	## The Impact of social Media on Muslim Youth from Quranic perspective
Author (s)	**Muhammad Sufiyan khan**[1] **Afia Tariq**[2]
Affiliation (s)	Univ[1] Visiting Lecturer, Department of Islamic studies, University of Sargodha [1] Visiting Lecturer, Department of Islamic studies, University of Sargodha ersity of Karachi Department of Religious Studies, University of Madrid, Spain
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[1] Visiting Lecturer, Department of Islamic studies, University of Sargodha

[2] Visiting Lecturer, Department of Islamic studies, University of Sargodha

The Impact of social Media on Muslim Youth from Quranic perspective

Muhammad Sufiyan khan[3]
Afia Tariq[4]

Abstract

In recent times, the dynamics of human interactions have undergone a complete transformation owing to the emergence and evolution of computers and networks. The inception of the web marked the beginning of a new era in social relationships. Individuals now engage and forge connections through various social networking platforms.[i] Presently, the adoption and integration of social media have become ubiquitous across various facets of human life. Muslims, like other communities, have witnessed a surge in social media usage in recent years. This trend has ushered in changes that hold significant implications at both the individual and collective levels within Muslim society. Social media platforms offer simplicity in usage, ease of learning, and facilitate universal and swift communication.[ii]

This article highlights the significant role of social media in the burgeoning Muslim community. Social media serves as a powerful tool for reaching a broader audience and facilitating public discourse. Traditionally, communication within the Muslim society primarily relied on verbal and non-verbal means. However, in recent years, the landscape has evolved significantly, with a notable shift towards digital platforms. These platforms offer enhanced connectivity and provide opportunities for widespread communication. As a result, there is a potential for changes in the dynamics and the scope of Islamic influence within society.

The prevailing issues concerning social media activities and attitudes have the potential to shape the perceptions of multiple generations of Muslims. However, the lack of regulation and fair practices has led to the misuse of these platforms, with some disseminating anti-Islamic rhetoric and immoral content under the guise of Islamic teachings. Despite these challenges, it's imperative to acknowledge both the positive and negative impacts of Islam portrayed through social media. By discerning between the beneficial and detrimental aspects, individuals can cultivate healthy habits in utilizing the potential of these platforms. This study aims to empower future Muslim advocates and missionaries (Da'wah men) to leverage social networks effectively in the service of Islam. In line with the teachings of the Quran and Sunnah, there's a clear directive to utilize technology for the betterment of humanity, emphasizing the importance of responsible and constructive engagement with social media.

Keywords: Social Media, Youth, Freedom of Speech, Platform, Harmony

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[3] Visiting Lecturer, Department of Islamic studies, University of Sargodha
[4] Visiting Lecturer, Department of Islamic studies, University of Sargodha

Research Objectives

This study aims to underscore the pivotal role of social media within Muslim society and its alignment with Islamic principles and social welfare objectives. The pervasive use of social media has left a significant imprint on Muslim communities, manifesting both positive and negative repercussions. However, it is crucial to recognize that the adverse effects are particularly detrimental to the fabric of our Muslim generation. The overarching goal of this research is to delve into the impact of social media on society and devise strategies for mitigating its negative consequences while safeguarding our communities. Furthermore, this study endeavors to raise awareness among Muslims and all segments of society about the multifaceted implications of social media usage.

Literature review

A lot of Books have been written on youth & media like "being young and Muslim" in which youth's faith in the fashioning of contemporary youthful Muslim identities have been discussed. Inventing the Muslim cool also discusses social behaviors of youth. There are also a lot of articles dealing with the youth behaviors, retaliating islamophobic activities, and whatever the concern is. Muslim youth is a sign of fear for those who are trying to fight cold war against Islamic world. They are trying to create laziness, trying to create unethical activists in between them by their own means and modes. But Islamists are writing over these circumstances and completing the projects of their mission.

Research Methodology

This research employs a qualitative methodology, utilizing various instruments for data collection. Primary sources such as textbooks, magazines, and articles have been extensively referenced, alongside secondary sources gathered from the internet. These diverse sources collectively contribute to the comprehensive analysis conducted in this study.

Social Media and Youth (brief introduction)

- "The term 'social media' can be broken down into its constituent words. 'Social' refers to the act of communicating with others by sharing and receiving information. Media encompasses communication tools, including the Internet, television, radio, and newspapers, which are examples of more conventional forms."
- "By combining these individual terms, we can formulate a basic definition: Social media is an online communication platform facilitating the sharing of information, ideas, and content."
- "Social media refers to websites or applications that enable users to swiftly and effectively share their content, serving as a tool for communication with both acquaintances and strangers alike."
- "Social media is defined as an Internet-based application operating on the principles of Web 2.0. Web 2.0 is a concept that revolves around a platform designed for collective intelligence and collaborative interaction."[iii]

- "The essence of social media lies in its ability to disseminate daily news and content swiftly to a vast audience, whether through text or video, allowing individuals to reach thousands of people simultaneously."

