

# Information strategies for preventing destructive behavior of civic activism in criminal youth subculture

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**Abstract.** This article aims to explore the motivational reasons driving youth engagement in destructive and criminal communities, offering insights into the dynamics and implications of their involvement. To achieve this goal, a comprehensive study was conducted, employing a mix of quantitative and qualitative research methods, including surveys, expert interviews, and focus group discussions. These methods facilitated an in-depth examination of the motivations and deterrents influencing young individuals' participation in these communities. The obtained results allowed us to draw conclusions that the most effective information and prevention strategies are based on education, demonstration of the regulated nature of phenomena, revealing their systematic nature, authorship, hierarchical structure (controllability). Preventive strategies can also be based on the nature of the motivational mechanisms of the youth audience, the basis of positive motivation (desire to join the group) is the desire for active, active self-actualization, the desire to get unusual (extreme) experiences, as well as the desire for security and joining a new ideology. Among the restraining motivational factors: fear of becoming dependent (rigid, humiliating hierarchy), threat of bullying (possibility of personal injuries), loss of positive reputation, high level of conflictogenicity and blackmail.

## 1 Introduction

In today's digital society, information strategies of an explanatory, educational nature are becoming a priority for preventive measures among young people [1, 2]. In the process of designing, developing such preventive information campaigns, a multifactor analysis of the information situation is important: assessment of the stage of the process of spreading the criminal movement (subculture), actual motivational structures of spontaneous youth civic activism, actual factors and conditions of the information field of the situation, etc. [3, 4]. These parameters and categories are rapidly transforming and require constant research.

In the information world, any events are based on changes that are reflected and recorded in the information field. Any destructive and criminal practices popular among young people are based on organized/spontaneous information campaigns, which can be managed through

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counter information campaigns to prevent these phenomena. In order to develop and design these information prevention campaigns, it is important to study the mechanisms of activity of youth audiences, individual and social motivational structures that stimulate decision-making and action [5]. Especially now, in a situation of social instability, the study of the causes and signs of civic activity as a phenomenon of public interaction, spontaneous activity of mass audiences becomes an urgent problem [6, 7]. Civic engagement has various forms of manifestation: informational, affective and behavioral. They can be manifested as participation in elections, rallies, charity actions, creation of public organizations, initiation and organization of exhibitions, performances, festivals, movements, open lectures, debates, etc. can be in the form of criminal manifestations, creation and activity of illegal movements, which are based on violence, enrichment, power [8-11]. Thus, the activity of citizens can be different in structure, ambivalent in nature, contradictory in social orientation: constructive (patriotic, cultural and sports, environmental and other social movements) or destructive (revolutions, riots, criminal wars) forms of manifestation [12, 13]. The sign of constructive manifestation is the improvement of social communication, creation of culturally significant work, improvement of citizens' life and ecology of the environment. The sign of destructive manifestation is violation of public order, moral and social norms.

Youth, an active, active and motivated social group in the digital society, has offline and online resources to manifest its civic and political position. Such activities can create positive conditions for the development of society, but also carry the danger of not only deviant behavior, but also delinquent behavior in the youth environment. According to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, in 2022, the popularity of youth destructive subcultures with suicidal and homophobic tendencies that incite hatred and hostility continued to grow. In popular social networks through virtual communities, groups, such trends as "Columbine" (recognized as a terrorist youth movement in February 2022), "Self-harm" (deliberate self-mutilation), "Japanese depressive anime" (foreign animated films promoting suicide, alternative reality and the use of psychotropic substances) are being promoted.

In general, civic activism is understood as an individual's awareness of his/her rights and duties, his/her own abilities, which can be directed to useful public activities. From the position of social activism, not only public activities are noticed here, but also those that are carried out at the level of citizens' everyday life. Among such activities we can single out volunteerism, charity, concern for environmental issues, participation in social movements, etc. According to L.V. Loginova, "civic activity is a form of socio-political activity based on the realization of personal responsibility for the welfare of the state, which is expressed in a concerned attitude to the current problems of society, in the ability and willingness of a citizen to demonstrate a civic position, to defend group and personal rights and interests" [13, p. 101-102]. In this case, civil society acts as a guarantor of compliance with the moral imperative, and also takes the initiative in the fight against anti-social practices: corruption, gray and black economic fraud, moral and physical defilement of children and adolescents, etc. [15-17].

