

SMART PHONES: BETWEEN GOODNESS AND VILLAINY

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LEMU DAWAH WORKSHOP DECEMBER 7, 2025

1. INTRODUCTION

Blessings of Allah in speaking and hearing

“Say (O Muhammad!): What do you think? If Allah should take away your hearing and your sight and seal your hearts – who is the god, other than Allah, who could restore them to you? Behold, how We put forth Our signs in diverse forms, and yet they turn away from them.” Qur'an 6:46

“Say, ‘O Prophet, ‘ ‘He is the One Who brought you into being and gave you hearing, sight, and intellect. ‘ ‘Yet’ you hardly give any thanks.” Qur'an 67:23

2. COMMUNICATION IN THE PAST

~Prophet Sulaiman and the ant

Q 27 V 18

“Until, when they came(reach) to the valley of the ants, one of the ants said: “O ants Enter your dwellings, let not Sulaiman and his hosts crush you, while they perceive not.”

~Prophet Sulaiman and Hoopoe

Q 27 V 20 – 27

“He inspected the birds, and said: What is the matter that I see not the Hoopoe or is he among the absentees? “I will surely punish him with a severe torment or slaughter him, unless he brings me a clear reason” “But the hoopoe stayed not long, he said: ‘I have grasped which you have not grasped and I have come to you from Saba’ with true news.” “I found a woman ruling over them, she has been given all things that could be possessed by any ruler of the earth, and she has a great throne.” “I found her and her people worshiping the sun instead of Allah, and shaitan (satan) has made their deeds fair-seeming to them, and has barred them from (Allah’s) way, so they have no guidance.” “Shaitan (Satan) has barred them from Allah’s way so they do not worship Allah who brings to light what is hidden in the heavens and the earth, and knows what you conceal and what you reveal.” “Allah (None has the right to be worshipped but He, the Lord of the Supreme Throne.” “Sulaiman Said: we shall see if you speak the truth or you are of liars.”

3. MODERN COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (Digital Technologies)

Introduction

ابْتَغِ فِيمَا آتَاكَ اللَّهُ الدَّارَ الْآخِرَةَ ۖ وَلَا تَنْسَ نَصِيبِكَ مِنَ الدُّنْيَا ۖ وَأَحْسِنْ كَمَا أَحْسَنَ اللَّهُ إِلَيْكَ ۖ وَلَا تَبْغِ الْفَسَادَ فِي

الْأَرْضِ ۖ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُحِبُّ الْمُفْسِدِينَ)

;But seek, through that which Allah has given you, the home of the Hereafter“ and [yet], do not forget your share of the world. And do good as Allah has done good to you. And desire not corruption in the land. Indeed, Allah does not like (28:77 corrupters” (Qur'an

4. GOOD USES OF THE SMART PHONES

- i. Communication and information
- ii. Marketing
- iii. Learning (digital learning, skills acquisition, Islamic learning)
- iv. Researching
- v. Schooling (Islamic online university, National Open University, Distance Learning)
- vi. Planning
- vii. Dawah

5. BAD USES OF THE PHONE

- i. Distraction (causing waste of time, exam failure, traffic accidents)
- ii. Dereliction of duties
- iii. Poor attention to worship, spouse and children
- iv. Unhealthy life style (sleep disturbances, children addiction to gadgets, vision problems, depression and sedentary life). please read online '10 'Harmful Effects of mobile phones on Health'
- v. Addiction leading to depression and short attention span
- vi. Extravagance
- vii. Cybercrime

Cybercrime: This is an illegal activity that targets or uses a computer, a computer network, or a network device to commit or facilitates crimes. This includes betting, false representation to solicit funds, interest-based loan app, violation of privacy.

- a. Pornography

Pornography: "porn" or "porno" for short: is material that depicts nudity or sexual acts for the purpose of sexual stimulation. It can be said to be the depiction of erotic behavior (as in pictures, movies, or writing) intended to cause sexual excitement.

- b. Sextortion

This is the form of online blackmailing when criminals threaten to share sexual pictures, videos or information about you unless you pay.

- c. Impersonation

This is a crime when someone falsely represents themselves as another person, living or deceased, with the intent to deceive or defraud.

This can include mimicking a person's voice or mannerisms for nefarious purposes, and under Nigerian law, it is a felony punishable by up to three years in prison.

d. Cyberstalking

It is the use of the internet or other electronic means to harass, track, and threaten an individual.

This can include constant unwanted contact, spreading false information, monitoring someone's online or offline movements, and hacking into accounts.

e. Digital blackmail and hate speech

f. Doxing (searching for private information and publishing it on the internet) and identity theft

g. Sexual Grooming

"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."

“Believers, avoid being excessively suspicious, for some suspicion is a sin. Do not spy, nor backbite one another.26 Would any of you like to eat the flesh of his dead brother?27 You would surely detest it. Have fear of Allah. Surely Allah is much prone to accept repentance, is Most Compassionate.”

“O mankind, indeed We have created you from male and female and made you peoples and tribes that you may know one another. Indeed, the most noble of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous of you. Indeed, Allah is Knowing and Acquainted.” Q49:11-13)

6. Health challenges of the smartphones to Kids

‘Too much of any light after the sun goes down can mess up your sleep, which is linked to diabetes, obesity, heart disease, and other health problems. And the “blue light” your smartphone gives off is especially bad.’

CBS News

‘Children who have smartphones by age 12 are at increased risk of health problems, new study finds (December 1, 2025)

CNN

(Don’t give children under age 13 smartphones, new research says)

Parents should avoid preteens’ use of smartphones and social media, according to new research. A study

released Monday found that using smartphones before age 13 could damage kids' mental health.

Smartphone use by children younger than 13 was associated with suicidal thoughts, worse emotional regulation, lower self-worth and detachment from reality, especially among girls, according to the study, which was published in the *Journal of the Human Development and Capabilities*. For every year before age 13 that a person acquired a smartphone, their mental health and well-being were likely to be lower, the study found. That's likely because the kids who used smartphones before turning 13 accessed social media more and experienced sleep disruptions, cyberbullying and negative family relationships, according to the study. The data is based on self-reports in a survey of nearly 2 million people in 163 countries.

ABC News

(Kids who have smartphones by age 12 have higher risk of depression, obesity: Study)