

Internet Ban - Whats your opinion

Posted by stevec613 - 17 Jan 2010 15:39

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I would venture a guess, that there is no group of people as aware of the dangers of the internet as those of us on this forum. We are probably more aware that our esteemed gedolim of what a tremendous negative impact that internet can have on ones life, relationship with Hashem, ability to learn and daven, etc. That being said we are also aware of the tremendous good that the internet has to offer. For many of us, GYE has been the tool that we used to not only conquer our internet addiction but to also grow in so many ways.

With that in mind I would like to see what my brothers (and sisters, if possible) in the forum think about the movement afoot to ban the internet from all Jewish homes.

My feelings on the issue are as follows:

My pornography addiction began long before the internet was in our homes. While Pornography was not as accessible as it is today there was no shortage of stimulating material to feed my addiction even as a pre-teen in the 70's. If it was not glossy magazines that my friends seemed to have no problem purchasing as 13 and 14 year old, it was the pictures in the "over the counter" magazines and newspaper advertisements. These were all capable of causing repeated falls. My point is that while the internet has certainly made these images available in private and on demand, the yetzer horah was as powerful, and had his methods even in the 70s and 80s.

Additionally, since finding GYE this past august (150 days clean and counting) the internet has been the tool most responsible for my growth. This site has been the launch pad to so much success in fighting the yetzer horah. Additionally I have used the internet to increase my avodas hashem. My "spare" time is now spent looking through the forums, looking for divrei torah on the parsha, looking for on line shiurim on halacha, tefillah, and hashkafa. None of this would be possible without the internet. I am learning more, davening with more kavanah, and working on my middos more now and with more success that at any time in my life (including my yeshiva and kollel days). There was a website I found several months ago that had literally thousands of shiurim available for download. It seems that this website was taken down due to call by our gedolim to ban the internet from Jewish homes. There are so many shurim that I had planned to take advantage of, that are now less accessible.

I respectfully disagree with the internet ban.

I am looking forward to the attitudes and opinions of this group.

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Re: Internet Ban - Whats your opinion

Posted by Eye.nonymous - 17 Jan 2010 20:03

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[lamed vavnik wrote on 17 Jan 2010 18:15:](#)

[Eye.nonymous wrote on 17 Jan 2010 18:04:](#)

Hey, weren't the gedolim banning COMPUTERS in the home until this internet ban came out?

Guess that didn't work, did it?

what's that supposed to mean ? so if people don't listen to their rabbis it must mean the rabbis were wrong . i like that logic. does it work for G-d too ? i could put GYE out of business.

No, it just means that people don't listen.

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Re: Internet Ban - Whats your opinion  
Posted by Eye.nonymous - 17 Jan 2010 20:08

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I was thinking a little more about this ban. I think it was against Chareidi sites, wasn't it?

But not non-chareidi sites!!! GOYISHE SITES!!!

Although this seems ironic at first, it really makes sense:

People who NEED the internet for work AREN'T using the chareidi sites for their business needs.

So, who's using the Chareidi sites? People who otherwise WOULDN'T be using the internet. But now, with Chareidi sites, IT'S KOSHER! Isn't it? So it must really be OK!!!

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Re: Internet Ban - Whats your opinion  
Posted by stevec613 - 17 Jan 2010 21:26

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I am not sure that is accurate.

I use the web for work and torah.

That being said maybe overall the feeling is that the internet hurts more than it helps.

The would rather protect the innocent than worry about us.

I hope R'Guard has no plans in shutting us down.

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Re: Internet Ban - Whats your opinion

Posted by silentbattle - 17 Jan 2010 21:31

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[lamed vavnik wrote on 17 Jan 2010 18:15:](#)

[Eye.nonymous wrote on 17 Jan 2010 18:04:](#)

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36, you crack me up!

Here's my take - I don't get involved. I do my best to remind myself that if I disagree with the gedolei Hador, then I'm probably(!) wrong.

If there's a disagreement, then I try to discuss it with my rebbe/rav, and follow what he tells me to do. the fact that he tells me one thing, though, does NOT mean that the other rabbanim are foolish, or wrong.

For example - let's say that the internet ban kept the internet out of 20 houses. That may have kept a teenager from seeing porn for another 2 years.

Is that worth it? Methinks it very well might be.

And yes, the internet can be a tool for good...but it's also a tool for unprecedented easy access to evil. Seems to me it doesn't balance out, because there were always lots of easy ways to get a dvar torah - but porn is now FAR more accessible.

And also yes, people looked at porn before the internet came along - but in far smaller numbers. Now it's easy, it's free, it's anonymous, and it happens in a few seconds of weakness.

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Re: Internet Ban - Whats your opinion  
Posted by Kollel Guy - 17 Jan 2010 21:36

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As I mentioned before, I think for us addicts - we are in a whole different situation, because without GUE we will one by one all slip *back* to doing exactly what they are trying to protect us from.

**We** 'cannot stay away from the danger without this site', as opposed to the other chareidi sites which technically 'bring us closer to the danger'.

