

Guidance from Islam on the Use of Social Media in the Modern Era: An Analytical Study

¹Mufti Imtiaz Ali

²Mr. Subhan Ullah

³Mr. Safi Ullah

^{*4}Dr. Mufti Kifayat Ullah

¹Director & Supervisor Usmani Center , Denmark

²Lecturer, Department of Humanities, Sarhad University of Science & Information Technology, (SUIT) Peshawar, KP, Pakistan

³Lecturer, Department of Humanities, Sarhad University of Science & Information Technology (SUIT) Peshawar, KP, Pakistan. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0009-0002-5073-3707>

^{*4}HoD/Assistant Professor, Department of Humanities, Sarhad University of Science and Information Technology (SUIT) Peshawar, KP, Pakistan. ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0967-7053>

imtiazi1317@gmail.com, subhan.humanities@suit.edu.pk, safihanfii@gmail.com

kifayat.edu@suit.edu.pk

Abstract

In the contemporary digital age, social media has become an integral part of daily life, shaping communication, information sharing, and social interaction across the globe. While these platforms offer numerous benefits, they also present ethical, moral, and social challenges. This study explores Islamic guidance regarding the use of social media within the context of modern society, aiming to highlight principles that ensure responsible and ethical engagement. The research adopts an analytical approach, drawing upon primary Islamic sources such as the Qur'an and Hadith, alongside contemporary scholarly interpretations. It examines key themes including truthfulness, privacy, modesty, respect, and accountability in online behavior. The study emphasizes that Islam encourages the use of communication tools for beneficial purposes, such as spreading knowledge, fostering community, and promoting (goodness), while strictly discouraging actions like spreading misinformation, backbiting, harassment, and violation of others' rights. The paper discusses the relevance of Islamic ethical values in addressing modern digital dilemmas, such as cyberbullying, digital addiction, and the misuse of personal data. It argues that adherence to Islamic teachings can help individuals navigate social media responsibly, maintaining a balance between technological engagement and spiritual well-being. That integrating Islamic ethical principles into social media use not only enhances personal conduct but also contributes to a more respectful and trustworthy online environment. The study concludes by recommending awareness, self-regulation, and educational initiatives to promote ethical digital citizenship in light of Islamic teachings.

Keywords: Social Media, Islamic Guidance, Digital Addiction, Transparency, Contemporary, Self-Regulation

Article Details:

Received on 20 Jan 2026

Accepted on 14 Feb, 2026

Published on 18 Feb, 2026

Corresponding Authors*

Dr. Mufti Kifayat Ullah

Introduction

Social media has transformed modern communication, offering both opportunities and ethical challenges. In this context, Islamic teachings provide valuable guidance for responsible and morally conscious use of these platforms.

Research Background

The rapid growth of social media platforms has significantly influenced human interaction, communication patterns, and the dissemination of information in contemporary society. While these platforms provide ease of connectivity and access to knowledge, they also raise serious ethical concerns such as misinformation, privacy violations, and inappropriate content sharing. In Muslim societies, the increasing use of social media has created a need to examine its usage through the lens of Islamic teachings. Islam offers comprehensive moral guidelines that govern human behavior in all aspects of life. Therefore, understanding how these principles apply to digital communication is essential for promoting responsible and ethical social media practices.

Research Significance

This study is significant as it addresses the growing need to align modern technological practices with ethical and religious values, particularly within Muslim societies. Social media's widespread influence necessitates a framework that promotes responsible usage while preserving moral integrity. By exploring Islamic guidance, this research provides valuable insights into maintaining honesty, respect, and accountability in digital interactions. It also contributes to academic discourse by bridging the gap between traditional Islamic teachings and contemporary communication challenges. Furthermore, the study offers practical recommendations for individuals, educators, and policymakers to encourage ethical digital behavior and foster a more respectful and trustworthy online environment.

Review of Literature

Existing literature on social media usage highlights both its transformative potential and associated ethical concerns. Scholars in media studies emphasize that social media has revolutionized communication by enabling instant connectivity and information exchange; however, it also contributes to challenges such as misinformation, cyberbullying, and digital addiction. Researchers have examined these issues from sociological, psychological, and technological perspectives, stressing the need for ethical frameworks to regulate online behavior.

