

Determining the Relationship between New Information Technologies with the Identity of Male Students of High Schools of District 3 In Tehran

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(Received Jan. 2015 & Published online March. 2015 issue)

Abstract

The present study attempts to determine the relationship between new information technologies with identity of male students of high schools of district 3 of Tehran city. The studied sample is 327 male students of high school of district 3 of Tehran and they are selected by regular random sampling method. The data collection measure is researcher-built questionnaire composed of four sections of family identity, ethnic identity, individual identity and the amount of using IT. The reliability of the questionnaire is 0.908 by Cronbach's alpha. The results of correlation of variables showed that there is a negatively significant association between new information technology and family identity and by the increase of using IT, the family identity gets weaker. Also, there is no significant association between new information technology and ethnic identity. In other part of results, there is a negative and significant association between new information technology and individual identity and by increasing the using of new information technology, individual identity gets weaker.

Keywords: Ethnical identity, Individual identity, Family identity, New information technology

Introduction

Today, the communities are exposed to changes more than any period and all people know the world entered a new era and its symbol is information. It can be said, the meanings, effects and outcomes of this new phenomenon have various aspects and they affect various dimensions of human life. One of the most important aspects of human being life affected by new technologies is identity. Identity is also of great importance in the present world. Indeed, identity is one of the mental needs of people and pre-requirement of any collective life. Without determining a framework for social identity, people are similar to each other and none of them cannot be linked significantly and forever with others. Thus, it can be said, without social

identity, there is no society (Webster 2006, old translation 2004).

As it was said, one of the most important issues of new world is identity crisis and identity issue. This issue is not restricted to specific region or country and it is including all over the world. Like other people, we are exposed to change and we can experience their outcomes. Like other parts of the world, we are exposed to great challenges from identity aspects and among Iranian people, the youth are affected much of these changes. The youth are one of the most important social classes and due to the features of this period; they are mostly affected by these new changes. One of the basic issues of this thesis is the investigation of the identity features of young students. On the other hand, information community facilities and its outcomes are

considerably observed in Tehran metropolis. The development of new information and communication technologies, development of satellite networks, rapid development of communication roads, deep changes of urban structure, development of coffee nets and various clubs, rapid growth of urbanization, being influenced of recent global and regional changes namely regarding various ethnicities and etc. lead to major changes in attitude style and living methods of people in the society and they changed the identity much varied compared to the past. The students are one of the most important classes and they are influenced more of these new changes due to the features of adolescence and youth periods. The study regarding the impact of new conditions on social identity arising from the emergence of new information phenomena and new communication tools is a necessary issue. Another important problem is the investigation of the impact of new information and communication technologies on identity of Tehrani students.

Another important issue in selection of this topic is the shortage of the organized literature in new technologies and identity of students in the third millennium and this study attempted to present a part of problem-relevant literature.

As it was said, the studies regarding the impact of new conditions on social identity arising from the emergence of new information phenomena and new communication tools are necessary. The main problem of the study is what is the relationship between IT and identity of male students of high schools of district 3 of Tehran city?

Study Questions

Main question

Are new information technologies effective on identity of male students of high schools of district 3?

Sub questions

- 1- Is there any relationship between the use of students of new information technologies and their family identity condition?
- 2- Is there any relationship between the use of students of new information technologies and their individual identity condition?
- 3- Is there any relationship between the use of students of new information technologies and their ethnical identity condition?

6-1 Study variables

The theoretical and operational definitions of study variables Identity

Identity is formed by dialectic between a person and society. They accept that identity is manifested in attitudes and emotions of people but its formation is collective life. Social identity manifested in personality is not meaningful beside social world of other people. People are unique and varied but personality is made socially and by various stages of socialization and social interaction (Golmohammadi, 2002).

Information and Communication technologies (ICT)

New information and communication technologies include all communication and digital computer equipment as except computers include a range of service presentation services (server) to small and manual tools. These technologies include mobiles (cell and digital TV) (Golsorkh Tabar Amiri, Hosseinzade, 2011).

Internet

Internet is a network including some networks linked by a protocol. Major part of internet includes Worldwide WED as the set of documents by Hyper LINKS and Interlinr. The most common technology in internet is EMIL and FILE TRANSDDR PROTOCOL and world wide web .