In simpler terms, social media can be described as an online communication tool that uses internet and technology resources to share information effortlessly with one or more individuals.

Social Media

Social media is interact based communication medium that allows people to share their content very quickly & efficiently. We can see that content worldwide wherever we are online by downloading social media applications.

Muslim Youth

Large number of youngsters having Faith on Almighty & his last prophet, follow Islamic culture & civilization accordance with the divine law.

Famous social media mediums

- Facebook
- WhatsApp
- Threads
- Instagram
- X (Twitter)
- TikTok
- YouTube
- Bing

Positive Effects of Social Media

There are several reasons which make social media a reliable platform some are under below

1. People who live far away from their relatives can have a communication with their beloved ones.
2. There are a lot of reasons people are getting harm via electronic news mediums. As unauthentic news are spread, actors become scholars in Ramadan & do Ramadan transmission all over the month conveying false perspectives of Islamic teachings.
   Authenticity is being banned, free speech is not allowed in many countries and newspapers and news channels are not allowed to spread several pieces of news so people are transferring from electronic media to social media and are not getting bored via it because they can freely write their thoughts either appreciative or creative regarding critics.
3. There are a lot of places worldwide where extremists are spreading terror against their contradictive religion. As you can see in china where Uyghur are being attacked, Burma where Muslims are not safe, Palestine where children are killed, Iraq and Iran where sect issues create terror hypes and electronic media is not allowed to report it all.
   Muslims in minority can raise their voice worldwide by uploading reality based data.

4. Facebook groups, pages, ids can be used to spread the peace, the real face of Islamic teachings, by replying to those who mismanage Islamic data and convey unauthentic data as an act of islamophobic activities.[iv]

5. Spaces of twitter can be managed in the way to have meetups worldwide at any issue or for any perspective in the favor of Islam and Muslims as Elon musk says that this platform gives you the right of free speech.

6. WhatsApp communities and groups can interlink a lot of Muslims together either the Muslims are in Gaza, Burma, China or anywhere in the world.

7. Several slogans writings of islamophobic projectors can be condemned by worldwide trends where each and every social media youngster can take part.

8. Orientalists and other scholars criticizing Islam can have a strong reply on social media through our Islamic scholars.

9. Atheists can be managed by strong arguments as they have many social media groups on Facebook, X and WhatsApp propagating against Allah and prophet via different slogans.

10. Muslim personalities and their characteristics can have a worldwide hype as famous X trends are shown worldwide throughout the world.

Negative Effects of Social Media

Social media stands out as a remarkably potent tool for disseminating information with minimal cost and effort. It has evolved into a global phenomenon that has profoundly impacted lives worldwide. While in certain regions, access to the Internet is prohibited akin to alcohol, elsewhere it is relatively unrestricted. The easy and affordable accessibility of the Internet has been exploited by some individuals who disseminate illicit content at little to no cost. Furthermore, social media platforms are sometimes utilized by individuals with less honorable intentions, contributing to concerns about its negative impact on youth.

1. **Unbearable addiction**

   Social media addiction and its misuse pose not only personal and familial risks but also extend to the workplace. In some Muslim societies, a concerning trend has emerged where social media platforms are utilized for unauthorized discussions, including circulating exam questions for various public assessments. Such activities have serious implications, disrupting disaster management efforts and administrative functions across different sectors.

2. **Islamophobia effecting psychology of youth**

   Today's media often fail to portray Islam in a fair light, frequently presenting one-sided perspectives or misrepresenting its teachings in order to shape public opinion. In Western media, conflicts involving Muslims are often labeled solely as "Islam" conflicts, without adequately acknowledging similar conflicts within other religious groups. Social media platforms also contribute to the dissemination of fake rumors about Islamic leaders and misconceptions about Muslims, leading non-Muslim communities to view Muslims as traitors or terrorists. While the negative effects of social media on Islam are plentiful, it's

important to recognize that social media can also serve as a beneficial tool for promoting understanding and tolerance.[v]

3. **Terrorism acts**

Militant organizations have increasingly turned to social networking platforms to coordinate their operations and mobilize supporters. Groups like IS leverage social media extensively to manage their terrorist activities and recruit young individuals into their ranks. They utilize online magazines such as the Islamic State Report and create various materials disseminated through social media channels to attract and radicalize impressionable youth. Consequently, many individuals have been indoctrinated through online propaganda and have clandestinely joined these extremist organizations. However, when social media platforms are exploited not for social interaction but as tools for disseminating militant propaganda, they contribute to the proliferation of antisocial behavior and intolerance, rather than fostering societal cohesion.

