

Internet and the Modern World

By PersiansAreNotArabs.com, July 2015

We all know about the benefits of the Internet in our everyday life; however, we see its negative effects on our personal life, family, culture, and relationships and social behavior.

Relationships

The Internet has changed the way of communicating and contacting with friends, as well as with colleagues in the workplace. For expressing our feelings, for instance, the three letters “lol” are enough to represent a loud laughter and share our happiness or laughter digitally.

Speed

A quick, easy access to information and communication has enhanced the level of expectations and standards in a way that the culture of being in a hurry is formed in our personality by being accustomed to high speed. As the statistics has indicated, most people leave the page if a video does not start playing online in the first two seconds. This easy access has reduced the level of response time tolerance in a way that most people become annoyed if they do not receive a quick response, or it can even sometimes cause anxiety in them.

Friendship

The Internet has changed friendships, has brought the past to the present, and has recorded the past events so that many people must still be responsible at present. Real and virtual friends are established in a way that deleting them and avoiding their events and private personal lives have almost become impossible.

Competition

Easy access to photos of our contacts has caused more comparison and competition. Despite being aware of the fact that photos record only the joyful moments of life and do not depict the real view of life and its problems, we compare ourselves with others unconsciously, distance ourselves from the reality of our lives by focusing on others' lives and replace the calmness and comfort of our loved ones and ourselves with despondency and chagrin as time passes by.

Power

The Internet has empowered people, their thoughts, and voices. They could make a profile of themselves, different from their reality, by sharing their photos and films. The creation of pseudo-jobs, such as bloggers, counselors, motivational, body builders, etc. is also easy. These jobs are usually without

credentials, certifications, authorizations, and enough experiences; however, they have many fans and followers around the world.

Another Definition

So let us change our definition of friendship for the friendship world has changed its form these days. We are uninformed of our neighbor, whereas we are informed of the strangers on the other side of the world. Our socialization and recreation is limited to the virtual world without the actual presence of real friends. Receiving the world news is also different. We do not seek only the news on the celebrities' lives; the personal lives of those who became famous due to any reason or have formed interesting virtual characters in people's minds is more attractive to us. We are so sunk in the useless events that we have forgotten about our issues and see the value of our lives and ourselves in a "like" or nice comment from others.

Travel

Traveling has lost its meaning. Domestic travels are no longer considered because going to the North or other countries are not very noticeable compared to the shared photos of our friends and Instagram users all over the world. People are focused on recording and sharing their travels in the virtual world more than enjoying their trip. A part of the joy of being with one's friends and relatives and traveling is transferred to sharing the facade of our joy with friends virtually, albeit unreal.

Marriage

Although the Internet has facilitated accessing people and provided the conditions of getting to know people, it has made selecting and decision-making more difficult due to the existence of more, better options. The emergence of rapid emotional relationships and false, temporary, and superficial romances have changed both the procedure of marriage and values and caused insecurity in marital relationships. The foundations of marital life and relations (the humanness, love, trust, respect, kindness, patience, and forgiveness) are fainter in our modern world.

Mismatched marriages in social, cultural, financial, religious, and academic respects have become more frequent despite modernization to which the Internet has greatly contributed. These mismatches might be the reasons for unsuccessful marital life and even divorces.

Plastic Surgery

According to a report by New Media Trend Watch, almost 1 billion people use social networks all over the world. More than half of them use it more than once daily. According to experts, the popularity of these social networks has not only affected parenting, but also it has increased the cases of plastic surgery and caused even new indexes for these surgeries.

It is worth knowing why the number of these surgeries has increased greatly.

Presenting their photos in the virtual environment, people decide on their face and body regarding positive or negative viewpoints. They turn to plastic surgeries of breasts, stomach, nose, skin, and so

injection in different body parts to become desirable and standard according to social networks, unaware of the fact that these surgeries and changes are irreversible and might be accompanied by some serious complications, in some cases, endangering one's life.

Concentration

Rapid, massive information flow has caused us to be more sensitive to delay on a daily basis. It has also influenced the concentration power and long-term memory and has led the mind to short-term immediate decisions. People's effectiveness and efficiency are also decreased in every field due to the very lack of concentration.

Privacy

People's private and occupational lives and their privacy are influenced by this modernization in a way that if they do not want to enter this virtual domain, their friends have already disrespected their privacy by sharing photos and other information. It has also caused people to behave in another way and be more careful about their behavior, speech and writing, which is a factor to change our culture.

Conclusion

We must mention two points in response: awareness and management; of course a different unique form for each individual without any special common formula.

The management of personal life must be strengthened and practiced regarding the rapid changes around us. Since we cannot or do not want to prevent these changes, we must adapt to the modern world and try to be concentrated on our main purposes in order not to swerve from the course of action. These factors only cause swerves which can distance us increasingly from our main purposes considering the high speed of life. We must, therefore, firstly identify ourselves and be aware of our weaknesses, secondly be aware of changes and their underlying reasons and roots, and then recognize ways to encounter them as much as possible. It is recommended, finally, to focus on positive points to benefit from these changes. Quick adaptation to the modern world environment, practicing not to continuously compare, focusing on the niceties of every life span everywhere under every conditions, and changing the negative effects on ourselves is what we should all practice.

Another world

Everyday Internet need and use has become addictive in a way that its inaccessibility causes loss of comfort, and lack of relationship with friends in the virtual environment might cause depression if it lasts more than a certain amount of time.

More than 230 million tweets are sent per day.

More than 800 million Facebook updates occur.

Four billion people watch videos on YouTube per day.

More than 1 billion searches are done only on Google per day.

The video sharing website, YouTube, is viewed 4 billion times per day.

More than 60 hours of videos are uploaded on YouTube per minute.

The average hours spent by the Internet users is 16 hours per month worldwide: 22% on social networks;

21% on searching;

20% on reading materials;

19% on e-mail and communications;

13% on media websites;

and 5% on online shopping.

Now we ask: “Our world has changed, hasn’t it? Is it possible to live or even think as in the past or we must change and adapt to the new world?”

Some other disadvantages are also presented in brief:

Disadvantages

1. Wrong, misleading information.
2. Easy access to deluding contents and websites which might be dangerous to some groups.
3. The addictiveness of the Internet causing some people to surf various interesting websites for continuous hours.
4. Physical complications caused by the addiction to the Internet and the lack of movement among children and the youth, excessive excitements and the resulting stress, the impatience and social problems resulting from poor socialization.
5. Falling victim to vast advertisements of all digital and online media.
6. Facilitation of cheating ways and presentation of others’ ideas and thoughts or online frauds and presentation of fake products.
7. The high speed of the digital world has caused some deficiencies in people’s concentration and deep thinking.
8. The possibility of personal data theft and its resulting complications.
9. The possibility of heavy economic losses due to Internet failure caused by electric outage or viruses.
10. Heavy damages to the literature due to the usage of codes and signs instead of beautiful and rhythmic sentences, even in online conversations.
11. The decreased friendship value because of easy and excessive access.
12. Addiction to “like”s and dopamine excretion.
13. The emptiness of today’s lives.
14. Sinking in the virtual world and distancing from the real one.
15. Losing contact with the nature.