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Re: Internet Ban - Whats your opinion

Posted by shemirateinayim - 18 Jan 2010 01:56

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I really should have read all the posts, "this is sooo" my kinda discussion, but I'm gonna have to rely on Kollel Guy.

I heard in a shiur from R pinkus, about banning both the computer AND internet (dial-up of his day), and he labeled it a "Takana She'iy efshar la'amod bo" [rabbinic regulation that most of the torah observant populace cannot meet-up to]. And therefore halachikly the ban shouldn't be issued. He himself testifies on tape as-to HOW MANY computers he owned in his house, and the great benefit they served him in writing his sefarim (I don't know which, since all the "red ones" are his speeches, and he only wrote 3 tiferes shimshon, shabbos malkisa, and one on tefialh).

It's also funny to hear him talk about an avreich from ofakim that turned SA, and ran-off to a third world country to live with his shiksah gf. oh yeh he was also a "kollel guy" (no offense KG but you got a name like 'Reuvain', too generic, and you know how many times Reuvain dies in )

Oh and he tells a story about a yarei shamayim in Bnei Brak who took his virus laden computer to get fixed, and when he returned to pick it up, the store owner showed him how his kids had caused the problem... when he saw the pornography pics, he fainted. Baruch hashem hatzalah revived him. otherwise the store owner would have literally been mekayeim the pasuk of "lo ta'amod al dam reicha". Needless to say he didn't bring it home.

It's actually quite amusing to hear him talk of the dial-up connections of his day. And their harm. but i won't be able to find a SINGLE thing to be out-dated or irrelevant. the only synical thought one could justify is , "If he only knew that verizon would make a fiber optic network!!!! HE would have fainted!!

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Re: Internet Ban - Whats your opinion

Posted by Kollel Guy - 18 Jan 2010 07:49

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'Levi' usually has arichas yamim

Yeah but he's usually the guy getting jacked for all his money because there are no eidim. What kind of life is that?

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Re: Internet Ban - Whats your opinion

Posted by lamed vavnik - 18 Jan 2010 19:27

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[Eye.nonymous wrote on 17 Jan 2010 20:03:](#)

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Re: Internet Ban - Whats your opinion  
Posted by Ineedhelp!! - 18 Jan 2010 20:58

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[lamed vavnik wrote on 18 Jan 2010 19:27:](#)

[Eye.nonymous wrote on 17 Jan 2010 20:03:](#)

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The Rabonim cannot be Gozer something that they KNOW the general populous wont listen to

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Re: Internet Ban - Whats your opinion  
Posted by Kedusha - 18 Jan 2010 21:07

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[Yiddle2 wrote on 18 Jan 2010 20:58:](#)

[lamed vavnik wrote on 18 Jan 2010 19:27:](#)

[Eye.nonymous wrote on 17 Jan 2010 20:03:](#)

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A complete ban would indeed be a "Gezaira She'ain Rov HaTzibbur Yecholim Laamod Ba" - unless the ban were addressing only those who are not connected in any event. Presumably that's why I haven't heard of any attempt to ban cigarettes, which I think would be a great idea, and probably would cause at least a handful of people in Klal Yisrael to quit smoking, arguably justifying such a ban. However, if 99.99% of people disregard a ban, the ban will have been Goreim a tremendous Chillul Hashem.

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Re: Internet Ban - Whats your opinion  
Posted by Ineedhelp!! - 18 Jan 2010 21:09

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[Kedusha wrote on 18 Jan 2010 21:07:](#)

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And without trying to be stereotypical, a ban on cigarettes would be mostly towards the people that follow those Rabonim closely.

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Re: Internet Ban - Whats your opinion  
Posted by silentbattle - 18 Jan 2010 23:21

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[Yiddle2 wrote on 18 Jan 2010 21:09:](#)

And without trying to be stereotypical, a ban on cigarettes would be mostly towards the people that follow those Rabonim closely.

Eh...not sure about that...I see plenty of people who aren't yeshivish smoking, too...the guy in the marlboro ads might be wearing a hat, but he still doesn't look yeshivish... :D

And as far as rabbanim being gozer something...one has to know what it means that the general population "won't" listen to, vs. "can't" listen to - might make a difference...especially considering the fact that there's a strong tzad to say that the internet is already assur me'ikur hadin (the same wya you're not allowed to take a shortcut past the ladies washing clothes), and the rabbanim are just informing you of that.

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Re: Internet Ban - Whats your opinion  
Posted by Kedusha - 19 Jan 2010 00:14

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[silentbattle wrote on 18 Jan 2010 23:21:](#)

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Such a shortcut would be permitted if the longer route is not practical (e.g. it's a much further distance). Similarly, trying to do research (and many other legitimate activities) offline would not

be efficient.

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Re: Internet Ban - Whats your opinion  
Posted by Ineedhelp!! - 19 Jan 2010 00:19

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Thats why i said "I dont mean to be stereotypical". Although there are many non-Yeshivish people that smoke, if the Rabanim were to decree against smoking, alot of it would be towards

that sect.

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