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# Parenting and raising children under the influence of Social media/ Mass media in the age of modernism and diverse technology

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#### **Abstract**

In today's times, modern technology has become an urgent necessity as human life revolves around this technology. This era of global village and modern technology has taken its toll on emerging generation as well. There is no denying the fact that internet and social media has somehow increased resources for a child's growth and development throughout the stages of life. It has been a great tool to enhance a child's brain if used in a correct and positive manner. But in addition to this, the influence of social media or mass media have deep and dire effects, and these effects take away children's innocence. It is a form of medium through which children and their parents are highly influenced even without giving it a notice. It can be in the form of entertainment or in the name of awareness and knowledge. Anyway, it is going to impact a child's psychological behavior. Use of social media promotes a lot of exposure to child's brain and it can evolve it swiftly for better. But on the other hand, it is a proven fact that aggressive behavior of children, their loss of apathy and distance from real world ideas is nothing but a result of how they use social media. Ofcource, social or media itself is not useful or harmful but the way it is used by parents and children will have long term effects either useful or harmful.

**Key words:** social media, modern, children, behavior, parents, effects, internet, development, growth,

#### Introduction

Today is the age of Global Village and Internet. In today's age, children are in dire need of proper guidance and training and it has become indispensable for children to be trained on the right basis.

In today's era, mass media has a lot of influence on the education and personality of children. Like communication, communication is a process by which a message, idea or attitude is conveyed from one person to another person, or to several people. From simple news recognition to the complex system of today's communication keeps everything from its diversity and complex system has a great influence on the education of children. Every conscious person, especially parents, should understand how much a child is influenced by mass media in this era of modernism having a diverse range of technology around.

Social media is a source of interaction which cannot be kept out of a child's reach because it has become a deep rooted element in this modern society. Its affects cannot be ignored when it comes to a growing mind's upbringing and nourishment.

But media is an important non-formal educator of our society through which programs are presented which directly or indirectly influence children and motivate children to do something or other without any hindrance. Different characters influence and parents may not realize how children are accepting their feedback in entertainment. Therefore, it is important to understand both the positive and negative effects of mass media and keep children away from them. For example, on the Internet, a child sitting at home is close and connected to the whole world, but is far away from his siblings and parents because he cannot tolerate interruptions from any side during this international communication. Therefore, the closeness that humanity originally needed has been taken away by modern technology in the name of development and communication. That is, the mutual contact and attention of different people under the same roof has been cut off, as a result of which mutual affection, love, compassion, sacrifice and other such spiritual values are gradually disappearing. But it is just not it. As social media connects children around the world, they are more likely to learn and evolve in a better and easy way. So there are always two sides of this picture depends upon how you perceive it.

# Importance of Parenting in Islam

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Children are the joyous element of one's life that they ask again and again from Allah Almighty as it is said in Holy Quran:

"And those who pray, "Our Lord! Grant unto us wives and offspring who will be the comfort of our eyes, and give us (the grace) to lead the righteous."

Children are the means by which we obtain the benefits of this life and the reward of the Hereafter. They are the joy of our hearts in their childhood, our companions and consolation in our old age, and the only source of du'aa' in our graves.

Islamic law establishes rights and obligations that govern the relationship between parents and children. In other words, children have rights and obligations towards their parents, and parents have obligations towards their children. Upbringing of a child is a very important task in Islam. Infact, it is no less than a trial as mentioned in the Holy Quran. Allah Almighty says:

Your possessions and your offspring are nothing but a trial for you. And there awaits a great reward for you with Allah.

Children are the flowers of a family. The purest ones, the most sensitive and the most beautiful elements of a family. These precious flowers must be kept and raised in the perfect environment to make them a part of thriving Muslim community and Islamic leadership.