The negative outcome of using new technologies In this study, the definition of “negative outcome” is used to refer to any behavior or social and psychological outcome of using internet, satellite and etc as called negative by the users, scientific researches or public discussions (Amani, 2010).

World Wide Web (www, or just the web)

Web is a wide set of hypertext documents available via internet (Saburi, Rahmani Saburi, 2011).

Operational definitions

Identity: Identity is the score the subject receives of researcher-built questionnaire 22-item (questions 1-22)

ICT: ICT is the score the subject receives of researcher-built 19-item questionnaire.

7-2 Review of literature in Iran

Sepanchi (2011) in a study “the evaluation of the factors of journalists of Tehran city application of Tehran answered this question that by which reasons and applications, Iranian journalists use internet information as the main tool of receiving news, information and various analyses in the present era. The study method is survey and questionnaire technique completed by 212 journalists. The results of the study showed that most journalists applied internet averagely for writing. It is necessary that all journalists use this world web. The evaluation of most of the

respondents of Iran government policies to use internet is weak.

Abasi (2010) conducted a study “the investigation of the relationship between using internet and religious identity of users” and found the following results as based on the findings of path analysis, all the study hypotheses as variables of duration of users using internet, the amount of users using internet, the type of users using internet and the aim of users to use internet, participation and activation of users in using internet, considering the content of internet sites as realistic from the users, socio-economic basis of the users and the education of users had relationship with the religious identity of users and it is supported. Here, the duration of users using internet directly, the variables of using internet, the type of using of internet, motivation and goal of users to use internet, participation and active nature of users in using internet and the education of users indirectly and considering the internet sites content real from the users and socio-economic status of users as directly and indirect influenced the dependent variable of study, the religious identity of users.

Ahangari (2010) conducted a study “ the application of young girls of internet and its influence on religious identity of girls”. The results of the study showed that there is a difference in terms of religious identity between the girls using these facilities and those who don't use and the relation between these two variables is inverse. This is due to the fact that the families who use internet freely have weak religious beliefs and religious identity compared to other families. This issue is also based on another factor and as internet is not used logically in our society, these media and information and communication facilities promote materialistic and western individualistic culture. One of its problematic aspects is reduction of religious and ethical belonging in adolescents and the youth.

Regarding using internet and its impact on ethnical identity, the findings showed that the ethnical identity of those using internet is weaker than those not using this tool.

Mirdamadi (2010) in a study “cybernetic space as urban space of case study of users in Tehran city” found that cybernetic space from the view of all respondents in the study can be used as a space for visiting and as urban space is produced for such purpose and the basic assumption is fulfilling such goal, virtual space is imagined as urban space. Thus, cyber space is imagined as urban space. Cyber space is acceptable for internet users based on their definition of space.

Akhavan (2007) in a study “ the result of two space nature of identity and specifically gender identity in two real and virtual spaces”. The main hypothesis is as gender is effective on identity representation in weblog and among cyber network, studied weblog and representation of identity among two genders. His theoretical paradigm is in two spaces of globalization and by taking post-structural strategy and non-essentialism investigated the main issue. He also emphasized on self-understanding model of Damon and Hart. His study population is those with weblogs. Based on the responses, Akhavan found that existing gender limitations in real space are continued in cyber space and gender difference is in specific dimension of identity in representation.

Ghaderi (2005) in a study “the investigation of the effects and outcomes of network society on social identity of the youth (case study of the youth of Kermanshah city) found that the difference of mean of two groups in religious identity scale, using foreign channels and satellite had effect on religious identity of adolescents. The impact of using satellite and foreign channels of TV on establishing the identity of adolescents was not supported.

Khoshnevis (2005) in a study “ Iranian world view in two space world” showed that Iranian world view in three studies fields is as middle and the reason is as using internet in Iran is not organized yet and it has compensating function to meet the unmet needs of users in the real world. In the next stage, Khoshnevis attempted for exact study of world view to study the existence or the absence of correlation between contextual features of respondents and their world view and the results showed that world view of users is high at young age and it is expected that by entering the new generations, we can connect to the cyber world and this increases world view of Iranians.

