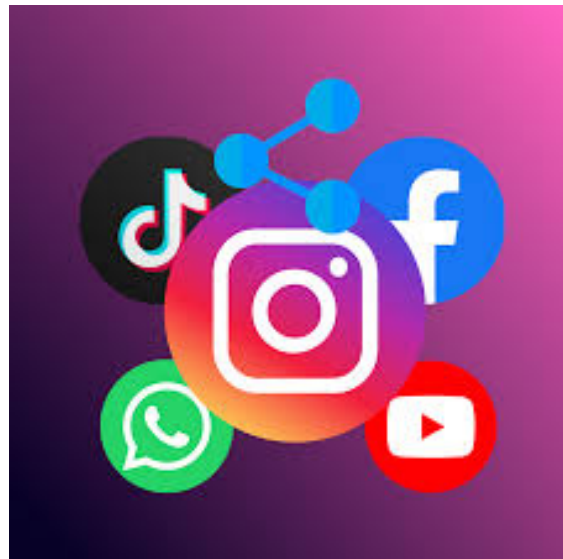


The Influence of Social Media on Muslim Youth

Just as small actions can grow into something much larger, the content we consume and share online can shape our thoughts, habits, and identities over time. Social media has become a central part of daily life, especially for Muslim youth, influencing how we learn about our faith, connect with others, and understand the world around us. While it can expose users to harmful content and misinformation, it also holds the potential to create positive change and strengthen one's connection to Islam.

Positive Influence

Social media has made Islamic knowledge more accessible than ever before. With just a few clicks, Muslim youth can listen to lectures, watch reminders, and learn about their faith from scholars and creators around the world. According to Pew Research Center, “95% of teens have access to a smartphone, and 67% say they use TikTok”, showing how easily young people can access and engage with content online (Pew Research Center, 2022). This accessibility allows individuals to build their understanding of Islam at their own pace, even outside of traditional spaces like the masjid or classroom.



Platforms like Instagram, TikTok, and YouTube have also created opportunities for Muslims to share beneficial content in engaging and relatable ways. Short videos, posts, and discussions can introduce important topics such as prayer, character, and daily habits, making them easier to understand and apply. As noted by the Yaqeen Institute, “social media has become a powerful tool in shaping Muslim identity, offering both challenges and opportunities for growth” (Yaqeen Institute). For many, these small reminders serve as consistent encouragement to stay mindful of their faith throughout the day.

In addition, social media has helped foster a sense of community among Muslim youth. Users are able to connect with others who share similar values, experiences, and challenges, even if they are not physically close. The Institute for Social Policy and Understanding found that many young Muslims turn to online spaces to explore their identity and build community, especially when local support systems are limited (ISPU, 2022). This creates a feeling of belonging and support, particularly for those who may not have strong Muslim communities in their immediate surroundings.

Overall, social media, when used with intention, can serve as a tool for learning, connection, and personal growth. Even small interactions (watching a reminder, sharing a post, engaging with beneficial content, etc) can have a lasting impact over time.

Negative Influence

However, the same platforms harbor a negative influence on the Muslim Youth. Videos ranging from religious related violence, to pure hatred. Such videos also widen the gap between the good

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in Social Media. From Dr. Musharraf Hussain, Social Media creates the sphere of pressure around others and especially outside the religion. The 'Showing Off' standard distances teens from doing it for the sake of Allah, but for others.

Additionally, Social Media has distanced the youth into their screens like cubicles. It's also trapped enough for backbiting. Not only do teens have affection, they have hatred. The number one problem with Social Media is being cloaked by a screen.

Backbiting and gossip hurts the youth mentally and even physically.

As per the Domphet Duafa, the exposure of shame even erases the good deeds of ours. Being on the negative side of Social Media is not



true to faith, you are actively going against belief whether present or not, hurting others.

In conclusion, Social Media is a powerful tool that unlocks doors for many things. You can learn, do, and speak. The positives are endless, in contrast, the negatives are as well. As long as Social Media presents the best and secures the Youth from targeted hate and harassment, it'll be the perfect tool. Until then, it's a tool with side benefits.

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