The correct Islamic advice for raising and rearing children covers all aspects of life. Just like Islam itself, it is holistic advice. Physical, emotional, and spiritual wellbeing are all of equal importance. It is interesting to note that Islam has always covered the rights of children. The Islamic view of childhood states that it is a unique period in an individual's life. <sup>3</sup>

In this era of modernism, it is crucial and even more difficult to raise a child without him being influenced by the diversity of technology and mediums of interaction/mass media. However, in this situation, it is even more important for parents to take their responsibilities and protect their children from the wrongs of society. As mentioned earlier, social media itself is not one of the wrongs of society but the way it is perceived and used will be called wrong or right. Of course parents cannot subtract social media from a child's life, they

surely substitute harmful mediums of social interactions with good ones as Mergin Akin says in his research:

"Parents should replace dangerous or undesirable actions and objects with more useful and desirable situations." <sup>4</sup>

Social Media and the change in Parents upbringing Parenting practices have been significantly impacted by social media. Social media platforms can, on the one hand, offer parents a wealth of knowledge and tools to assist them in navigating the difficulties of parenthood, such as parental advice, support groups, and instructional content. Social media, on the other hand, can also be a source of diversion or a possible threat to youngsters. Parents should be aware of the dangers of sexting, cyberbullying, and exposure to improper content, for instance. Social media can also make it more challenging for parents to keep an eye on their kids' online behavior, which can make it more challenging to shield them from potential damage. Social media has generally altered how parents nurture their children by providing them with access to more information and resources, but also by introducing new challenges and risks that parents need to be aware of and manage.

Children and teenagers are affected in many ways by social media usage, particularly in terms of depression. A clinical report by the American Academy of Pediatrics found that "acceptance by and contact with peers is an important element of adolescent life. The intensity of the online world is thought to be a factor that may trigger depression in some adolescents" <sup>5</sup>

This is one side of the whole picture because the same research about other side of the picture states:

Chairatchatakul have also found that parental involvement in school activities of their children by usage of social media has a positive effect on the child, in which Facebook is "a social media

utility that helps parents and school share information and communicate more efficiently" and can then improve the overall relationship between parent and child.  $^6$ 

So there is no doubt that social media has completely changed the course of parental upbringing and its effects on children both in good and bad ways. In the following discussions, both sides of the pictures are discussed briefly.

#### Positive effects of social media and mass media

Media, whether it is newspaper or radio, television or internet, its importance has been recognized in every age. Communication is as essential as food and shelter for the survival and development of human society. Today, the world has become a global village. The speed with which modern technology has developed was unimaginable in the past. When something is invented, it is not inherently good or bad. Neither can it be determined before it is invented that it will be used for just such and such a specific purpose, but later when it comes into use by people, its use makes it good or bad. Everything can be used in both positive and negative aspects.

The development of modern technology has widened the scope of human relations by creating new forms. Social media is the most widely used media today. The development of human society is connected with the development of mass media. If these media were not available, the human society would be deprived of the polite concept of civilization and culture and would be wandering in the darkness of ignorance and illiteracy. Communication is the main artery in human life. Every person has not only been guaranteed the basic and natural right of freedom of expression for his ideas, feelings, thoughts and ideas, but it has also been assured to put a cap on the factors and motivations that negate this right.

## Negative Effects of Social Media and Mass Media

Nowadays, compared to the positive effects of the mass media, its negative effects are developing strongly. Due to social media, many moral and social disorders have developed in the society and such activities are also on the rise which affect different sections of the society. And the schools of thought are fostering hatred towards each other and causing mutual confusion. Most of the people in the society are being misused by spreading baseless news, altering pictures and sketches to defame people. Before any news or rumor is even researched on social media, it is broadcast all over the world. Social media has dominated the minds of the young generation to the point of obsession They are also spending their work and study hours on social media which is affecting their education badly. Due to the complete freedom of propaganda against opponents on social media, extremism is increasing in the society and Pakistani society is also included in such societies. This is the reason why the negative use of social media in Pakistan is increasing day by day.

