

## EFFECTS OF GADGETS ON CHILDREN

10 Safar 1443H/17 September 2021

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ

أَعْمَالِنَا مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ وَمَنْ يَضِلَّ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ.

وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ.

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ.

أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ، أَوْصِيكُمْ وَإِيَّايَ بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ، فَقَدْ فَازَ الْمُتَّقُونَ.

Let us increase our righteousness to Allah the Almighty by doing all that He prescribes and leaving all that He prohibits. May we be blessed by Him in this life and the hereafter.

**Dear brothers and sisters,**

The Covid-19 pandemic has greatly changed the way people live. Among the major challenges is that we are increasingly spending more time in front of gadgets due to work and learning requirements.

Prior to Covid-19, the Cyber Security Awareness Benchmark Study reported that 45 percent of children ages 7 to 9 years old were already proficient in using

the internet. While over 92% of children and adolescents aged up to 17 have become hardcore internet users. Of course this number is currently increasing and causing great alarm.

**Dear brothers and sisters,**

Indeed, spending a lot of time in front of mobile phone screens, tablet or computers, bring a lot of negative effects, especially on children. Among them are children can be exposed to deviant ideologies, violence and obscene content, which can corrupt their morals and poison their thinking. Moreover, they can become victims of cyber bullying, which ultimately lowers their morale and demotivates them in real life. Health experts also confirmed an increase in problems due to gadget addiction, such as failure to mix with society, short sightedness, mental illnesses and others. Most worrying is when our youngsters have started to become disrespectful and do not know how to socialise till they even use mobile phones while sermons are being delivered. Expert studies have also found that gadget addiction will cause children to easily lose focus in learning. Remember what Allah the Almighty says in chapter 31 (surah Luqman) verse 6:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

وَمِنَ النَّاسِ مَن يَشْتَرِي لَهْوَ الْحَدِيثِ لِيُضِلَّ عَن سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ بِغَيْرِ عِلْمٍ

وَيَتَّخِذَهَا هُزُوًا أُولَٰئِكَ لَهُمْ عَذَابٌ مُّهِينٌ ﴿٦﴾

**Which means:** *“And of the people is he who buys the amusement of speech to mislead [others] from the way of Allah without knowledge and who takes it [i.e., His way] in ridicule. Those will have a humiliating punishment.”*

**Dear brothers and sisters,**

Let us be united in controlling the use of gadgets in our homes. Parents should always keep an eye on the content that can be viewed on the internet. There are several applications that can be used to filter out inappropriate content. Applications and games that have violent and pornographic elements, should be deleted completely. The freedom to chat and browse social media needs to be strictly controlled. Children should also not be left alone when using gadgets. The borderless world exposes them to various negative elements. Parents are advised to set a schedule for the use of gadgets at home, so that children are not always stuck with their gadgets. Include religious activities at home such as congregational prayers and recitation of the Quran at home so that the children are not negligent. If there are any changes in our children’s attitudes, or signs of gadget addiction, seek professional treatment immediately.

The Prophet (pbuh) said in Sahih Bukhari:

كُلُّ مَوْلُودٍ يُوَلَّدُ عَلَى الْفِطْرَةِ، فَأَبَوَاهُ يُهَوِّدَانِهِ أَوْ يُنَصِّرَانِهِ أَوْ يُمَجِّسَانِهِ

**Which means:** *“No child is born but upon fitra. It is his parents who make him a Jew or a Christian or a Poltheist”.*

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

يَأْتِيهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا قُوًا أَنفُسِكُمْ وَأَهْلِيكُمْ نَارًا وَقُودُهَا النَّاسُ وَالْحِجَارَةُ عَلَيْهَا مَلَائِكَةٌ

غَلَاطٌ شِدَادٌ لَا يَعْصُونَ اللَّهَ مَا أَمَرَهُمْ وَيَفْعَلُونَ مَا يُؤْمَرُونَ ﴿٦﴾

بَارَكَ اللَّهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ. وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ

وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ. وَتَقَبَّلَ اللَّهُ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ. أَقُولُ

قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ

وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