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Ethics from the Perspective of Qur'an-Sunnah and the Impact of Digital World on Students' Ethics in the Modern Time

Nur Mohammad - Abdur Rahman - Ahmad Amin

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Nur Mohammad¹, Abdur Rahman², Ahmad Amin³

Abstract

The current age and world are referred to as the "Digital Age" and "Digital World," respectively. We are the residents of this digital universe. Digitalization influences every aspect of our lives. Technological progress has made lives easier and more beautiful. We are surrounded by digital technology from the moment we wake up to the moment we go to sleep. The Internet, smartphone, computer, or smart television is our constant companion. Nonetheless, his digitization of technology is also abused. which has a significant effect on adolescents and young students. Today, their ethics are on the verge of extinction. The goal of this study is to find out what bad things digital technology is doing to students right now so that students can be protected from these bad things in the future and their moral character can improve. The study is qualitative in nature, employing the textual analysis method to describe the ethics and examine the impact of digital world on students' ethics in the modern time while describing its impact through the examination of articles, journals, books, previous research, reports, newspapers, and internet sources. This study provides a review of related literature on the topic by examining databases such as Google Scholar.

Keywords: *Ethics, Impacts, Digital world, Students, Internet, Social media.*

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**Ethics from the Perspective of Qur'an-Sunnah and the Impact of Digital World on Students'
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INTRODUCTION

Ethics has the important role to create human character and personality. A person should act ethically in all aspects of his life, whether personal or professional; notably in the quest of knowledge, when obtaining religious information, he or she must adhere to ethical standards so that their obtained knowledge can be observed in their own life. Prophet Muhammad PBUH said:

«إِنَّ مِنْ خَيْرِكُمْ أَحْسَنُكُمْ أَخْلَاقًا»

“The best amongst you are those who have the best manners and character.”⁴

Nowadays, the online (digital) education system has extended around the world. Many pupils have been observed abusing new media technologies.⁵ Several measures have been implemented to reduce the possibility of student cheating.⁶ However, few have addressed the reality that the level of deceit might be lowered by promoting religious values among students (particularly among Muslim religious knowledge seekers). Indeed, the virtue of honesty, integrity and loyalty must be cherished among students to decrease unethical activities in their academic and practical life. As *Rasūlullah* PBUH said:

«من غش فليس منا»

“Whoever cheats, he is not one of us”⁷

⁴ Muhammad ibn Ismā'īl Al-Bukhārī, *Ṣaḥīḥ Al-Bukhārī: The Translation of Meaning of Ṣaḥīḥ Al-Bukhārī*, Translated by Dr. Muhammad Muḥīn khān (Riyāḍ: Dārussalām, 1997), Vol. 4, 462, *Ḥadīth* 3559, The grade of the *ḥadīth* is *ṣaḥīḥ*.

⁵Olt, Melissa R. "Ethics and distance education: Strategies for minimizing academic dishonesty in online assessment." Online journal of distance learning administration 5, no. 3 (2002): 1.

⁶Ibid., P2-5.

⁷ Abū 'Īsā Muḥammad ibn 'Īsā as-Sulamī aḍ-Ḍarīr al-Būghī at-Tirmidhī, vol. 3, 114, *Ḥadīth* 1315, The grade of the *ḥadīth* is *ṣaḥīḥ*.



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So, it is a crucial time to address the impact of digitalization on knowledge seekers' ethics based on Islamic values and norms, so that students can be protected from character disruption. So this paper interprets "Ethics", along with the impact of digital world upon students' ethics.

Last, but not least, because it is written from a global perspective, the thesis is not specific to any particular culture or group of people.

MEANING OF ETHICS AND ITS IMPORTANCE IN ISLAM

It is essential for us to understand ethics before moving on to the main discussion. Therefore, it is essential to define ethics in this context. I'll also attempt to explain the significance of ethics in Islam.

Ethics: A definition

The word "ethics" comes from the Greek word 'ethos', which means "character" or "custom".⁸ "Ethics" also briefly means- "Moral principles that control or influence a person's behaviour".⁹ In another popular dictionary the 'Cambridge Dictionary' defines 'ethics' as- "The study of what is morally right and wrong, or a set of beliefs about what is morally right and wrong".¹⁰

If the word 'Ethics' comes in Arabic language the word becomes- "عِلْمُ الْأَخْلَاقِ", "فَلْسَفَةُ", "أَخْلَاقِيَّة", "أَدَاب", "أَخْلَاق".¹¹

Therefore, "Ethics" can be translated to its Arabic form as "أَخْلَاق". The word "خلق" is the singular form of the word "أَخْلَاق". In the Arabic dictionary "أَخْلَاق" means- "Religion, character and temperament; its reality is the inner form of man".¹²

⁸ Ebrahimi, Mansoureh. "Islamic identity, ethical principles and human values." *European Journal of Multidisciplinary Studies* 2, no. 6 (2017): 325-336.

⁹ Online Dictionary, Oxford University Press. "Oxford Learner's Dictionaries". 2022.

<https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/> Date of access: 26 May, 2022.

¹⁰ Online Dictionary, Cambridge University Press. "Cambridge Dictionary". 2022. <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/> Date of access: 26 May, 2022.

¹¹ Online Dictionary, English-Arabic dictionary - translation - bab.la. 2022. <https://en.bab.la/dictionary/english-arabic/> Date of access: 26 May, 2022.

¹² Jamaluddin Ibn Manzūr, *Lisān al- 'Arab*, (Egypt: Dārul M ārif), vol 1, 1245.



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“أَخْلَاقُ” or “خُلُقُ” denote different meaning among them the following - 1) Temperament, 2) Nature, 3) Chivalry, 4) Religion, 5) Habit.¹³

Another brief definition of the term ethics can be mentioned here which is- “A set of psychological attributes and deeds of a human being which is described as good or ugly”.¹⁴

Importance of Ethics in Islam

In Islam, morality is revered beyond all else. It was for the sake of instilling morality in others that Allah SWT sent His messenger Muhammad PBUH. Rasūlullah ﷺ said:

«إِنَّمَا بَعَثْتُ لِأَتَمِّمَ صَالِحَ الْأَخْلَاقِ»

“I was sent to perfect good character”.¹⁵

Morality and integrity will be more valuable to believers in the hereafter than anything else they owned on earth. Because messenger of Allah PBUH said:

«مَا مِنْ شَيْءٍ أَثْقَلُ فِي الْمِيزَانِ مِنْ حُسْنِ الْخُلُقِ»

“There is nothing that weights more heavily in the Balance than good character.”¹⁶

A *ḥadīth* narrated by ‘Abdullāh bin ‘Amr رضي الله عنهما shows that,

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ never used foul languages; instead, he would say: the best among you are those who have the best manners and character.¹⁷

¹³ Jibrān Mas‘ūd, al-Rā‘id: Mu‘jam Lughawī ‘Asrī, 7th ed. (Beirut: Dār al-‘Ilm al-Malāyīn, 1992), 343.

¹⁴ Mu‘jam al-M‘ānī al-Jām‘e, 2022. <https://www.almaany.com/ar/dict/> Date of access: 2 June, 2022.

¹⁵ Muhammad ibn Ismā‘īl Al-Bukhārī, *Al-Adāb al-Mufrad*. 2nd ed. (Beirut: Dārussiddīq, 2000), 100, *Ḥadīth* 273, The grade of the *ḥadīth* is *ṣaḥīḥ*.