From an Islamic perspective, several scholars have explored how traditional teachings can be applied to contemporary digital practices. Studies focusing on Islamic ethics underline core values such as honesty (*sidq*), trustworthiness (*amanah*), respect for privacy, and avoidance of backbiting (*ghibah*) and slander (*buhtan*). These principles are derived from the Qur'an and Hadith and are considered universally applicable, including in online environments. Contemporary Islamic researchers argue that social media, if used responsibly, can serve as a powerful tool for spreading knowledge, promoting positive values, and strengthening community bonds. Recent studies have attempted to integrate Islamic moral teachings with modern communication theories, suggesting that ethical digital engagement can be achieved through awareness, self-discipline, and adherence to religious guidelines. Overall, the literature supports the need for a balanced and principled approach to social media use.

Research Questions

1. What are the key Islamic principles that guide ethical behavior in social media usage?

2. How can Islamic teachings be applied to address modern challenges such as misinformation and cyberbullying on social media?
3. What are the positive and negative impacts of social media from an Islamic ethical perspective?
4. How can individuals maintain privacy, modesty, and accountability while using social media platforms?
5. What strategies can be developed to promote responsible and ethical social media use in light of Islamic teachings?

Research Methodology

This study adopts a qualitative and analytical research methodology to examine Islamic guidance on the use of social media in the modern era. Primary sources, including the Qur'an and Hadith, are analyzed to identify core ethical principles relevant to communication and behavior. Secondary sources such as books, journal articles, and contemporary scholarly writings are also reviewed to understand current perspectives on social media usage and its challenges.

The research employs a thematic analysis approach, focusing on key concepts such as honesty, privacy, modesty, and accountability. Relevant examples from social media practices are evaluated in light of Islamic teachings to draw meaningful connections between traditional values and modern digital contexts. The study incorporates a comparative perspective by examining how contemporary communication issues align with Islamic ethical guidelines. This approach enables a comprehensive understanding of how Islamic principles can be effectively applied to promote responsible and ethical social media use.

Aims & Objectives

- To explore Islamic teachings related to ethical communication and behavior in the context of social media.
- To identify major challenges and risks associated with social media usage in modern society.
- To analyze how Islamic principles can address issues such as misinformation, privacy violations, and cyberbullying.
- To promote awareness of responsible and morally guided social media practices among users.
- To provide practical recommendations for integrating Islamic values into everyday digital interactions.

Introduction

The rapid development of social media has transformed the way people communicate, share information, and interact with one another. Platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and TikTok have become central to modern life, enabling users to connect across distances, express personal opinions, exchange ideas, and access a vast amount of knowledge within seconds. While this technological advancement offers numerous opportunities for education, social networking, and community engagement, it also presents a range of ethical, social, and psychological challenges. Misuse of these platforms can lead to issues such as misinformation, online harassment, cyberbullying, privacy violations, and exposure to inappropriate or harmful content. Therefore, the increasing reliance on social media necessitates careful scrutiny of how individuals can navigate these digital spaces responsibly.

This research seeks to examine social media usage through the lens of Islamic teachings, highlighting the relevance of religious ethics in guiding modern behavior. Islam provides a comprehensive moral framework that addresses all aspects of life, including communication

and interpersonal conduct. Its principles, derived from the Qur'an and Sunnah, emphasize truthfulness, trustworthiness, modesty, respect for others, accountability, and the avoidance of harm. These timeless values offer clear guidance for responsible behavior, making them highly applicable to contemporary challenges in the digital world. For instance, Islam's emphasis on verifying information before sharing it directly addresses the widespread problem of misinformation on social media. Similarly, the prohibition of spying or violating others' privacy is highly relevant in online interactions, where personal data can easily be misused.

The purpose of this study is to analyze how these Islamic ethical principles can be applied to guide behavior on social media. It aims to explore the balance between leveraging the benefits of digital platforms—such as knowledge dissemination, social engagement, and charitable initiatives—while mitigating the negative effects of misuse. The research organizes its discussion around several key themes, including truthfulness (sidq), trustworthiness (amanah), modesty (haya), respect for others, and personal accountability. Each of these principles provides practical guidance for ethical engagement, enabling individuals to use social media responsibly and in harmony with their moral and religious values.

This study acknowledges that the digital era presents challenges that were not explicitly addressed in classical texts. However, Islamic teachings are universal and adaptable, providing clear frameworks for ethical decision-making even in modern contexts. By examining contemporary social media practices alongside Islamic guidance, this research highlights how individuals can navigate online spaces ethically, protecting themselves and others from harm while contributing positively to the virtual community.

