

Impacts of social media on Muslim society; the Research overview of Kalmunai Municipal Council Area

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Abstract

Today, Muslim society is facing challenges from social Medias, it has regularly changed into the use of facilities like the satellite TV, telephones, social networks such as Facebook, twitter, My Space, You Tube, WhatsApp, Viber, IMO, and so on. In this research highlighted the impact of social media on the Islamic society. The destruction of the social media is seen as one of the most serious threats faced by Islamic society. Social Medias have also replaced traditional methods of making objects of daily use. This replacement has serious consequences for the spiritual health of Islamic humanity. In discussing of the impact of social media on Muslim society, suggestions are made preserve various aspects of Islamic society in KMC area. In conclusion, this research indicated how to use the social media by our Muslims generation, either positive or negative.

Keywords: Social media, KMC environment, Muslim Society, Muslims generations, Islamic humanity

Introduction

In this article, social media played a role in the popular uprisings in Muslim society." says American professor Charles Hirschkind. "But the Western countries have strongly overplayed that impact. Sermons on cassettes, mobile phones and word-of-mouth stories were and are much more important for understanding and framing the resistance." Charles Hirschkind was one of the speakers at the 'Being Muslim in the Age of Facebook, YouTube and Twitter'. Social media is one of the way of public communication in getting a large viewers and well known to all. In the past years we usually used to deliver messages within and outside through verbal and non-verbal communication. Those medium were less advanced and accordingly topic to alteration and also less possible of shortening the limits of Islamic influences (Akbar,2005).

Kalmunai municipal council area has content of Muslims majority; today this region has gone to facing challenges within from usages of social media. And first of all we know about KMC. It has three Divisional secretates Divisions there are Kalmunai Muslims Divisions, Kalmunai Tamil Divisions and Sainthamaruthu Division. And of has 75 Grama Niladhari Divisions there are completely include

Kalmunai electoral divisions, their population distribution based on their religious, most of the population living in Kalmunai Muslim Division and Sainthamaruthu division, according to this area population totally 74,021 Muslims, 379 Tamils and Kalmunai Tamil Division has 27,550 Tamils and 2596 Muslims. Kalmunai is one of the urban in Ampara District. That is located in the South Eastern part of the district, about 40 km away from Baticaloa district. Ampara District is the one of the three districts in the Eastern Province. The KMC spreads over an area of 22.8 sq. km. This is the one of the largest area in terms of the District. There are most villages covered by 75 Grama Nildaries' divisions. Kalmunai is a high population density area having 4,521 persons per square Kilometres of its total land area 22.8 sq. km. The total population of the area was estimated at 110,000 persons from about 27,097 families in 2013. (source: KMC data: 2015)

Today social media has regularly changed into the use of facilities like the satellite TV, telephones, social networks such as Facebook, twitter, WhatsApp, viber, IMO, and so on. These social networks are today known as the social media because they invariable support the spread of information and in the least controlled manner also. These modern media tools will in most cases serve to encourage the traditional role of social media as defined by the media practitioners which is to inform, educate, and to convince the people by providing them with the right information and education on critical and minor problems within and outside their environments (Bruce Watson' 1997).

The social media can mostly change in activities and attitude of the Muslims generation by underlining assured problems. But today due to the lack of control and rightful actions, these tools are used to de-transmit the religion of Islam by screening anti-Islamic vices, promoting anti-Islamic ethics we shall however outline some of its negative and positive impacts on Islam as well as a best practice approach to utilizing its potentials positively.

Research Objectives

The social media usage goes to impact on Muslim society in Kalmunai area. Social media has positive and negative impacts but these negative impacts are destroyed our Muslims generations. Purposive of this research analysis about how to social media dominant on Muslims society and how can we prevent and protect them. Moreover, these study under taken awareness to Muslims and all over the generations to society.

Research Methodology

Primary Data has randomly collected in Kalmunai Muslim Division, Kalmunai Tamil Division, and Sainthamaruthu Division through the 100 questionnaire from this regional secretaries, Grama Niladhari, regional businesspersons, government and non-government employers, social well-wishers and educated and non-educate people and getting information through the interviews from 10 persons in each Divisional secretes Divisions.

