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Navigating the Cyber-Moral Landscape: Understanding and Combating Cyber Bullying through an Islamic Lens

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ABSTRACT

The widespread use of the internet has had a significant impact on society, opening doors in a variety of fields and putting people at risk of cybercrime. The widespread prevalence of cyber bullying can be attributed to the anonymity and ease of access provided by internet platforms. This paper explores cyber bullying from an Islamic perspective, examining its prevalence, causes, effects, and compatibility with Islamic teachings. Unlike traditional bullying, cyber bullying—which is characterised as intentional, persistent, and hostile behaviour using digital communication technology to damage others—presents different kinds of difficulties. It frequently entails unequal power dynamics, anonymity, and a large audience, which can cause psychological, emotional, and physical harm to both the victims and the offenders.

Cyber bullying is prohibited in Islam because it goes against the core values of justice, compassion, and respect. Hadiths and verses from the Quran forbid making fun of, insulting, or causing harm to others; they also stress the value of empathy, integrity, and defending one's own rights. Through the cultivation of taqwa, or awareness of God, and the emulation of the virtues of reliability and kindness, Muslims can lessen the incidence of cyber bullying and promote a more peaceful virtual community. Islamic principles, which place a strong emphasis on responsibility, kindness, and respect in all human relationships, are incompatible with cyber bullying. Individuals may combat cyber bullying and advance an online community characterised by empathy, integrity, and respect by adhering to these ideals.

Keywords: Bullying, Cyber bullying, Magnitude, Causes, Effects, Islam.

I. INTRODUCTION

The role of the internet's global significance has enhanced and its impact is enormous. The impact of the internet is growing and has increased the opportunities for in almost all the fields, including sports, education, employment, entertainment, etc. The impact of digital

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space has played a vital role in individual's lives in today's 21st century. The digital space has both advantages and disadvantages. Every crime has its impact on the nation, society and the world. In the same way, the impact of cybercrimes on the society, nation, and individual is massive. Cybercrime is any illegal activity which is committed through a computer network, the internet.³ Cyber crime can be defined as any crime with the help of computer and telecommunication technology with the purpose of influencing the functioning of computer or computer system.⁴ Today's era has been shaped differently by technology, new age issues have emerged, and therefore it gave rise to cyber bullying also⁵. The word cyber bullying did not even exist a decade ago, yet the problem has become a pervasive one today. Cyber bullies do not have to be strong or fast; they just need access to a cell phone or computer and a desire to terrorize. Anyone can be a cyber bully, and such persons usually have few worries about having face-to-face confrontation with their victims. In fact, the anonymity of cyber bullying may cause students who normally would not bully in the tradition-sense to become a cyber bully.⁶

'Cyber bullying' is a term first used and defined by Canadian educator 'Bill Belsey' around the turn of the millennium. 'Belsey' defines it as *"the use of information and communication technologies to support deliberate, repeated, and hostile behaviour by an individual or group that is intended to harm others"*⁷

In simple words, cyber bullying is defined as an indirect way of bullying involving technology. Cyber bullying is also understood as *"using information and communication technologies (ICT) to repeatedly and intentionally harm, harass, hurt, and/or embarrass a target."* Others have defined it as *"an aggressive, intentional act carried out by a group or individual, using electronic forms of contact, repeatedly and overtime against a victim who cannot easily defend themselves."* According to another definition, it is understood as *"willful and repeated harm inflicted through computers, cell phones, or other electronic devices, or as "the use of electronic communication technologies to bully others."*⁸

While the internet has helped to better connect the world and democratize information, it has

³Shivani Reddy P, "Analytical Study on Cyber Crimes in India". Accessed on 03-03-24

⁴ Dr. R CMishra, "Cyber Crime impacts in the new millennium" p. 1 para 1

⁵ Asmita Sharma: "Cyberbullying: unraveling the motives of a cyberbully and its impact on the victim". The International Journal of Indian Psychology ISSN 2348-5396 (Online) | ISSN: 2349-3429 (Print) Volume 8, Issue 4, Oct- Dec, 2020