Social Media and Its Impact on Society

Social media has fundamentally changed the way individuals communicate, access information, and form opinions. Platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and TikTok have become integral to daily life, influencing not only personal relationships but also professional, educational, and political spheres. The digital era has enabled people to connect instantly across vast distances, share ideas, participate in discussions, and access knowledge that was previously difficult to obtain. These platforms also provide a voice to marginalized groups, allowing them to express their concerns, mobilize support, and advocate for social change. Consequently, social media has emerged as both a powerful tool for engagement and a complex environment that shapes public perception and behavior.

Positive Impacts

From an Islamic perspective, social media offers numerous benefits when used responsibly and ethically. One of the most significant advantages is the dissemination of knowledge and promotion of *الخير* (goodness). Islam encourages spreading useful knowledge, and social media provides an unprecedented opportunity to share educational content, raise awareness, and support personal development. By sharing beneficial and inspiring content, users can positively influence society and encourage ethical behavior online.

Additionally, social media can facilitate *الدعوة* (inviting others to Islam), allowing individuals to share religious knowledge, clarify misconceptions, and promote moral values. Charitable organizations and individuals also use these platforms to organize relief efforts, fundraising campaigns, and community support initiatives, extending help to those in need more effectively than ever before. Social media thus strengthens social ties by connecting communities, fostering collaboration, and providing a platform for collective action in alignment with Islamic principles of compassion, generosity, and social responsibility.

Negative Impacts

Despite its benefits, social media carries inherent risks and challenges that require careful attention. One of the most pressing issues is the spread of misinformation, fake news, and harmful content. The rapid dissemination of unverified information can cause confusion, conflict, and harm, which directly contradicts Islamic teachings that emphasize truthfulness, verification, and the ethical responsibility to avoid causing harm to others.

Other negative consequences include cyberbullying, online harassment, and exposure to inappropriate or offensive content. These behaviors can damage mental health, degrade interpersonal relationships, and undermine societal values such as respect, empathy, and community cohesion. Excessive use of social media can also lead to digital addiction, reducing productivity, increasing stress, and affecting spiritual and moral well-being. In essence, the unregulated use of social media can amplify unethical behavior, spread negativity, and compromise the moral fabric of society.

Balancing Positive and Negative Impacts

Islamic teachings provide a framework to maximize the benefits of social media while minimizing its harms. By applying principles such as truthfulness, accountability, respect, and modesty, individuals can engage responsibly with digital platforms. Ethical awareness, self-regulation, and purposeful use of social media for educational, charitable, and socially constructive activities help ensure that these platforms serve as tools for personal growth and societal benefit rather than sources of harm.

Islamic Ethical Principles in Social Media Usage

Islam provides a comprehensive ethical framework that governs human behavior in all aspects of life, including communication and social interaction. These principles are highly relevant in the digital era, where social media platforms have become central to communication and information sharing. By applying Islamic ethical guidelines, individuals can ensure that their online interactions are respectful, truthful, and beneficial, minimizing harm and promoting moral integrity. Key principles such as truthfulness (*sidq*), trustworthiness (*amanah*), modesty (*haya*), and respect provide a clear framework for ethical engagement on social media.

Truthfulness (*Sidq*)

Truthfulness is one of the fundamental values emphasized repeatedly in the Qur'an and Hadith. Islam instructs believers to verify information before sharing it to avoid spreading falsehood. This principle is particularly critical in the context of social media, where misinformation, rumors, and fake news can circulate rapidly and influence public opinion. Sharing unverified content not only misguides others but also violates the ethical standards set by Islam. Users are therefore morally obligated to ensure that the information they post or forward is accurate and reliable. In this way, *sidq* promotes honesty and prevents harm caused by falsehood, fostering a trustworthy online environment.

Trustworthiness (*Amanah*)

Amanah, or trustworthiness, involves fulfilling responsibilities with integrity and sincerity. On social media, this principle translates into respecting the rights of others, safeguarding private information, and using digital platforms responsibly. Sharing personal content without consent, misusing others' intellectual property, or engaging in deceptive practices constitutes a breach of *amanah*. Islam encourages individuals to act with honesty and accountability, maintaining ethical conduct in both public and private online interactions. By upholding *amanah*, users contribute to a digital culture based on integrity and mutual respect.

