



THE EFFECTS OF SOCIAL MEDIA

As the world of the internet reaches new heights, it has given birth to a new generation where communication and social interaction has become the norm of society and has radically altered our daily lives. Nevertheless, with each new advancement in technology, we face new questions and new challenges. Twitter, Facebook, Youtube, Instagram, LinkedIn, Pinterest, and the list goes on.

It is an apparent truth that no one can deny; each second of our life is slowly being engulfed into this virtual world. Whether it is at home, at school or at work, countless hours are spent daily on these social networks, but many are unaware of the negative effects these social networks have on our lives:

Wasting of Time: An average person spends two to three hours per day on social networking websites. This means that each person spends approximately five years of their life on social media websites. Furthermore, many people spend long nights chatting away on these websites leaving themselves completely deprived of sleep.

Addiction: Studies show that people show signs of addiction where they feel a need to post something on their pages or constantly check the posts of others.

Isolation: How often do you find a group of friends sitting next to

each other while each one of them are busy with their phones? Studies show that social media has led to less human interaction and face to face communication.

Decreased Productivity: With the invention of social media websites, companies and businesses have found their employees spending less time working and more time on social networks. Nucleus Research reported that Facebook shaves 1.5% off office productivity while Morse claimed that British companies lost 2.2 billion a year to the social phenomenon.

False Identities: Due to the anonymity on the internet, many people interact with others not knowing who they actually are because of using misrepresentation and expression of superficial qualities.

Poor Academic Performance: As a result of spending countless hours on social networks, students have shown a decline in academic performance. Many spend their time constantly checking their phones for updates in their social circles.

Less Privacy: Since the internet does not involve face to face communication, people are more open to posting information about their private lives while leaving this information open for all those to see who have access to their user page.

We are busy updating our statuses, following unending conversations,

and rifling through videos posted by our so-called heroes of the on-line world that we are subscribed to.

MANY HOURS GO BY AS WE LOSE OUR TIME AND WASTE AWAY OUR LIFE IN FRONT OF OUR DIGITAL DEVICES.

How can we be satisfied with a life revolving around the life experiences of others? It is our duty to value our time before time itself becomes the cause for our loss. Allah says in the Quran: *"I swear by time, man is in a state of loss indeed, except those who believed and did righteous deeds"* {Quran, al Asr, 1-3}

Free Islamic Finance Course

Mufti Ebrahim Desai Saheb will be dedicating the following year 2015 in having weekly discourses on Islamic Finance & Economics, primarily from Bukhari Sharif and other Hadith Kitaabs, incorporating contemporary issues of Fiqh. We will notify the public on the schedule and venue.

The course is open to the public and is free of charge. Generally, Seminars of Islamic Finance charge exorbitant amounts and very little is understood.

This is your opportunity to enrich yourself for free. You will be offered to write an exam at the end of the course.

A REPLY TO A QUESTION

ON GAINING CONCENTRATION IN SALAAH

MUFTI EBRAHIM DESAI

When a person undertakes an important task, the success of the task depends on the mental condition. **The purpose of Salah is to attain the closeness of Allah.**

Condition the mind before Salaah to attain the closeness of Allah through Salaah. Be committed to that goal and be determined. With that mindset, prepare for Salaah.

Perform Wudhu with the mindset that I will be presenting myself before my Allah. Think about how all the sins are washed away through Wudhu in preparation for the great meeting with Allah in Salaah. Your spiritual journey has already begun.

Before commencing Salaah, think how fortunate I am to be in divine communication with Allah.

In thana concentrate on the purity of Allah and His majesty. Concentrate on at least the words of Surah Faatiha and the Surah you recite. Think '*this is the speech of my Allah*'.

When going into Ruku, tell yourself I bend in humility to my Allah. When going into Sajdah, tell yourself I place every limb from

forehead till toes before my creator. I submit to Him and again proclaim (*Subhan Rabbi al a'la*) pure is my Allah, the highest. Do this in every Rakat.

When making Salam to the right and left, make intention of greeting the angels on the right and left. Upon completion of Salaah, make Istighfar and repent for not being able to fulfill the rights of Allah in Salah.

Make Dua after Salah '*Oh Allah accept my Salaah*'. In order to achieve this standard in Salaah, you have to make an effort. Start performing shorter Salaah's with full concentration and gradually increase that.

