

MODULE 2

Class Title: Net etiquettes

Aim of the lesson: To learn to handle the Internet & social media responsibly

Category: Personal Development

Lesson Format: Power point presentation with discussion

Greeting to students) *AssalamalaikumwaRahmatullahiwaBarakatuh*

(Ta'awwudh) Aoodhubillahi min AsShaytanirRajeem

(Tasmiyah) BismillahirRahmanirRaheem

(Du'a) Rabbishrahlisadriwayassirliamriwahluluqdatummillisaniyaqahuwawli(Surah At Ta-Ha 20: Verse 25-28)

Slide 1:

Today we are going to talk about the Internet, which is something that you all use a lot, right? Is there any one here who has never used an internet?

Students: No

Teacher: Alright so can anyone tell me how much time in a day do you spend on the Internet?

Student: Maybe an hour

Teacher: Are you sure? Do you have WiFi on your phone?

Student: Yes

Teacher: Do you use it?

Student: Yes

Teacher: How much?

Student: All the time

Teacher: So you see the Internet has become a part of our life without us realising it.

Slide 2:

Teacher: Now can anyone tell me what exactly the Internet is?

Student: we can access many web pages through the internet.

Teacher: Yes that you can do but what is the Internet?

(class is quiet)

Slide 3:

Teacher: When you have a computer and you connect that computer to another it forms a network. This connection or networking enables both the connected computers to share whatever information they want to share.

Slide 4-6:

The Internet, in simplest terms, is the large group of millions of computers around the world that are all connected to one another. These computers are connected by phone lines, fiber optic lines, coaxial cable, satellites, and wireless connections.

When you log on to the Internet you are given access to many of the other computers that are connected around the world.

It was originally developed by the US Government to improve communication between its military computers.

Slide 7:

What does the Internet include?

It includes:

- The World Wide Web
- The electronic mail
- Social networking
- File transfers
- News groups

Slide 8:

So the Internet and the World Wide Web are not the same? So what is the WWW? And what is the difference?

Slide 9:

The Internet is a global system of interconnected computer networks.

In contrast, the Web is one of the services that runs on the Internet. It is a collection of interconnected documents and other resources, linked by hyperlinks and URLs. In short, the Web is an application running on the Internet.

The World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) was founded by Tim Berners-Lee after he left the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) in October, 1994. It was founded at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Laboratory for Computer Science (MIT/LCS) with

support from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA)—which had pioneered the Internet—and the European Commission. By the end of 1994, while the total number of websites was still minute compared to present standards, quite a number of notable websites were already active, many of whom are the precursors or inspiration for today's most popular services.

Slide 10-11:

So how do these websites work?

You see a webpage is created and then another is created and they are joined together by a hyperlink.

A hyperlink is a graphic or a piece of text in an Internet document that can connect readers to another webpage, or another portion of a document. Web users will usually find at least one hyperlink on every webpage. The most simple form of these is called embedded text or an embedded link.

In this instance, a hyperlink will show up as a single word or group of words that will usually be marked as underlined, and are frequently blue in color. Clicking on the hyperlink may take one to another part of the page, or it may open another Internet page.

In this way a lot of information is generated by multiple sources and is carefully organized in the form of files and web pages, which, when grouped together form a single entity, a website.

Slide 12-13:

So how do we get the internet in our houses?

In a standard home connection, all you need is a computer and a device called the modem and an Internet Service Provider (ISP). When these three are connected you get Internet in your house.

Slide 14-15:

Now in order to read all the web pages, we need web browsers.

We won't get into software here – the purpose of discussing this is the fact that internet use all over the world is increasing. It is becoming a wired, wired world.

Slide 16-18:

Let's take a look at what things the Internet is used for?

If we look at this chart (slide 17) we can see that many diverse activities are being carried out through the Internet with the Browsing, work related activities and communication being on top.

Then it is widely used for school work.

So the three main areas that Internet is widely used for are:

- Getting Information
- Sharing information
- Social networking

Slide 19-20:

Getting information from the Internet can be very overwhelming. It is like taking a drink from a fire hydrant. There is so much out there and it can easily overpower you if you are not careful.

Slide 21-22:

Since people get information they also want to share it. Since this is the age of technology the technologically advanced countries have more and more of Internet usage with China, USA and Japan being the top 3 users. By the way these statistics are of December 2008 so they must be different now but we get the idea that more and more people are using the internet for various reasons.

Slide 23:

Even in our own country, Pakistan, it is estimated that 3.5 million people use Internet.

Slide 24-27:

Since the use of this tool is becoming so common so we need to see how we can use this thing in order to get the best out of it.

Most important of all we need to realize that Internet users are people. Just like we have rules for engagement with real live people when we meet them face to face, similarly we need to be mindful when we interact with them in cyberspace.

Do you agree that we should have some kind of rules?