⁶ Charles E. Notar, et al., "Cyberbullying: A Review of the Literature" Universal Journal of Educational Research 1(1): 1-9, 2013

⁷ Surabhi Negi and Sunita Magre, "The E-demon of Cyberbullying among Teens". Available at <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/346952897>

⁸ Grover, Sandeep; Raju, V. Venkatesh, "Cyberbullying: A Narrative Review". Available at: https://journals.lww.com/mhbb/fulltext/2023/28010/cyberbullying__a_narrative_review.3.aspx Accessed on 04-03-24

also allowed people to hide behind anonymous masks. Teens are increasingly vulnerable to the internet's "faceless evil," particularly when it comes to cyber bullying. Despite recent increases in awareness campaigns, the cyber bullying facts and statistics show that the problem is far from over. E-mail, instant messaging, text messaging, social networking sites like Facebook or Tumbler, and other websites are used as platform to carry out these tasks.⁹

II. BULLYING AND CYBER BULLYING

Bullying is when people repeatedly and intentionally use words or actions against someone or a group of people to cause distress and risk to their wellbeing. These actions are usually done by people who have more influence or power over someone else, or who want to make someone else feel less powerful or helpless.¹⁰ In order to be considered bullying, the behavior must be aggressive and include:

- **An Imbalance of Power:** Kids who bully use their power—such as physical strength, access to embarrassing information, or popularity—to control or harm others. Power imbalances can change over time and in different situations, even if they involve the same people.
- **Repetition:** Bullying behaviors happen more than once or have the potential to happen more than once.¹¹

Cyber bullying is when bullies use the internet and social media and say things that they might not say in person. This can include sending mean texts, posting insults about someone on Twitter, or making rude comments on their Instagram pictures. Cyber bullies also might post personal information, pictures, or videos designed to hurt or embarrass someone else.¹²

Cyber bullying differs from traditional bullying in several key ways. Perhaps the most obvious is that it requires some degree of technical expertise – children who are not ‘plugged in’, either through computer, cell phone or video games, do not partake in cyber bullying, either as bullies or victims. Cyber bullying also provides anonymity to the bully not possible with traditional bullying. Because of this, bullies cannot see the reactions of their victims and studies have shown that they feel less remorse.¹³ Cyber bullying is opportunistic because it causes harm with no physical interaction, little planning and small chance of being caught.

⁹Rufa Mitsu, Eman Salah Dawood, “Cyberbullying: An Overview”. Accessed on 04-03-24.

¹⁰ “What is bullying?: Violence, harassment and bullying fact sheet”. Available at: <https://humanrights.gov.au/our-work/commission-general/what-bullying-violence-harassment-and-bullying-fact-sheet> Accessed on 05-03-24.

¹¹ “What is bullying”. Available at: <https://www.stopbullying.gov/bullying/what-is-bullying>. Accessed on 05-03-24

¹² “Dealing With Bullying”. Available at: <https://kidshealth.org/en/teens/bullies.html> Accessed on 06-03-24.

¹³ Erin Peebles, “Cyberbullying: Hiding behind the screen”. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4276384/>. Accessed on 06-03-24.

Cyber bullying can be more pervasive than traditional bullying. While traditional bullying is generally limited to school and home is a reprieve, victims of cyber bullying can be reached anywhere, anytime, and the potential audience is huge. Studies have also shown that there is a large amount of overlap among traditional bullying and cyber bullying behaviours. Children who act as cyber bullies report high rates of being a traditional bully, and are also traditional and cyber bully victims. Cyber bully victims report high rates of traditional victimization, but are also involved in traditional bullying and cyber bullying activities.¹⁴

Table 1: Difference between Bullying and Cyberbullying

Bullying	Cyber bullying
Physical (Harm to the victim and/or her/his property)	Happy beating (Record a physical assault on a person and spreading it on social networks)
Verbal (Insulting the victim)	Electronic insults (In public chats or via personal e-mails)
Social (By isolating the victim from group)	Harassment (Sending offensive messages on social networks) Denigration (Repeatedly broadcasting offensive messages/pictures on social networks) Disclosure and Hoax (Filtering of victim's compromised information on internet/social media sites) Cyber pursuit (Repeatedly sending threatening messages)
Psychological (Damaging the victim's self esteem/	Impersonation (Usurpation of the victim's identity on

