

Psychosocial Implications of Online Video Games

Online video games have important characteristics and elements which do not exist in traditional offline gaming, and which provide powerful psychological rewards that connect the emotions of the player with the game and with the other participants. The careful identification and analysis of such attributes are required in order to promote healthy and balanced gaming and to better understand what new opportunities, challenges and phenomenon can be derived from gaming activity. Since the impact of gaming in the life of the gamer is individual and depends on the combination of many factors, we delineate which factors play a central role. Due to the strong economic component now seen in online communities, virtual casinos, and improvisational betting style games, and due to the psychological impact many of these games may have on gamers, we include a classification of such video games.

Keywords: Online games, psychosocial implications, virtual community, virtual economy, gaming impact

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