In general, there are non-political civic activism, which is characterized by the implementation of public practices (volunteering), and political activism, which is focused on defending a position and has requests for change, as well as active and passive forms of the above types. At this stage of development of modern technologies, digital activism is widespread, which implies the use of computer technologies, global network for the purpose of manifestation of civic position and implementation of multidirectional activity (economic, cultural, social, as well as criminal). Digital natives carry out various activities on the Internet: they write comments, articles, posts, sponsor the work of the media, public organizations, bloggers, etc. with the help of various financial platforms. According to D.S. Kurzenkov [18], the digital world allows young people to engage in organized political activity regardless of location, it allows mobilizing masses of people, facilitates

communication in various socio-political actions. But it should also be noticed that "in the sphere of consumption the most active Internet users (zoomers) are exposed to the hidden influence of various information offers, services that penetrate into the subconscious and change attitudes and behavior" [19, p. 53]. The domestic media space (on the Internet) is characterized by the presence of oppositional orientation, and there is a wide spread of globalized ideas and views that appeal to a greater extent to Western culture. An important contribution to the formation of values of young people is made by bloggers, who, through a suggestive influence, introduce information that can cause both harm and benefit to the national interests of the country, which deserves the attention of law enforcement agencies.

It is also important to mention such a phenomenon as hacktivism, which is aimed at implementing social and political objectives through influencing the government, organizations and individuals [20, p. 42]. Such activities can be a real threat to security, as stolen data often become the cause of public unrest and scandals, but on the other hand, it allows for a more open policy.

Speaking about destructive civil activity of young people, it is important to note the general human desire for destruction, which can be directed both at others and at one's own personality [21]. This problem was revealed in his work by E. Fromm, identifying several reasons for such activity, among which we can identify the realization of deep loneliness, weakness and complete lack of life determinants. If we notice the influence of modern digital society, where an individual is perceived as a set of data, i.e. a small thing among many, as well as the relative anonymity in carrying out various operations, such behavior becomes not so rare. The younger generation perceives online activities as unpunished, hidden and non-personalized, which allows them to block the feeling of guilt towards the impersonal victim, hence the roots of cyberbullying.

According to L.V. Loginova, "destructive youth activism is expressed in aggressive individual and collective verbal and non-verbal actions of open resistance in response to the adoption of bills threatening the civil interests of young people" [14, p. 103]. Such a reaction occurs because of the unstable socio-economic and political situation in the country, localized disruption of urban services, as well as criminal activity of economic and political elites that does not cause resistance from law enforcement agencies. Destructive activism is the reaction of the younger generation to illegal actions that deprive them of the possibility of full realization in society, violate civil rights and generate feelings of relative deprivation and frustration. "Youth extremism is characterized primarily by disregard for or denial of social rules and norms of behavior. The development of these perceptions and views gradually acquires more radical forms. The age of members of extremist groups, as a rule, is 14-25 years old, the majority are students of universities and secondary specialized professional institutions" [22, p. 28]. If such activity does not receive feedback from the object of influence, destructive activism moves to the use of more radical methods, transforming into extremism. It is characterized by both violent and non-violent protest, non-compliance with social norms, going to rallies, as well as criminal activity. An important role in the formation of illegal and extremist activity is played by various youth subcultures, among the most famous on the territory of the Russian Federation can be called the culture of A.U.E., soccer fans, PMC "Ryodan", as well as school shooters. But these groups will be labeled in the future.

In the digital world, the degree of influence of media content on the values and motivational structures of individuals is high. As C. Jung [23] predicted: "As at the beginning of the Christian era, today we are again facing the problem of general moral backwardness, which does not keep up with our scientific, technical and social progress".

The humanistic basis of strategies for the development of society, including the organization of youth development is the adaptation of man in the world of technology,

provided that the cultural code, aesthetic norms and ethical values are preserved, transferring it from the real world to the virtual world.