4. **Lack of physical interaction**

One significant disadvantage of social media is the reduction in real human interaction. As youngsters become increasingly engrossed in online interactions, they may experience a decline in face-to-face communication skills, leading to a sense of detachment and apathy. Despite having numerous online friends, the absence of genuine interpersonal connections renders these virtual friendships devoid of true value. Studies have revealed that excessive time spent on social media platforms often translates to strained personal relationships, with individuals neglecting quality time with family and loved ones. Consequently, family bonds weaken as individuals prioritize virtual connections over meaningful interactions within the household, ultimately fostering a sense of distance and isolation from those friends and family closest to them.

5. **Private life insecurity**

Social media platforms often encourage youth to share intimate details of their personal lives publicly. Daily posts typically revolve around mundane activities such as where one is going, what they are eating, or recent purchases, as individuals strive to showcase various aspects of their daily routine. Moreover, people frequently share their interests and hobbies, such as music, poetry, and photography, with their social media followers. This constant stream of personal updates and shared interests contributes to the culture of oversharing prevalent on social media platforms.

6. **Social harmony violations**

It's important to note that the concept of "freedom of speech" varies across different media ideologies. While some emphasize the importance of unrestricted expression, others prioritize the uniqueness and cohesion of the community, even if it means limiting certain forms of speech. In Islamic ideology, for example, while there is recognition of the value of freedom of speech, there are also boundaries set to maintain social harmony and respect for religious sensitivities. It's not just aggressive ideologies that may restrict

freedom of speech; a wide range of belief systems and societal norms can influence the extent to which individuals are able to freely express themselves.

7. **Laziness in youth**

Young individuals are experiencing a decline in productivity, which has been noted by Psychologist Prof. Dr. Mohit Kamal. He highlights that unlike in the past when children would engage in outdoor activities; nowadays they predominantly remain indoors, with social media serving as their primary form of entertainment. This shift has led to a significant deterioration in interpersonal communication skills, contributing to a sense of laziness among the youth. Moreover, there has been a noticeable decrease in physical fitness levels and resilience, accompanied by a decline in mental fortitude. As a consequence, young people often struggle to navigate unfamiliar situations effectively.[vi]

8. **Sharing Text without Authentication**

There are a lot of users who share Quranic interpretation without any authenticity. They just share rumors and wrong meaning interpreted but various illiterate persons serving their own views.

Many of the people change the meaning of verse according to their own benefits and they just do "Tehreef in meaning" As Quran says[vii]

يَٰٓأَيُّهَا الَّذِيْنَ اٰمَنُوْٓا اِنَّ كَثِيْرًا مِّنَ الْاَحْبَارِ وَ الرُّهْبَانِ لَيَأْكُلُوْنَ اَمْوَالَ النَّاسِ بِالْبَاطِلِ

"O believers there are a lot of scholars and Sufi's who eat people's money by lying"

Many of us share their content without any research or discussing it with ulemas hence controversial issues take part.

So we should have a deep research before sharing such content about Quran, Hadith & other Islamic personalities.

As Quran says in surah[viii]

يَٰٓأَيُّهَا الَّذِيْنَ اٰمَنُوْٓا اِنْ جَآءَكُمْ فَاسِقٌۢ بِنَبَاٍ فَتَبَيَّنُوْٓا اَنْ تُصِيْبُوْا قَوْمًۢا بِجَهَالَةٍ فَتُصْبِحُوْا عَلٰى مَا فَعَلْتُمْ نٰدِمِيْنَ

O believers, if an evildoer brings you any news, verify it so you do not harm people unknowingly, becoming regretful for what you have done.

Propagation of Islam

Social media is also a mean of propagating our religion. We should adopt such measures which are appropriate regarding propagation. Christians, Hindus, Jews, monks and every one having any religion is sharing his holy texts, scriptures and teachings of their religions on social media. Fruitful debates can be done there.

Quran has delivered to us the ways of discussion as Holy Quran says[ix]

اُدْعُ اِلٰى سَبِيْلِ رَبِّكَ بِالْحِكْمَةِ وَ الْمَوْعِظَةِ الْحَسَنَةِ وَ جَادِلْهُمْ بِالَّتِيْ هِيَ اَحْسَنُۗ اِنَّ رَبَّكَ هُوَ اَعْلَمُ بِمَنْ ضَلَّ عَنْ سَبِيْلِهٖ وَ هُوَ اَعْلَمُ بِالْمُهْتَدِيْنَ

Invite to the way of your Lord with wisdom and fair preaching, and argue with them with that which is best. Truly, your Lord best knows who has strayed from His path, and He best knows those who are guided.

