**Social media ethical concerns in terms of Islam**

Social media is a powerful tool that can be used for good or evil. It can facilitate communication, education, entertainment, and social activism, but it can also spread misinformation, hatred, violence, and immorality.

Freedom of expression is a social media ethical concern in terms of Islam because it can be used unethically to spark off hatred, which can be religious hatred, political hatred, or racial hatred, etc. While using social media, people often think they can say whatever they want under the disguise of ‘freedom of expression’. However, Islam has taught us to be tolerant towards others . A paper published on CILE Center discusses the ethical limits on freedom of expression with special reference to Islam. The paper highlights the expanding scope of diversity of custom, climate of opinion and culture that tend to influence ethics. The impact of science, technology, globalization, the Internet and social media is highlighted - factors that did not feature in traditional ethical values, but which now need to be considered. The paper also examines several themes and concepts and their limitation on freedom of expression, for example the Qurʾanic concept of ‘public utterance of evil speech’. Islamic law and ethics also proscribe infliction of harm on others, defaming and reviling others in their absence, violation of the right of privacy, transgression and lawlessness , acrimonious speech, hostile argumentation, pernicious innovation and caprice.

In terms of Islam, social media is often used to spread religious content. However, it is important to ensure that the content is authentic and not misleading . Social media has made it easier for people to share religious content, but it has also made it easier to spread false information. It is important to verify the authenticity of the information before sharing it with others . A paper published on MDPI discusses how social media influencers are re-imagining Islam and reshaping spiritual beliefs and religious practices among young people in the Gulf Region, the Arab world, and beyond. The study found that social media influencers are challenging traditional religious authorities as they re-imagine Muslim identities based on a new global lifestyle.

Mockery and taunting are social media ethical concerns in terms of Islam because they go against the Islamic principles of respect, decency, and tolerance. People often make derogatory remarks and comments about others on social media for the sole purpose of making others laugh. Jokes are shared publicly about prominent and respected figures. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) prohibited mockery, taunting, and spreading hate . A paper published on Webology discusses the ethical concerns of social media in terms of Islam. The paper highlights that social media is a chief source of communication in the current era. Every person is sitting at home and sharing their thoughts and views with people. Social media has many benefits, so its use is a necessity and need of this era, but there are some features of social media usage which can be improved; one of the ethical behaviors on social media is the reformation which is very important in the context of Islamic teachings. Today social media ridiculing or mocking humanity, deshape and insult the images of religious and political leaders. Respectable people of the society such as teachers, lawyers, and judges are defaced; hateful attitudes are fostered against the officers of the army, police, and sensitive institutions of the country. Besides living people, they also portray the faults and weaknesses of dead people and considered all these to be the art of comments. Promoting incidents of violence is a daily routine, posts containing violation of women are exaggerated on Facebook, and baseless news is spread to defame respectable people. Looking at these moral defects and collective attitudes, it is known that social media is causing more harm than benefit due to the above misuse .

In Islam, privacy is considered a fundamental human right. However, our activities on social media are tracked by advertising companies to be used in re-targeting campaigns, which is a form of privacy breach . A paper published on WARSE discusses the privacy, ethics, and security concerns in social media from an Islamic overview. The paper highlights the importance of maintaining privacy, ethics, and security in social media from an Islamic perspective. It also discusses how Islamic ethics and guidelines can help Muslim users to overcome most of the social media disadvantages, while Islamic ethics and privacy design can help developers of social media .

Bullying is a social media ethical concern in terms of Islam because it goes against the Islamic principles of respect, decency, and kindness. Social media is used many times for bullying others, which is clearly forbidden in Qur’an . A paper published on HRMARS discusses cyberbullying in digital media from an Islamic perspective. The study found that cyberbullying is increasingly becoming a culture among netizens by making an individual as a joke in order to gain attention and pleasure on social media. The study also found that the government has introduced the Communications and Multimedia Act 1998 to monitor offenses that exist on social media, especially involving cyber mediums. The study aims to identify the behavior of cyberbullying in digital media and analyze this act according to the Islamic perspective. The study was conducted qualitatively using the library method by analyzing the texts of the Qur’an and Hadith as well as the discussions of Muslim scholars related to the practice of cyberbullying.

Stalking is a social media ethical concern in terms of Islam because it goes against the Islamic principles of privacy, respect, and decency. Stalking individuals in real life and gathering information isn’t welcomed, however, it’s done every day on social media sites, so why is it acceptable through a cyber-platform? . A paper published on Wiley Online Library discusses the dark side of social media use, including stalking. The study found that social media stalking is a relatively new and under-explored phenomenon, but its predecessor, the much-castigated cyber-stalking, has received sufficient scholarly attention. The study also found that social media stalking drives compulsive use and poor sleep hygiene, with stalking being the chief driver in both cases. Problematic sleep is influenced by stalking, compulsive use, and poor sleep hygiene, with sleep hygiene having the strongest effect, while poor sleep hygiene and compulsive use also partially mediate the association of both stalking and online self-disclosure with problematic sleep .

In conclusion, it is important to be aware of the risks of privacy breach on social media and take necessary precautions to avoid them.