¹⁶ Abū Dāwūd, *Sunan Abū Dāwūd: English Translation of Sunan Abū Dāwūd, Translated by Nasīruddīn al-khaṭṭāb* (Riyād: Dārussalām, 2008), Vol. 5, 269, *Ḥadīth* 4799, The grade of the *ḥadīth* is *ṣaḥīḥ*.

¹⁷ Al-Bukhārī, Vol. 4, 462, *Ḥadīth* 3559, The grade of the *ḥadīth* is *ṣaḥīḥ*.



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And the prophet Muhammad ﷺ was the best personality in the history of this world ever, as Allah SWT himself certifies Rasūlullah's ﷺ character:

﴿وَإِنَّكَ لَعَلَىٰ خُلُقٍ عَظِيمٍ﴾ (القلم: 4)

“And (Muhammad) you are truly a man of outstanding character.” (al-Qalam: 4)

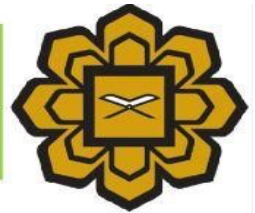
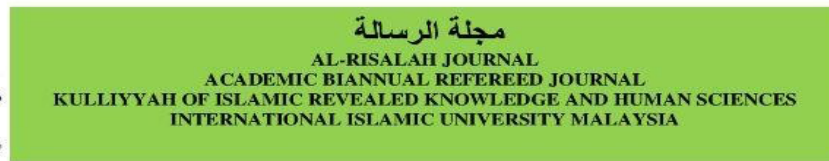
In light of this, ethical behaviour is vital to earning Allah's (SWT) favour as a Muslim. There is no other way to earn God's love and approval than to live an honest and affable life.

IMPACTS OF ETHICS ON HUMAN LIFE

Ethics or morality plays a significant role in Islam as a full way of life, and Muslims adhere to a comprehensive set of rules. Good and evil are generally viewed as abstract ideas in modern society. As opposed to this view, Islam holds that there is an absolute standard by which all deeds are judged, and that this standard cannot be compromised.

Islam's core concept is monotheistic, or the belief that there is only one God, Allah, who is responsible for the creation and maintenance of the universe. According to Islam, people are both Allah's subjects and a part of Allah's creation. For these reasons, the Islamic understanding of ethics appeals to the human mind while simultaneously elevating moral endeavours to the level of devotion. This is because, according to Islam, every deed must be done for the sole purpose of pleasing Allah through worship. Therefore, ethics has far-reaching consequences that go beyond the individual.¹⁸

¹⁸ Google, “Morality and Ethics in Islam”, 2014 <https://www.whyislam.org/social-ties-2/morality-ethics-in-islam/> Date of access: 5 June, 2022.



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Impacts on Individual

What the Qur'an calls "*Al-'Amal As-ṣālih*" or good deeds, is the guiding principle for a Muslim's behavior. All actions, not only religious ones, are included here. Islam places a premium on sincerity, modesty, and a sense of ultimate responsibility to Allah from its followers. To be a Muslim is to embrace a lifestyle of utmost modesty, both before God and in the company of others. Furthermore, In accordance with Islamic teachings, all devout Muslims are expected to control their baser impulses. Islam warns its adherents against arrogance and an obsession with ephemeral earthly pleasures. Muslims are encouraged to make Allah the focal point of their existence and to use the material world solely as Allah instructs.¹⁹ Allah SWT says in the Qur'an:

﴿يَوْمَ لَا يَنْفَعُ مَالٌ وَلَا بَنُونَ إِلَّا مَنْ أَتَى اللَّهَ بِقَلْبٍ سَلِيمٍ﴾ (الشعراء: 88-89)

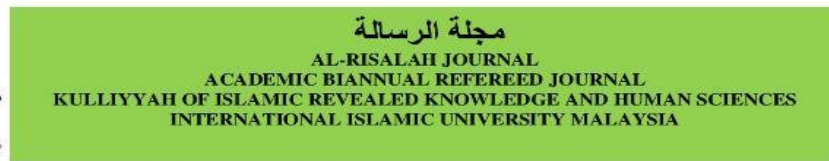
"The day when neither wealth nor children will be of any benefit. Only those who come before Allah with a pure heart will be saved." (Ash-Shua'ra: 88 -89)

In this sense, Islamic theology maintains that individuals can draw closer to Allah and contribute positively to society only by adhering to widely acknowledged norms of proper behaviour.

Impacts on human society

When compared to immorality, which is a leading factor in society's collapse, morality stands out as a fundamental source of strength for both people and communities. Within the broader Islamic framework, individual liberties are recognized, but Islam is also concerned with the moral social well-being of society. Everything that helps people and society is considered good in Islam, whereas everything that hurts them is considered evil. Given its significance to a healthy and fair society, Islam backs causes that promote morality and moral progress while interfering with those that promote

¹⁹ Ibid.



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corruption and its spread. This lens should be used to determine what Islamic norms are and are not.²⁰ Allah says:

﴿إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُغَيِّرُ مَا بِقَوْمٍ حَتَّى يُغَيِّرُوا مَا بِأَنْفُسِهِمْ﴾ (الرعد: 11)

“Indeed, Allah would never change a people’s state of favour’ until they change their own state of faith.” (Ar-Ra’d: 11)

For this reason, ethics should be prioritized if we want a prosperous, harmonious, and sustainable society. It is inevitable that a society will fall apart if its members abandon their moral and ethical principles.

IMPACTS OF DIGITAL WORLD ON STUDENTS’ ETHICS

Internet users have access to an abundance of resources. A vibrant medium where people may interact whenever and wherever they choose. Through the use of postings, chat room conversations, polls, videos, and messages, users may readily connect with one another and are continually exposed to different types of communication, emotion, and response.

Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube are all currently extremely popular among internet users. Moreover, short video-sharing tools such as Tiktok and Likee are gaining popularity among today's young. The number of social media users worldwide increased from 2.86 billion in 2017 to 3.96 billion in 2022, according to the most recent data available. These estimations project a rise to 4.41 billion by 2025. It is a reflection of the current condition of affairs, demonstrating the exponential growth of internet and social media usage.

We cannot imagine our lives without social media. People in local tea cafes no longer peruse the pages of newspapers for news. The reliance on an iPhone or other mobile device has replaced it. Media advertising as it was once practised is no longer relevant. Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Google, and other social media platforms offer

²⁰ Ibid.