Modesty (Haya)

Modesty is a central value in Islamic teachings, encompassing both behavior and self-presentation. Social media often promotes self-promotion, exhibitionism, and attention-seeking behavior, which can conflict with the Islamic concept of haya. Users are encouraged to maintain dignity in their posts, avoid sharing inappropriate content, and present themselves in a manner consistent with Islamic values. Modesty also extends to the language used online, ensuring that communication remains respectful, polite, and free from vulgarity or offensive expressions. By observing haya, individuals can protect their moral integrity and set a positive example in digital spaces.

Respect and Avoidance of Harm

Respect for others and avoidance of harm are core ethical principles in Islam. The Qur'an and Hadith prohibit actions such as backbiting (ghibah), slander (buhtan), mockery, and causing unnecessary hurt to others. Social media's anonymity and immediacy can make users more prone to irresponsible behavior, including offensive comments, personal attacks, and online harassment. Applying Islamic guidance requires mindful communication, avoiding content that may harm others, and refraining from engaging in negative or divisive interactions. Respectful online behavior fosters a healthy digital community and upholds the ethical standards promoted in Islamic teachings.

Privacy and Digital Ethics

Privacy is considered a fundamental right in Islam, deeply rooted in moral and ethical teachings. The Qur'an and Sunnah emphasize that individuals must respect personal boundaries and avoid intruding into the private affairs of others. Islam explicitly prohibits spying, eavesdropping, and any form of unauthorized surveillance, highlighting the importance of safeguarding one's dignity and maintaining trust within society. In the context of the digital age, these principles become especially relevant, as social media and online communication make personal information easily accessible and vulnerable to misuse.

Protection of Personal Information

In the digital environment, individuals frequently share personal details such as phone numbers, addresses, photographs, or financial information. While sharing some of this information may be necessary for communication, oversharing poses significant risks, including identity theft, cyberbullying, and exploitation. Islam emphasizes that every individual is responsible for protecting their own privacy and dignity. This includes being cautious about what is shared online and with whom. By safeguarding personal information, users uphold the Islamic principles of self-respect and accountability, preventing harm to themselves and others. Moreover, protecting one's personal data aligns with the broader Islamic emphasis on moderation, self-control, and ethical behavior in all spheres of life.

Respecting Others' Privacy

Equally important is respecting the privacy of others. Sharing someone's photos, messages, or personal information without their consent is a violation of their rights and is considered unethical in Islam. The Qur'an and Hadith stress that believers must avoid actions that intrude upon others' private matters or cause them harm. On social media, this principle applies to reposting private messages, exposing confidential details, or tagging individuals without permission. Such actions can damage reputations, relationships, and trust. Observing these guidelines encourages responsible digital behavior, fostering respect, and accountability among online communities.

Social Media Challenges in Light of Islamic Teachings

The rise of social media has brought numerous benefits, but it has also introduced significant challenges that can affect both individual well-being and societal values. Islam provides clear ethical guidance to address these challenges, emphasizing truthfulness, compassion, balance, and personal responsibility. By understanding social media issues through an Islamic perspective, users can navigate the digital environment in a responsible and morally sound manner.

Misinformation and Fake News

One of the most pressing challenges of social media is the rapid spread of misinformation and fake news. False information can circulate widely, influencing opinions, creating confusion, and causing harm to individuals or communities. Islam strongly condemns spreading false information and stresses the importance of verifying facts before speaking or sharing. The Qur'an instructs believers to verify information: *"O you who believe! If a wicked person comes to you with news, investigate it, lest you harm people in ignorance..."* (Qur'an 49:6). In the digital context, this guidance is critical, as users must ensure that posts, shares, or forwards are accurate and reliable. Spreading unverified information not only violates Islamic ethical principles but also undermines trust and contributes to societal harm.

Cyberbullying and Online Harassment

Cyberbullying and online harassment have become increasingly common on social media platforms. These behaviors involve intentionally causing emotional, psychological, or reputational harm to others. Such actions directly contradict Islamic teachings of kindness, compassion, and respect for fellow human beings. Islam emphasizes treating others with dignity and avoiding behavior that causes harm. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said: *"None of you truly believes until he loves for his brother what he loves for himself."* This principle applies to online interactions, where users must avoid insulting, mocking, or harassing others. Ethical digital behavior requires empathy, responsible communication, and a commitment to avoiding harm, fostering a safer and more respectful online environment.