¹⁴ Ibid

creating insecurity or fear)	internet/social media sites)
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III. TYPES OF CYBERBULLYING

With time, cyber bullying has evolved to take many forms. Here are some common types of cyber bullying:

- *Flaming*: Using hurtful language in emails, text messages, or chat rooms against an individual
- *Harassment*: Sending hurtful, hateful, and/or threatening messages.
- *Cyber stalking*: Following an individual online and sending emails or messages to scare, harm, or intimidate him
- *Exclusion*: Deliberately excluding an individual from a group and posting malicious comments/messages about her
- *Impersonation/masquerading*: Using a fake identity to damage an individual's reputation, and publicly sharing real or false information about him
- *Trolling*: Intentionally hurting an individual by posting insulting or inflammatory comments
- *Fraping*: Using an individual's social networking accounts to post inappropriate content to ruin her reputation.¹⁵

The most common places where cyber bullying occurs are:

- On Social Media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, and Tik Tok, whatsapp , v chat, skype etc.
- On Text messages and messaging apps on mobile or tablet devices
- Instant messaging, direct messaging, and online chatting over the internet
- Online forums, chat rooms, and message boards, such as Reddit
- Email
- Online gaming communities.¹⁶

¹⁵ "Cyberbullying: Laws and policies in India". Available at: <https://www.parentcircle.com/cyberbullying-laws-and-policies-in-india/article> Accessed on 14-07-24.

¹⁶ Shikha Bhatnagar, "Cyber Bullying: A brief Analysis". Available at: <https://www.legalserviceindia.com/legal/article-10150-cyber-bullying-a-brief-analysis.html> Accessed on 14-07-24.

IV. MAGNITUDE OF CYBER BULLYING

Around 85 per cent children in India have reported being cyber bullied and it is the highest in the world, according to a new survey released by global computer security firm *McAfee Corp.* The survey also noted that the number of Indian children reported to have cyber bullied someone is also twice the international average. Around 45 per cent children in India said they cyber bullied a stranger, compared to 17 per cent worldwide and 48 per cent said they cyber bullied someone they know, versus 21 per cent of kids in other countries.¹⁷ The survey also said Indian children faced the highest number of “extreme forms of cyber bullying” in the world that includes cases of racism, sexual harassment, and threats of physical harm.

As many as 36 per cent Indian children reported being trolled, 29 per cent said they faced personal attacks, 30 per cent suffered sexual harassment, 28 per cent had threats of personal harm and 23 per cent suffered doxing. All of these forms of cyber bullying, the survey noted, stood at double the global average.¹⁸

V. CAUSES OF CYBER BULLYING

The common causes of cyber bullying on the internet are listed below.

- **Desire for power and control:** Desire for power and control is the motivation to exert dominance or authority over others, and it can cause cyber bullying by driving individuals to use online platforms to manipulate, intimidate, and harm others, fulfilling their need for control and superiority in the virtual realm.
- **Revenge:** Revenge refers to seeking punishment for a perceived injustice or harm, and it can lead to cyber bullying when individuals use online platforms to harm, harass, or seek vengeance against someone they believe has wronged them, often without considering the repercussions of their actions.¹⁹
- **A Lack of Empathy:** Where technology has opened up space, it has also given the authority of stating any opinion, criticizing anyone while sitting at home. It is very easy to distance yourself from the intense situations over the internet by just shutting it down. That’s why people who don’t realize the level of pain that they have might

¹⁷ Sukriti Vats, “85% Indian kids have experienced cyberbullying, highest in the world, finds new survey”. Available at: <https://theprint.in/india/85-indian-kids-have-experienced-cyberbullying-highest-in-the-world-finds-new-survey/1074175/> Accessed on 07-03-24

¹⁸ Ibid

¹⁹ Dr. Harshi Dhingra and Ahmed Zayed, “Cyberbullying and internet addiction: causes, signs, and prevention”. Available at: <https://diamondrehabthailand.com/cyberbullying-and-internet-addiction/> Accessed on 06-03-24

cause to the other person are the ones who become bully. This makes them feel powerful.