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rapid access to information regarding domestic and international happenings. Social media usage has increased dramatically in the modern era, to the point where it has become an integral part of certain people's life. Despite its widespread use, social media has become a vital part of the lives of today's youth. Various facts indicate that the world is currently carried by the social media stream. Digital 2020's Global Stat shot Report for July indicated that 51.9% of the world's population (3.96 billion) utilises social media and 59.2% use the internet (4.57 billion). Facebook has 2,603 million monthly active users, YouTube and WhatsApp each have 2,000 million monthly active users, and Facebook Messenger has 1,300 million monthly active users.²¹ Despite the numerous benefits of the internet, troubling ethical concerns about its usage are constantly emerging. They are addressed in further detail below:

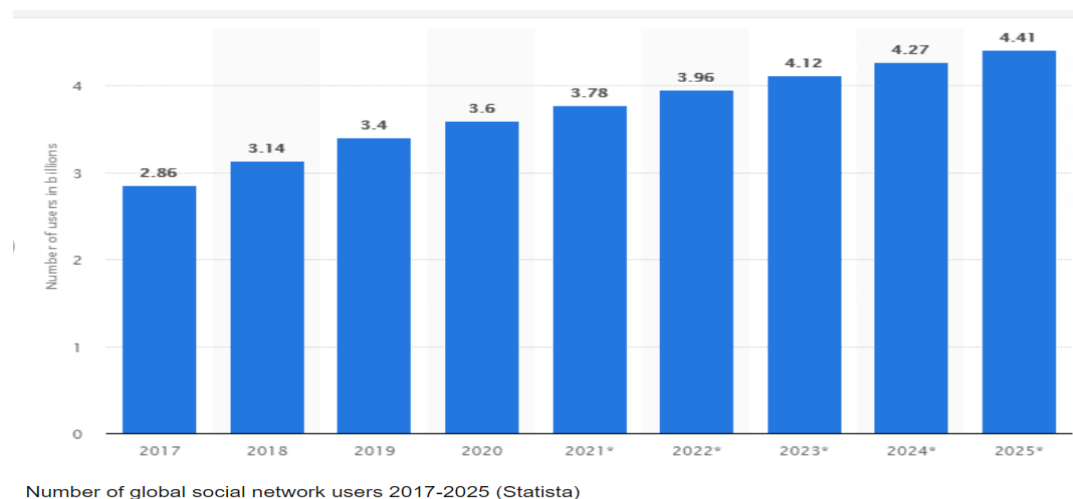


Figure 1: The number of social media users worldwide²²

²¹ Sayyid Emdādul Haq, "The Tides of Social Media: Are We Floating or Sinking?", *Somoy News*, October 25, 2020,

<https://www.somoynews.tv/pages/details/243409/%E0%A6%B8%E0%A7%8B%E0%A6%B6%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AF%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%B2/> / সোশ্যাল-মিডিয়া-জোয়ার: আমরা-কি-ভাসছি-না-

ডুবছি?
²² Ibid.



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Indecency

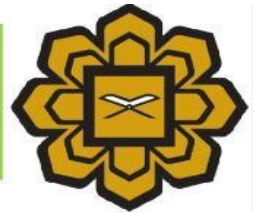
Obsceneness or indecency is a subjective term. What one person considers deceptive may not be so for another. Typically, a culture or society has a shared sense of values and morality, which serves as the basis for what the culture or society judges to be vulgar. The term indecent or obscene refers to something that is offensive, obscene, or deemed inappropriate by society. Essentially, if anything violates social norms or ideals, it is objectionable to social media. In Muslim countries, for instance, if a woman appears on social media without a headscarf or in an open-shouldered dress, this is seen as 'Indecency'; this is a common scene even among Muslim nations. Girls and boys are currently observed dancing, acting, and joking shamelessly on social media, TikTok, and Likee, among other activities. This is a disheartening depiction of our social decline. Numerous nations, including Egypt, Pakistan, and Kuwait, have taken action against obscenity of this nature. As we have seen, Pakistan restricts the social networking app TikTok due to complaints of obscenity. "Complaints from all sectors of society regarding immoral and lewd content on the video-sharing programme, "said the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA).²³ Meanwhile, Kuwait vows to punish celebrities who violate public etiquette. Even there authorities arrest Iranian fashionista for posting indecent material on social media.²⁴ Mawada al-Adham (sentenced to six years) and Haneen Hossam (sentenced to ten years) are two popular TikTok influencers who were sentenced to severe prison terms in Egypt on human trafficking-related offences.²⁵

In the United States, there are numerous online and offline sources of obscenity. In the name of equality, freedom, and rights, feminists claimed the right to openly express themselves in public settings through the "Free the Nipple" movement. The

²³ Asif Shahzad, Jibran Ahmad, "Pakistan blocks social media app TikTok for 'immoral and indecent' content", *Reuters*, October 9, 2020, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-pakistan-socialmedia-tiktok-idUSKBN2B329C> Date of access: 12 June, 2022.

²⁴ Khitam Al Amir, "Kuwait vows to punish celebrities who violate public decency", *Gulf News*, October 21, 2020, <https://gulfnews.com/world/gulf/kuwait/kuwait-vows-to-punish-celebrities-who-violate-public-decency-1.74717034> Date of access: 12 June, 2022.

²⁵ Nadda Osman, "TikTok influencers sentenced to up to 10 years in prison for violating social values", *Middle East Eye*, June 21, 2021, <https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/egypt-tiktok-influencers-sentence-prison-mawada-adham-haneen-hossam> Date of access: 12 June, 2022.



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social media campaign became viral in 2015.²⁶ It had a very negative impact on girls worldwide.

An intriguing fact is that anything may very fast go viral on Facebook. Facebook currently provides everything that we seek. Facebook is one of the social media websites that we all use to communicate. Many persons also use it for professional talks. Today, however, porn or pornographic videos dominate the market. Young and old alike own a smart phone today. Now, obscene texts, photos, and movies are easily accessible on this phone. All social classes are experiencing an upsurge in the prevalence of porn addiction. The incidence of rape is increasing.²⁷ Although the internet has made life simpler for many individuals, its improper usage is causing civilization to crumble. Inside, a diseased generation is growing.

Television is currently one of the most popular modern electronics. Television is without a doubt a brilliant innovation of modern society. According to the Advertising & Media Outlook, 5.36 billion people will watch television worldwide in 2021. By 2026, 5.68 billion people will have watched television globally, representing a constant increase in the number of viewers. Its influence on the expansion of communication networks and the transmission of information and research is undeniable. The world is now closer to fitting in the palm of a hand. We may read the news from anywhere in the world, including New York, London, Sydney, and other locations, and view any scenario from the comfort of our own homes. In addition, science, the environment, animals, health, social norms, and ethics-related programming may result from this. And if television viewing were curtailed to this extent, its benefits would be indisputable. However, it is unfortunate that all of these programmes are now aired on television under the guise of amusement; as a result, all of television's beneficial qualities have been forced to decline in the face of its wickedness. In this context, we are discussing entertainment such as movies, music, dancing, theatre, fashion shows, modelling, and similar activities. These depict young men and women participating in acts of free love, association, nudity, sex, promiscuity,

²⁶ Mullis, Michaela, and Jasmin McNealy. "'Free the Nipple' One Broadcast at a Time: FCC Indecency Regulations of Nudity." *Wis. JL Gender, & Soc'y* 35 (2020): 65.

²⁷ Clay, Leigh Anne. "The news through Facebook: Discovering the prevalence of rape myths in user comments." PhD diss., Nova Southeastern University, 2019.

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obscurity, and other criminal tendencies that have lowered moral and ethical norms.²⁸ Obscurity has developed into a monster that threatens to swallow the entire human race, including the Muslim world, in the modern world. It is undeniable that the entire nation is suffering as a result of its filth because obscenity is festering through society. One may imagine how the entire Muslim Ummah has been destroyed and lost its identity due to obscenity. Obscenity has invaded a variety of media, including social media, radio, television, movies, plays, fashion shows, fairs, the advertising sector, satellite culture, music, and art, thereby lowering the moral standards of the Islamic country.