The specifics of the use of digital technologies as new cultural tools influencing the formation of a modern child and adolescent are studied by a group of scientists at Moscow State University (G.U. Soldatova, E.I. Rasskazova, A.E. Vishneva, etc.). The effects of information and cultural influence on the masses are described in the theories of mass communication: two-stage communication by P.F. Lazarsfeld and E. Katz, four models of communication by J. Grunig and T. Hunt [24] and others. Buder et al. [25], explaining the impact of media on the formation of negative attitudes, refer to G.D. Lasswell's "magic bullet" theory developed back in the 1930s. J. Bryant and S. Thompson in their work "Fundamentals of media effects" [26], criticize the simplification of the theory of "magic bullet" by G.D. Lasswell [26], criticize the simplified approach of the gradual-linear model, which considers the intensity of media influence through the scale: "strong-limited-moderate-strong". They talk about the need to develop a broad meta-approach to the study of media influence, which would include three levels of influence on the communicator: behavioral, affective (emotional) and cognitive [27].

B. Akram [28] considers the negative impact of social media through the risks associated with communication in online communities (e.g., cyberbullying, Internet addiction). As a result of analytical work on the impact of the Internet environment on adolescents and young people, he suggests focusing on positive effects (broadening of horizons, development of social skills, inspiration for creativity, sports) and negative effects (distorted body image, sexual behavior disorders, poor school results).

Thus, in today's digital age, the dynamics of youth engagement have evolved significantly, with some young individuals gravitating towards destructive and criminal communities. These communities often manifest themselves through various online platforms and are characterized by behaviors that pose a significant challenge to social harmony and public safety. Understanding the motivations behind the interest of the youth audience in such communities is crucial for developing effective preventive measures and support systems.

The purpose of this article is to delve into the intricate web of motivational factors that drive young people to participate in these destructive communities.

## **2 Methods**

The methodology of the study of personal values involves the use of quantitative methods (survey) and qualitative methods (analysis of departmental documents of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the RT, expert interview, focus group).

The survey was conducted in August - September 2023 among high school students and parents of Kazan, Naberezhnye Chelny, Mendeleevsk, Elabuga (Republic of Tatarstan). The respondents of the survey were 4,017 people aged 14 to 18 (3,395 people) and over 40 (622 people). Of the total number of respondents, 47% were women and 53% were men. The questions were formulated based on the results of a pilot study - interviews with schoolchildren and their parents by Ministry of Internal Affairs officers in educational institutions in Kazan and the districts of the Republic of Tatarstan.

The purpose of the survey was to investigate the degree of awareness of young people and their parents about existing informal groups, as well as to identify motivational mechanisms that stimulate or limit interest in these communities.

The survey was conducted under conditions of complete anonymity. All research participants were aware of how and for what purposes the information would be processed. Interviews were recorded on a dictaphone only with their consent. The interviews were analyzed in a summarized form, confidentiality of personal data was ensured.

The focus group was conducted in September 2023 among young people aged 15-23 (n=10) living in Kazan. The discussion revealed a common understanding of the problem of destructive communities in social networks, the reasons for their attractiveness and the dangers they carry.

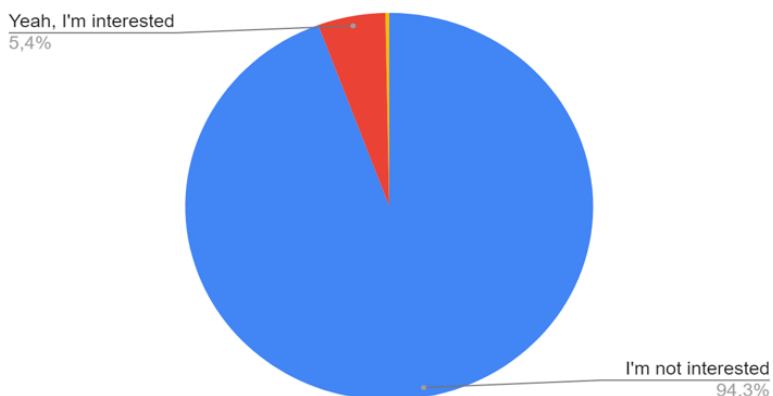
The results of the experiment were discussed and supplemented during an expert interview with D.R. Karibullin, Deputy Head of the Center for Countering Extremism of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of RT, and related to the topics of research on the nature of criminal communities, as well as information prevention strategies. This study was conducted according to a standardized methodology [29].