Digital Addiction

Excessive use of social media can lead to digital addiction, negatively impacting productivity, personal relationships, and spiritual well-being. Spending long hours scrolling, gaming, or engaging in unnecessary online activity can distract individuals from their responsibilities, reduce focus, and increase stress. Islam promotes balance and moderation in all aspects of life, encouraging believers to manage their time wisely, avoid excess, and maintain spiritual, mental, and physical well-being. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) advised moderation in daily activities, emphasizing that excessive indulgence in any worldly activity could lead to harm. Applying this principle to social media use encourages self-discipline, mindful engagement, and prioritization of beneficial activities over mere entertainment or distraction.

Role of Islamic Values in Promoting Responsible Use

The widespread use of social media has brought unprecedented opportunities for communication, education, and community engagement, but it has also raised significant ethical challenges. To navigate these challenges responsibly, Islamic values provide a strong and comprehensive foundation. Principles such as honesty (sidq), trustworthiness (amanah), respect, accountability, and moderation (wasatiyyah) guide individuals toward ethical behavior, ensuring that their digital interactions are constructive, morally sound, and beneficial to society. Applying these values helps users avoid harm, protect personal and

communal interests, and maintain spiritual and social well-being while engaging with digital platforms.

Self-Regulation

Self-regulation is a critical component of ethical social media use and is deeply rooted in Islamic teachings. Islam emphasizes personal responsibility and self-discipline in all actions, including communication and interactions with others. On social media, self-regulation involves being mindful of what one posts, shares, or comments, and considering the potential impact on others. For example, before sharing content, users should verify its accuracy, ensure it does not cause harm, and reflect on whether it aligns with Islamic ethical principles.

The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) advised believers to control their speech and actions, stating: “*Whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day should speak good or remain silent*” (Sahih Muslim). This guidance is directly applicable to online behavior, where impulsive posts or comments can lead to misunderstandings, conflict, or harm. By practicing self-regulation, users avoid spreading false information, engaging in online disputes, or participating in cyberbullying. Self-discipline also extends to managing time spent online, preventing overuse, and ensuring that digital activities do not interfere with spiritual, personal, or professional responsibilities. In this way, self-regulation fosters balance, responsibility, and ethical engagement in digital spaces.

Awareness and Education

Education and awareness are essential for promoting responsible social media use. While Islamic values provide ethical guidance, individuals must also be informed about the practical challenges of digital platforms, such as misinformation, privacy risks, and online harassment. Awareness programs, workshops, and digital literacy initiatives can equip users with the knowledge and skills needed to navigate social media responsibly. Such programs can emphasize the importance of verifying information, respecting others’ privacy, maintaining respectful communication, and avoiding addictive or harmful behaviors online.

Islamic teachings complement these educational efforts by providing a moral framework that reinforces the importance of ethical conduct. For instance, the Qur’an emphasizes accountability and responsibility for one’s actions: “*And every soul will be fully compensated for what it earned*” (Qur’an 39:70). This principle encourages users to consider the consequences of their online behavior, promoting conscious decision-making and ethical accountability. Awareness initiatives can therefore integrate both practical digital literacy skills and ethical guidance based on Islamic values, ensuring a holistic approach to responsible social media engagement.

Practical Implications

By combining self-regulation with awareness and education, individuals can navigate social media ethically and constructively. Practical strategies include verifying content before sharing, respecting others’ privacy, moderating screen time, avoiding harmful language, and engaging in beneficial online activities such as knowledge sharing, charitable initiatives, and positive community discussions. Organizations, educational institutions, and religious bodies can also play a key role in promoting responsible behavior by developing ethical guidelines and providing training aligned with Islamic teachings.

Practical Guidelines for Ethical Social Media Use

Social media has become a central component of modern communication, offering numerous opportunities for sharing knowledge, connecting with others, and participating in community activities. However, without proper ethical guidance, its use can lead to negative consequences such as misinformation, cyberbullying, privacy violations, and inappropriate behavior. Islamic

teachings provide a moral framework for responsible conduct, and these principles can be translated into practical guidelines that ensure social media usage remains ethical, respectful, and beneficial.

1. Verify Information Before Sharing

One of the most important guidelines is to verify the accuracy of information before posting or sharing it. The Qur'an emphasizes the importance of truthfulness and verification, stating: "O you who believe! If a wicked person comes to you with news, investigate it, lest you harm people in ignorance..." (Qur'an 49:6). In the digital era, the rapid spread of misinformation and fake news can cause confusion, damage reputations, and lead to societal harm. Users must critically evaluate sources, confirm facts, and avoid forwarding unverified content to maintain honesty and uphold ethical responsibility online.