Khalili (2005) in a study “blogging in Iran, qualitative and quantitative study of expressing identity with emphasis on personal weblogs” showed that the features of weblog content are 29.5% in romantic inclinations, political 27.6%, job 22.8%, family 22.4%, religious 20.5% and sexual 11.2%. Most of the respondents are relatively religious but the type of religious item is different in the weblog of items in other media according to 92.5% of people. Other findings of survey are appropriate weblog for political inclinations (50%) and romantic (42%). The findings of interviews showed that for each of three groups of weblogs, specific goal is determined. The censored items along the question of political-social news are the goal presented by political-social bloggers. Most of the literal-artistic bloggers considered criticism of works to improve them considered as their goal and personal bloggers considered also writing, expressing feelings and beliefs and saying about their items along with the personal development, fighting against self-censorship and coping up with their weaknesses as their major goals. Three groups have common goals as making friends, writing personal items and self-expression of the part of self and life and other method is not shown and it is hidden or suppressed until now.

The wide weblog communication but not deep communication is considered and the inclination to direct the weblog relation to the real world exists in most of the interviewees. There is dual state regarding the role and effects of weblog as some people consider it effective on individual growth but others consider negative role for it.

Ramezani (2002) conducted a study “comparison of the type of pre-university students’ identity using satellite and foreign TV channels and the students not using them. The findings showed that the type of adolescents identity is as early and the difference of the mean of scores of two groups in dignity identity test showed that foreign TV channels and satellite had impact on early identity and reduced it. Also, the difference of two groups in terms of national identity showed that satellite reduced national identity of adolescents and increased non-belonging feeling to national identity. However, the difference of the mean of users’ scores of foreign TV channels and non-users was not significant at national level and final questionnaire is also completed by a sample (356 people) of Tehran University students. The sampling method is quota non-probability sampling and students are divided into experiment group as 180 and control group as 185 people based on having or not having experience of using internet.

Doran (2002) in a study “ the impact of cybernetic space on social identity” divided the results of the study as briefly : a) Regarding the main question of the study “what is the outcome of network community on social identity” responded that this phenomenon has positive and negative impacts. The negative impacts include the rapid division of communities, change of concepts, place, time, space and cultural resources and challenging the traditional and original identities and also promoting the varied and instable identities. The increase of identity resources and freedom of people for required

resources, the freedom of people of the meta individual factors and identity structure and providing virtual reality are positive effects of network society. The following results are achieved; there is a significant association between the use of the youth of network community and their identity in the studied population. This relationship is low. The most positive outcomes of network society regarding social identity of the youth are regarding their job dimension. The more the access of the youth to new communication tools, the more dynamic their job identity. The outcomes of network society and its effects on individual identity of the studied community is positive as the higher the benefits and problems of the youth in network community, the easier their access to these dependent resources in terms of individual identity and the condition is appropriate. Regarding the hypothesis of the use of youth of network community and their ethnical identity, it can be said this new phenomenon with its facilities cause that the youth have suitable perception of history, language culture and ethnicity as it leads to less correlation among the youth. This can be considered as one of the important factors to promote ethnical identity among the youth. There is a negative and inverse impact between the use of the youth of network community and religious identity, it means that the more the access of the youth to information resources, the weaker their religious identity. The results showed that there is a significant relation between experience of cybernetic space and three levels of social identity (family identity, peers identity and national identity) of the respondents.

8-2 Review of literature in the world

Richard K moore (2009) conducted a study “democracy and cyber space”. The author has skeptic view to the new condition and believes that the image of idealistic dream actualization of

digital democracy followers is a simplistic view as he believes that the benefits of the main actors are mostly affected by political and economic opportunities. The reality is that digital democracy is a dual sword leading to the people capability or Demagogue, it can be the voice of common men and women or an instrument to implement the disease policies that even corrupted governments avoid it. Moore believes that basic problems of this system are its internal non-responsiveness and it is a painful issue. Under the current condition and based on the dominance of rulers and the rich on information and the changing of these tools by the m, digital democracy exacerbates the problems of democracy.

Sing Jil K.C.debas (2009) conducted a study “information community and its considerable challenges”. This article at first considered the importance of information and its role in human community changes. Then, the concept of information community is investigated and some indices including good access to information, the superiority of information to other elements, the change of job structures and etc. are considered for this concept. According to this study, today information community is encountered with some specific challenges. Some challenges including the skills of information experts, information management skills and update knowledge are the challenges of information community. The required strategies emphasized for continuing include the recognition of users, distinguishing their needs, discovery of the priorities and goals of users, information services ground, increasing financial resources and etc.