- The Victim Deserves It:

The thought of having the authority to decide who deserves what is one of the main causes of cyber bullying. When it is about the school, the kids often feel that they should do something to make themselves feel superior. For this, they tend to discredit or bully other people to make them feel inferior. Somehow, they think that it is okay to bully others because of their status.²⁰

VI. EFFECTS OF CYBER BULLYING

Cyber bullying can also have adverse effects on those who witness it happening to someone else. They may feel scared, helpless, and sad. They may also have trouble sleeping and eating and may even develop anxiety and depression. Moreover the victims, as well as the bullies, may experience mental, emotional, physical, and psychological problems. Generally, cyber bullying can have psychological effects, physical effects, emotional effects, mental effects. The psychological effects of cyber bullying include low self-esteem, isolation and withdrawal, harmful habits. The physical effects of cyber bullying include headaches, stomach aches, sleeping problems. The mental effects include anxiety, loss of concentration, self-harm, suicidal thoughts. The emotional effects of cyber bullying include depression, shame, guilt, embarrassment.²¹

There are changes in behavior due to the effects of cyber bullying. The changes might not be readily apparent at first, but as time goes on, you may notice one or more of the following behavioral changes that can be strong indicators of cyber bullying.

- A drop in social behavior — avoiding friends or social events
- Isolating his or herself in their room more than usual
- Becoming more quiet or withdrawn
- Finding it hard to concentrate on schoolwork
- Grades dropping

²⁰ "WHAT ARE SOME TYPES AND CAUSE OF CYBERBULLYING?",

AVAILABLE AT: [HTTPS://WWW.SECURETEEN.COM/CYBERBULLYING/CAUSE-OF-CYBERBULLYING](https://www.secureteen.com/cyberbullying/cause-of-cyberbullying) ACCESSED ON 07-03-24

²¹ "Effects of cyber bullying". Available at: <https://socialmediavictims.org/cyberbullying/effects/> Accessed on 09-03-24

- Losing interest in activities that they normally enjoy
- Skipping school or expressing a desire to skip school
- Appearing angry when looking at their phone, tablet, or computer
- Hiding their phone or computer screen from view
- Avoiding using their phone
- Using drugs or alcohol
- Expressing dark thoughts or emotions
- Talking about suicide²²

VII. GENDER DIFFERENCE IN CYBER BULLYING

As far as gender differences in response to cyber bullying is concerned there is no uniform finding. Gender research differences in cyber bullying present inconsistent findings. Gender has been studied from 2007-2010 and some of the studies show that females are more likely to be victims of cyber-bullying. *Adams* (2010) found adolescent girls are more likely to have experienced cyber bullying than boys - 25.8% versus 16%, respectively. *Erdur-Baker* (2010) concluded that when compared to female students, male students were more likely to be bullies and victims in both physical and cyber environments. Cyber bullying is the main risk for females. Physical threats and aggression are more directed at males.²³

VIII. CYBER BULLYING AND INDIAN LAW

Although the rate of cyber bullying is increasing day by day in India, there lies no direct provision dealing with the same. There are some sections of the Information Technology Act, 2000 and IPC which deal with the punishment related to cyberbullying, as have been discussed hereunder:

- **Section 66 A of the Information Technology Act, 2000**

This section deals with the punishment for sending messages or emails which are harmful or abusive in nature through the internet or any other platform. These messages are sent to cause annoyance, injury, and inconvenience to the victim. It is also punishable under the provision when someone shares information that he believes to be false.

²² "What are the effects of cyberbullying?" Available at: <https://www.kaspersky.com/resource-center/preemptive-safety/cyberbullying-effects> Accessed on 14-07-24.

²³ Rakesh Chandra, "Cyberbullying And Indian Legal Regime: An Overview". Available at: <https://www.coursehero.com/file/236399696/Rakesh-Chadrapdf/> Accessed on 14-07-24.