- *Questionnaire for 100 households*
 - ✓ *MCQ questions*
 - ✓ *Open questions*

- *Interview with 30 people*
 - ✓ *Direct with 15 people*
 - *Discussions*
 - ✓ *Indirect with 15 people*
 - *Phone calls, e-mail*

- *Observations*

100 Questionnaire were randomly distributed to the different individuals from KMC for collecting the primary data. It was allocated according to the density of population of the GN Division that was taken by 40 models from Periyaneelavanai Tamil Muslim Division to Maruthamunai, 25 models from Sainthamaruthu area, 15 models from Karaivahupattu, 12 models from Periyaneelavanai Tamil Division and 8 models from Pandiruppu.

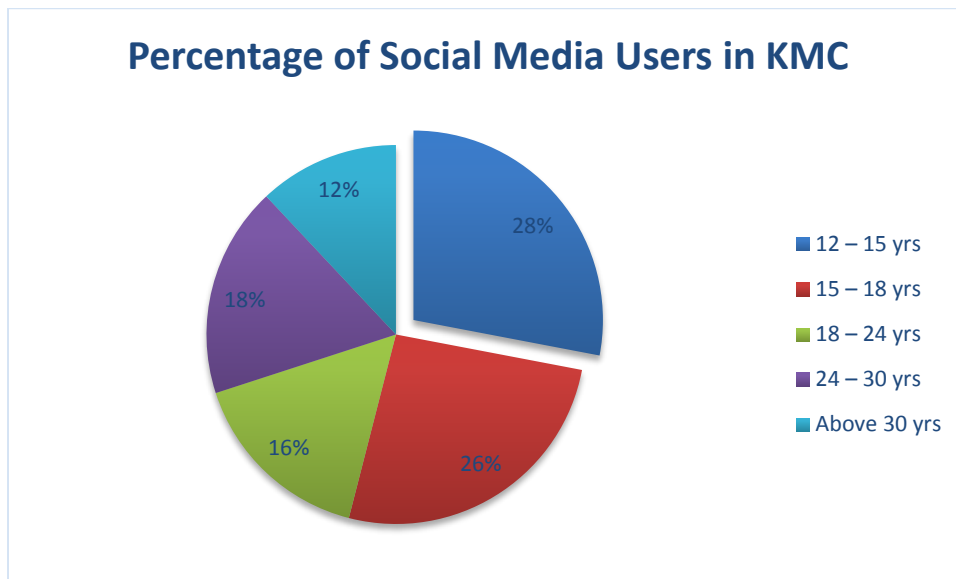
Secondary data was gained from related books of social media and Islam, web site publications, journal articles, media reports, videos about social media and Islamic society destruction – Islamic clerics speech and other.

Finding of this Research

Social media is one of the most powerful tools to spread the word with least cost and least efforts. It is now a common pinion across the globe that it has changed lives. And sometimes, that destroyed them as well. This has been a debate for long time among Muslims as whether to use it or not. At some places, Internet is considered as haram as alcohol while at some places, there are simply no restrictions. Since Internet is easily accessible and cheap, some Satan worshippers have taken advantage of it and they have spread free of cost and cheap illicit material on Internet. Also, the social websites are being used by the low mentality people more than the same ones.

In the study area, 97% people interest to the social networks are based on data obtained through the questionnaire. The use of social media in recent years has proved to be a rapid development. The use of social network has many advantages but its disadvantages are more than good. Through our social media, our young generation goes astray. 80% of young people effected by social media. Based on data indicates, 28% of affected are between 12 to 15 age group, 26% are under the 15 to 18, 16% are under the 18 to 24, 18% are affected between 24 to 30 and 12% of those over the age of 30 years, those are depending on social networking. In addition, 54% of those affected are between 12 to 18 years old, and these groups include both men and women.

Chart: 1 Percentage of social media users in KMC



Source: field data in KMC

Mostly, these KMC has being targeted through social media by spreading every kind of information against Islam and to drag Muslims away from Islam. Male and female interaction is evolved because there have come programs which tell you about your soul mate or your love among your friends. Also, there have become online communities and groups just for free mingling where girls and boys are fooled easily. This research also indicates KMC area is rapid development area that is why modern technologies are easy to access their influences on the society.

