exceeded this age at the time of the commission of the crime, and Article 57 of the child protection law reinforces[18], This stipulates that a child from this category should not be subjected to the penalties prescribed for adults, but only to measures of protection and discipline, and it benefits from this that the legislator has decided at this stage an incomplete criminal liability, through which the criminal penalty is mitigated in proportion to the child's newness and lack of awareness.

- **Criminal Liability of Juveniles Aged Between 13 and Under 18 Years**

Pursuant to Article 49, Paragraph 2 of the aforementioned Penal Code a juvenile between the ages of three and eighteen is subject to criminal prosecution for acts that constitute crimes punishable by law. in this case, the juvenile may be subject to either protection measures or education or the system of lightening penalties is applied to him. The legislator has confirmed this trend through Article 50 of the same law, which singled out the category of minors with special provisions if the crime committed is described as a felony or a misdemeanour, which reflects the protective nature adopted by the legislator in dealing with this category.

Discernment is considered complete when the juvenile reaches the age of eighteen, which marks the stage at which an individual bears full criminal responsibility for all offenses committed. At this point, the penalties prescribed for such crimes are fully applicable. Under Algerian law, a juvenile becomes criminally liable upon reaching the legal age of criminal majority on the day the offense is committed, in accordance with Articles 442 and 443 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (21–11 2021)[19]. Accordingly, the legislator presumes the full capacity of the individual, making them subject to all substantive and procedural legal provisions. This capacity remains in effect unless affected by one of the recognized impediments to criminal liability.[20]

2.2.2. Patterns of Digital Crimes Committed from the Event in the Digital Space

The uses of modern technology, especially means of communication, information networks, and social media are no longer limited to the adult category, but their scope has extended to include the category of minors from the digital space, and these have become an active segment in this field, both in terms of interaction or access to data and information, however, this use may take a perverse turn, as some of them have aggressive motives that lead to violating the rights of others or harming them, whether through committing traditional crimes using digital means or through acts that represent a direct assault on the information systems of individuals and institutions, and thus the event has become an active party in the commission of some Patterns of crime in the digital space.

The phrase crime in the digital space refers to any criminal behaviour in which a computer plays a major role in its completion, whether the computer is the object of the crime or it is just a tool for committing it[21]; From this point of view, these crimes are classified according to specific criteria and can be summarized as follows:

- **classification of crimes by considering the place of the crime and the type of data**

These crimes are divided into two main categories:

- Crimes affecting the value of the data itself: these include crimes that involve an attack on the integrity of data and information, such as acts of destruction, distortion, or illegal modification of data stored in computer systems

- Crimes related to the financial value or assets represented by data: manifested in crimes aimed at seizing digital funds or assets through fraudulent means, such as fraud crimes or illegal trafficking in electronic data and data.

- **classification according to the role of computers in crime**

This classification depends on the location of the computer or digital medium within the course of the crime, where it distinguishes between:

- Crimes in which the computer is the target (such as hacking systems systems)

- Crimes in which a computer is a means of committing them (e.g. electronic fraud)

- Crimes where digital content is substituted for it (such as illegal content)

This classification reflects what is stated in the European Budapest Convention on Cybercrime of 2001,[22] which divided cybercrime into main categories:

• crimes affecting the confidentiality and integrity of data and information systems: these include acts criminalized under Articles 2 and 6 of the convention, such as illegal access to systems, illegal interception of data and assault on the integrity of data or information system.

• content-related crimes: such as the dissemination of child pornography (Article 9) and crimes related to the violation of intellectual property rights, as well as crimes resulting from Computer Misuse.

The 1998 model law divided cybercrime into two main categories:

Crimes against Persons: these include:

• Non-sexual crimes: such as threats, harassment, defamation, and spreading false information online

• **Sexual crimes:** the most prominent of which is the exploitation of children in pornographic content and directing them to illegal practices, which is a crime that is spreading in light of digital globalization.

• **Crimes involving funds:** they are caused by the development of financial transactions via the internet and include electronic robbery, fraud, illegal transfer of funds and hacking bank card data.