Punishment under this section is 3 years of imprisonment, if the message sent was found grossly offensive. However, this provision was struck down by the Apex Court as it was declared unconstitutional in 2015 in the Shreya Singhal case, for the purpose of violating the freedom of speech.

- **Section 66 C of the Information Technology Act, 2000**

This provision deals with the punishment for using electronic signature, password or any other identification feature of any other person dishonestly or fraudulently. A person is punishable under this provision up to 3 years of imprisonment or a fine up to one lakh rupees for identity theft.

- **Sec 66 D of the Information Technology Act, 2000**

An individual who cheats by personation using any social media or communication device is punished under this provision. It means a person is typically punished for fraudulently pretending to be some other person.²⁴

- **Sec 66 E of the Information Technology Act, 2000**

This provision was added in the Information Technology (Amendment) Act, 2008. It reduces the gender bias which was made in Section 354 C of the Indian Penal Code, 1860. This provision provides protection to both men and women. This provision specifically deals with privacy with respect to one's body parts. It is punishable to capture (any video, image, film or record through any means) publish, (that is available to the public) or to transmit an image film or video recorded that has been sent in such a way that it can be viewed by person or persons without the consent of the person, violating his or her privacy. This section covers two circumstances that would amount to a violation of the privacy of that person.

- **Section 67 of the Information Technology Act, 2000:**

Under this provision, publishing or transmitting any material which is obscene in nature and if such material tends corrupt people to read, hear or see the material, it would be considered as an offence. It means such material raises lustful thoughts in the person. The person committing offence under section 67 will be punished with imprisonment which may extend up to 3 years and fine up to 5 lakh rupees and on subsequent conviction the imprisonment may extend up to 5 years and of fine 10 lakh rupees.²⁵

²⁴ "Overview of concept of cyber bullying in India". Available at: <https://blog.iplayers.in/overview-of-concept-of-cyber-bullying-in-india/>. Accessed on 27-01-23.

²⁵ *ibid*

“*The Indian Penal Code (IPC)*²⁶ is India’s official criminal code.” The statute imposes penalties for unlawful offences, and there are no explicit laws against cyber bullying. However, several parts may be utilized for offences that are a component of bullying but are not expressly cyber bullying.

Section 507²⁷: Someone who instills fear, threatens or coerces someone by doing something against their will secretly risks up to two years in jail. Due to the significance of the term Anonymous, it is also classified as an anti-bullying or cyber bullying offence.

Section 354(C)²⁸: Taking photos of women against their agreement, or checking up over them while they believe they are alone, or when they are engaged in their actions and do not want anybody else to view them, is punishable by a fine and imprisonment for one to three years on the first conviction. If the behaviour persists after being penalised, the sentence will be increased to 3 to 7 years in jail or more. If the cyber bully posts these photos, he may be penalized under this provision.

Section 354(D)²⁹: Anyone convicted of spying, monitoring other’s activity, locations, and everyday lives on the internet against their consent with the intent to harass or injure that person, is considered as cyber bullying and faces a maximum sentence of three years in prison.

Section 499³⁰: This section penalizes those who send derogatory communications to anybody, whether through email or another channel, as well as the internet; if performed on social media platforms, may be deemed to be cyber bullying, and will have an on victim’s mental state.³¹

Cyber crime does not recognize national borders. More than 30 countries have separate laws in their statute books to check this menace. During the year 2000, the Indian government succeeded in getting the Information Technology (IT) Act passed by parliament.³² The Indian penal code (now BNS,2023) is so well drafted that offences not listed in the IT Act,2000 right now can still be tackled through it, till such time we are convinced that the IT Act needs to be recast in order to cope with the expanding contours of cyber crime. We may also have to

²⁶ Now Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) 2023.

²⁷ Now Section 351 of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) 2023

²⁸ Now Section 77 of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) 2023.

²⁹ Now Section 78 of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) 2023.

³⁰ Now Section 356 of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) 2023.

³¹ “Cyberbullying Laws”. Available at: <https://jlrjs.com/cyberbullying-laws/> Accessed on 14-07-24.