Similarly, the use of porn material on social media has increased in this area. It is still the policy of all the renowned social media websites to remove any such stuff, but still, in the name of freedom of expression, people are spreading pornographic content without so much as trouble. Such problems are,

1. Promotion of indecency: Muslims majority lives in the study area, there is no doubt that the Muslim community that has to live as a model for everyone today is trying to maintain moral values. Social websites one of the factors that lead us to such wrong practices. All the bad things are portrayed in social networks, and the abominable thing that are dying come in the normal way. The primary data indicates that 68% of people consider that the use of social networks in the development of moral genealogies in maintaining ethical values. Increasingly, this consternation has caused the fear that our society will lead to a social backlash in the guise of Muslims.

This is a commendable virtue which today has been abridged by the social media platforms we have. The expression of almost naked pictures of both men and women on social media such as Facebook, Blackberry messenger, twitter as well as all other electronic communication mediums has made it almost impossible for the Muslim community that utilizes such tools to uphold such a noble command from the Almighty Allah. This is ultimately because it is not easy refusing to enlarge the display picture of that Aura exposed girls or guy on your social network profile (Seyyed Hossein, 2005).

2. **Careless of conversations:** As far as the Eastern Province is concerned, all male and female school children are responsible the development of direct male and female relationships beginning in school. It is a shame to keep in touch with friends who have children, who they are talking to their children, their parents do not take care of their actions, and in the name of friends with many people who are not in the social media. We have a mind to think that they grow relationships without knowing that there are males or women. A society that needs to be guided today is misguided. Allah should protect us all. Our male and female children today are fraudulent love and fraudulent desire to be watched by the wardrobe and go the wrong way. Do not miss to think that your children are every minute of the failure of your children to see, what your children are in social media.
3. **Increasing Social Corruptions:** Modern technology as a revolution of the developing humanity, the growth of modern technologies encourages towards social media. So, at that level discuss the relationship between the Muslims and social media and Muslims attitudes towards social media. The data analysis explained about mostly, 75% of people agree this region under the dominant of social corruptions, illegal activities/ crime, cultural clusters and famine through the illegal/ non-proper usages of social media and education also de-propagate. Their people physically and psychologically destructed by the social media. Child abuse, women sexual corruptions, use of drugs and alcohol and others are potentially increase in this society (Vaynerchuk, 2016).
4. **Demonization of Islamic clerics and Muslims: Human are** at fault whenever they get chance, but they are the best people who make mistakes. It we take our Kalmunai area, 50 to 75 people per year come to society as clergy and khafil. The community that has to be built under the guidance of these people, we can be said to be the reason for social media to go back to today.

The media today does not carry or portray all that is good in the religion of Islam but misrepresents it mostly through doctored or one sided show in order to influence people's views on Islam. The Western media usually identifies "Islam" in Muslim conflicts. It hardly points

other religions out in their conflicts. For example, the news would say, "Five Israelis may have been shot, but they were shot by five Muslims", instead of saying "Five Israelis were shot by five Palestinians". The media often reverses this action when a conflict is against Muslims, for example the news would usually say "Bosnians are being killed by Serbians", but instead rarely says, "Muslims are being killed by Christians" (Seyyed Hossein, 2005).

Social media are spreading fake rumors about the Islamic leaders and the misconceptions about Muslims. Non-Islamic society who live in this way consider Muslims as traitors and terrorists. The clergy over Islamic khilafath describe the clergy who are conducting conventions to trigger extremism. In this study area, about 70% of people accept that Islamic leaders and Muslim ummah are affected by the social media.

The negative impact of the media and social media in general are numerous but that also in not without an advantage in plays in the role Muslims lives and Islam as a religion.

Recommendations

What should be done? How can we protect our kids from the dark side of social media? How can we protect our society from becoming morally ill because of the wrong use of social media? We do not know about other societies, but Islamic society has its own rules and regulations and they are true under all circumstances.

