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A FRAMEWORK ON MEDIA-EDUCATIONAL STRATEGIES TO CONTRAST ONLINE HATE SPEECH

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ABSTRACT

Online hate speech is receiving more and more attention in the present society as a great concern: this phenomenon is rapidly increasing, mainly through the widespread use of social media that expose young people to dangerous content. This makes it urgent to define an integrated and interdisciplinary strategy for preventing and contrasting hate speech since childhood. Starting from an analysis of international literature on initiatives and approaches undertaken to educate youth to face online hate speech, this study aims at defining a theoretical framework that could inspire media education initiatives providing students with a sense of civic responsibility and actively involving them. The framework was designed adopting the perspective of socio-cultural ecosystems; it maps the possible strategies and actions to prevent and contrast hate speech considering the involved actors and social structures as well as the levels of reciprocal influence. The taxonomy deriving from this approach considers as main coordinates the axis digital-real life and the formal-informal continuum, taking into account that agency developed within a sphere affects the other side and that the main focus of media-educational initiatives should be on how to bridge these spheres.

Keywords: Hate speech, media education, formal and informal education, active citizenship, socio-cultural