Tajfl (2009) conducted a study “relationship between personality identity and globalization renovation”. He believed that personal identity formation and globalization process in recent periods formed two local and global dialectics as even the changes in specific aspects of personal

life are associated widely to social contacts. Indeed, the temporal-spatial distance dimensions in the present renovation period is developed as for the first time in humanity history, the self and society interact in global environment. In other words, various factors affect the relations between personal identity and social institutions. This reflection of modernity period continues to the depth of human being. In traditional cultures in which all social affairs are similar form one generation to another as equal, social identity change is like a vivid sign of personality of people. In new communities, self-change should be found via personal searching and it can be considered as a part of mutual contact process between personal and social changes.

Stuart Hall (1991) conducted a study “local, global: globalization and ethnicity”. Hall emphasizes on identity distinction in local and global confronting. He says when you go around the world, when you find what the others are, you find, what they are not. Thus, what you are gets meaningful. Thus, identity gets meaningful in the vision of not being, not being similar and a negative view. He believes that by globalization, national culture and identity of Britain are destructed. It seems that Hall didn't consider the returning aspects of identity as formed in confrontation with another one and it leads to turning back to the self.

Christopher.Sanderz (2000) in a study “using internet, depression and social isolation of adolescents” distributed a questionnaire to 89 senior students of one of the high schools of Florida in which 37 boys and 52 girls are studied and the following items are studied.

- 1-Using internet
- 2- Relationship with parents and peers
- 3-Depression

The results of the study showed the considerable impact of communication tools on behavior and mental state of people. It means that high application of internet is associated with weak social link. The data showed that those using internet less are more in contact with the family and friends. The researcher believed that to study in this regard, we should evaluate wide range of mental and social factors to use internet to have full understanding of the effects of this phenomenon on social life of people.

2- Study method

This study is applied in terms of purpose and descriptive-correlation in terms of method. In these researches, the relationship between variables is analyzed based on study purpose. In correlation studies, if the purpose is predicting the dependent variables based on independent variables, the dependent variable is called criterion and independent variable is called prediction variable.

3-3 The study population

The study population is including all the male students of high school of district 3 of Tehran city as 2200 people.

3-4 Sample size and sampling method

Based on study population 2200 and Morgan Table, the sample size is 327.

The data collection measure

As the study is descriptive, the research measure is researcher-built questionnaire.

This measure is composed of 41 questions and 4 factors are evaluated totally. Question 1-8 family identity, question 9-15 ethnic identity, question 16-22 individual identity and question 23-41 evaluate the use of IT.

At the beginning of the questionnaire of this study, three questions regarding age, education and academic group are asked.

3-7 The validity and reliability of study measure

After determining the validity of questionnaire, after approval of experts, the questionnaires are distributed among 10 experts and their comments are asked. The validity of questionnaire is face validity. To compute the reliability of the above questionnaire, the questionnaire is distributed among 35 people and the results are shown in the following Table.

Table 3-1 Cronbach's alpha of questionnaire

Total alpha	Number of questions
0.908	41

3-8 Data analysis method

The data of questionnaire are used in two sections of descriptive and inference statistics. In descriptive section, central measures including mode, median and mean and dispersion indices as variance, changes range, standard deviation, frequency and percent are applied. Regarding inference statistics, Pearson correlation coefficient is applied.

Data analysis

First question: Is there any relationship between the use of students of new information technologies and their family identity?

To investigate this hypothesis, Pearson correlation coefficient between the use of students of new information technologies and family identity condition is calculated. The results are shown in Table 4-4.

Table 4-4- The results of correlation coefficient regarding the use of students of new information technologies and family identity condition

Family identity condition	Pearson correlation coefficient	Significance level (two-tailed)	The use of students of new information technologies
-0.197			
0.002			
327	N		

The results of Table 4-4 showed that there is a negative and significant relationship between the use of students of new information technologies and family identity ($P=0.002$, $r=-0.197$). As this relation is negative, the increase of using new information technologies leads to the weakness of family identity.

Second question: Is there any relationship between the use of students of new information technologies and their ethnical identity?

To investigate this hypothesis, Pearson correlation coefficient is calculated between the use of students of new information technologies and ethnical identity condition. The results are shown in Tables 4-5.

Table 4-5 The results of correlation coefficient for the relationship between the use of students of new information technologies and ethnical identity.