### **3 Results**

Preventive and research interviews revealed a number of motivational reasons for the interest of the youth audience in criminal communities. Thus, among the motivational reasons most often mentioned were: the opportunity to prove themselves (self-actualization), acceptance of responsibility, aspiration for leadership, joining a group, interest in unusual (alternative) but at the same time holistic ideology (ideas), unusual behavioral manifestations and vivid impressions received from joint activities (activity), the opportunity to express protest. The participants of the preventive conversations were also concerned with emotional support and security they receive when they become one of the group members; on the other hand, they noted the adolescent desire for independence, independent choice, as well as the desire to be fashionable and modern. Among the limiting factors most often mentioned were cruelty and aggression, the system of humiliating hierarchy, the danger of committing a group offense, the possibility of personal negative consequences (psychological and physical injuries, fear of beatings). The same discourages and keeps from joining such groups is the high level of conflict, which more often relies on the traditions of criminal communication (intragroup blackmail), inconsistency of personal norms and outlook, bullying and persecution, loss of positive reputation, inclusion in a vicious circle of forced interaction.

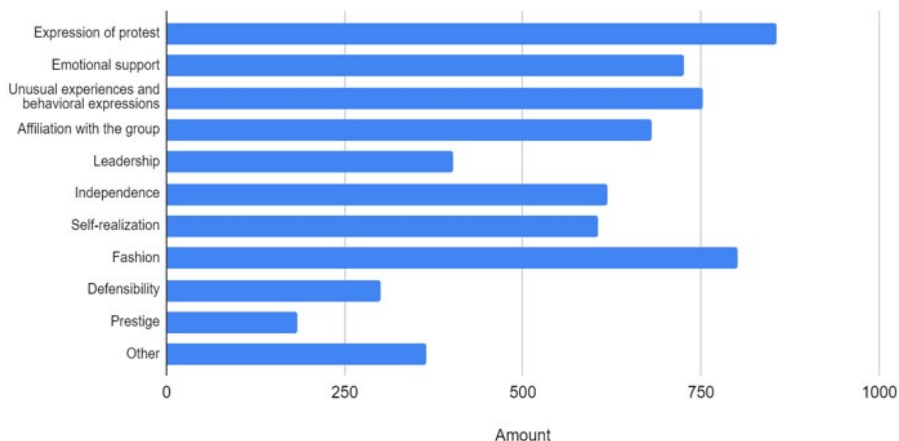
The conducted analysis, in the course of which the methods of quantitative and qualitative analysis (surveys, expert interviews, focus group) were applied, confirmed the high level of awareness of the audience in this phenomenon, and also revealed a number of motivational stimuli, including in destructive practices: the desire for active manifestation, involvement in group activities, joining a popular "trend" and so on. Also, deterrent factors were identified: fear of violence, rigid system of hierarchy, restriction of freedom and personal choice. The data of the experiment were implemented in the practice of preventive information projects of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Tatarstan and received a high response among the youth audience.

In the course of the survey it was possible to establish the level of awareness of the audience regarding the existence of destructive youth communities that create conditions for criminal manifestations. 94.3% of respondents do not turn to the pages of destructive nature and have no interest in the groups described above, which means that the modern generation is not interested in a high level of involvement in destructive social groups, despite the possibility of accessing them via the Internet. only 5.4% of respondents demonstrated a high level of awareness. It is also worth noting that many respondents commented on their answers referring to extremely negative assessments of these phenomena. showing interest in this phenomenon, representatives of Generation Z reported that they are interested in this form of youth activism as "an attempt to understand the psychology of people belonging to this or that group".