Number of TV viewers worldwide from 2017 to 2026
(in billions)

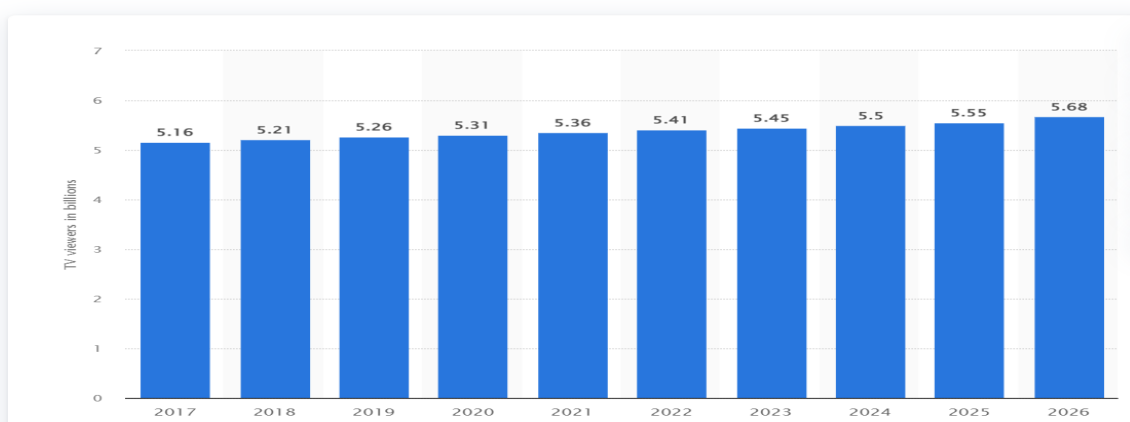
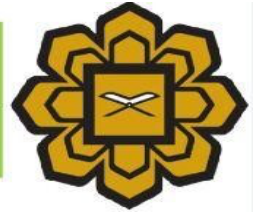


Figure 2: The number of TV viewers worldwide²⁹

²⁸ Sporn, Jessica. "Content Regulation of Cable Television: Indecency Statutes and the First Amendment." Rutgers Computer & Tech. LJ 11 (1985): 141.

²⁹ Internet, "Number of TV viewers worldwide from 2017 to 2026 (in billions)", Statista, <https://www.statista.com/forecasts/1207931/tv-viewers-worldwide-number> Date of access: 20 July, 2022.



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Nowadays, YouTube becomes a major part of entertainment. More than 2.6 billion people view YouTube monthly, according to Statista 2022.³⁰ Technology has enabled many people to create YouTube channels. Unlike this YouTube video, broadcasting TV networks are governed by government regulations. Here, everyone enjoys significant autonomy. Thanks to technology, our lives are growing simpler. Therefore, everyone is utilising it. Both personal and business YouTube accounts are currently publishing a variety of video. Publications include prank videos, web series, movies, etc., the vast majority of which are, however, rather vulgar.³¹ There are no supportive remarks from viewers on these materials in the comments section. Everyone described it as boring and uninteresting in their statements. The publishing of these contents continues, nonetheless. Those in the know said that these materials are disseminated for monetary gain and increased viewership.³² However, YouTube does have a major negative impact on young people. Many modern children are so reliant on their mobile devices that they become irritable and act out when they are taken away. Many children who spend too much time in front of the TV or playing video games become withdrawn and unable to interact socially. When called upon, they prove elusive. They're from another world. Quite a few young people today rely on the internet to complete their homework. Recently, however, evidence has accumulated that Many parents in practically any community lack the time to properly raise their children. Children use various electronic devices, such as televisions, tablets, and cell phones, to entertain themselves. Because of their inability to control their hyperactive children in any other way, some parents are resorting to forcing their children to use mobile phones. Many mothers would hand up their phones to their children if they refuse to eat. As youngsters' snack and watch cartoons or listen to music on YouTube. In this way, the child's cerebral growth is stunted.³³

³⁰ Google, "Youtube user statistics 2022", GMI Blogger, June 28, 2022, <https://www.globalmediainsight.com/blog/youtube-users-statistics/>

³¹ Wales, Matthew. "'It's Just A Prank, Bro!': The Deplorable Immorality of YouTube 'Prank' Videos." (2016).

³² See more: N. I. Bulbul, "YouTube has a lot of pornographic material", Manobjomin, November 21, 2018, <https://mzamin.com/article.php?mzamin=146063> / ইউটিউবে-অশ্লীলতার-ছড়াছড়ি

³³ Kaushal, Rishabh, Srishty Saha, Payal Bajaj, and Ponnuram Kumaraguru. "KidsTube: Detection, characterization and analysis of child unsafe content & promoters on YouTube." In 2016 14th Annual Conference on Privacy, Security and Trust (PST), pp. 157-164. IEEE, 2016.

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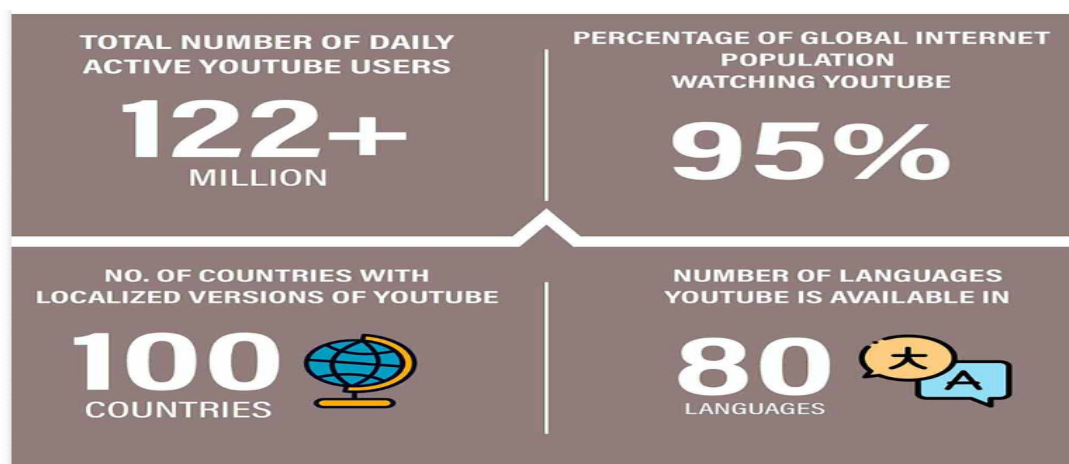


Figure 3: The number of daily YouTube users worldwide³⁴

Consequently, immorality and the decline of values in our cultures are now mostly attributable to the internet and social media.