The Algerian legislature for the first time included crimes related to modern communications technology under the amendment of the Penal Code of 2004 through articles 394 BIS to Article 394 BIS 7, as dealt with in law 04/09 on the Prevention of information crimes, but it is noted that these texts are devoid of any regulation of the delinquent digitally, which reveals legislative shortcomings in the protection of minors in the digital space, although the Algerian legislature.

3. The Role of Digital Citizenship in protecting Juveniles from Digital Delinquency

Citizenship is one of the modern concepts that have developed as a result of the technological revolution and the advancement of digital means of communication, as it has moved from a traditional concept that expresses belonging to the homeland within the geographical framework to a new digital concept that enables the individual to exercise his citizenship in cyberspace.

This transformation has contributed to reshaping the role of the individual from a traditional citizen to a digital citizen and from a citizenship limited by geographical area to a digital citizenship that includes interaction, belonging and participation in the virtual world.[23]

3.1. The Concept of Digital Citizenship

In light of the rapid transformations witnessed by the digital world, the importance of talking about digital citizenship has increased as an effective tool in guiding the behaviour of juveniles and protecting them from delinquency in the digital space, as digital citizenship has become an urgent necessity that contributes to instilling digital values and enhancing legal and moral awareness among juveniles in a way that limits their involvement in deviant electronic practices and directs them towards the safe and responsible use of technology. Accordingly, we divided this club into two branches; the first branch: the definition of digital citizenship, the second branch: the elements of digital citizenship.

3.1.1. Definition of Digital Citizenship

Digital citizenship is defined as the rules of behaviour adopted in the multiple uses of technology, such as its use for the electronic exchange of information and full electronic participation in society[24], Or "the set of standards, principles and methods that an individual

must possess while interacting with others using digital tools and media, such as e-mail, blogs, information networks such as Facebook, Twitter, and others".[25]

The concept of digital citizenship derives from a complementary term, "digital citizen", which expresses "a person who uses the internet regularly and effectively, who has awareness and knowledge of technology with the ability to apply that knowledge to behaviours, habits and actions through which it is possible to deal appropriately with the technology itself or with other people by technology.";[26] It is preparing the child to use computer technology in an effective and appropriate way by developing the child's knowledge of word processing programs, electronic tables, presentation programs and how to use these technologies in an appropriate way, digital citizenship is also considered appropriate and responsible rules of behaviour related to the use of technology, including digital literacy, ethics, etiquette, online safety, rules of organization, rights and responsibilities, and other matters related to the optimal methods of using modern technology.[27]

Therefore, it is a mistake for some to associate citizenship in general with digital citizenship, Some view digital citizenship as the development of the values of ordinary citizenship with digital and technical tools, but the opposite is the case, so that digital citizenship for the digital world means belonging and adherence to the rules, laws and values of the virtual world to which the individual belongs.[28]

3.1.2. Elements of Digital Citizenship

Digital citizenship consists of nine elements, which are as follows:

Digital access: it means equal opportunities in accessing technology for all individuals to ensure that technical means are available to all without discrimination, especially in educational institutions in order to enable them to effectively integrate into the digital society and digital access is one of the basic conditions for achieving digital citizenship.[29]

• **Digital communication:** it is the process of exchanging information electronically between individuals through digital media, whether as a sender or receiver, and digital citizenship works to give the child the basic skills of effective digital communication while training him to choose the appropriate means of communication in accordance with different attitudes and moral values.

• **Digital culture:** it consists in educating the child on how to use technology optimally to serve his personal and social development and seeks to achieve the erasure of digital internationalism by teaching him the necessary technical and cognitive skills to enable him to understand the digital environment and interact with it effectively and responsibly.[30]

• **Digital commerce:** refers to the importance for children of raising their awareness of the principles of e-commerce and smart consumption, while introducing them to the associated risks such as identity theft or leakage of personal information, which contributes to enhancing their economic and digital awareness and gains them the ability to deal safely and responsibly with electronic transactions.[31]

• **Rules of conduct digital decency:** refers to electronic standards of behaviour and conduct within the digital space, where digital citizenship aims to promote digital etiquette among individuals and provide the sponsor with communication skills based on respect,

civility, and observance of moral values in order to consolidate the concept of digital responsibility in his relationships with others.[32]