**Fig. 1.** Quantitative ratio of the fact of interest in the proposed topic.

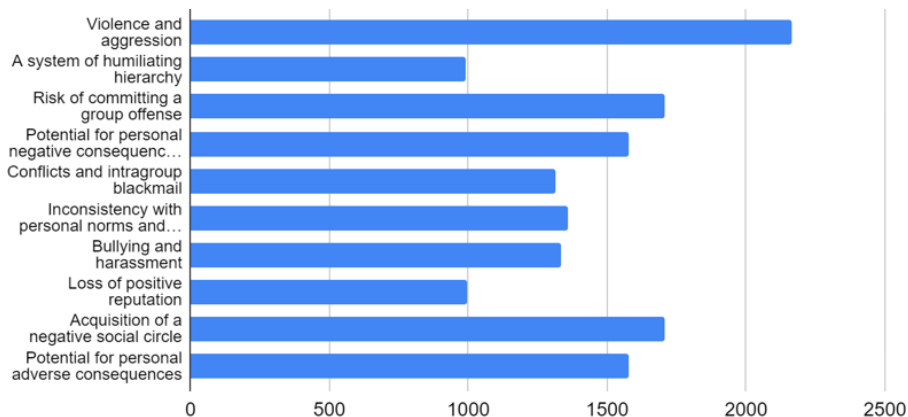
The study of motivational stimuli showed that the following factors are influential: demonstration of protest 21.3%, fashion 19.9%, unusual impressions 18.7%, emotional support 18.1%, belonging to a group and common ideology 17%, the possibility of self-actualization with taking responsibility 15.1% plays an important role. To identify the percentage proportion, we take a look at the sample of the most frequent answers.



**Fig. 2.** Quantity relative to the parameter "Factor of positive attitude".

The comparative analysis of the most popular answers among generations Z and generations X and Y showed similarity in the opinion that the expression of protest becomes the strongest motivating stimulus. Among the differences with regard to the respondents - representatives of the generations of children and parents, young respondents have a larger list of motives. Schoolchildren and college students identify the main factors stimulating interest as: expression of protest, emotional support, fashion, and belonging to a group and a common ideology. Generation parents identify 1 to 3 variations of motivational stimuli. The most frequent are "expression of protest, emotional support, desire for independence". Consequently, for the youth audience the actual need becomes demonstration of their opinion (disagreement with something), the need for emotional support of the group, the desire for community, inclusion in group interaction with a common ideology, in the manifestation of themselves, in the manifestation of leadership qualities. High marks were also given to the factors: "fashion". Representatives of the older generation believe that demonstration of independence and the need for support become the most attractive for young people.

Among the factors of negative attitude to destructive communities and groups, the following were selected:



**Fig. 3.** Quantity in relation to the parameter "Factor of negative attitude".

"Cruelty and aggression" (53.9%), characteristic of informal structures of society, become the most powerful argument to express a negative attitude towards them. Respondents equally highlighted the danger of committing a group offense (42.5%) and acquiring a negative social circle (42.5%), and the possibility of personal injuries or other negative consequences is also an influential factor (39.3%).

Thus, it can be concluded that the majority of schoolchildren and their parents protect themselves not only from participation in these movements, but even from information related to destructive manifestations of civic activity. The share of respondents answering that they see nothing interesting in such activities and are not interested in this topic is high. Brutality within groups and offenses factor at the legislative level restrain aggressive manifestations of youth to a due extent, but still, the result of the research is another fact that should be noticed. More attention should be paid to the emotional health of youth and a comfortable environment should be organized for their expression and leadership.

### 3.1 Analysis of some facts and materials on the criminogenic situation in the sphere of criminal activity of youth communities showed a steady increase in activity

If in 2020 the number of blocked Internet resources in connection with the applications of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in the Republic was only 9, in 2021, 390 Internet communities and individual pages distributing content with signs of criminal manifestations were blocked at the request of internal affairs bodies in the Republic of Tatarstan. More than 250 groups and virtual communities of destructive orientation in the social network "Vkontakte" were revealed, subscribers of destructive communities in the Republic of Tatarstan - more than 280 thousand accounts. The most active ones are:

- "A.U.E": 106501 subscribers, +0.8%;
- depressive-suicidal: 43708 subscribers, +1.7%;
- radical fans: 50062 subscribers, +1.2%;
- anarchist: 17568 subscribers, +0.5%;
- neo-Nazi: 12,231 subscribers, +0.2%.