Illegal and unethical relationships between boys and girls

Another moral or ethical problem that can be seen in today's digital society is the fostering of sexual relationships between males and females. Since they both utilise social networking sites, it's clear that they're both participating in inappropriate sexual encounters with people of the opposite sex. Seventy-eight percent of texters and 72 percent of social networkers send messages or photographs they don't want their parents to see, and 56 percent admit to using texting or social networking to find a place to congregate without parental supervision, such as to consume alcohol (41%) or meet for sex (27.4 percent). According to Frank, minorities, children of lower-educated parents, and teenage girls from homes without a father are more prone to participate in hyper texting and hypernet working. Adolescent sexual risk-taking can be mitigated in part

³⁴ Google, "Youtube user statistics 2022", GMI Blogger, June 28, 2022, <https://www.globalmediainsight.com/blog/youtube-users-statistics/>



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Academic cheating

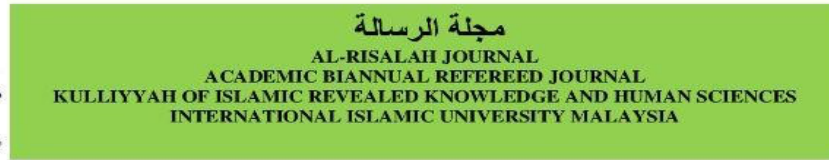
Students' use of digital media for the purpose of cheating in the classroom is a new area of ethical concern for teachers. Most college students use social media apps like Facebook, Twitter, Snap Chat/Instagram, and smart phones to help them with their studies, according to research by Linda M. Best and Daniel J. Shelley. Although many students claim to utilise these platforms to aid them in their studies, the vast majority do not engage in dishonest practises such as cheating. More students reported cheating on assignments, tests, and other school-related activities with the use of electronic media such as texting, screenshotting, and recording video or audio. In addition, the vast majority of respondents agreed that any kind of cheating or academic dishonesty was unethical. The vast majority, though, said they would not do anything to stop it in their own classes.³⁸ According to the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER), VET students are using social media to plagiarise their peers' work. Professor Phillip Dawson, associate director of the Centre for Research in Assessment and Digital Learning at Deakin University, says this is a problem that should get the attention of K-12 school leaders.

“Principals and teachers need to keep having conversations about academic integrity with students, and social media needs to be a part of this conversation”³⁹

The Bangladesh Mobile Consumers Association released a preliminary report, signed by President Mohiuddin Ahmed, on its monitoring of the country's online education initiative. Schools, colleges, and institutions have reportedly been shut down since March 17, 2020, because of the ongoing corona outbreak. The courses are delivered entirely online. Our volunteer group has been out in the field for the last two

³⁸ Best, Linda M., and Daniel J. Shelley. "Academic dishonesty: Does social media allow for increased and more sophisticated levels of student cheating?." *International Journal of Information and Communication Technology Education (IJICTE)* 14, no. 3 (2018): 1-14.

³⁹ Internet. "Is social media encouraging students to cheat?." *The Educator Australia*, 28 Nov, 2017. <https://www.theeducatoronline.com/k12/news/is-social-media-encouraging-students-to-cheat/244150>. Date of access: 13 June, 2022.



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months, gathering data and assessing the program's progress. Evidence suggests that today's youth are less focused on school than previous generations. However, the outcomes of everyone taking the test online are excellent. Even though many educators believe that students' ability to study at home has contributed to improved performance, many are unaware that Google may be used to aid pupils in a dishonest manner. Online exam performance has improved recently, though. In this respect, the Cell Phone Consumers Association polled educators and parents. Google has been shown to provide solutions to search queries. Some others are even using group chats to write down their answers to reply the test questions.⁴⁰

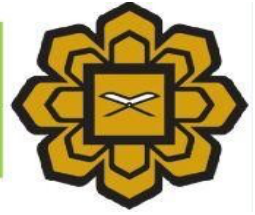
Hacking

Hacking refers to any attempt to gain unauthorised access to a computer system or a computer's private network. Simplified, it's the illegal use of computer networks that include breaking into or taking command of security systems.⁴¹ It is still unclear to cyber specialists how hacking is accomplished and who is participating. New applications have been found for it even though it was first introduced in the 1970s. In 1960, students at the University of Massachusetts debated the issue. The concept of taking a digital short cut was popularised at that time. University of Chicago students first used the term "hacking" in their academic papers on November 20, 1963.⁴² The '80s followed. Hacking capabilities of smartphones have begun. There were a few early phone hackers, and John Draper stands out (called flakers). At this time, the organisation also began its activities. They resorted to online message boards. In 1984, the inaugural issue of the magazine '2600' was released. Information about how to become a hacker, recent hacking incidences throughout the globe, etc. are all covered in this specialised publication. In 1986, Robert Morris of America is widely considered

⁴⁰ Staff reporter, "Google is supplying mocks for online exams", *Daily Jagaran*, September 23, 2020, <https://www.dailyjagaran.com/education/news/48651/> / অনলাইন-পরীক্ষায়-নকল-সরবরাহ-করছে-গুগল

⁴¹ The Economic Time, "What is 'Hacking'", 12 June, 2022. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/definition/hacking> Date of access: 13 June, 2022.

⁴² Ahasun Ahamed Suage, "The Evolution of Hacking", *Income Tunes*, April 9, 2020, <https://www.incometunes.com/%E0%A6%B9%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%AF%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%BF%E0%A6%82/> / হ্যাকিং-এর-ইতিহাস



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to be the primary suspect in a hacking incident. There are 6,000 government and academic websites whose data he compromised. Robert was given a three-year jail term and a 10,000 pound fine. The '90s were a golden age for hackers. After stealing almost 20,000 credit card details in 1995, serial computer thief Kevin Munich was sentenced to five years in prison. A new kind of cyber assault known as a Denial of Service (DOS) appeared in the year 2000. Popular websites Yahoo (Yahoo) and Amazon were the targets of the largest cyberattack ever recorded this year. This year also saw the occurrence of another historic event. In May of that year, hundreds of millions of individuals all around the globe received the "I LOVE YOU" virus in their mail.⁴³

However, anyone with hacking skills is known as a hacker. Hackers are unauthorised users who gain access to computers in order to steal, alter, or delete data by installing harmful software without the users' approval or knowledge. To everyone, at any time, hacking presents a serious risk in today's connected world.⁴⁴

Despite the usage of internet security measures, it appears that social media hacking is on the rise. Users of social media are frequently anxious about the possibility for problems. Following the hacking of their social media accounts by hackers from throughout the world, a significant number of individuals have lost money. Prior research has identified college students as active users of social media due to their constant use of a variety of electronic devices. Their social media addiction has led them to conduct additional crimes, such as hacking. This has also resulted in their academic achievements earning dismal grades.⁴⁵

⁴³ Ibid. See More: Catherine Hiley, "Brief history of cybersecurity and hacking", *Cybernews*, October 1, 2020, <https://cybernews.com/security/brief-history-of-cybersecurity-and-hacking/>

⁴⁴ Radziwill, Nicole, Jessica Romano, Diane Shorter, and Morgan Benton. "The Ethics of Hacking: Should It Be Taught?." arXiv preprint arXiv:1512.02707 (2015).

⁴⁵ Shanmugam, Ranjini. "The effects in hacking of social media among college students in malaysia." PhD diss., Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, 2014.

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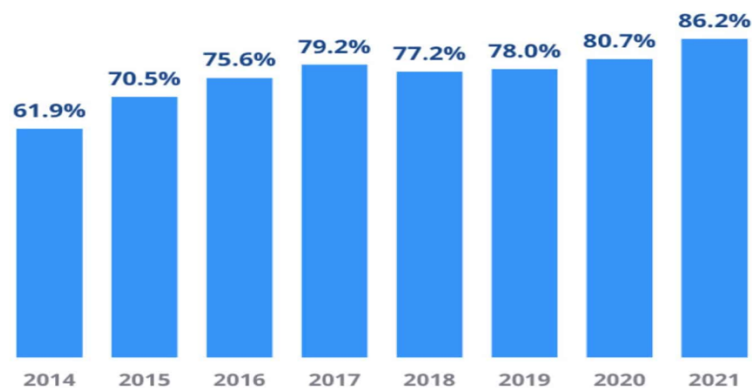


Figure 2: Percentage of organizations compromised by at least one successful attack.