According to a report, 46.1% of internet users are online all the time and 5% of people create a new account on Facebook every second. According to statistics, 46.1% of internet users are online all the time and the number of tweets,

Facebook posts and Google searches are increasing exponentially due to mobile internet. According to which, per second 54 thousand 907 Google searches, 7 thousand 252 tweets, more than 2.5 lakh emails and more than two hundred thousand videos are watched on YouTube. If this internet second is extended, there are three and a half lakh tweets per minute and thus 200 billion tweets are being made in a year, while the first tweet was made on March 21, 2006. According to live data, 67% of the millions of emails sent per second are spam i.e. advertising and redundant emails. On a daily basis, Google is used for 3 billion searches While Google service was introduced in 1998, there were only 10 thousand searches per day in that year. Apart from tweets and emails, 729 photos are uploaded to Instagram every second and 2,177 calls are made on Skype. 5 new people create an account on Facebook every second. Netflix, on the other hand, has shown amazing figures as its 8 million users watch 1,450 hours of video and TV shows per second. WhatsApp is considered to be the king of the mobile messaging world and this has also been confirmed in a recent survey. According to a survey conducted by digital marketing intelligence company Smiler Web, WhatsApp is the largest and best mobile messaging app used in 109 countries around the world. This can be estimated from the fact that 94.8% of Android mobile phones in India have WhatsApp, where it is used for an average of 37 minutes per day. This company conducted a survey in 187 countries and it was ranked first in 109 countries. It is used in 55.6% of mobile phones in the world. 7

Be it electronic media or print media or obscenity and nudity are increasing gradually. Social media is considered to be the most effective means of communication. It is also having negative effects on the society. Now social media is being used to defame people, spread baseless and fabricated news, propagandize against competitors and promote vulgar and inappropriate pictures and videos. In modern society, the mass media has made a concerted effort to spread nudity, obscenity and obscenity. In every program, women are seen with open hair, open arms, bare legs and half-naked. Mixed events, dance and movement are encouraged in various programs the free mixing of men and women has highlighted the passion of showing beauty in women, so the presence of women in advertisements of perfumes, shaving cream, blades, tea, cigarettes, toothpaste is a guarantee of success throughout the domestic and foreign media. Thanks to Pur Yilghar, today in the Islamic society, obscenity, naked dancing and Sarwar are facing Ladin's curses above all. Children who are the asset of the

nation and the future of any nation and only a nation can develop if there is a physically, psychologically and spiritually healthy nation at its foot. Today's mass media keeps children engaged in such activities that they not only become physically lazy and lazy, but scenes of violence and obscenity have a negative effect on them.

Research shows that violence and crime shown on TV has a clear link to increased callousness and rudeness among children in society.<sup>8</sup>

Social media in itself is neither evil nor bad, but its use determines its Shariah status. Along with countless advantages of social media, there are also many flaws and disadvantages in it. Below are the principles of using social media. Its order is being explained by analyzing it in the light of Shariat.

Effects of modern technology on children There is no doubt that scientific inventions have made most of the tasks easier and faster and hard work can be done in minutes. In today's era, modern technology has become an urgent necessity because human life revolves around this technology. But all these children are having deep and bad effects and these effects take away their innocence. At the age when they should be enjoying cartoons and children's programs, they are entertaining themselves with weird movies and videos. And then the children are not able to learn anything well and they are not trained properly. It is the duty of parents to protect their children and show them the straight path and worry instead of boasting. It is true that technology has become our need and its use has become necessary in today's era, but everything has its own time and if anything is done before time, it ends badly.

Electronic media is an important non-formal educator of our society. Any program presented by them definitely influences the children indirectly and motivates the children to do something and the parents do not realize what kind of feedback the children continue to receive in entertainment. Therefore, it is important to understand both the positive and negative effects of mass media. These effects are as follows:

#### Positive effects

Given that almost every household in the society has access to mass media, the positive effects it has on children's personality are as follows:

#### Information enhancement

Among the positive effects of mass media on the personality of children, the most important is that their information has increased significantly. There are many

children's books and magazines which not only give them information but also make them interested in studying more and getting more information. They also have lots of brain teasers for kids. In this way, children learn a lot through play. Dr Umm Kulsoom writes:

"Practical programs instill in children a desire to learn more and gain knowledge. By looking at the screen, the visual effects are strong and the information is imprinted in the mind, besides, one gets awareness of the culture and wonders of different parts of the world. "9

Changed by media, children also learn things that society, parents and teachers have failed to teach them. This is the reason why today's child has a wealth of information that was not available to children of earlier eras. Today's children take little interest in mass media programs.