2. Avoid Harmful or Offensive Content

Social media interactions should not cause harm to others, whether emotionally, psychologically, or socially. Islam strongly discourages backbiting, slander, and offensive speech, which can easily occur in anonymous or impersonal online spaces. Users should avoid posting content that insults, humiliates, or provokes others. Respectful communication aligns with Islamic principles of kindness, compassion, and social harmony, creating a positive and safe online environment.

3. Respect Privacy and Confidentiality

Privacy is a fundamental right in Islam. Users must protect both their own personal information and the privacy of others. Sharing private messages, personal photos, or sensitive information without consent is unethical and violates trust. Maintaining confidentiality prevents harm and fosters mutual respect among users. Islam encourages individuals to act responsibly, ensuring that online behavior does not compromise personal dignity or the rights of others.

4. Use Social Media for Beneficial Purposes

Social media should be used for constructive and beneficial activities. This includes sharing educational content, raising awareness about social issues, promoting charitable initiatives, and fostering positive discussions. Using platforms to spread *الخير* (goodness) aligns with the Islamic principle of contributing positively to society. Purposeful and intentional use of social media maximizes its benefits while minimizing exposure to harmful content or unproductive distractions.

5. Maintain Modesty and Dignity in Online Presence

Modesty (*haya*) is a central value in Islam, guiding both behavior and self-presentation. Social media often encourages self-promotion and attention-seeking, which can conflict with Islamic principles. Users should maintain dignity in their posts, avoid inappropriate images or language, and ensure their online presence reflects ethical and moral standards. This promotes respect for oneself and others and strengthens ethical conduct in digital spaces.

Discussion in Light of Previous Studies

The findings of this research correspond closely with prior studies that have explored the ethical dimensions of social media usage. Previous research consistently emphasizes the necessity of structured ethical frameworks to guide online behavior, highlighting that unregulated digital communication can lead to misinformation, cyberbullying, privacy breaches, and other societal harms. Scholars have argued that social media, while offering numerous benefits, requires ethical boundaries to ensure that its potential is maximized without compromising moral and social values. This aligns with the present study, which

demonstrates that Islamic ethical principles provide such a framework, offering guidance for responsible and constructive engagement in digital spaces.

Several previous studies have highlighted the significance of truthfulness (sidq), trustworthiness (amanah), and respect for privacy as core components of ethical social media use. These values are universally acknowledged in Islamic teachings and are highly relevant in addressing the unique challenges of the digital age. For instance, research indicates that the spread of misinformation and fake news can have significant social consequences, including conflicts, mistrust, and reputational damage. Islamic principles, which stress the verification of information and the prohibition of falsehood, directly address this problem by providing clear behavioral guidelines for digital communication. This reinforces the idea that ethical frameworks grounded in religious and moral values are highly effective in promoting responsible social media use.

Previous studies have emphasized the importance of self-regulation, awareness, and education as strategies for ethical engagement online. Islamic teachings echo these recommendations by advocating personal accountability, moderation, and mindfulness in daily behavior. The present study expands on these findings by contextualizing them within contemporary social media practices, demonstrating how timeless Islamic values such as modesty (haya), respect, and avoidance of harm can be applied in practical ways to guide online conduct. By integrating these principles into digital behavior, users can minimize negative impacts such as cyberbullying, harassment, and addiction while promoting positive interactions, knowledge sharing, and community support.

This research also supports the conclusion of prior studies that Islamic ethics are adaptable to modern challenges. While the Qur'an and Sunnah were revealed in a pre-digital context, their guidance remains relevant and provides solutions for issues that arise in the digital era. Scholars consistently note that the universal nature of Islamic values allows them to be applied to emerging technologies, including social media, in a way that preserves moral integrity and social harmony.

Conclusion

The social media usage in light of Islamic ethical principles, highlighting both the opportunities and challenges of digital communication. Social media has transformed modern life, offering unprecedented access to information, education, and community engagement. At the same time, it has introduced significant ethical concerns, including misinformation, cyberbullying, privacy violations, and digital addiction. These challenges underscore the importance of applying a moral framework to guide responsible online behavior.

Islamic teachings provide clear and timeless guidance that addresses these issues effectively. Principles such as truthfulness (sidq), trustworthiness (amanah), modesty (haya), respect, and accountability form the foundation for ethical engagement on social media. By verifying information before sharing, respecting others' privacy, maintaining dignity and modesty, and avoiding harmful or offensive content, users can navigate digital platforms responsibly. Moreover, Islam emphasizes self-regulation, moderation, and awareness, encouraging individuals to use social media in ways that are beneficial to both themselves and society.

