

The Problem of Child Exploitation on Twitter: A Socio-Anthropological Perspective on Content Filtering Gaps

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Abstract : This research addresses the problem of illegal child abuse content on the Twitter platform bypassing filtering systems and appearing before users from a social-anthropological perspective. Although the wide access opportunities provided by social media platforms to their users are beneficial in many ways, it is seen that they contain gaps that pave the way for the spread of harmful and illegal content. The aim of the study is to examine the inadequacies of the current content filtering mechanisms of the Twitter platform, to understand the psychological effects of young users unintentionally encountering such content and the social dimensions of this situation. The research was conducted with a qualitative approach and was conducted using digital ethnography, content analysis and user experiences on the Twitter platform. Digital ethnography was used to observe the frequency of child abuse content on the platform and how these contents were presented. The content analysis method was used to reveal the gaps in Twitter's current filtering mechanisms. In addition, detailed information was collected on the extent of psychological effects and how the perception of trust in social media changed through interviews with young users exposed to such content. The main contributions of the research are to highlight the weaknesses in the content moderation and filtering mechanisms of social media platforms, to reveal the negative effects of illegal content on users, and to offer suggestions for preventing the spread of such content. As a result, it is suggested that platforms such as Twitter should improve their content filtering policies in order to increase user security and fulfill their social responsibilities. This research aims to create significant awareness about social media content management and ethical responsibilities on digital platforms.

Keywords : Twitter, child exploitation, content filtering, digital ethnography, social anthropology

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