You will feel different, see different, hear different and talk different. No amount of comfort and luxury can buy this peace you get through Salaah.

ISLAHI MAJLIS

Mufti Ebrahim Desai Saheb is a Khalifa of Faqihul Ummah, Hazrat Mufti Mahmood Hasan Gangohi (Rahmatullah alayh).

All Mufti Saheb's lectures can be downloaded at the Darul Iftaa website - www.daruliftaa.net.

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Q&A

"مَنْ يَرْزُقُ اللَّهُ بِهِ خَيْرًا يَفْقَهُ فِي الدِّينِ"

"When Allah wishes good for someone, He bestows upon him the understanding of Deen." [Al-Bukhari]



Mailto: admin@daruliftaa.net

E-MAILED QUESTION:

Q: Is it permissible to use someone else's wifi if they haven't put a password? (of neighbours, adjacent offices, etc) there are some places where there is an availability of such signals like malls, restaurants, etc.

A: If the Wi-Fi is meant for public usage, e.g. in some malls and restaurants, then it will be permissible to use. However it would not be permissible to use someone's personal Wi-Fi, e.g. neighbours, without their permission. In many countries, using someone else's Wi-Fi connection is illegal. Moreover, by unlawfully using someone's Wi-Fi, quite likely some sort of disadvantage will be caused to them.

It is narrated that the Messenger of Allah (*sallallahu 'alayhi wa sallam*) said: Everything of a Muslim is sacred to another Muslim: his property, his honour and his blood. It is enough evil for any man to despise his Muslim brother. (*Sunan Abi Dawud*, #4882, *Kitab al-Adab*)

It is clear from the hadith above that as Muslims, we should always take full caution when dealing with others and using anything that belongs to them, especially if it is without their consent.

E-MAILED QUESTION:

I have been in a relationship with a guy for 8 months. Recently we broke up, the reason was due to his anger and moods and possessiveness. He used to spy on me wherever I go and check on me whatever I do. I feel I have a right to freedom and I can be with my friends and family without him following me everywhere. We had many fights and he made me cry on many occasions.

He has moods swings that scare me.

I did Istikhara about my future with him, but I feel confused. He keeps asking me to get back to him. I don't know what to do. I need an Islamic solution to my problem.

A: When Allah wishes good for a person, Allah guides that person to an Islamic solution. Thank Allah for the guidance by considering the advice sincerely to derive the good Allah wishes for you. According to Shari'ah, a premarital relationship is completely Haram. It is important to understand when Allah declares something Haram, there are harms in that which is detrimental for one. Allah loves us and wants to save us from anything harmful. In the relationship with the person in reference, you already are experiencing many emotional pains. You are not the wife of the person. Why should he have such hold over you and your emotions?

Why should he make you cry and why should you submit to his moods? Your pain and emotions is the consequences of you entering into a relationship that is Haram.

A woman in Islam is precious and deserves respect, dignity, and honour. She is not meant to be used by someone as a fiancée or girlfriend to fulfill one's carnal appetite.

Sister, if you respect yourself and give yourself some dignity, you will get that respect. If you do not give yourself respect, do not expect it from anyone. Do the respectable thing and break all contact with the boy. You don't need to be his prey like vultures prey. Make Taubah from the relationship and do not enter into a Haram relationship again.

If someone is interested in marrying you, let him ask your hand in marriage

with dignity and respect. Fear Allah and do what is Islamically correct. The fruits of taqwa are sweet and wholesome.

E-MAILED QUESTION:

Q: Can a doctor miss his Salaah due to conducting critical surgery on patients? different?

A: If the nature of the surgery is such that any delay will aggravate the sickness or lead to death and there is no one else to fill the position, it is wājib (necessary) for a doctor to continue with the surgery and perform the salah at a later time. If the time of salah expires, then he will have to make qadā of it. (*Al-Durr al-Mukhtar*)

E-MAILED QUESTION:

Q: On Friday my cousin had a still born child. She was 9 months pregnant and the baby was fully formed. The body was cleaned and wrapped in a piece of cloth but the baby had some clothes on which the parent had bought for her. I just want to ask whether we did the right thing in not offering a Janazah and whether we should have removed the clothes before wrapping the body. also should we have had an Imam present?

