

# The Internet and Personality Disorder (IDD)

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## Abstract:

One of the main disorders in pathopsychology is considered to be personality disorders (RL). A number of studies conducted at the Scientific Research Center for Psychotherapy (SIC) St. Petersburg, Russia, is considered as the interaction of human neuropsychology and the digital environment in the context of fusion, a single subjectivity. In the last 10 years, manifestations of RL, including illegal behavior, are often directly or indirectly related to the use of the Internet. Therefore, the purpose of the study was to study the interrelationships of RL and Internet use in the commission of offenses, as a clarification of the mechanisms of illegal activity and the search for ways to improve psychological assessment and prevention of illegal activity in this disorder.

**Keywords:** internet activity; personality disorder; addiction; pathopsychology; neuropsychology; bipolar disorder

## Relevance and purpose of the study

One of the main disorders in pathopsychology is considered to be personality disorders (RL). A number of studies conducted at the Scientific Research Center for Psychotherapy (SIC) St. Petersburg, Russia, is considered as the interaction of human neuropsychology and the digital environment in the context of fusion, a single subjectivity. In the last 10 years, manifestations of RL, including illegal behavior, are often directly or indirectly related to the use of the Internet. Therefore, the purpose of the study was to study the interrelationships of RL and Internet use in the commission of offenses, as a clarification of the mechanisms of illegal activity and the search for ways to improve psychological assessment and prevention of illegal activity in this disorder.

## Materials and Methods

47 sub-experts (men) with personality disorder (ID) aged 28-43 years were studied during the period of admission to the SIC 2021-2023 (archival data and personal observations). 27 cases were emotionally labile (unstable) RL - group 1; 12 - hysterical - group 2 and 8 - other RL (dissocial, mixed, schizoid, avoidant) - group 3. The methods and design of the study include: the study of anamnesis, clinical and psychopathological and experimental psychological characteristics of subexperts, the "syndrome-personality-situation" system, mathematical analysis of a small sample.

## Results

A significant predominance of subexperts with emotionally labile RL ( $p < 0.05$ ) was preceded by a nosologically verified diagnosis by others: accentuated personality traits, organic personality disorder and mental

underdevelopment, established not in a forensic situation. The sub-experts of the 3rd group had not previously been observed by a psychiatrist or had been diagnosed with another RL. 71.1% of the surveyed had a history of organic hazards (intrauterine, early, head injuries) and 78 % had an unfavorable social environment. In 10.6% of the subjects, close relatives suffered from schizophrenia, and in 23.4% they presumably had RL. In 43.4% of RL cases, comorbid dependence on surfactants and/or alcohol was noted, most often with an emotionally labile variant (impulsive type) -  $p < 0.05$

However, along with the positive role of the Internet in the studied subexperts, its negative impact on value systems, emotional and volitional self-regulation of behavior in personality disharmony was obvious, which in a certain situation became the basis for committing offenses. In 78.5% of all cases, for at least a year, there was a "constant online presence syndrome", which narrows the perception of reality and orientation in it and also acted as a condition for facilitating the commission of offenses. At the same time, it seemed premature to state addiction from social networks, since there was still the possibility of satisfactory social adaptation in a real environment. Offenses in the examined subexperts on the basis of the role of the Internet in their commission represented a modification of behavior to criminal, when the Internet acted as a medium and instrument of offense: sexual acts against minors - 51.7% of all offenses; involvement in a drug distribution scheme - 22.1%; fraud - 11.2%; begging - 8.4%. In 2 cases (4.2%), an act of terrorism was anonymously reported in RL and in 1 there was revenge using the Internet (purchase of technical means and their use) - 2.1%. 50.0% of the sub-experts were interested in computer games; 43.4% in porn sites. It can

be assumed that such interests, while constantly being online, contributed to the strengthening of personality disharmony and the negative transformation of real interpersonal relationships with the frequent minimization and psychological erasure of the "allowed-forbidden" line in conflict resolution, the realization of sexual needs, and the reduction of the inferiority complex. In 11.2% of the subexperts with RL, the fascination with digital technologies played a role in the emergence of cyberchondria. Against this background, sexual torts with self-justifying activity occurred.

The end of the samples of life and relationships seen on the Internet, most of the subexperts with RL considered themselves unattainable (the "deprived" complex), which could also play a role in a negative attitude towards others. That is, the "Internet" networks psychologically facilitated the sale of drugs and the commission of property offenses for the purpose of enrichment, reducing emotional tension, "pressure" complexes. The majority of the examined sub-experts retained infantilism, being one of the conditions for committing an offense against personally unknown "culprits" of an unsatisfactory life or against society as a whole. Violent scenes on the

Internet lead to the cumulative effect of negative information and loss of emotional sensitivity, which, according to experimental psychological examination, in itself facilitated actions with hidden or explicit aggression, or their attempts. This also applied to virtual forms of communication. In the considered cases of RL offenses, the syndrome of dependence on surfactants and/or alcohol had a secondary (background) significance in violations of self-regulation of behavior. There were no direct cause-and-effect relationships between substance use and offenses.

## Conclusion

Given the complex genesis of RL and criminal behavior in this disorder associated with the Internet, its further study, improvement of forensic psychological assessment and prevention require a systematic approach, including neuropsychological. The forensic psychiatric analysis of criminal behavior in RL should focus on the analysis of the symptomatic structure of the disorder, its connection with organic and traumatic harms, the peculiarities of the situation, that is, with biopsychosocial factors.



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