

Islamization, Ethics and Values in Science and Technology

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By

*Islamic Values and Ethics in Engineering Sciences Research Group
(IVEES-RG)*

International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM)

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CONTENTS

Short Bio-data for Authors	vi
Preface	1
Synopsis	2
Chapter 1	3-15
VALUES AND EDUCATION WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF ISLAMISATION OF KNOWLEDGE Abdelaziz Berghout	
Chapter 2	16-26
ETHICAL ISSUES IN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND RESOURCE CONSERVATION FROM ISLAMIC PERSPECTIVE Suleyman Aremu Muyibi & Hamzah Mohd Salleh	
Chapter 3	27-45
RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE AND DIALOGUE IN VIEW OF GÜLEN'S GLOBALIZED WELTANSCHAUUNG Abdi O. Shuriye	
Chapter 4	46-54
TOWARDS AN ISLAMIC THEORY OF DEVELOPMENT BASED ON QURANIC APPROACH: SURAH QURAIISH AS A CASE STUDY Sayed Desouky Hassan, Waleed F. Faris & Raed Kafafy	
Chapter 5	55-76
RIGHT TO A HEALTHFUL ENVIRONMENT IN ISLAM: AN EXPOSITORY STUDY Abdul Haseeb Ansari & Parveen Jamal	
Chapter 6	78-91
EARLY MUSLIM CONTRIBUTIONS TO ASTRONOMY Abdi O. Shuriye & Nasrelddeen Kabashi	
Chapter 7	92-99
ETHICS OF THE STUDENT AND PROFESSOR: ABOUT THE CHARTER OF THE MORAL FROM ISLAMIC PROSPECTIVE Mohamed Elwathig Saeed Mirghani & Ma'an Fahmi R. Alkhatib	
Chapter 8	100-110
MUSLIM CONTRIBUTIONS TO PHYSICS Abdi O. Shuriye & Waleed Faris	

Chapter 9 E-WASTE: PROBLEMS, ISLAMIC PERSPECTIVE AND SOLUTIONS Waleed F. Faris, Othman O. Khalifa and Muaz Hawari	112-124
Chapter 10 HARMFUL DATA THAT AFFECT ETHICAL, RELIGIOUS, AND SOCIAL VALUES OF INTERNET USERS IN EDUCATION PROCESS Shihab A. Hameed	125-142
CHAPTER 11 USE AND ABUSE OF TECHNOLOGY: INTERNET AS A CASE STUDY Waleed F. Faris & Jamal I. Daoud	143-156
Chapter 12 ISSUES ON ETHICS AND VALUES IN ENGINEERING PRACTICES Abdi . O. Shuriye	157-165
Chapter 13 CAN ISLAMIC BANKING INDUSTRY ETHICAL FRAME SAVE THE FINANCIAL SAVE THE WORLD FINANCIAL SYSTEM: THE RESPONSE OF ISLAMIC BANKS IN 2008 FINANCIAL CRISIS Hassanuddeen A. Aziz	166-176

USE AND ABUSE OF TECHNOLOGY: INTERNET AS A CASE STUDY

Waleed F. Faris
&
Jamal I. Daoud

Introduction

Technology can be defined as science applied to practical purposes. It is more than hardware and silicon chips. In propelling change and altering our belief systems and culture, technology has joined religion, tradition, and family in the scope of its influence. Its enhancements of human muscle and human mind are self-evident. But technology is also a social amplifier. It stretches the range, volume, and speed of communications. It inflates appetites for consumer goods and creature comforts. It tends to concentrate wealth and power, and to increase the disparity of rich and poor. In the competition for scarce resources, it breeds conflicts.

In social-psychological terms, it alters our perceptions of space. Events anywhere on the globe now have immediate repercussions everywhere, with a portfolio of tragedies that ignite feelings of helplessness. Technology has also skewed our perception of time, nourishing a desire for speed and instant gratification and ignoring long-term impacts.

Nowadays, when the rapidness of development and research is so impressive, it is easy to think about the advantages of modern technology. Nevertheless some people argue that science can destroy mankind. I'm quite agreeing with them, and I believe that modern technology is destroying the values of our Islamic society somehow. Computers, Cellophanes and the World Wide Web are examples of the modern technology; which are used widely nowadays, and they affect our moralities and manners badly, not because they are useless, but because we used to get the negative aspects out of every thing around us. Therefore, the most frequently asked question is: Does technology go the right way and will it save or ruin our Islamic civilization?

In this paper I wish to set out some of the benefits, the drawbacks and an Islamic view of one of those modern technologies which called The Internet, the influence of it on the Islamic world and the internet from an Islamic respective. As starting point for the Muslims contribution in dialogue with other sectors of society, especially other religious groups, concerning the development and use of this amazing technological mechanism. The Internet is being put to many good uses now, with the promise of many more, but much harm also can be done by its improper use. Which it will be, good or harm, is largely a matter of choice—a choice to whose making the Muslim society brings two elements of great importance: its commitment to the dignity of the human person and its long tradition of moral wisdom.