- ✓ First, Islam does not allow mingling of opposite genders. This holds true even for the virtual world. But how could it be monitored? Just like some people spread the wrong use of Internet, the same medium can be used call towards for Allah (dawah). In fact, there are many renowned scholars on different websites who are doing dawah online for years now. Their efforts should be supported and their messages should be spread. In this way, not only will it become a mass online dawah program but also it will attract many lost souls to find the way.
- ✓ Second, how to protect ourselves from the elicited material; it is not very difficult. It used to be a topic of shame once but now, some scholars have taken this necessary step and introduced help in case if one finds himself slave of his desires.
- ✓ Third, if one wants to protect himself from the dark side of social media, he should spend his time on internet while sitting with his family. In this way, it would be a self-monitor and control. Also, parents should check on their kids when they use computer.

It is an understood fact that wrong use of social media has affected our societies very seriously. The danger it poses to our people can be averted just by following Islam. Keeping good company in real as well as virtual world is the key. Just like wrong people destroy us in real world, they also can destroy us in virtual world.

- ✓ Social media should be used to promote social harmony and prevent of racism and avoid using false photographs and disseminating false news to make other miserable.
- ✓ Through social networks, criminal activities are increasing daily. From this need to create awareness among the people in order to protect our society.
- ✓ Blocking unwanted friends in the social like Facebook and WhatsApp is best.
- ✓ To avoid media thieves such as hacking, our social media accounts can be easily accessible by others and password changing is better.
- ✓ It is better to keep on doing good deeds in mind that Muslims are the models for all other humans.
- ✓ Save your Muslim child from wrong use of internet: Internet is one of the most popular invention of recent decades and it has got great popularity around the world. Internet Users are increasing everyday very rapidly and slowly it is reaching in every house of the globe. Millions of Muslims around the Globe also uses Internet for different purposes. Internet has good and bad two sides. It depends on the person how he uses it.
- ✓ It can be used for good purposes like Research, Learning about Islam, Online Shopping and many other good uses. Internet has also many wrong uses like watching uncharacteristic things. Large Number of people who uses Internet is youngsters and many Young Muslims also uses it. The sad thing is that that Many People Including Muslims makes wrong uses of Internet and watches immoral things on it. Most of the People who watch bad things like Pornography are Youngsters. According to latest report of Famous Search Engine Google Many Muslim Countries are also included in the list where these sites are viewed the most. These Sites are taking our youngsters on wrong paths away from Islamic way.
- ✓ If you are a Parent and your Child also uses Internet, you should keep a check that what your Kid is watching online. Also try to keep Computer on such place where your Child can't use Internet alone. You can also block these wrong websites. Muslim Countries Governments also need to take strong Step on this issue and should block all such websites. Kids can also face other problems like bullying and harassing Online. So it is very important to keep an eye on what they are doing online on regular basis.
- ✓ Methods of constructive usage of social media and electronic aids:
 - Ensure that you limit yourself to the quest for useful knowledge always, The Prophet SAW said, "He who sets foot on a path in the quest of knowledge, Allah facilitates for him the path to Paradise. (Tirmidhi).

It is therefore essential for us that if we must indulge in the use of the social and mass media, then we should do so in such a manner that it will be beneficial to use with

respect to the acquisition of rightful knowledge and May Allah guide us to paradise through such venture. Amin

- We live in an environment dominated by non-Islamic values and behaviors. Parents and elders should understand that Islam makes it clear that children are a blessing, a trust, and a test from Allah, Allah says, “And know that your possessions and your children are but a trial and surely with Allah is the mighty reward” (Suratul Anfal: 28)

This remind us of a binding responsibility to ensure that we instill the path of guidance on those we are responsible for be it our friends, brothers and sisters as well as our children. We can always endeavor to educate them on the most effective ways to utilize the media tools they find at their disposal.