Yes, of course we do. In order to get the best out of anything we need to have rules and directions. Just like games also have to have rules so that people can understand what they are supposed to do while playing. Similarly there should be guidelines and rules for the usage of Internet because we are all people whether we are off on online.

Slide 28:

Above all we need to realize that the cyberspace may feel like something very manmade but Allah (swt) is the Lord of cyberspace too. He is Rabb ul Aalameen. (Surah Al-Fatiha: verse 2) Lord and Master of all kinds of aalameen, those that have been created by Him directly and those

that are created by His creations. Every aalam belongs to Him and He is watching us everywhere.

Slide 29:

Now let us analyse our own activities on the net. Let's analyze what we SAY all day long when we are chatting and texting – what does our speech consist of? Do we talk about other people? Yes we do.


So since we talk with our fingers instead of our mouths doesn't mean that we can get away with it. We can now write what we cannot say. No! In fact I would say we need to be more careful and more mindful of our speech limitations when communicating in cyberspace. Because you see when you are sitting on a computer all alone in a tucked away corner of your room or wherever, it gives you a wrong sense of being completely alone. Speaking for myself I know that I am better at writing than talking and hence I feel that I can express myself better when I am writing and that has made me realize that I can also get carried away when writing. It is very easy to give in to the temptation of writing something in the virtual world as compared to saying it on the face of somebody. It gives you a false sense of security that no one is looking and no one will find out.


Slide 30:

This false sense of not being watched can also give rise to a very dangerous trait which is pretending to be someone you are not. People create beautiful profiles with beautiful pictures but who knows if that is true.

The Prophet ﷺ said: **"The one who pretends that he has been given what he has not been given, is just like the (false) one who wears two garments of falsehood"**¹

And what is this attitude? It is nothing but lying and lying is the root of hypocrisy.

¹ Reported by Al-Bukhâri (hadith 9/317) in the chapter of "Marriage" on boasting about what one does not have and what is forbidden of the boasting of a co-wife, Muslim (hadith 14/110) in the chapter of "Garments" concerning the prohibition of wearing the garment of falsehood, Abu Dâwûd (hadith 5/269) in the chapter of "Manners" concerning boasting about what one does not have, from the hadith of Asmâ' Bint Abu Bakr . The meaning of the hadith according to scholars is: "Someone who affects what he has not and tries to show it to people and beautify himself by falsehood, so he is condemnable as is condemned the one who wears two garments of falsehood" [(Sharh Muslim by An-Nawawi) (14/110)].

Ibn Hajar said in "Al-Fath"(9/318)" The Prophet  used (two garments) in order to say that the person who pretends these things has doubly lied; he lied to himself by something he has not taken and to others by something he has not been given, as a false witness, he commits an injustice toward himself and toward others by his false witness" .

It was narrated from Abu Hurayrah that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: **“The signs of the hypocrite are three: when he speaks, he lies; when he makes a promise, he breaks it; and when he is entrusted with something, he betrays that trust.”**

(Narrated by al-Bukhari, 33; Muslim, 59)

Slide 31:

It is because of this false sense of security and ease that cyberbullying is becoming very common. Do you know what is cyberbullying?

Cyberbullying is the use of the Internet and related technologies to harm other people, in a deliberate, repeated, and hostile manner. The intent is to intimidate, control, manipulate, put down, falsely discredit, or humiliate the recipient. The effects are of course just as detrimental as face to face bullying. In some cases it can be worse because you may or may not know who is bullying you. A cyberbully may be a person whom the target knows or an online stranger. A cyberbully may be anonymous and may solicit involvement of other people online who do not even know the target. This is known as a 'digital pile-on'. This can get very disturbing and can drive one up the wall.

According to research, boys initiate mean online activity earlier than girls do. Whether the bully is male or female, his or her purpose is to intentionally embarrass others, harass, intimidate, or make threats online to one another. This bullying occurs via email, text messaging, posts to blogs, and web sites.

The National Crime Prevention Association lists tactics often used by teen cyberbullies.

- Pretend they are other people online to trick others
- Spread lies and rumors about victims
- Trick people into revealing personal information
- Send or forward mean text messages
- Post pictures of victims without their consent

Studies in the psychosocial effects of cyberspace have begun to monitor the impacts cyberbullying may have on the victims, and the consequences it may lead to. Consequences of cyberbullying are multi-faceted, and affect online and offline behavior. The Journal of Psychosocial Research on Cyberspace abstract reports critical impacts in almost all of the respondents taking the form of lower self-esteem, loneliness, disillusionment, and distrust of people. They experience a variety of emotional responses like retaliating, being scared, frustrated, angry, and depressed. One of the most damaging effects is that a victim begins to avoid friends and activities, often the very intention of the cyber-bully, and suffers alone. This can lead to very dangerous outcomes like self-harm. In the USA children have killed each other and committed suicide after having been involved in a cyberbullying incident.

