

The role of schools and universities in reducing the conflict gap in children's rights online.

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Following the global risks of climate change, children are among the most vulnerable groups affected. Based on the principle that every child has the right to a healthy life, child activism has emerged worldwide, both online and on the ground. This activism aims to seek solutions to the dangers posed by climate change. However, it requires access to information, which raises questions about potential conflicts with children's rights. This exploratory study uses content analysis to examine the gap between children's rights to protection and participation in the context of access to information and how academic institutions can help reduce the lack of harmonization between these rights. Using a child rights approach and social conflict theory, the study analyzes and discusses current policies and regulations regarding children's online access to information and their impact on the balance between protection and participation rights. It also explores the potential role of schools and universities in promoting children's rights.

The findings show that there is a conflict between protection and participation. This contradiction arises from adults prioritizing the protection of children online and viewing them as incapable. The study suggests that early education is crucial to improving children's participation and awareness of their rights and enhancing their involvement in research and decision-making processes. The research recommends developing a media literacy curriculum focusing on children's rights in schools and universities. In addition, increasing the focus on rights-based approaches in university curricula will raise awareness among a new generation of decision-makers and lead to changes in legislation and regulations based on a child rights approach. This approach will contribute to more practical cooperation between academic institutions and local and international organizations. These findings highlight the importance of further research on children's rights to access information online and participate in decision-making.

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