- The social media today enables us to bridge communication boundaries by staying in a virtual company of people from all over the world. This is similar to a gathering of people around each other but just with the absence of physical presence. We therefore stand to benefit just as much w in a social/virtual gathering as we would in a physical one. And this is of course with reference to our contacts on Facebook, twitter, blackberry, yahoo, google+, TUMBLR and so on.
- Prophet Muhammad SAW said: “The example of a good companion and a bad companion is like that of the seller of musk, and the one who blows the blacksmith’s bellows. So as for the seller of musk then either he will grant you some, or you buy some from him, or at least you enjoy a pleasant smell from him. As for the one who blows the blacksmith’s bellows then either he will burn your clothes or you will get an offensive smell from him.” Bukhari and Muslim

And In another Tradition, the Prophet Muhammad SAW said: “Mix with the noble people, you become one of them; and keep away from evil people to protect yourself from their evils.” Bukhari and Muslim

Allah says: “And keep yourself patient [by being] with those who call upon their Lord in the morning and the evening, seeking His countenance. And let not your eyes pass beyond them, desiring adornments of the worldly life, and do not obey one whose heart we have made heedless of our remembrance and who follows his desire and whose affair is ever [in] neglect.” [Al-Isra’i [18:28](#)]

My dear Brothers and sisters we can see from the hadith and Ayah the Importance of keeping good friends and also the effect of it. If we stay with someone for a long period of time, after some time the quality of that person that we are with will be reflected in ourselves. We begin to talk or act like them

so if their action and lives values are not in conformity with that of Islam, we begin to lose our Iman by gradually being with them.

It is therefore imperative that we regulate the communication we make with people through the social and mass media to that which will benefit us and Islam positively.

✓ Advices for Muslim youth:

- Life is responsibility given to us by Allah. Therefore, to lead it seriously and to understand the duty is what the most important thing to do is. Allah has said several times in Quran that to spend life in a way serving HIM is the purpose of life. But there are many few who understand the value of life. In the age of youth, almost 90 percent of human's waste their time in useless activities. See what happens today. Young boys and girls spend their time in music, dance, driving, partying and they forget to offer the obligations which ALLAH has put on every Muslim.

“And fear the Day when you shall be brought back to ALLAH. Then every person shall be paid what he earned, and they shall not be dealt with unjustly” (Al-Quran-2:281)

- To hold the book of deeds in the right hand means to lead a life considering it a responsibility and a trust that has been bestowed on us by ALLAH. We should be more than careful about our deeds when we are young. It is said that young age is the most dangerous age because this is that period of time when emotions are strong and high and logic is covered by them. Hence any step can be taken in any direction if due care is not taken. Shatan likes to shatter the Iman of youngsters because children are innocent and shatan;s trick do not influence their innocents minds. In old age, a man already learns enough from his life to take some what sound decisions, but in young age, everything looks right which is thought. And all Logic looks absurd and backward. This is why youth should be protected from shatan.
- The biggest problem with youth is that they fell into the trap of love and emotions easily. The love which is promoted through dramas and movies looks very good and precious but in reality, it is the biggest source to inject the evil practice of Zina in society. In Islam there is no place for “love” and there is not even a logic behind it. But still novels and biggest writers call it a mystery and unknown. It is neither mystery nor unknown. It is known. It bears no logic because it is a feeling led by wild emotions. Therefore to protect oneself from it should be the primary concern. Singing and dancing was once considered filth and a degraded act but now it is considered a field of art. The art is emotions of life. There are songs made today specially to attract youth that contain very shirkia words where some times the holy words of Quran are sung with vulgar dance and sometimes God Is cursed. Similarly, youth are shown dancing and enjoying life. The common belief in today's young world is to lead life at full because the fun

is full on and this time will not come again. Through the absurd term “fun”, illicit relationship and distance from God is been promoted.

- The only target for youth is to be engineer or doctor but they do not want to find what is written in Quran and what was said by Muhammad (s.a.w.w.) parents like their children to be good at worldly activities but they do not encourage their kids to be good Muslims. Young generation knows that there are characters that can find any danger to the world, the concept of God is been wiped out from their minds through high quality fiction movies and cartoons and video games. These video games are not for kids but youngsters through that they learn to kill, to deceive and to steal. They are gradually losing humanity.

The only advice youth needs is that they should realize their duty and their value. They should read Quran and understand it. They should know how Muhammad (s.a.w.w) led His life and should learn how the pious Muslims are completed their duties and died a death of honor and dignity.

Finally, Allah must protect all of us from the misuse of social media.

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