#### **Increased self-esteem**

Thanks to mass media, a lot of self-confidence has been created in children. When children see their peers in different roles through various media sources, they get motivated and aspire to prove themselves and get a recognition. The way individuals interact is changing as time goes by thanks to social media. Social networking sites can connect users to opportunities, information, services, and groups that might not otherwise be available. It's critical for parents to accept that social media will permeate their children's daily lives. This social media helps children to face any hindered barrier he/she is facing in its growth.

## Expansion in vocabulary

One of the positive aspects of mass media is that it expands children's vocabulary through their use. Children learn to use new words in different situations. Children have already learned many words before entering school and madrasa, and after entering school, children who have access to various media have a wider vocabulary than children who do not have access to various media. There are. This is only because children watch not only children's programs but also adult programs. In this way, there is an opportunity to be introduced to many new words and phrases.

# Effective and long-lasting effects

Electronic media have a long-term impact on society, and especially visual media, because images are seen along with sound, so what is being presented has a more effective impact. Media also has a very effective and long-lasting impact on children because they are very attractive to children.

# Increased intelligence

The use of mass media has also played a very positive role in increasing the intelligence of children. Many media outlets offer such programs. Which are arranged keeping in mind the psychology of children. Who have a very prominent position in increasing the mental capacity of children.

According to Fahmi Al-Najjar:

"Different means of communication are very helpful in increasing different mental abilities of children.  $^{\circ 10}$ 

# Increasing religious knowledge

Various information about religion is also presented through mass media. From different media, various incidents of the life of the Prophet , hadiths of his , various achievements of the Companions, early wars and other religious information are presented, which instills religious knowledge in children as well as maturity of faith in them from childhood.

## Negative Effects of Social Media On Children

The negative effects of mass media affect children both physically and morally. As a result of giving too much power to the programs presented on various media sources, there are many negative effects on the physical health of children.

#### Laziness in children

Instead of playing physical games and running around, sitting in front of the TV causes laziness and laziness in children and they start shying away from various physical activities.

"Electronic media is playing an important role in making our children lazy, as a result of which their physical health is not satisfactory and they avoid participating in daily life activities." 11

#### Another research states:

"The dramatic increase in the popularity of video games has resulted in significant interest in the effects that video gaming may have on the brain and behavior. The scientific research to date indicates that some, but not all, commercial video games do indeed have the potential to cause large-scale changes in a wide variety of aspects of human behavior, including the focus of this review—cognitive abilities." <sup>112</sup>

Every act of life in which a person crosses all limits and restrictions will prove to be harmful for him. For example, overeating is also harmful for humans and excessive hunger also has negative effects. Therefore, it is necessary to adopt the habit of moderation in every aspect of life and advise others to do the same.

The mental development of the child is affected due to the imbalance in the routines and the regularity in the rest hours. <sup>13</sup>

# Addiction of Videogames and 5th generation Warfare

With the habit of games, children get addicted to drugs and vices and learn new methods of crime, no doubt these games are also teaching people unique skills of violence and beating. Which can lead to increase in crime in the country.

About the ethics of video games, Muhammad Ilyas Ansari writes:

"Video games are also having a very bad effect on our children; they are developing feelings of revenge and anger and misogyny is becoming their motto.  $^{14}$ 

Exposure to toxic video games environment will lead to a child's addiction of dopamine activation and then this sudden rush will be inevitable to stop. Emotional suppression, zero motivation towards physical tasks and academic life are also a result of unnecessary exposure to the world of videogames. All of these symptoms are dangerous and lead to a permanent change in the course of a child's behavior. Ultimately, feelings of revenge and anger will be developed in him at a very young age.

"If the mass media is carefully examined in practice today, these media are imposing such ideas on the people. Instead of highlighting the positive aspects, the negative aspects are being promoted.<sup>15</sup>

Video games could have been whole lot useful if and only if they were used to promote and nurture a young mind in healthy way but then again, it all comes down to the way it is being used and unfortunately it is not being used right.

#### Mehdi Hasan writes:

"Psychological war does not use cannons and guns, but this war is fought through mass media. A lot of money is spent on propaganda in the world and it gets those results, which are not achieved through practical warfare. The aim of propaganda through mass media is to demoralize the opponent by mentally defeating him. <sup>16</sup> This is called 5<sup>th</sup> generation warfare and it is proven fact that over the years, it has been the most successful and most widely spread form of warfare being fought through social mediums. Children and even parents cannot imagine how they are being manipulated to be a part of this war and of course, even without their knowing, children are actively becoming a part of this war. The most important example of it is Twitter where every trend is born and which is completely controlled by young minds. Parents cannot remove these mediums from their children's life but It is very important to keep a notice of side their children are taking.

