


Freedom of Expression, Privacy, and Ethical and Social Responsibility in Democracy in the Digital Age

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ABSTRACT

This article reflects on freedom of expression, privacy, ethical and social responsibility, in the context of social networks, in the context of the experience of democracy in cyberspace. It asks questions about ensuring the protection of privacy, freedom, and autonomy of internet users in the internet environment. It identifies national and international legislation that guarantee the right to privacy and the protection of citizens' personal data. It reviews the literature on the concept of ethics and social responsibility, in democracy, in the digital age, associating this domain of knowledge with the concept of privacy, freedom, and ethical and social responsibility, in the context of social networks. The article discusses the concepts that guide this theme and that are directly involved with related domains. It is alert to the need for ethical and legal protection of the digital data of internet users, aiming at the autonomous safeguarding of their digital identities.

KEYWORDS

Ethical and Social Responsibility, Freedom of Expression, Privacy

RESEARCH THEME AND PROBLEM

Freedom of Speech, Privacy, Ethical and Social Responsibility, in Democracy, in the Digital Age, are inherent rights to all human beings, regardless of race, creed, sex, nationality, ethnicity, language, religion or any other condition. As such, rights are not merely privileges granted, by other human beings, but rights inherent to the status of the human being, and for this reason, they cannot be restricted at the whim of someone.

Human rights are an integral part of the essence of man, and fundamentally, as a social and gregarious being, they have a determining role in maintaining, harmonizing and safeguarding freedom, peace and justice, among individuals, so that they feel protected from abuse, such as discrimination, intolerance, injustice, oppression and slavery that can arise in this coexistence, as well as feeling willing and free to assume the dignity of human beings.

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GOALS

This article aims to present a general picture of the evolution of the right to Freedom of Expression, Privacy, Ethical and Social Responsibility, in Democracy, in the Digital Age, being extremely sensitive to the behavioral changes of society. Recognizing privacy, as a volatile legal object, the article seeks to demonstrate that the context, in which the subjects of the right to privacy are inserted, is essential for its effectiveness.

Deductively, the work starts from the first steps of the right to privacy, as an autonomous figure, reaching the current interpretation by the organs of power. The text demonstrates the negative dimension of the right to privacy, that is, the one that protects the privacy and privacy of the individual, against the intrusions of public power and other citizens, and the positive dimension, where the State is obliged to implement administrative and legislative measures to guarantee citizens' privacy, protecting them from the actions of other citizens and the State itself, especially in technological circles.

APPROACH METHODOLOGY

The complexity and turbulence of the information and knowledge society have taken interdisciplinarity and transdisciplinary into consideration, as processes essential to the development and innovation of sciences and technologies. The implementation of these concepts in some areas faces challenges that go through not only the very polysemy of these terms, but also the rigid visions arising from the very dominant disciplinary training and tradition.

It is necessary to understand, through a theoretical review, the history of fundamental human rights, through historical reference documents; a psychosocial analysis of the concepts of Freedom and Privacy; the regulatory framework in which they fit; the Internet, as a platform for exercising rights and freedoms and the associated problems; digital data, the trail of people; the surveillance of citizens; the social engineering of Power; online social networks and spaces of trust and conflict.

It is a descriptive and analytical approach, seeking to know and analyze the existing cultural and scientific contributions on these subjects, based on the review of the existing literature. The research was structured based on the systemic approach for understanding the problems of Freedom of Expression, Privacy, Ethical and Social Responsibility, in Democracy, in the Digital Age.

FUNDAMENTAL CONCEPTS

Freedom of Expression

Communication is a fundamental process for human interaction. Until today, there is no certainty about how primitive men began to communicate with each other, whether by shouting, whether by grunting, whether by gestures, or by the combination of these elements. It is also through it that human beings acquire awareness of themselves and others, internalize, produce, reproduce and transmit to others, through language, the behaviors, values, norms, and their meanings, in society and culture, in which it is inserted.

The communicational process takes place through language, namely through expression, oral and written. It has been diversifying, over time and space, inventing new channels, from rock paintings, drum sounds, smoke signals, paper, telegraph, telephone, radio, television, and today with the internet, it allows men communicate with each other in a faster and easier way.

Communication is the basis of interaction in the human relationship, and it is also the foundation of the right to free thought and free expression of man. Freedom of thought and freedom of expression are two associated rights, since the two complement each other. However, both have freedom, with a somewhat different nature. Freedom is a concept that contains, an option or will and a constraint, the conflict with the freedom of another person. One person's freedom ends when another's freedom begins.

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