We also can call all other religious-population without taunting and without denying their Gods and Goddesses.

There are several Facebook, WhatsApp groups in which many religious debates occur. Our scholars and students should be trained for debates and discussions as it's the part of one Muslims' life.

Every verse, every narration should be propagated. And scholars should take responsibility to do such soulful acts as Allah has ordered in surah Al Imran[x]

وَ لْتَكُنْ مِّنْكُمْ اُمَّةٌ يَّدْعُوْنَ اِلَى الْخَيْرِ وَ يَأْمُرُوْنَ بِالْمَعْرُوْفِ وَ يَنْهَوْنَ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِّ-وَ اُولٰٓئِكَ هُمُ الْمُفْلِحُوْنَ

Let there be a group among you who call others to goodness, encourage what is good, and forbid what is evil it is they who will be successful.

So everyone should try to obey the orders of Allah Almighty.

Source of knowledge

Social media is also a source of knowledge for everyone as he can search whatever his mind needs for.

Quranic verses, translations, narrations, stories of companions of prophet, Stories of wives of prophet, stories of Gakous Islamic personalities, famous scholar's interviews, sayings writings, each and everything can be searched.

No matter whatever one's school of thought is, he can find according to his own views and imaginations without any hustle and bustle.

Every fatwah, every current ijtihad information is uploaded on social media sites. It has been much appropriate media medium for all over the world as every scholar, Doctor, lawyer, politician, social worker can be finding out there for Amy service.

Islamists should learn Holy Quran, and should collect knowledgeable information through social media sites and shouldn't practice any false information there.

Avoid Nudity

Nudity and negative media mediums are also there on social media sites. The pics, videos Muslims should avoid are uploaded by several Muslim and non-believers for views and earnings.[xi]

Youngsters watch it for temporary time pass but it leads to injurious habitual sin.

Quran and hadith orders us to avoid nudity and Allah also orders us to prevent our eyes from evil As Quran says[xii]

قُلْ لِّلْمُؤْمِنِيْنَ يَغُضُّوْا مِنْ اَبْصَارِهِمْ وَ يَحْفَظُوْا فُرُوْجَهُمْؕ-ذٰلِكَ اَزْكٰى لَهُمْؕ-اِنَّ اللهَ خَبِيْرٌۢ بِمَا يَصْنَعُوْنَ

Tell the believing men to lower their gaze and guard their chastity. That is purer for them. Surely Allah is All-Aware of what they do.

So we should avoid of watching such reels, videos, short clips, pictures, and posters on social media.

Recommendations

There should be a propagation of principles on the topic "How to use social media". Islamic ways and laws of social media usage should be implemented and briefly discussed to avoid unethical use of this platform.

Facebook is most common used application having almost 3 Billion users in which many are having fake ids and using their ids against Islamic personalities and civilization there should be a ban on Facebook usage for under 18 children.

X twitter should be used for any mean of social communication as its free of hate speech as well as there are almost all decent users except a minority.

Every scholar should have a YouTube and x account which is so necessary for their transformation into a worthy personality and grooming the confidence.

Islamic studies MPhil, PHD as well as BS, MA students should be assigned video uploaded assignments in which they will tell how to serve Islam by using social media which will be so fruitful for their future.

Conclusion

The concept of social media is pervasive in today's world of modern technology, with its growing trend of social media use. This study focuses specifically on its impact within the Muslim youth. It examines the benefits of social media sites, such as improving work efficiency, promoting true teachings of Islam, and maintaining social ties, among others. Global social networking has gained immense popularity and plays a pivotal role in bridging distances across the world. Both countries and their citizens stand to benefit from leveraging the positive aspects of social media while avoiding its negative implications. While it is true that media and social media can have numerous negative effects, it is important to recognize that Islam and religion, in general, can also play a beneficial role in navigating these challenges.

No technological product or development is inherently incompatible with Islam. It's essential to recognize that every tool can be used for both beneficial and harmful purposes. The responsibility lies with the user, not with the technology itself. In this age of advanced information technology, there's a significant opportunity to propagate the message of Tawhid, the oneness of Allah, in the path of Allah. It's crucial to seize this opportunity to convey the teachings of the Quran and Sunnah to every doorstep, highlighting the beauty of Islam to the public. Addressing ignorance and spreading the light of the Quran should be a collective effort, requiring participation from everyone. Through collective endeavors, we can expect Allah's blessings in spreading the message of Islam.

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