## **Impersonation of Various Characters**

In children, the impersonation is very strong, in general, fast characters in programs attract more attention of others. These characters mostly exhibit antisocial and violent behavior. Children take these characters as their leaders and idols, their speech, dress and other manners reflect them prominently. In the same way, these characters have a negative effect on children.

Many psychologists have strongly criticized television programs based on violence and crime. In fact, these programs not only show the exploits involving crimes, but the behavior of the criminals is depicted in these programs.

Famous psychologist and Columbia University professor Stephen Bana says that: ''It is true to say that prisons serve as a training ground for criminals, it is also true to say that television is a training ground for deviating children and leading them on deviating lines.'' <sup>17</sup>

Children imitate the characters they see on the screen and look for their reflection in real life, so their attitude towards life becomes strange and boring, and the pure innocence of childhood is lost. And their personality is distorted.

## Effects on school performance

Children who have access to modern media in their homes, it is obvious that their attention is divided because of this, their academic activities are greatly affected, they do not do their school work with attention because their eyes are on television all the time. towards different programs. Because of television programs, children train their school work and studies in the light of TV program hours because television affects the home environment as much as the person in the house, especially the children. has completely captivated him. The society we belong to is a developing society but we have television in almost every home. In this way, the atmosphere of most homes is such that all the members of the house sit in the same room and enjoy television, so it often happens that TV programs are playing and children are also doing school work. During this time, the educational activities of the children are adversely affected.

# Fahmi al-Najjar writes about this:

"One of the consequences of watching television for a long time is that according to the opinion of Western analysts, the educational level of children in the Maghreb countries and thus in the Arab countries is falling rapidly. can get

educational distinction like those who keep watching TV programs that make the heart and mind dreamy till late night and go to educational institutions in the morning in such a laziness and worthlessness due to staying up late at night. Sometimes they even fall asleep in the classes and besides, they become inattentive and mentally reactive and get engrossed in their thoughts. <sup>18</sup>

When children compare their classroom lessons with TV scenes, they find school lessons boring and become bored with teachers because they want entertainment and they suspect that school is too t If the continuity of the V is visible, it is obvious that if this does not happen, then the children become victims of frustration and neurological diseases and they do not have any concentration left.

## Lost in The Fantasy World

Dramas or movies that are shown through mass media are often based on imagination sometimes true stories are mirrored in such a way that it seems like a complete fantasy world.

When a child watches these movies and dramas, he gets lost in the world of imagination and his daily routines are affected, as a result of which he has to fulfill responsibilities in the future. Can't do it. Where audio-visual media has produced beneficial effects, it has also produced many negative effects.

Both these media influence the attitudes, thoughts and moods of the listeners and viewers in an intangible way. Common people try to adopt the style of life, conduct, customs, sitting and dismissal, speaking style etc. as presented in the mass media. Documentary films reflect the culture and lifestyle of any society. It is said that film has proved to be the most effective medium of communication in its effectiveness,

Communication experts believe that awareness gained from modern media includes many things, including familiarity with scientific ideas, familiarity with modern technologies and inventions, and knowledge of political and social conditions.

No serious person can ignore the negative effects of mass media. Much has been written by critics of the media on the negative effects of film, but the influence of television over six decades has proven that the young generation is prone to promiscuity, aimlessness, sexual promiscuity, violence and It has played an important role in creating sabotage. Television has a great influence in the changes that are taking place in various societies at the international level. America's violent movies, drug trade, organized gang training were all caused by television.

## Promote apathy

Teachings of Islam promote empathy among its followers. In fact, one of the most important messages of Holy Prophet (PBUH) is to restore and promote empathy in human societies where every human being is respected and treated with love and care. Allah Almighty says in this regard:

We have sent you 'O Prophet' only as a mercy for the whole world.