Ethnical identity	Pearson correlation coefficient	Significance level (two-tailed)	The use of students of new information technologies
-0.040			
0.493			
327	N		

The results of Table 4-4 show that there is no negative and significant association between the use of students of new information technologies and ethnical identity ($P=0.493$, $r = -0.040$).

Third question: Is there any relationship between the use of students of new information technologies and their individual identity?

To investigate this hypothesis, Pearson correlation coefficient between the use of students of new information technologies and individual identity is computed. The results are shown in Tables 4-6.

Table 4-6 The results of correlation coefficient for the relationship between the use of students of new information technologies and individual identity

Individual identity condition	Pearson correlation coefficient	Significance level (two-tailed)	The use of students of new information technologies
	-0.342		
		0.000	
		327	N

The results of Table 4-6 showed that there is a negative and significant association between the use of students of new information technologies and individual identity ($P=0.0001$, $r=-0.342$). As this relation is negative, it can be said the increase of using the students of new information technologies can lead to the weakness of individual identity.

Study findings

The study findings based on the analysis of the results of the first question showed that there is a significant association between the use of students of new information technologies and their family identity and it can be said the increase of use of students of new information technologies leads to the weakness of family identity. This finding is in line with the findings of Ghaderi (2005), Doran (2004).

Ghaderi (2005) and Doran (2004) in the results of the study found that using satellite and foreign TV channels reduces the family identity of people. People have some common points in their family with other members. These common

features are transferred in growth process in the family to him. In the past and before the entrance of new technologies, the major communication was based on face to face relationship with others. Thus, family identity of people was very considerable. People can determine this issue in talking with each other and today internet provided the space in which new relations are formed outside of the family relations. In this space, people make new and false identities for themselves. These identities are in contradiction with family identity. Gradually, these new identities affect people and lead to the contradiction between an individual, traditions, beliefs and family.

In another part of study findings, there is no significant association between the use of students of new information technologies and their ethnic identity; this is not in line with the findings of Alavi (2008), Hafeznia et al., (2006) and Fank et al., (1996).

Alavi (2008) showed that the condition of national identity depending upon the extreme use of computer is reduced considerably. According to Hafeznia et al., (2006), the development of globalization processes in the form ICT is associated with national identity. In other words, by increasing the use of IT, the national interests are reduced. According to Fank et al., (1996), being exposed to some media as internet and satellite can affect the attitude and behavior and identity of people and continuing to pay them has negative impact in long-term and it reduces empathy and the lack of national belonging and ethnic belonging. Regarding the analysis of the role of new technologies in reducing the ethnic identity, it can be said by increasing development of the media, namely the developing communities, the renovation leads to the weakness of traditional links. These media can affect the attitudes and behavior and identity of citizens and also they reduce empathy and national belonging. Based on the results of the study, we can investigate this question in future studies as specific factors are effective in this study. Based on the results of the studies, we should investigate this question in further studies. As it is possible specific factors are important in the study out of the control of researcher.

Finally, based on the final question of the study, there is a significant association between the use of students of new information technologies and their individual identity and by this significance, it can be said the increase of using new information technologies by students leads to the weakness of individual identity. This result is in line with the findings of some studies as Soltani

(2010), Sao et al., (2007) and Lerner and Stinberg (2009).

Soltani (2010) in the results of study showed that identity has direct and indirect impact on internet addiction and it deviates the identity among the adolescents and the youth. Sao et al., (2007) found that the high school students with internet addiction search for innovation and avoiding damages received high scores and also received low scores in rewards. According to Lerner and Stirenberg (2009), identity is effective on internet addiction. The technologies are used to relieve the anxiety of growth changes, continual searching of solutions for solving problems, stabilizing the selections and showing self and their thoughts as important regarding who are they or who will be in future. In using new information technologies including computer, internet, mobile and etc, the youth and adolescents try to discover the values and internalizing them. Thus, by these technologies, they are faced with wide volume of information and they form their identity via searching in this cyber space. Thus, it is possible many adolescents lose their way in internet and other technologies and make their identity searching with crisis. The higher the self-alienation in the people using these technologies, the more they suffer from identity disorientation.

Recommendations

- Conducting similar researches in other regions for better generalization
- Training the impacts of negative use of new technologies as orderly plan to adolescents
- Conducting more researches regarding various impacts of different technologies on other personality features of people
- Creating good conditions for appropriate understanding of youth of positive impact of values, norms, tradition and etc. in national and ethnic culture.

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