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## **THE DEPENDENCE OF THE MODERN GENERATION ON SOCIAL NETWORK**

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Perhaps one of the most common problems among today's youth is the dependence on social networks. The most popular of them are VK, Instagram, Skype, Facebook and Twitter. Virtual communication has almost completely replaced communication in life. Most young people prefer to spend time on social networking rather than taking someone for a walk or spending time with family and friends. Of course, this factor has its drawbacks. The immediate disadvantage is that the younger generation, when meeting with a virtual friend, cannot communicate. This is due to the fact that in social media they can show themselves only from the side that is beneficial only to them. Everyone can edit their photo and "upload" it to their profile, put the age a few years older in order to attract more attention from the audience they have. In 2017, the leaders of the Vkontakte social network decided to set a minimum age for registration. However, this did not affect the users in any way, since they themselves indicate their age when registering. As a result, the problem was not solved, but only worsened, because now minors are misleading other users. An adult user, unaware that he is communicating with a minor, can harm mental health without being responsible for it. After all, in fact, he communicates with an adult user. Thus, social networks are currently a risk zone for the younger generation. And the question of youth dependence is still open.

At the moment, we can only rely on the responsibility of the parents. Parents are the first people who have a direct influence on their child. Also, employees of preschool institutions and primary school teachers have a great influence on the proper upbringing of children. Unfortunately, we cannot solve the problem only at this level. Friends with whom a child communicates have also a great influence on him, so it is very important that your child could make the right decision.