Decrease in the number of participants is observed in the following thematic communities: school shooting, - 3.7%;

- depressive-pseudo-Islamic: 2417 subscribers, -1.7%;

- pseudo-Islamic: 15690 subscribers, -0.3%.

There is a tendency to increase the number of thematic communities associated with depressive and suicidal motives, demonstration of violence (radical soccer fans), and communities with right-wing ideology.

In 2022, one of the most popular destructive online movements among Russian youth was the movement of so-called "swatters", whose members carry out mass mailings about the mines of state, educational and other socially significant institutions on behalf of the victim of "swatting". Initial goals of the swatters were personal and ambitious - to harm a particular person (classmate, girlfriend, etc.) by sending out a message on his behalf about the mines, expecting that the law enforcement authorities will be prosecuted for knowingly false reporting of an act of terrorism (Art. 207 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation). However, such a scheme quickly gained popularity among pubescent youth and nowadays "swatting" has become an illegal business, often children under the age of criminal liability under Article 207 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation (14 years old) are selected to perform "swatting".

At the end of February 2023, the spread of information about the activities of PMC "Ryodan" (youth subculture of anime fans) was recorded in social networks and popular messengers. The main way of communication of like-minded people are carried out through numerous forums, chat rooms, sites dedicated to Japanese anime, as well as joint online games, in which like-minded people unite in the clan "Ryodan". Between the representatives of PMC "Ryodan" and the so-called "offniki" there was a conflict over claims to the appearance of representatives of PMC "Ryodan". Information about the conflict of informal associations began to spread through Internet resources, which led to the emergence of conflicts between these groups in Russian cities. The phenomenon of the subculture of PMC "Ryodan" is that it appeared rapidly and instantaneously and throughout Russia.

### **3.2 Analysis of the information strategy of the case study "mass murder in school"**

The criminal movement "Columbine" got its name from the analogy of a criminal incident. In the school "Columbine" (Jefferson County, USA) on April 20, 1999 there was a mass murder of 13 people (23 people were wounded), which ended with the suicide of the attackers. In Kazan, a similar tragedy occurred on 11.05.2021. In MBOU "Gymnasium 175" in Kazan, 9 people became victims of the attack, 32 people were injured. As a result of the information wave there was a sharp surge of activity among youth audiences: there was a sharp increase in the number of messages and personal accounts promoting such illegal behavior. In the course of counteraction work the following pages were identified: 24 pages in the social network "Vkontakte", 24 in "Odnoklassniki", 58 in "TikTok", 17 in the social network "Instagram", 7 in "Facebook". The listed pages were sent for blocking both through Roskomnadzor's departmental website and through embedded services on the sites - a total of 130 links."). From 2021 to 2023, 71 reports of possible preparation of crimes by supporters of destructive ideology against students or teachers were identified. Each report was checked by officers of the Center for the Prevention of Torture of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the RT together with territorial internal affairs bodies. Dozens of persons, whose research has shown the highest level of tension, aggression, and readiness to commit a violent crime, who are under the supervision of psychologists, teachers, or placed in a psychiatric hospital, are under the control of the services. The Anti-Terrorist Commission in the Republic of Tatarstan coordinates comprehensive preventive work in relation to them. For example, a student of Nizhnekamsk College, born in 2003, an orphan, previously treated in a psychiatric hospital, abuses alcohol and drugs, made death threats in a chat room of his classmates. Another Internet user, a student of the Kazan Construction College, a former pupil of the Yelabuga



orphanage, registered with the Department of Internal Affairs, posted an image of Galyaviev on his social network page. According to psychological tests and characteristics, violent, prone to violence, used violence against others. The analysis showed that the motives and goals of destructive behavior of all the above persons were: resentment and revenge for humiliation and bullying in educational organizations; desire to draw attention to themselves and their problems; mental disorder or alcohol abuse; hooligan motives. The decrease in the number of virtual communities on the subject of "school shooting" (columbine) is due to the declining popularity of this movement among young people, as well as effective measures for the timely detection and blocking of such resources by both the administrations of social networks and supervisory authorities. In the course of monitoring communities with signs of "columbine" content distribution, virtual communities were documented as follows ("Over and over again. I'm just angry", "Clmbn1999", "νεκρές ψυχές", "Died", "#F54", "Suicide for the youngest" and so on).