• **Digital law:** it concerns the legal rights and controls regulating the use of technology and is concerned with criminalizing some electronic acts such as hacking, violation of privacy or extortion where the perpetrator is subject to legal accountability and this definition contributes to the child enhancing his conscious behaviour.[33]

• **Rights and responsibilities:** the digital rights enjoyed by individuals within the digital space, such as the right to privacy, freedom of expression and protection from abuse, these rights are linked to corresponding digital duties and responsibilities, where the digital citizen is expected to exercise his freedoms within the limits of law and values and to be a conscious and productive user in the digital society.[34]

• **Digital health and well-being:** this category is concerned with the child's physical and psychological safety during the use of technology and includes issues related to physical injuries resulting from excessive use of devices in addition to psychological effects such as the internet, social isolation or digital stress, and this dimension aims to achieve a healthy balance in the relationship of sponsorship with technology.[35]

• **Digital security:** it means taking preventive measures that ensure the protection of users during their interaction, whether it comes to their personal safety or the security of their data and networks, and the importance of digital security lies in the formation of a preventive awareness among children and adolescents that they can protect themselves and their information from electronic threats.[36]

From the above, it is clear that the basic elements of digital citizenship represent pivotal pillars in the formation of a conscious and responsible digital citizen capable of using technology effectively and safely in light of contemporary digital challenges, and these components also contribute to preparing a child, and gradually qualifying him to become a fully aware and competent digital citizen with the skills necessary for positive and fruitful interaction within the digital environment.

3.2. The Consolidation of Digital Citizenship among Juveniles is one of the most

prominent contemporary preventive mechanisms that effectively contribute to protecting them from behavioural deviations within the digital space because of its direct positive impact on guiding their behaviour and enhancing their awareness of the safe and responsible use of technology in order to achieve a balance between digital interaction and value and legal discipline. We divided this requirement into two branches; the first branch: the consolidation of digital citizenship for the child, the second branch: the consolidation of digital citizenship for the child.

3.2.1. Establishing digital citizenship for children

The Algerian Legislature has recognized the right of the child to express his opinions freely in accordance with his age and level of maturity, in accordance with Article 8 of the aforementioned law 15-12 on the protection of the child, provided that such expression does not lead to prejudice to public order or public morals and the need to respect the rights of others. This text has enshrined the direction of the convention on the rights of the child of

1989, article 13 of which stipulates the right of the child to freedom of expression, including freedom to request, receive and impart information, taking into account legitimate restrictions imposed by the necessities of protecting public order, morality and the rights of others[37], Although the Algerian Legislature has assigned the responsibility of protecting the child primarily to the parents, the state assumes this responsibility in the absence of a representative.[38] This is in accordance with the law No. 15-12 on child protection.

In the context of the development of protection and care methods in the light of digital transformation, it has become necessary to include digital citizenship in application of Article 5 of the same law as one of the contemporary educational mechanisms that contribute to controlling the behaviour of juveniles within the digital space. Digital citizenship today is one of the effective means to prevent children from slipping into harmful digital practices in order to achieve a balance between enabling technology and ensuring its protection from its risks.

The responsibility to protect children from the phenomenon of digital delinquency cannot be limited to parental control only, as limiting the role of parents does not provide a comprehensive response to this growing challenge, but the failure to integrate the culture of safe and responsible use of the internet within educational programs is one of the fundamental factors contributing to the aggravation of this phenomenon and in this events within the environment Digital by promoting the ethical and responsible use of technology through the following:

• Spreading the culture of using computers and encouraging children to acquire basic skills to deal with it through direct contact and self-learning by trial and error without the need for a teacher, and also emphasizes the importance of developing programmatically. Scientists and researchers are encouraged to contribute to the design of targeted software that helps guide the child in his digital environment.[39]

• The inclusion of the concepts of digital citizenship and its applications in the educational curricula in various educational phases to contribute to the development of digital awareness among learners.[40]

• Raising children's awareness of the concepts of digital citizenship and its components and educating them on the ethical and legal issues related to the use of technology as an essential step towards building a responsible digital awareness, teaching young people how to think technically within an ethical framework that enables them to access the digital world with confidence and awareness, and contributed to the formation of a productive and active digital individual in society and digital knowledge fields.[41]

• Encouraging children and adolescents and directing them towards positive digital behaviours and combating pariah behaviours in cyberspace is one of the basic pillars for the formation of a responsible digital citizen who consciously contributes to the protection of his digital society and sincerely works to serve his homeland and contribute to its progress.[42]

According to this trend, digital citizenship is in line with what the Algerian Legislature approved in Article 6 of law15/12, which states that the state is obliged to provide full protection to the child from harmful information that would affect his intellectual or physical balance, regardless of the means of dissemination or circulation.