Figure 4: Percentage of hacking from 2014 to 2021⁴⁶

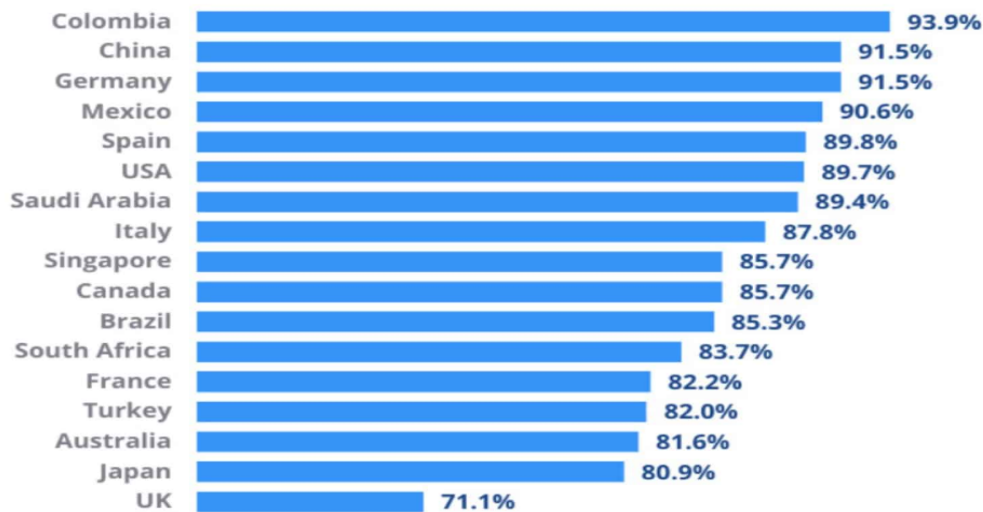


Figure 4: Percentage compromised by at least one successful attack in the past 12 months, by country.

Figure 5: Number of countries that are savvy to hack⁴⁷

⁴⁶ Andra zaharia, "300+ Terrifying Cybercrime and Cybersecurity Statistics (2022 EDITION)", Comparitech, February 22, 2022, <https://www.comparitech.com/vpn/cybersecurity-cyber-crime-statistics-facts-trends/> Date of access: 23 July, 2022.

⁴⁷ Ibid.



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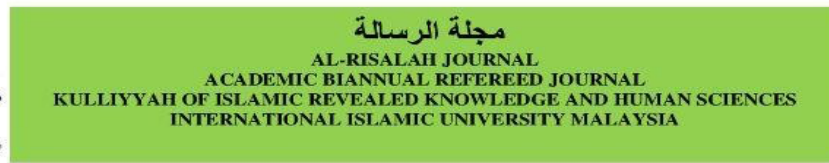
Misuse of social media

It is impossible to conceive of a world without social media. With the use of social media, people from all over the world may receive the same breaking news swiftly and effortlessly. Using social media, information may be rapidly and readily transmitted across the globe. Social media (especially Facebook) is now one of the most popular social networks on the planet.

Social media are swiftly modernising folks, but loneliness clings to them like an octopus. On the one hand, individuals pursue their occupations like machines, but on the other, human characteristics are vanishing. Due to people spending so much time addicted to their devices, families are becoming estranged and losing contact. Those who are close to you are moving away, whereas those who are further away are drawing closer. Former classmates are developing new acquaintances and reuniting. The outcome is a breach in the longstanding mutual dependency and trust among family members. It's not uncommon for spouses to have suspicions of one another and engage in a range of unethical behaviors. The proliferation of social media has a dismantling effect on traditional nuclear families. Many individuals use social media to disguise their true identities by creating phony profiles complete with flattering photographs, initiating romantic connections with strangers, and ultimately blackmailing them in order to steal money or other valuables. constantly threatened to publish private images or videos as a form of harassment. A lot of the time, young people end their own lives because they have given in to the romantic allure of love.

Social media is utilised by individuals of all socioeconomic backgrounds. Information on the world's current politics and economy, among other topics, is readily available via social media. The use of a person's name or the name of a member of his family in conjunction with misleading propaganda. Many social media users disseminate sexually explicit photographs through various photo editing techniques. The subject of the photograph and his family face social disgrace as a result. Those who publish such violent photos or false information on social media demonstrate their filthy mentality.⁴⁸ About 1,481 pupils from Bengali, English-medium, and Madrasah schools

⁴⁸ Irwin-Rogers, Keir, and Craig Pinkney. "Social media as a catalyst and trigger for youth violence." Catch-22 (2017).



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participated in a UNICEF survey. Four in ten male pupils and one in four female students reported experiencing cyberbullying. 19% of kids were exposed to inappropriate content. Some of them have even exchanged photographs with one another! 57% of children have become friends with children they did not grow up with. 16% of these children had already met these strangers, which is cause for concern. In a variety of circumstances, 11% of children have disclosed personal information. This number should not increase.⁴⁹

A professor of psychology at Dhaka University, Mehtab Khanom, told the BBC that "unrest has escalated among individuals" due to the advent of social media. Anxiety is on the rise not just among parents and children but also among users of social media platforms like Facebook. She stated that restricting access to social media was not the solution for preventing its misuse. In contrast, we have not spent sufficient time understanding about social media. The misuse of social media results from people's incapacity to connect appropriately online. The detrimental effects of spending so much time each day on social media extend to other aspects of life. In addition, she emphasised the importance of education in minimising the negative consequences of social media abuse. The parents should also be informed. School-based parenting education programmes must be enhanced. She considers prevention to be better to treatment. "Young people of increasing age are misusing it more," says Maulana Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad, assistant director general of the Islamic Foundation. In particular, they often exploit its status as a free media outlet. This is causing their moral integrity to erode. In addition, they exacerbate an already volatile situation by spreading false information online. Specifically, he mentioned that "many challenges have been generated notably inside the family" as a result of the proliferation of social media. He gave the following explanation: "Night after night, youngsters are remaining on social media, their studies are becoming harmed, and they are getting engaged in relationships. They don't know how to strengthen the bond between parent and kid."⁵⁰

⁴⁹ Staff reporter, "Student-Teacher and Parent Online Safety: Challenges and Actions", *Prothom Alo*, December 9, 2020, <https://www.prothomalo.com/roundtable/%E0%A6%9B%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%A4%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%B0/> ছাত্র-শিক্ষক-ও-অভিভাবকের-অনলাইন-সুরক্ষা: চ্যালেঞ্জ-ও-করণীয়

⁵⁰ Muṣṭafa Wadūd, "A growth in social media abuse at an alarming rate: opinions from experts", *Our Islam*, August 6, 2021,



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Despite the fact that the digital era has numerous benefits, we will now focus on its negative features, which mostly affect students.