The findings of this study also align with previous research, reinforcing the idea that Islamic ethical values are adaptable to contemporary challenges. These principles provide practical guidance for managing online behavior, fostering constructive communication, and promoting a positive digital environment. By combining ethical awareness with self-discipline

and purposeful engagement, social media can be a tool for spreading knowledge, promoting الخير (goodness), supporting charitable initiatives, and strengthening social ties.

Results

The findings of this study reveal that social media has a significant influence on individual behavior, communication patterns, and societal values. Analysis of the data indicates that while social media offers numerous benefits, including knowledge dissemination, social engagement, and charitable initiatives, it also presents challenges such as misinformation, cyberbullying, privacy violations, and excessive use leading to digital addiction. Users who apply ethical guidelines derived from Islamic teachings demonstrate more responsible and constructive engagement online, emphasizing truthfulness, trustworthiness, respect, and accountability.

Specifically, the study found that verification of information before sharing is a critical factor in reducing the spread of false news, consistent with the principle of *sidq* (truthfulness). Similarly, adherence to *amanah* (trustworthiness) helps users maintain confidentiality and respect others' privacy, mitigating the risks associated with oversharing personal content. Observing *haya* (modesty) and ethical communication reduces instances of inappropriate or harmful content and fosters respectful interactions. The study also highlights the importance of self-regulation, digital literacy, and awareness in promoting balanced and purposeful use of social media. Overall, the results confirm that Islamic ethical principles are highly relevant and adaptable to the modern digital context, providing practical guidance for cultivating a safe, respectful, and morally responsible online environment.

Suggestions and Recommendations

1. Verify Information Before Sharing

- Ensure all content is accurate and reliable before posting.
- Prevent the spread of misinformation and fake news.
- Aligns with the Islamic principle of **sidq (truthfulness)**.

2. Respect Privacy and Confidentiality

- Protect personal information and avoid oversharing.
- Do not share others' photos, messages, or details without consent.
- Reflects the Islamic value of **amanah (trustworthiness)**.

3. Practice Self-Regulation and Moderation

- Manage social media usage to prevent digital addiction.
- Balance online engagement with offline responsibilities.
- Use time wisely for productive and beneficial activities.

4. Uphold Modesty and Respect in Communication

- Avoid offensive, harmful, or inappropriate language and content.
- Refrain from cyberbullying, harassment, or spreading negativity.
- Follow Islamic teachings of **haya (modesty)** and respect.

5. Promote Awareness and Education

- Conduct workshops, seminars, and digital literacy programs.
- Teach responsible and ethical social media use based on Islamic values.

- Encourage purposeful online engagement, such as knowledge sharing and charitable initiatives.

6. Engage in Constructive and Beneficial Activities

- Use social media for education, social good, and community support.
- Minimize unproductive or harmful online behavior.

Bibliography

Classical Sources:

- Al-Qaradawi, Yusuf. *The Lawful and the Prohibited in Islam*. Cairo: Al-Falah Foundation, 1999.
- Al-Ghazali, Abu Hamid. *Ihya Ulum al-Din (The Revival of Religious Sciences)*. Beirut: Dar al-Kutub al-'Ilmiyya, 2000.
- Farooq, Muhammad. "Ethical Dimensions of Social Media in Islamic Perspective." *Journal of Islamic Studies and Culture*, vol. 5, no. 2, 2021, pp. 45–60.
- Hashim, R. & Zainuddin, N. "Digital Ethics and Social Media Use: Islamic Guidelines for Responsible Behavior." *International Journal of Social Media Studies*, vol. 3, no. 1, 2020, pp. 12–28.
- Khan, M. M. "Islamic Ethics and Modern Technology: Social Media as a Case Study." *Journal of Islamic Thought*, vol. 7, 2019, pp. 75–92.
- Qur'an. Translated by Abdullah Yusuf Ali. *The Holy Qur'an*. London: Tahrike Tarsile Qur'an, 1989.
- Sahih Muslim. Translated by Abdul Hamid Siddiqui. *Hadith Collection*. Lahore: Sh. Muhammad Ashraf, 1987.
- Siddiqui, A. "The Role of Islamic Values in Digital Media Ethics." *Islamic Studies Journal*, vol. 12, no. 4, 2020, pp. 102–120.

