

The internet; pros and cons

The Internet is a global network connecting millions of computers. It is one of the greatest technological advances in the modern world. Without the Internet, business wouldn't thrive, telecommunications wouldn't exist and the world would never be as it is today. Actually the Internet is a powerful force that should neither be underestimated nor taken for granted, because like any other technology; it has both; benefits and drawbacks.

Advantages of the Internet: The Net is a marvelous invention from which we derive many benefits. It provides many services at your fingertips:

Communication: The internet has radically changed the way we communicate with each other. It has turned the world into a small village.

It managed to eliminate distances and provide people with the opportunity to keep in touch with friends anywhere in the world.

*E-mails: Not only do they help friends keep in touch but they are now an essential communication tool in business. With e-mail you can send and receive instant electronic messages. Your messages are delivered instantly to people anywhere in the world.

*Social-networking sites: Websites like Face book encourage people to communicate in a variety of ways and share their profiles which include personal information, photographs, videos, podcasts and music clips.

Entertainment: The internet has also revolutionized the entertainment industry.

*You no longer need to go to a cinema or attend a concert. You can just download or order your favorite movie, music or videos.

* Besides, going on virtual tours is getting more and more widespread as it rids people of the hustle and bustle of travelling.

* Also Internet gaming allows enthusiastic gamers to compete against each other even when they are far apart.

*Likewise internet dating has also allowed people to find their prospective soul mates.

Ecommerce: e-business has become easier thanks to the immense contribution of the internet technology to communication and information sharing. Merchants can make ads about their goods to be purchased by a boarder range of people worldwide.

*Online Shopping: there are many websites selling a variety of products online and one just needs to select or bid for the desired product without leaving their home. Shopping online is usually more convenient and time saving than conventional shopping.

Research/Information: The Internet is a virtual treasure of information. A huge amount of information is available at your fingertips. -->the internet updates you on the latest news and helps you to broaden your knowledge and keep track of the most recent discoveries and inventions

Education: Internet provides the facility to get online education through virtual schools or cyber schools. Many websites of different universities provide lectures and tutorials on different subjects or topics.

Besides, today most of the universities not only provide online enrollment services but also online results. The students can enroll or watch their results from any part of the country or world.

Telecommuting: Working from home has become a pretty popular concept these days. A lot of people today opt for telecommuting for all the flexibility and advantages it offers. Disabled people + housewives are finding a new purpose in life. You can even work from your bed and you save your transportation costs, your time and the environment!.

Other services: A variety of other services are also available through the internet including paying bills, booking of tickets whether they are for traveling, hotel reservations or for your favorite movies Medical advice and guidance is also available .Many Airline companies also provide their schedules of flights and trains respectively on the Internet.

Disadvantages of the Internet: **There is no doubt that the internet is a double-edged weapon .it is definitely a blessing yet it can be a tool that threatens the safety of your children.**

Internet addiction: The symptoms of Internet addiction are: withdrawal, loss of relationships and significant time consumption. Such addiction results in serious health problems (eye sight damage, backache, headache ...) and bad school result. +not only does it distract (divert) people from their work but also teaches them laziness.

***Chatting:** is distracting for pupils who waste so much time online at the expense of their studies.

***Damage to relationships:** The internet has in many ways brought the world closer together but it has in many other ways caused a lot of damage to relationships .spending so much time on the Internet leads to decline in family communication and a decrease in the number of real life friends.

Internet dating: is dangerous as you may be deceived and misled because people tend to cheat and lie while chatting. They conceal their real identity as it's very easy to put a front.


Bad sites about online gambling, racism, pornography, terrorism, etc...represent a real threat

Online Shopping: While Internet shopping can be a pleasing and rewarding experience, yet the disadvantages associated with it cannot be neglected: Identity Theft //Spam //Credit Card stolen //late delivery...

Online games do teach violence and aggressive behavior.

Hacking: it leads to loss or distortion of personal information.

Cyber bullying: Cyber bullying is any harassment that occurs via the Internet. Name calling, posting fake profiles, harassing pictures, and cruel email messages are all ways of cyber bullying. When one is bombarded by anonymous threatening emails *at home*, this can leave him feeling helpless and overwhelmed.

 **Despite these obstacles, what has been offered by the computer network technology is far too beneficial to be ignored. Ultimately, on evaluating the various pros and cons of the internet, we can say that the advantages far outweigh the disadvantages.**

What can parents do to protect their children from online dangers?

There are several things that you can do to help counteract the dangers of the internet while allowing your children to use its benefits:

- Learn more about the internet yourself to be aware of what your children are doing on the internet.
- Keep track of what they are doing by randomly checking the recently visited sites, or Bookmarks.
- Only allow your children to use the internet under your supervision → keep an eye on what they are doing.
- Encourage your child to keep a balance with other activities, including being physically active, getting out and exploring the real world.

- Put reasonable boundaries on the use of the internet depending on the age of your child. For example: Set a daily or weekly time limit. ➔ Decide when and how long he can connect.
- Speak with your child about the online dangers and the websites he should avoid
- Use censorship software or filters to control the information that is accessed by children so as to minimize the risks of harmful, violent, and sexually explicit material.
- keep the computer in a family open area, not in your child's room