Negatively impacting one's *Amānah* by way of inefficiency

Humans have a fundamental requirement for educational possibilities. In today's society, education in the digital era is more crucial than ever. Students and other learners are able to commit more time and effort to the learning process when they utilise digital technologies. The introduction of electronic computers in the 1950s clearly defines the start of the Internet's historical timeline. The Internet's popularity has exploded in both developed and developing nations. The government is determined to investing extensively in the sector of information technology, despite the presence of various obstacles to Internet access and use. The number of people using the Internet has been growing steadily from 2007, when there were around 1.11 billion users, to about 1.67 billion in 2009, and to over 1.97 billion in 2010. Evidence of a rising tide of digital literacy.⁵¹ Today, social networks sites like Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter also attract a large number of users. For example- In a developing country like Bangladesh the total internet subscribers reached 123.82 million subscribers at the end of December 2021.⁵² Now the number of internet users increased by 7.31% year-on-year in March (2022) to 12.48 crore, according to the latest data from the Bangladesh Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (BTRC).⁵³ Only among the Bangladeshi students a statistics shows that, most public and private university's students spend more

<https://www.ourislam24.com/2021/08/06/%E0%A6%86%E0%A6%B6%E0%A6%99%E0%A7%8D%E0%A6%95%E0%A6%BE%E0%A6%9C%E0%A6%A8%E0%A6%95> / আশঙ্কাজনক-হারে-বাড়ছে-সোশ্যাল-মিডিয়া-অপব্যবহার: বিজ্ঞদের-ভাবনা

⁵¹ Gencer, Suzan Lema, and Mustafa Koc. "Internet abuse among teenagers and its relations to internet usage patterns and demographics." *Journal of Educational Technology & Society* 15, no. 2 (2012): 25-36.

⁵² Google, "Internet Subscribers in Bangladesh December, 2021 – BTRC" <http://old.btrc.gov.bd/content/internet-subscribers-bangladesh-december-2021> Date of access: 7 June, 2022.

⁵³ Mahmudul Hasan. "Internet users rise in March." *The Daily Star*. May 9, 2022. <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/telecom/news/internet-users-rise-march-3> Date of access: 7 June, 2022.

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than 4 hours a day on internet, that means an average of 28 hours a week at least.⁵⁴ Students spend less time studying and more time on the Internet, according to this report. They emphasised the total of 28 hours every week. Students are required to use the Internet properly. This suggests that internet addiction has a negative effect on pupils' academic achievement. Another study suggests that excessive internet use, defined as more than 20 to 25 hours per week, can have a negative impact on an individual's personal, professional, and financial life.⁵⁵ Consequently, not only Bangladesh, but all nations now face this digital dilemma. Students must determine the worth of their time. They should not engage in pointless activities. Because our lives are really a sum of time. Allah SWT has sworn by time saying “والعصر”⁵⁶ in the holy Qur'an. Therefore, time is deliberated as *Amānah* (trusteeship) to all students, as well as to all human kind. Allah says:

﴿يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا لَا تَخُونُوا اللَّهَ وَالرَّسُولَ وَتَحُونُوا أَمْنَكُمْ وَأَنْتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ﴾ (الأنفال: 27)

“O believers! Do not betray Allah and the Messenger, nor betray your trusts knowingly.” (al-Anfāl:27)

﴿وَالَّذِينَ هُمْ لِأَمْتِهِمْ وَعَهْدِهِمْ رُءُونَ﴾ (المؤمنون: 8)

“The believers are also those who are true to their trusts and covenants.” (al-Muminūn:8)

Prophet Mohammad ﷺ says:

«فَكُلُّكُمْ رَاعٍ وَكُلُّكُمْ مَسْئُولٌ عَنْ رَعِيَّتِهِ»

⁵⁴ Rahaman, Md Mahbobor. "Addiction of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and Internet by the Bangladeshi University Students and Its Impact on Their Future." International Journal of Information Technology and Computer Science 10, no. 8 (2018): 56-68.

⁵⁵ Hall, Alex S., and Jeffrey Parsons. "Internet addiction: College student case study using best practices in cognitive behavior therapy." Journal of mental health counseling 23, no. 4 (2001): 312.

⁵⁶ Qur'an 103:1



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“Every one of you is a guardian and is responsible for his charge.”⁵⁷

For this reason, it is crucial that students keep track of time and avoid wasting any of it.

Putting their lives at risk

Depression is a serious danger for students who spend an excessive amount of time online. Researchers discovered that persons with depression were more inclined to participate in social experiments and online discussion forums, whereas they were less likely to participate in face-to-face meetings. Since the internet has become such an integral part of the educational experience, mental health and student affairs professionals must be on the lookout for issues related to internet abuse.⁵⁸ As we have seen, persons suffering from depression are capable of anything, even self-harm and suicide.⁵⁹ The safety of their own lives requires that students exercise self-control in their use of electronic media. Allah SWT says:

﴿وَلَا تُفْسِدُوا بِأَيْدِيكُمْ إِلَى التَّهْلُكَةِ﴾ (البقرة:195)

“And do not let your own hands throw you into destruction by withholding.” (al-Baqarah:195)

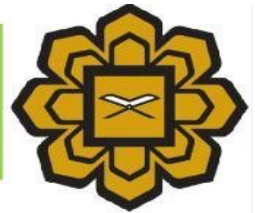
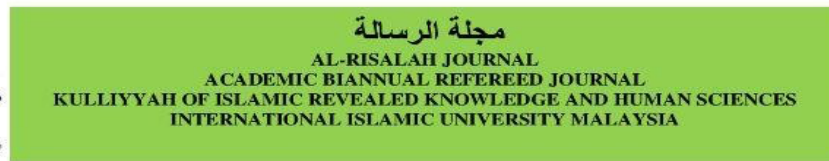
Addicted to “Pornography”

Student and general public exposure to "Pornography" online is another disturbing and counterproductive activity. According to research, teenagers who are just in junior high school are more likely to be drawn to pornographic or otherwise offensive content. For

⁵⁷ Al-Bukhārī, Vol. 3, 420, *Ḥadīth* 2558, The grade of the *ḥadīth* is *ṣaḥīḥ*.

⁵⁸ Fortson, Beverly L., Joseph R. Scotti, Yi-Chuen Chen, Judith Malone, and Kevin S. Del Ben. "Internet use, abuse, and dependence among students at a southeastern regional university." *Journal of American College Health* 56, no. 2 (2007): 137-144.

⁵⁹ Jeon, Hong Jin. "Depression and suicide." *Journal of the Korean Medical Association* 54, no. 4 (2011): 370-375.



