

# Ethical Concerns of Social Media in Terms of Islam

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## **Ethical Concerns of Social Media in Terms of Islam**

When discussing the ethical concern of social media in terms of Islam ,several key issues arise .It is important to note that these concerns are not unique to Islam ,but rather reflect broader societal debates surrounding social media platform.However ,they can be examined from an Islamic perspective,considering Islamic values and principles.Here are some ethical concerns related to social media ad implications in the context of Islam.

### **Privacy and Confidentiality**

Online platforms often collect and store vast amount of personal data .This raises concerns about privacy and confidentiality. In Islam ,privacy is highly valued and the unauthorized disclosure of personal information is generally considered unethical.Muslims are encouraged protect their privacy and avoid sharing sensitive information that could be harmful to them or others.

### **False and Misrepresentation**

Social media provides a ground for the spread of false information,rumor and misinformation.Islam emphasizes the importance of truthfulness and honesty.Muslim are encouraged to verify information before sharing it and to refrain from spreading false rumors or engaging in deceitful practices.

### **Online Harassment and cyberbullying**

Social media platforms can be used as tools of harassment. Examples are hate speech and dissemination of hate speech .Islam promotes kindness ,compassion and respect for others.Muslims are encouraged to treat others with dignity,both online and offline and avoid getting involved in behaviours that cause harm to them or others.

### **Time wasting and addiction**

Online platforms can be very addictive. In Islam, time is considered a valuable resource and Muslims are encouraged to utilize their time wisely for productive activities that bring benefits to them and the society. Excessive engagement with the social media can be seen as misuse of time and distraction from more meaningful pursuits.

### **Inappropriate content**

Social media platforms may contain explicit contents. The content may be inappropriate and may therefore contradict Islamic value of modesty, decency ,and moral conduct. Muslims are encouraged to exercise self restraint and avoid engaging or promoting content that goes against the ethical and religious principles.

### **Social comparison and Envy**

The social media often portrays an idealized version of peoples lives .This leads of social comparison and the feeling of envy .Islam encourages contentment ,gratitude and focusing one blessings .Muslims

are advised to be mindful of the impact of social media on their mental wellbeing and take steps to maintain a balanced perspective.

### **Online slander and backbiting**

Online platforms can be fertile ground for engaging in slander and backbiting where individuals speak ill of others behind their backs and even spread false accusations. Islam strongly condemns slander and backbiting, considering them sinful and harmful to individuals and communities. Muslims are encouraged to refrain from engaging in such behaviours and instead promote positive dialogue and constructive criticism.

### **Neglect of real life relationship**

Excessive use of social media may lead to digital addiction. Individuals become over-reliant on virtual interactions and neglect their real-life relationships. Islam places great importance on maintaining strong bonds with family, friends, and the community. Muslims are advised to strike a balance between online and offline interactions, ensuring that social media does not take precedence over meaningful face-to-face connections.

### **Online Extremism and Radicalization**

Online platforms have been used as channels for spreading extremist ideologies and promoting radicalization. Islam emphasizes the importance of promoting peace, moderation, and tolerance. Muslims are urged to counter extremist narratives online by engaging in constructive dialogue, promoting understanding, and showcasing the true teachings of Islam.

### **Exploitation and Objectification**

Social media contribute to the objectification and exploitation of individuals, particularly through the sharing and distribution of inappropriate or intimate content. Islam upholds the principle of modesty, respect, and protection of human dignity. Muslims are encouraged to actively promote and respect these values online, advocating for protection of individuals' privacy and dignity.

### **Digital Responsibility and Accountability**

Social media platforms provide individuals with a sense of anonymity and detachment, which can lead to irresponsible behaviour and the abandonment of personal accountability. Islam teaches that individuals are accountable for their actions, both in physical and virtual realms. Muslims are reminded to be responsible digital citizens, mindful of their words and actions online and aware that they will be accountable for the impact they have on others.

### **Digital Detachment and Spiritual Focus**

Social media can be a source of distractions, diverting individuals from their spiritual obligations and practices. Islam encourages Muslims to prioritize their spiritual wellbeing and maintain a connection with

Allah. Excessive preoccupation with social media can hinder the ability to engage in acts of worship, such as recitation of the Quran, contemplation and prayer.

### **Authenticity and Hypocrisy**

Social media platforms often encourage individuals to present an idealized version of themselves. Leading to a culture of image crafting and promoting a false sense of perfection. Islam values sincerity and authenticity, encouraging Muslims to be true to themselves and others. Muslims are advised to avoid hypocrisy and present a genuine reflection of their beliefs and values online

### **Online Financial Exploitation**

Social media can be space for individual to fall victims to scam, fraudulent exploitation. Islam places great emphasis on honesty and fair dealing in financial matters. Muslims are encouraged to exercise caution, avoid participating in fraudulent activities and be mindful of the ethical implication of their online transactions.

### **Digital Divide and Social Inequality**

Access to social media and digital platforms is not equally distributed world wide . Digital divide and exacerbating social inequality .Islam promotes justice and fairness, urging Muslims to work towards bridging the gap between the privileged and the marginalized. Muslims are encouraged to use social media as a means to raise awareness, advocate for social justice and promote inclusivity.

### **Responsible Content Creation and Consumption**

Social media platforms provide individuals with the ability to create and consume content. Islam encourage Muslims to be responsible in both aspects. As content creators, Muslims are advised to produce beneficial and meaningful content that align with Islamic values.

### **Conclusion**

Ethical concerns of social media in terms of Islam revolve around issues such as privacy, truthfulness and respect. Muslims are encouraged to approach social media in a conscious.