Most of these bullyings are carried out on social networks like facebook, twitter etc. A lot of bullying and nastiness goes on these sites. Teenage girls are mean enough to each other at school - now they can facebook all their comments for everyone to read and once it's in print, everyone

believes it and repeats it with no thought to if it makes sense, to whether something could have actually happened, etc. It's a free-for-all. There is no stopping the use of foul language, back-biting, the lies, the slandering.

Slide 31-32:

So you see cyberbullying effects real lives. Be part of the solution and not the problem.

Slide 33:

Narrated Jabir ibn Abdullah: The Messenger of Allah, peace be upon him, said, **“Guard yourself from oppression, for oppression will be darkness on the Day of Resurrection. Guard yourself from greed, for greed destroyed those before you. It caused them to shed blood and to make lawful what was unlawful.”**

[Sahih Muslim, Book 32, Number 6248]

Slide 34-35:

Respect other people's privacy. Don't stalk people on facebook or other such sites. Do not put up pictures of other people without taking their permission. Never indulge or condone hacking. It may seem like a joke or fun but think about how you would feel if you were the victim.

Slide 36:

On the other hand, please be very careful of what you post on your facebook account. Ask yourself: do you really need to post your picture in all kind of poses? Does anyone need to know when you went to the bathroom and what colour underwear you are wearing?

Think before you post because once posted it is out of your hand and control. You don't know who will look at it and what kind of things they can do if they have some perversion in their minds.

Be very conscious of your personal space and keep your level of Haya high. Refrain from provocative poses like pouting lips even just for fun. They give a very wrong message about you. Don't display yourself to others lest someone who has a disease in his heart should get tempted and that's how cyberbullying and stalking often starts.

Slide 37:

Copying pasting other people's work seems a lot easier and more fun than doing all the hard work yourself. At the end of the day however, you have neither learnt anything nor developed any new skills or gained any new experiences. At the end of the day the only loser is YOU!

Slide 38-39:

Responsible use of the Internet is very important otherwise the world wide web can easily turn into wired world woes. Beware of the really bad black holes on the net as these just suck you in.

Slide 40-42:

You also need to realize that Internet is a very addictive thing. We tend to spend a lot of time browsing and staying connected to our email, Facebook, and Twitter accounts. And time is our most valuable resource given to us by Allah (swt). Free time is a blessing – and we will be questioned by Allah swt as to what we did with the blessings He gave us (Surah At Takathur).

Ibn Abbas (ra) reports that Rasulullah (pbuh)said: **There are two bounties of Allah wherein most people are deceived, health and free time. [Bukhari]**

Slide 43-47:

Spending too much time on our gadgets reduces life to the size of a small screen and we are disconnected with real world. This causes us to disconnect from our teachers, friends, and multitude of three-dimensional realities surrounding us.

The Internet could change the lives of average citizens as much as did the telephone in the early part of the 20th century and television in the 1950s and 1960s. Researchers and social critics are debating whether the Internet is improving or harming participation in community life and social relationships. This research examined the social and psychological impact of the Internet on 169 people in 73 households during their first 1 to 2 years on-line. We used longitudinal data to examine the effects of the Internet on social involvement and psychological well-being. In this sample, the Internet was used extensively for communication. Nonetheless, greater use of the Internet was associated with declines in participants' communication with family members in the household, declines in the size of their social circle, and increases in their depression and loneliness. These findings have implications for research, for public policy and for the design of technology.

Slide 48-49:

One also needs to be very careful about picking up information from the Internet because not everything written is reliable and true. Since it is so easy for every Tom, Dick and Harry to post anything on the net so it is very difficult to establish the authenticity of each and every statement. So you never know you just might end up with unbeneficial and unauthentic material. Moreover, a lot of harmful and unmodest material is also easily available which corrupts one's heart and mind.

Slide 50-53:

So treat the internet as a tool not your life. Rid yourself of the 'I have to check my account' mentality. Understand that the internet is an excellent tool for academic research and also a great place for entertainment and socializing but NEVER a substitute for the real world. Disconnect as much as possible. Monitor and limit your online time. Use your time wisely. Spend it with real people. Give time to your grandparents, your aunts and uncles, your parents and siblings. Instead of looking after a virtual pet, get a real one.

Slide 54-55:

Be conscious of your manners and etiquettes and your moral responsibilities. Above all know that Allah (swt) watches us all the time so it is crucial to play it safe.

May Allah (swt) guide us all to the right path, aameen.

(Du'a for end of a gathering) *SubhanaRabbikaRabbulIzzati 'ammayasifunwasalamun
'alalmursaleen, walhamdulillahiRabbil 'alameen*

(Parting salutation to students) *AssalamalaikumwarahmatullahiwaBarakatuh*
