

Individual Research Report

Government and Internet Regulations and Restrictions

According to a student study completed at colleges in Pennsylvania, from the years 2008 and 2009 the population of the internet saw a growth of 380%, and even more elaborate statistics from their study say that almost 75% of North America possess access to internet. In the countries of the United States, China and India the growth of Internet use poses the question as to what the impacts of regulations and restrictions of the Internet are. The Internet has become such a large part of our society and the growth of accessibility poses certain issues when it comes to the governments' ethical decisions as to how and what should certain areas be restricted. The three countries of China, India and the U.S. have different restrictions and regulations and these regulations have an ethical and cultural impact on their societies as well as the globe as a whole. Although regulations and restrictions of the Internet provide positive impacts, through the regulations in the United States, China and India, negative impacts present themselves more predominantly.

Through the view of China, and the Chinese people, the impact on moral and ethical views are seen through the restrictions set in the country. According to Jason Q. NG a university student and author of a book related to censorship, the Chinese government uses the restrictions and regulations more like a censorship of certain key words causing restrictions of social media communication. (Jason Q. NG). Having the restrictions on even word usage, impacts China and it's' people, limiting their communication. Censorship regulation and the ability to remove and

eliminate certain things shared between those in China, controls in a sense, their means and forms of communication. The restriction of the ability to communicate freely creates a difficult way for certain people to communicate across the nation or even globally. From the personal experience of Kami Martin, a college professor who moved to China, she experienced difficulty communicating with her church and family back home with the censorship they had on her religious based emails. (Martin). The impact and relation that the censorship and restrictions set by the Chinese government prohibit her from speaking certain things by placing punishments for certain information and topics communicated. This gap resides in the communication among not just social media, but even email sites. China's censorship limits the freedom of communication among those living there. Biana Xu, a graduate of New York University and writer on the council of foreign relations states that through the censorship the government uses tactics restraining journalists and basically have them, "censor themselves." (Xu). Through the censorship and regulations in china manipulation among journalists presents as one of the impacts. The manipulation of the journalists, merely a threat imposed upon them is an indirect way and form of censorship and regulation that the government uses. Negatively, the censorship and regulations on the Internet from the Chinese government, impact the people.

Through the United States perspective the issue is not the placement of regulations, but the absence of certain restrictions and regulations, therefore making the restrictions and regulations in place now impact negatively. Jonathan Yerby a scholar at middle Georgia state college speaks on the issue of not government monitoring the internet, but companies monitoring employees. (Yerby). Here the monitoring appears to be reasonable. If a company wants to monitor those it pays then they shall do so, but the issue of overstepping those boundaries presents itself in

certain situations. The lack of regulations and restrictions of access and security in the United States form the issue of the uncontrollable aspect of the Internet and the security of information to tumble into other issues. According to Cornell university law school the child online protection act was set in place in 1998 for the purpose of protecting minors from any harmful or obscene images or websites. (Cornell). The regulation in the United States is by laws and acts that have been passed and this being one of them. COPA presents a great example of how regulations impact for the betterment and protection of minors, yet the ability to execute and catch the violations are minimal, since the government doesn't have full access and censorship over all of internet. A student at Berkeley, completed a study that addresses the issues of the unrestricted and unregulated social networking. Along with the dangers that come from the lack of Internet regulations and restrictions. (Guo). The impact that regulations and restrictions have on the United States in this aspect derives from the absence of restrictions and regulations due to the safety of some men and women who become vulnerable to being taken advantage of by someone they meet online. Here an absence of restrictions, as opposed to excessive censorship present in China exhibits a negative impact. Morally and ethically the safety here is absent and that, therefore, is the impact of these regulations and restrictions.

In somewhat of a tandem with the United States, regulations and restrictions held in India impact the ethics and morals of the people greatly even though they still differ. According to the South African Foreign Policy initiative, India is one of the most advanced technological countries in the world. (AFPI). The advancement and advantages of India give them more information and data to secure. For this data to be secure, they have to put in place some forms of regulation that impacts the people and ethics greatly because they seclude the peoples access

to some outside aspects. A well known online betting website that tracks laws across all nations. In India gambling online is illegal as well as setting wagers where the outcome is unknown, yet there are certain loopholes in the states where they can make that rule more or less strict. (Online Betting). The impact that this regulation has on the ethics in India is, the accessibility of gambling and betting allow for loopholes in the states there. These loopholes allow for excessive amounts of gambling, going against the morals of the nation. Amy Thompson, a scholar and reporter author in London, writes on the regulation denial by India allowing for certain areas such as pornography remain unmonitored creating an ethical up rise. (Thompson). The absence of regulation, like seen in the U.S. can provide just as negative of an impact as over regulation where restrictions control any access. Therefore the rejection of regulation can leak into harmful ethical practices such as pornography and images and information leaking for all to see. Internet regulations play different roles throughout different aspects in the Indian culture; yet ultimately provide a negative impact upon the ethics of the culture.

Ultimately, the Internet and variety of nations using different restrictive and regulation techniques, provide a negative impact on the ethics of those nations. Although restrictions such as pornography provide a censorship that is beneficial to individuals in the nations, the overall impact of restrictions and regulations, or lack of, impact them negatively. Especially in the three nations observed, the U.S., China and India. A solution to this problem and issue of over or under regulation would be a collaboration and combination of multiple levels or restrictions and censorship to compromise for a logical regulation to be set in place from each country.

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