Among the total number of criminal information, which can be attributed to the manifestation of destructive youth activism in 2020-2023, more than 20% related to the activities of the terrorist movement "Columbine". The reason for the interest in this trend in children are long-term psychotraumatic factors in an educational organization or at home. "Columbine" is recognized as a terrorist movement, and the criminal liability for participation in such a movement is from 8 years of imprisonment [30]. The Ministry of Internal Affairs has developed an algorithm of work to prevent columbine, which is based on timely receipt of information about deviant behavior from educational institutions, psychological services, and health authorities. Information campaigns to prevent this type of activity have shown high effectiveness.

**Based on the results of a focus group conducted in September 2023**, it was revealed that the majority of respondents are familiar with the activities of destructive groups in social networks, they highlight the groups "Blue Whale", "Columbine", as well as various communities of depressive orientation. "I have never looked for such groups myself, so the only group for me that used to be on my radar was Blue Whale on Vkontakte. In this group, children and teenagers were given easy tasks at first, then slightly harder and so on upwards up to suicide. A very terrible and high-profile case [male, 23]; some of them, such as groups of anorexics, communities that idealize pain and suffering." [female, 20]. Some of them were members directly or indirectly, while others denied any involvement in such communities. "I know about their existence, but I have never stumbled upon their pages, as I myself do not belong to these groups and neither do my acquaintances [male, 21]; I often see such content, there was a period when I was a member of such groups, but more for depressive and apathetic orientation." [female, 15]. It is important to note that these groups were not focused on developing a desire for suicide, but more on absolutizing the negative state as a way to gain meaning in life. "I know a couple of Twitter accounts admiring the Columbine Society, maybe a couple more people I personally knew once who were interested in some way and also subscribed to such communities in VK." [female, 16] However, one respondent denies the existence of such groups, attributing it to non-serious and joking behavior, which resonates in the immature minds of teenagers and children.

Among the reasons why destructive communities attract people, respondents highlight the following: desire for group identification, loneliness, lack of attention and control from traditional institutions of socialization (family, school, university), desire to belong to a special (non-mass) caste of people, resentment. "Almost every person wants to feel a sense of attachment to some social group, wants attention and to be needed in this world, wants to be listened to. It happens due to different circumstances that some people do not get proper attention and become rejected by society [male, 23]; I think that some people are attracted by banally similar thoughts, opinions, problems [female, 15]; people suffering from different problems find there an understanding audience, those who are similar to them in their views.

There is definitely content there that supports their idea, feeds their inclinations" [female, 22]. Some respondents emphasize that it is traumatized or mentally ill people who join such groups, as well as teenagers who are bullied in schools, colleges, and are easily manipulated. "Romanticizing the shooters themselves and trying to justify them. Most often, people interested in "school shooting" have bad relations with teachers and classmates, a desire to get revenge somehow or to prove something. It is easy to push such people to action, and they themselves, joining them, are looking for guidance [female, 15]; such groups unite ideologically similar (sick) people who reinforce each other's beliefs in their views [male, 21]; the attractive thing is that they are not approved by society and some of them are even forbidden. Very interesting for teenagers who want to join the general herd of "grandfather insiders" or for children of broken families who are having a hard time and don't know how to get attention. And the adults who are interested are likely to be psychologically traumatized" [female, 23]. The respondent, who works as a school teacher, believes that the target audience of these communities are teenagers, who, due to their psychological characteristics, are easily manipulated. Most of them seek to increase their social status in front of their peers through these communities, which promote deviant behavior, violence, and superiority over others. It is this fact that attracts a large audience.