A: A still born child should be washed, wrapped in a single cloth and buried without Janāzah Salāh. (*Raddul Muhtar*, 2:204; *Fatawa al-Mahmudiyyah*, 3:643, *Ahsan al-Fatawa*, 4:216)

The presence of an Imām for the burial is not necessary. Accordingly, you have acted correctly. In fact, the piece of cloth on the baby was sufficient.

E-MAILED QUESTION:

Q: I own a shop which is rented out. This rent is the sole earning of my family. How do I pay zakat? Do I pay zakat on the market value of the shop? Or do I pay zakat on the value of the rent received?

A: In principle, there is no zakah on a personal property which is not acquired specifically for reselling. (*Fatawa Hindiyyah*, 1: 172, *Rasheediyah*) In the inquired situation, zakah will be due on the rental income. (*Fatawa Raheemiyah*, 7: 161, *Isha'at*)

However, this is only if one possesses the amount of nisaab (including the rentals) and his liabilities/debts do not exceed his assets. (*Fatawa al-Mahmudiyyah*, 9:425, *Farooqiyyah*)

E-MAILED QUESTION:

Q: Can the price of a product be different from customer to customer, for example, can the price for cash purchase and credit purchase be different?

A: It is permissible to sell a product at a different price based on whether the product is purchased on cash or on credit on condition the deferred price is agreed upon at the time of contracting the sale. (*al-Hidayah*, 3:80, *Radd al-Muhtar*, 5:142, *Fatawa al-Mahmudiyyah*, 16:151-9)

For example, it is permissible for the seller to stipulate that if the buyer purchases a vehicle on cash then the cost will be R30000; however, if the same vehicle is purchased as a deferred payment in instalments, then the cost will be R35000. The final purchase price must be specified when concluding the deal.

E-MAILED QUESTION:

Q: I am Software Engineer. I create website for earning. Sometimes I use in them Digital Images of Living things. So I am asking that whether my Income is Halal or not?

A: In principle, it is permissible to create websites and thus the income obtained from it is Halal. (*Al-Fatawa al-Mahmudiyyah*, 5:342, *Raddul Muhtar*, 6:45) However, it is not permissible to draw and design pictures of animate objects. (*Raddul Muhtar*, 1:647)

The images appearing by electronic means on computer, television etc. is an academically contested issue. While some scholars believe that such images do not fall in the category of pictures (Tasweer), there are many others who regard these images as pictures and picture-making and accordingly, images of animate objects on electronic means will be thus prohibited. (*Aap Ke Masa'il Aur Un Ka Hal*, 10:269-70)

E-MAILED QUESTION:

Q: Is a sale with guarantee of buy back permissible?

A: If the "buy back guarantee" was stipulated as a condition in the sale, the sale is impermissible (fāsīd). (*Fatawa al-Sirajiyah*, 422) If however, the guarantee was made after the sale as a promise on the part of the seller, the sale is valid, and the promise will be morally binding. (*Al-Durrul Mukhtar*, 7:547)

YOUR OPPORTUNITY

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- The Darul Iftaa has simply devised the scheme to create an opportunity to invest in a Shariah compliant way.

Insight to Muslim Women

Mufti Saheb has been assisting people with marriage related issues and heads the Judicial Committee of the Jamiatul Ulama KZN for almost 20 years.

It is through his experiences, he offers **insight to women on the Idealwoman.org website.**

Here are some of his advices >>

Idealwoman.org | Marriage Forum

It is part of a successful marriage that both spouses respect each other's families and attend family functions. In some instances the wife cannot let go of her family and expects her husband to join in all her family get togethers even if the husband is not comfortable. Such pressure on the husband eventually leads to family and marriage related problems. It is therefore best to consider the comfort of your husband as well.

While you may be disappointed at his non participation in your family functions, it is better than the negative consequences of his discomfort in participating in your family gatherings.

The bottom line is even after addressing your marital problem, you have to make Sabr. Not everything will be your way. You have to tolerate things going against you. There is no other way.

When you are in a marital dispute, reconcile with your husband while you have an upper hand. This will be better for your dignity and personal happiness.

If you are stubborn or petty and lose that opportunity to reconcile with dignity, you may be forced to reconcile while you are on the back foot due to personal circumstances, then you will have to blame yourself for losing the opportunity to display your dignity which may negatively impact on the future of your marriage.

The remedy for jealousy is to strengthen ones belief in Taqdir. Be happy with whatever Allah has decreed for you. This attitude will make you the most independent person.