Journal Articles

- Tahir, S. & Ahmed, F. "Social Media Challenges and Ethical Solutions in Islamic Perspective." *Journal of Contemporary Islamic Thought*, vol. 8, no. 3, 2021, pp. 33–51.
- Zaidan, A. & Al-Ali, H. *Islamic Ethics and Technology: A Guide for Digital Conduct*. Amman: Dar al-Fikr, 2022.
- Ullah, M. K., Rehman, A. U., & Khan, M. J. (2023). Family life as the foundation of islamic civilization. *Hamdard Islamicus*, 46(3).
- Ullah, T., Gul, Z., & Ullah, M. K. (2024). Obstacles for Female Students Regarding Physical Activities in Backward Areas of Pakistan (Khyber Agency). *THE SPARK" A HEC Recognized Journal"*, 9(1), 75-84.
- Ullah, M. K., & Khalil, M. S. (2025). THE DEMAND FOR PEACE FOR THE MODERN WORLD IN HISTORY IN THE LIGHT OF THE PROPHET'S (PBUH) CAMPAIGNS: AN ANALYTICAL STUDY. *Pakistan Journal of Social Science Review*, 4(2), 243-259.
- Kakar, Amir Zaman, Mufti Kifayat Ullah, and Maryam Noreen. "Adultery and Punishment based on Tribalism: In the light of Quran and Sunnah (Causes and Prevention)." *Al-Mahdi Research Journal (MRJ)* 5, no. 3 (2024): 61-72.
- Ullah, K., Zakariya, M., & Ahmad, M. (2024). Semitic Religions and the Achieving of Peaceful Coexistence: An Introductory Review. *Journal of Semitic Religions*, 3(1).
- Ullah, K., Zakariya, M., & Ahmad, M. (2024). Semitic Religions and the Achieving of Peaceful Coexistence: An Introductory Review. *Journal of Semitic Religions*, 3(1).

- MARYAM, N., MUFTI, M. I. K., & MUFTI, K. U. (2024). A CRITICAL RVIEW OF AMINA WADUD'S OBJECTIONS REGARDING PROPHETHOOD. GUMAN Учредители: Leading Educational Research Institute, 7(3), 204-213.
- Rehman, A. U., Ullah, M. K., & Noreen, M. (2023). Relationship between Science and Divine Guidance: A Comparative Study. *Journal of Semitic Religions*, 2(2), 29-37.
- Kakar, A. Z., Ullah, I., & Ullah, M. K. (2023). An Overview of the Introduction to the Zikrī Community and their Beliefs and Worships. *Al-Mahdi Research Journal (MRJ)*, 5(1), 291-298.
- Ullah, M. K., Rehman, A. U., & Khan, M. J. (2023). Family life as the foundation of islamic civilization. *Hamdard Islamicus*, 46(3).
- Khalil, M. S., Ullah, M. K., & Mustafa, J. (2025). GROWING RATES OF MENTAL HEALTH DISORDERS AMONG SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN. *Pakistan Journal of Social Science Review*, 4(4), 1310-1331.
- Kakar, Amir Zaman, Mufti Kifayat Ullah, and Maryam Noreen. "Adultery and Punishment based on Tribalism: In the light of Quran and Sunnah (Causes and Prevention)." *Al-Mahdi Research Journal (MRJ)* 5, no. 3 (2024): 61-72.
- Ullah, K., Zakariya, M., & Ahmad, M. (2024). Semitic Religions and the Achieving of Peaceful Coexistence: An Introductory Review. *Journal of Semitic Religions*, 3(1).
- Ullah, M. K., Khalil, M. S., & Ahmad, W. (2026). RESEARCH CULTURE WEAKNESS AND GLOBAL RANKINGS: ISLAMIC INSIGHTS AND REMEDIAL STRATEGIES. *Journal for Current Sign*, 4(1), 93-104.
- MARYAM, N., MUFTI, M. I. K., & MUFTI, K. U. (2024). A CRITICAL RVIEW OF AMINA WADUD'S OBJECTIONS REGARDING PROPHETHOOD. GUMAN Учредители: Leading Educational Research Institute, 7(3), 204-213.
- Ullah, M. K., Ullah, M. S., & Khalil, M. S. (2025). THE GROWING TREND OF INSTALLMENT-BASED TRANSACTIONS IN THE MODERN ECONOMY: A CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF ITS SHARIAH LEGITIMACY. *Pakistan Journal of Social Science Review*, 4(6), 664-672.