Destructive communities repel all respondents, it is associated with violation of the RF legislation, involvement in violence, disregard for moral values, personal beliefs, lack of interest and common sense. Such communities/groups are fueled by negativity, which leads to further escalation, resulting in tragic consequences for both the individual and society as a whole. One of the valid reasons is anomie, which entails a person's lack of understanding of how to achieve goals in a given society, resulting in deviant behavior among young people.

Summarizing the results of the expert interview conducted on 5.09.23 with D.R. Karibullin, Deputy Head of the Center for Countering Extremism of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of RT, the following conclusions can be drawn:

1. "All destructive Internet communities have authors (ideologists of the movement and the leadership group) and a common marker: the desire for death and destruction of the maximum number of people. The ideology remains unchanged despite changes in the composition of the group, transformation of the vector of activity. "The groups change, replace one another, but the ideology remains unchanged".

2. "In the Russian information field now there are no unambiguously suicidal groups (analog of "Blue Whale"), the activity of religious extremists is decreasing, but there is still the presence of destructive groups aimed at killing and mass destruction (or causing harm) of certain social or age groups." "At the center of Columbine ideology is the idea of overpopulation of the earth. The criminal movement has a Western analog, the Last Generation, and the group openly declares its goal: to make the planet uninhabited."

3. "While monitoring criminal activity, we observe a fusion of ideas and directions, but in terms of structure and logic of actions, it can be considered a regulated process". Thus, the topic of "columbine" began to be promoted after the liquidation of "Blue Whale". The crime in the U.S. was committed in 1999, and the information outburst began 20 years later. Someone needed to spread this information online.

4. Information and prevention activities of the Ministry of Internal Affairs are based on the strategy of clarification, education. "We monitor the Internet space, identify dangerous content and tell teenagers and parents about the trends. At personal meetings and in media publications, we reveal the nature of criminal communities, show tools for managing teenagers, and give recommendations on how to avoid such situations".

Because of the widespread distribution of violent and antisocial content, destructive activities are increasing, as it is much easier to find adherents of harmful ideas online and to create a base for organizing criminal and extremist activity. In addition, the unstable situation - both economic and social - becomes one of the reasons for the involvement of young people

in marginalized communities; the lack of clear self-identification, maximalism, which does not allow for a sound assessment of the situation, further reduces vigilance, which leads to a more intense stratification of society and increased illegal activity. The foundation of extremism is the conflict between social units, which are divided according to the principle of dualism: "you are with us or against us. The feeling of hatred (ressentiment) allows to sublimate frustration about one's own failures, transferring all the blame to the object of hatred, creates an ideology that opposes the values of other groups [31], including the conditions of digitalization development [32-44]. This allows one to identify oneself with some group (economic, ethnic, confessional, political, etc.), which creates the illusion of peace of mind and self-importance.

## 4 Conclusions

As a result of the experiment, we can draw a general conclusion that the majority of school students and their parents shield themselves not only from participation in these movements, but even from information related to destructive manifestations of civic activity. The share of respondents answering that they see nothing interesting in such activities and are not interested in this topic is high. Brutality within groups and offenses factor at the legislative level restrain aggressive manifestations of youth to a due extent, but still, the result of the research is another fact that should be noticed. More attention should be paid to the emotional health of youth and a comfortable environment should be organized for their expression and leadership.

Some limitations important for understanding the results of the study should be noted. Since the respondents themselves assessed their internal motives, the results of the surveys can be assessed as subjective and remain relevant for a limited time, the study is contextual in nature and cannot claim a high level of generalization and predictions. This study aims to create motivational tools to limit the involvement of young people in destructive communities. These results were applied in the creation of materials for conducting preventive conversations among young people, school students and students of secondary specialized institutions of Tatarstan and their parents.

## Commentary on open data access, ethics, conflict of interest

The stated work is not related to commercial products and there is no conflict of interest. Access to audio recordings and interview transcripts is available upon request to the authors of the paper. Statistics and tables of experiments, as well as visual materials on the cases presented, and interview excerpts are available here <https://disk.yandex.ru/d/dUPo-lPrl5oJag>.

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