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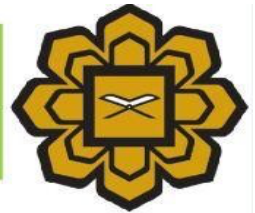
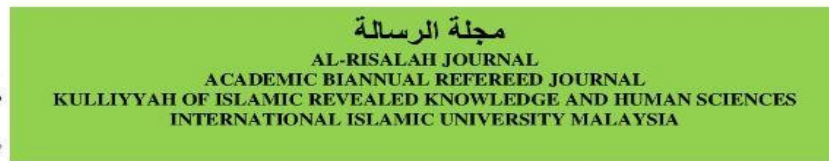
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the simple reason that they are entering the tumultuous years of their adolescence. Considering that many shifts occur naturally. Children's anxiety and irritability are frequently exacerbated by physical changes. Observing pornographic material gives them a sense of pleasure.⁶⁰ Young adults in their twenties are eager to test the waters of adulthood and investigate their own sexual identities, according to surveys. Therefore, it stands to reason that pornography would be immensely popular among college students. This is in line with the findings of a January 2019 poll of 133 Islamic college students in the Indonesian city of Yogyakarta. According to the survey, 75.9% of students have visited a pornographic website, and 55.6% of those who did found the site's sexually explicit content appealing. In interviews, 37 students explained how and why they began watching porn because they desired sexual satisfaction but were unable to get it. Nelson et al. observed that, despite understanding that pornography is ethically repugnant, all young converts who indulge in it do so vicariously. According to Nelson et al., one of the reasons why pornography may be troublesome for mature adults is that it violates the tenets of numerous religions. Colleges will shape students, especially those majoring in Islam, in accordance with their ardent dedication to and emphasis on Islam's vision, mission, and values. This implies that Islamic institutions are dedicated to fostering students who are not just knowledgeable but also skilled in areas such as science and technology, as well as able to apply Islamic beliefs to the betterment of society. It is thus evident that pornographic content consumption by students at Islamic colleges is incompatible with the goals, tenets, and ideals promoted by these institutions.⁶¹ Allah prohibits all kind of obscenity in the glorious Qur'an:

﴿إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يُحِبُّونَ أَنْ تَشِيعَ الْفُحْشَةُ فِي الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا لَهُمْ عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ فِي الدُّنْيَا وَالْآخِرَةِ
وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ وَأَنْتُمْ لَا تَعْلَمُونَ﴾ (النور: 19)

⁶⁰ Hardani, Rika, Dwi Hastuti, and Lilik Noor Yulianti. "Pornography behavior of junior high school student." *Journal of Child Development Studies* 3, no. 1 (2018): 15-27.

⁶¹ Ekayani, Syafira Putri, Syarifah Nur Lathifah, Veany Aprillia, and Fuad Nashori. "Repentance and Subjective Well-being of Muslim College Students who Access Pornography: Self-control as a Moderator." (2020).



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“Indeed, those who love to see indecency spread among the believers will suffer a painful punishment in this life and the hereafter. Allah knows and you do not know.” (An-Nur: 19)

Allah also forbids any sort of adultery for Muslims. As pornography might lead to adultery, students ought to abstain from it. Allah says:

﴿وَلَا تَقْرُبُوا الزِّنَىٰ إِنَّهُ كَانَ فَحِشَةً وَسَاءَ سَبِيلًا﴾ (الإسراء: 32)

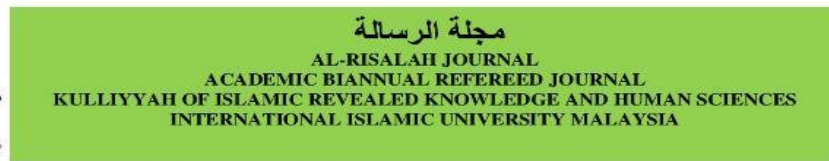
“Do not go near adultery. It is truly a shameful deed and an evil way.” (al-Isrā: 32)

Students should instead concentrate on their academics and self-development, and avoid all forms of pornography and other objectionable material. There is a critical role for parental and educational monitoring in this context.

Plagiarism

"Plagiarism," or the depiction of another author's language, thoughts, ideas, or expressions as your own original work, often known as academic dishonesty, has a significant impact on student morality. According to an article, educators at all levels have become more worried by claims of student online plagiarism, resulting in the widespread usage of computerised plagiarism checkers. Despite data from recent studies indicating that estimates of online plagiarism may be inflated, the problem remains substantial.⁶² John Walker states that according to research conducted in the United States and the United Kingdom, student plagiarism is prevalent in higher education. Despite what may appear to be an ever-increasing possibility of plagiarism among college students, there is evidence that official policies, procedures, and responses from certain institutions and academic employees may be inconsistent and occasionally unfair. Universities and colleges should adopt the following precautionary measures: Establish a programme to promote academic integrity, develop means of

⁶² Scanlon, Patrick M. "Student online plagiarism: how do we respond?." College Teaching 51, no. 4 (2003): 161-165.



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educating students on the potential dangers of plagiarism, and implement measures to prevent and punish cases of plagiarism.⁶³

Plagiarism is equivalent to depriving the slave of his rights (*Haqqul Tbād*), which is strongly forbidden in Islam. This is due to the fact that authoring others' books, articles, or anything else is regarded to be the author's intellectual property. Allah guides us saying:

﴿وَلَا تَأْكُلُوا أَمْوَالَكُمْ بَيْنَكُمْ بِالْبُطْلِ﴾ (البقرة:188)

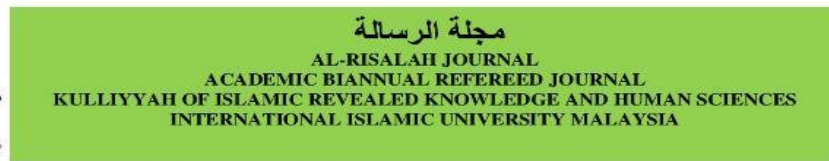
“Do not consume one another’s wealth unjustly” (al-Baqarah:188)

Therefore, it is imperative that students refrain from plagiarizing the work of others. If they don't change their ways, they risk experiencing hardships both in this life and the next.

CONCLUSION

This research examined the introduction and significance of ethics in light of the Qur'an and Sunnah. Its primary focus was on the negative effects of current digital components on young students throughout the globe, so that the next generation may be shielded from the negative aspects of the digital world. The authors of this research believe that the morals and ethics of students will only grow and flourish if the identified negative factors are eliminated. Therefore, the government, parents, and educators, as well as all other relevant parties, must be vigilant and watchful to ensure that children and adolescents do not get misled when using digital devices.

⁶³ Walker, John. "Student plagiarism in universities: What are we doing about it?." Higher Education Research & Development 17, no. 1 (1998): 89-106.



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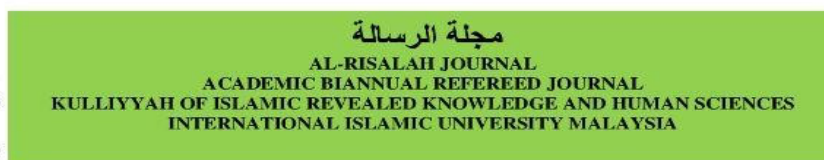
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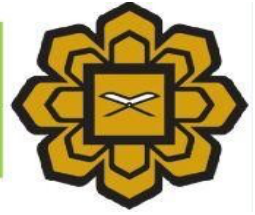
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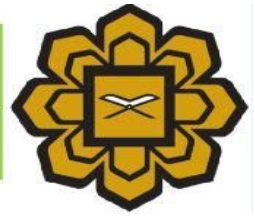
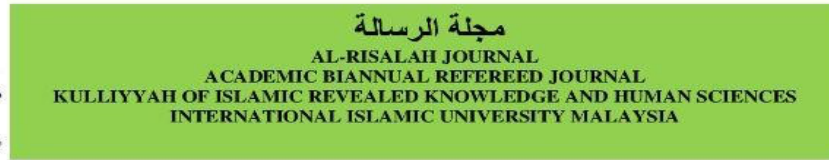
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