Therefore, the consolidation of the principles of digital citizenship is one of the effective means of implementing this legislative obligation by building a digital awareness that immunizes the child from behavioural deviations resulting from exposure to inappropriate content in the digital space.

3.2.2 .The Impact of Establishing Digital Citizenship in a Child

The promotion of the values of digital citizenship in a child would lead to a number of effects reflected on his digital behaviour and his educational and social environment, and the most prominent of these effects can be summarized as follows:

• Raising a conscious digital citizen who is able to deal professionally with modern technological means, aware of the dangers of the digital space and aware of his rights and duties, including the protection of his data and privacy and respect for intellectual property rights, which enhances his positive contribution to the digital society.[43]

• Promoting the safe and responsible use of technology directly contributes to the empowerment and protection of the child within the digital environment by reducing exposure to illegal or harmful contents and behaviours, and also leads to the development of his abilities for independence, efficiency, responsibility, good judgment, making him more quick in decision-making and conscious in the selection of information and dealing with its sources intelligently and professionally.[44]

Safeguarding the child's mindset against cyber threats is essential for strengthening their ability to comprehend incoming digital values within the context of the technological revolution and the knowledge society. These values should be viewed as part of broader global transformations, not as substitutes for the child's original cultural and ethical values. Such awareness enables the child to engage with digital content in a conscious and responsible manner, thereby preserving their intellectual and cultural balance and fostering mental resilience that protects them from being swept away by the negative influences of the digital environment.[45]

Therefore, the development of digital citizenship in a child enables him to adopt a set of digital values that are reflected on his behaviour while dealing with digital media, as this is shown by his ability to take responsibility for using digital sources and enjoy self-control that controls his interactions with digital content and limits behavioural deviations in the virtual environment.[46]

4.Conclusion:

In conclusion, digital citizenship represents one of the main pillars in confronting the phenomenon of juvenile delinquency in the digital environment because it provides a system of values and standards that help the child to conscious and responsible use of technology, and the early establishment of this concept within the tracks of education and upbringing allows the juvenile the opportunity to develop digital awareness that enables him to interact positively with the digital space, taking into account the legal and ethical dimension of the use of digital media.

Digital citizenship also contributes to strengthening the child's self-control and consolidating the concepts of rights and responsibilities in the virtual world, thereby reducing the chances of deviation or committing illegal behaviours such as cyber bullying, violation of privacy or misuse of content. Accordingly, we came to the following results:

•The Algerian Legislature, through the amendment of the Penal Code, has introduced provisions criminalizing infringement of Automated Data Processing Systems, which is an important step towards keeping abreast of the developments of Information crime.

• The absence of explicit reference to the juvenile as an actor in crimes in the digital space, as the Algerian legislator did not include him in the texts on the violation of Information Systems neither as a digital delinquent nor as an aggravating or mitigating element of punishment, which poses a legal problem in dealing with this category in the digital context.

• Despite the fact that digital citizenship is of great importance in protecting children and guiding their behaviour within the digital space, the Algerian Legislature has not paid sufficient attention to it, as it is mentioned only casually in a single text within the protection of children (15-12).

•Integrating digital citizenship into educational policies, educational curricula and preventive initiatives is an urgent necessity to keep pace with digital transformations and ensure effective and sustainable protection of juveniles in light of the renewed challenges imposed by the technological environment.

From it we propose the following:

Effective response to this delinquency through a dual approach: legal and preventive as follows:

• The need to update national legislation to ensure a disciplined accounting of juveniles commensurate with their age and level of awareness, and in line with international conventions on the rights of the child.

• Promote digital awareness among children and their family and educational environment, and enable educational and social institutions to play their role in prevention, guidance and early intervention.

• The inclusion of digital citizenship in school curricula and curricula in order to sensitize young people to their digital responsibilities.

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