

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 Kedusha - 19 Jan 2010 01:30

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[silentbattle wrote on 19 Jan 2010 01:02:](#)

And is inefficient the same as "not practical?" Seems like lots of people managed to do research before the internet.

Efficient is relative. Try to live today without using e-mail, even though people managed just fine without it until relatively recently.

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Re: Internet Ban - Whats your opinion  
Posted by silentbattle - 19 Jan 2010 01:35

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That's my point - efficient is not necessarily the same thing as being "impractical." I mean, there are lots of people who consider shabbos to be "impractical." Heck, the vast majority of jews aren't keeping it - does that make it mutar?

Like i said, I don't know, and that's part of the reason i'm not a posek (ok, maybe just a small

part) - I'm simply pointing out that it's not such a cut-and-dry issue that we can say that anyone who assured the internet must be wrong for doing so.

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Re: Internet Ban - Whats your opinion  
Posted by Kedusha - 19 Jan 2010 01:44

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Putting that issue aside, banning the Internet is not, by itself, the solution, any more than banning whiskey would solve the problem of alcoholism.

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Re: Internet Ban - Whats your opinion  
Posted by silentbattle - 19 Jan 2010 01:46

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True...although keep in mind R' Twerski's statement about how much easier it is for people to become addicted to these things now, with internet p^%n, etc...

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Re: Internet Ban - Whats your opinion

Posted by shemirateinayim - 20 Jan 2010 01:54

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[quote="silentbattle" link=topic=1563.msg46765#msg46765 date=1263856867]

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

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.

Yeh but that's only if one can get a job that doesn't involve the internet. Assuming one has no other job skills, he needs a proper level of bitachon to launch a business that can supply his needs. And doing so itself may be beyond his capabilities. There is a story somewhere on this site about an avreich who got a psak allowing him to use unrestricted internet, for his parnasah. Since it was deemed as the only derech. I don't know the details how that was actually true, so personally I feel this is usually SOME way, just not a comfortable one.

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