³² Dr. R C Mishra, “Cyber Crime: Impacts in the new millennium”, p. 275 para 2.

examine whether we need more than one enactment.³³

IX. INITIATIVES TAKEN BY THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT

- Cybercrime prevention against women and children scheme (CCPWC Scheme): Under this scheme, various units are established to analyse cybercrime reports and investigations related to cybercrimes. These units are also responsible for reporting cyber bullying with the aim to prevent cybercrime. Under this financial assistance has been provided to all states and UTs for implementing the schemes. The portal cybercrime.gov.in will receive complaints from the citizens on objectionable online content related to child pornography, child sexual abuse material, and sexually explicit material like rape and gang rape. CCPWC portal will facilitate victims/complainants to report cybercrime complaints online in either anonymous mode or 'report & track' mode.
- Indian cyber crime coordination centre scheme: This scheme focuses especially on women and children victims and issues faced on online media. It also creates awareness among youth about cybercrime. It deals with all kinds of cybercrimes in a comprehensive manner. It has various components, namely, National Cybercrime Reporting Portal, National Cybercrime Threat Analytics Unit, Joint Cybercrime Investigative Team Group, National Cybercrime Forensic Laboratory Ecosystem, National Cybercrime Training Centre, Management Unit of Cybercrime Ecosystem, National Cyber Research and Innovation Centre.³⁴
- Helpline numbers: Various helpline numbers are also set up for tackling the problem of cyber bullying. Complaints on numbers like **1800-180-5522** are promptly forwarded to the authorities.
- The Nirbhaya Fund Scheme: This fund has been set up by the Indian Government for the safety and security of women and children. The Ministry of Home Affairs has also generated a single number to cope up with the emergency. This is under the Emergency response support system (ERSS).
- National Database on Sexual Offences (NDSO): It was launched to provide assistance in monitoring & investigation of sexual crimes. NDSO portal will only be

³³ Ibid at p.276 para 4.

³⁴ "Overview of concept of cyber bullying in India." Available at: <https://blog.ipleaders.in/overview-of-concept-of-cyber-bullying-in-india/>. Accessed on 27-01-23.

accessed by law enforcement agencies to effectively track and investigate cases of sexual offences.³⁵

X. CYBER BULLYING AND ISLAM

Cyber bullying is an abusive behavior that is condemned by all divine religions, and human nature denies it. Because it is an image of domination and social tyranny, and the one who does it departs from his humanity to the behavior of ferocious animals. However, since Islamic law directly forbids aggression and harm, it can be said that all forms of bullying known by this name, including cyber bullying, are prohibited in Islamic law. We infer this prohibition with evidences extracted from the *Qur'anic* verses, the *hadiths* (speeches) of the Prophet, as well as some contemporary fatwas.³⁶

Some *Quranic* verses clearly and explicitly forbid mocking and insulting others, either by word or deed. One of these verses is the Almighty's saying: "*O you who have believed, let not a people ridicule [another] people; perhaps they may be better than them; nor let women ridicule [other] women; perhaps they may be better than them. And do not insult one another and do not call each other by [offensive] nicknames. Wretched is the name of disobedience after [one's] faith. And whoever does not repent - then it is those who are the wrongdoers*" (al-hujuraat:11).³⁷ The act of cyber bullying requires an element of lying as the core to capture people's attention. Most of these behaviours lead to falsification of information, since the facts and made-up stories get jumbled up. From the Islamic perspective, the act of making up something is strictly prohibited and deemed as a huge sin. In fact, the perpetrators are also warned with severe punishment in the hereafter. The acts of trolling that often occur happen on social media target influential individuals (public figures) in society in to disparage and bring down the reputation of the individuals so that they lose respect from the society. This act is strictly prohibited in Islam because this has do to with shame and honour, which shall be the boundary of every human's social interaction. Islam forbids any acts of hurting, insulting, humiliating and slandering others, let alone using despicable and vile words as is often the case in social media today.³⁸ Islam provides clear guideline in relation to human social interaction and relation. This general principle are called *Daruriyyat al Khamsah* that necessitates every single Muslim to protect his religion (deen), life (nafs), reason or intellect

³⁵ ibid

³⁶ Dr. Ahmad Mohamad Alomar, Dr. Hassan Sami Alabady, "*The Phenomenon of Cyber Bullying: Interpretation, Confrontation, and the Position of Islamic Law*". Accessed on 11-03-24.