In light of teachings of Holy Quran and sayings of Holy Prophet(PBUH), upbringing of a young mind should be based on moral lessons extracted from Islam; empathy, love and respect. But unfortunately because of social media children have become desensitized to the conditions of pain and suffering by watching action and violent TV programs, and in their practical lives also show indifference to the suffering of others. Despite the fact that many young people today are more progressive than previous generations, there is still a huge elephant in the digital room: this young generation has grown much more confident in its ability to treat others badly because It is easy to treat people in an unpleasant manner when one can hide behind a screen and deny accountability for their unpleasant actions.

Trolls, problematic comedy, controversy, and harmful engagement thrive on social media. Rudeness and entitlement have seemingly replaced empathy as our default state. On forums where people are supposed to discuss thoughts, ideas, and information, everyone can spread offensive stuff, promote misinformation, and bully others. This takes a huge toll on children's psychology and how they become habitual of bullying and lacking empathy for others.

# **Promotion of obscenity and Adultery**

It is an undeniable fact that the most common tool of obscenity, vulgarity and adultery around is promoted and enjoyed by social media and its users. In today's age, every medium of interaction or communication is being hinged by the promotion of unreasonable and vulgar content. Ultimately, even if children are not watching it directly, they get to see it through advertisements, commercials, billboards and even the cartoon they usually watch in the name of entertainment. Even in the cartoons that minors watch, obscene language is being used and children's young and fresh minds are always ready to pick up and promote new words. Cherry on the top is that in spite of taking it serious, parents take it in fun way and completely ignore how such language will have an impact on a child's

future. Adultery is also becoming very common at every social media platform. It is a shameful act and Islam has warned us clearly about it. Allah Almighty says in Holy Quran: وَلَا تَقُرَبُواْ ٱلرِّنَىٰ إِنَّهُ كَانَ فَحِشَةً وَسَآءَ سَبِيلاً

Do not even approach fornication for it is an outrageous act, and an evil way. The act that has strictly been warned in the Holy Quran should no way be exposed to the young minds and it is a known fact that social media and its unquestioned platforms promote adultery in the form of pornography, nudity etc. very openly. Being a parent, it is very important to consider this alarming side of social media before exposing children to it.

## Violent and aggressiveness

Violence and aggression should never be a part of a decent mind especially if that mind is of a Muslim because Islam is a religion of peace and prosperity. It teaches us how to show empathy and concern towards other. It teaches us anger management. Anger and violence will bring no good to anyone as Imam Askari said: لغضب مفتاح كل شر

"Anger is the key to every evil.

But unfortunately, one of the biggest drawbacks of social media is promotion of violent and aggressive behavior in young and growing minds. Video games are especially being used as tools to corrupt young minds. There have been few video games which took the social media by storm over how they impacted a child's mind in a very aggressive manner. These video games include Grand Theft Auto and Pubg mobile. Use of weapons and gang fighting are very common elements of such games and unfortunately children enjoy such sort of content and play such games very keenly in the name of entertainment and enjoyment.

Other than that, watching violent movies in which fighting and war scenarios are being portrayed leave a harmful effect on a child's behavior. His young but constantly growing mind adopts this aggressive behavior and make it a part of his own nature. This pattern of behavior is very dangerous for children and their healthy growth.

#### Conclusion

Social media, which subjugates the hearts and minds of people on a global scale, is, on the one hand, a great source of knowledge and research and, on the other hand, the provision of situations and events emerging on the global horizon. Children are a blessing from Allah. Of course, the protection of any trust

requires the utmost attention and caution in order to avoid problems and reasons that can lead to the betrayal of that trust. Today's people have become slaves to the media, they are always waiting for new things, information and results. On the one hand, the media fuels the flames of sexual immorality by showing uncivilized and moral programs as well as nudity and obscenity, on the other hand, it proves to be a great motive for spreading chaos and discord in the world of humanity. A desire has arisen in man that knows no end. There are two aspects of mass media: one positive and one negative. If used positively, development can be achieved in the field of education and it can be easy to obtain positive information. Modern and scientific studies can be supported. Virtue and goodness can be promoted within society and evil can be prevented. But if social media is handled negatively, it will bring human civilization to the verge of chaos and ultimate destruction without humans noticing it.

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