³⁷ Ibid

³⁸ Mohammad Fahmi Abdul Hamid, et al, "*Cyberbullying in Digital Media: An Islamic Perspective*". Accessed on 11-03-24

(Aql), lineage (Nasl) and property (Mal). Protection of these principles will bring peace in human society including peace within individual, family and community at large. Any act of disturbance other's right through email, or messages are prohibited. As the *Prophet* (pbuh) mentions "*The Muslim is one from whose tongue and hand other Muslims are safe. The emigrant is one who abandons those things God has prohibited*" (Al-Bukhari). This *hadith* clearly describe who true Muslims are. They are people of safety and trust, so much so that other Muslims can turn their backs on them without doubt or suspicion. They can entrust a family member to such people without fear, for that person will be absolutely safe from the Muslims' hand or tongue. If they attend or associate with other fellow men in a gathering or meeting, the person can leave in full confidence that no one will gossip about him or her, and neither will he or she have to listen to gossip about others. They even do not live; but they enable others to live and will provide full supports for them as part of Muslim's duty. They will even sacrifice spiritual pleasure for others. These characteristics distinguish those whose act are vice-versa including attacking other's right and have no sensitive to the dignity and honor of other people. So there is no place for cyber bullying within this context since it contradict to positive values mentioned and provided by Islam.³⁹

People have strong *iman* and *taqwa* that they bring it with them when using cyber technology. They feel that Allah is always watching them that they don't dare to do bad deeds even in cyber. Cyber is a new technology that didn't exist when Rasulullah S.A.W or the prophets before him spread the teachings of the oneness of Allah. There is no law existed in the Quran about the usage of Internet or the guide of using it. Only faith and *taqwa* in our heart can guide us to use cyber technology in a good way. By having fear of Allah, one wouldn't do any bad deeds to other people even if he knows that others won't know him. But Allah is always watching what we do. He is the all-knowing of what we even think in our heart. By implementing that in our heart, we will surely avoid in improper thing online. When our heart is pure, our intention in doing anything will all be redirected to Allah. We surely wouldn't redirect our bad intention to Allah, and that will prevent us from doing bad deeds in cyber.⁴⁰

XI. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, it is impossible to overestimate the internet's significant influence on a range of societal issues, such as sports, education, and entertainment. But despite all of its advantages, cyberspace has also given rise to cybercrime, especially cyber bullying, which presents serious problems for people all over the world. Thanks to the anonymity and accessibility of

³⁹ Che Hasniza Che Noh, "*Cyber bullying: A general islamic outlook and response*". Accessed on 12-03-24

⁴⁰ Dr. Md Yousuf Ali, "*Ethics In Cyber In Islam*". Accessed on 10-03-24.

online platforms, cyber bullying has spread throughout society and now affects people of all ages, with negative consequences for both witnesses and victims.

The use of technology and the anonymity it offers distinguishes cyber bullying from conventional bullying, which makes cyber bullying more opportunistic and widespread. Alarming statistics and polls show that cyber bullying persists despite greater awareness, particularly in places like India.

Cyber bullying is caused by a number of things, such as the need for vengeance, a lack of empathy, a desire for power and control, and the conviction that the victim deserves to be mistreated. These incentives frequently lead people to participate in hazardous online behaviour, which has detrimental effects on the mental, emotional, and physical health of victims.

Cyber bullying is categorically forbidden from an Islamic standpoint since it violates the values of justice, compassion, and respect. Islamic teachings place a strong emphasis on upholding people's rights and dignity as well as fostering social harmony and peace. Faith and taqwa, or "God-consciousness," remind people of their responsibility to a higher force and act as a guide for moral behaviour even in the virtual world.

In the end, stopping cyber bullying necessitates a multipronged strategy that includes awareness-raising, education, and the application of legal restrictions. We can protect the ideals of kindness, respect, and compassion in our globalised society and build safer online spaces by encouraging empathy, advancing digital literacy, and adhering to ethical norms.
