

# [Social media about muslims](https://assignbuster.com/social-media-about-muslims/)

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JASHIM  RASWI   Ref. No:  H00144879   Short  Essay   Tutorial:  Online  Learning   Teacher:  Kristina  Rajic   Critical  Writing  &  Analysis  (C07CW) Impact  of  Social  Media  on  Islam  and  Muslims   Susan  Ward  defines  Social  media  as  a  type  of  online  media  that   expedites  conversation  as  opposed  to  traditional  media,  which   delivers  content  but  doesn't  allow  readers/viewers/listeners  to   participate  in  the  creation  or  development  of  the  content.   Some  of  the  common  examples  of  social  media  are  Facebook,   Twitter,  LinkedIn,  etc.  There  is  a  wide  variety  of  social  medias’  in   the  Internet.  People  get  more  attention  to  the  things  that  are   being  shared  from  YouTube  and  Flickr  and  posting  them   through  Facebook  or  LinkedIn  or  MySpace.  Social  Networking   sites  spread  news  all  over  the  globe  very  quickly  and  swiftly.   According  to  Suzy  Ismail  “ Social  Media  and  networking  sites   must  have  and  has  definitely  changed  the  spread  of  Islam  and   the  perception  of  Muslims  in  the  minds  of  many  people  around   the  world",  especially  and  mostly  in  the  US  and  India. After  the  9/11  bombings  and  destruction  of  the  Twin  Towers  by   Bin  Laden,  the  growth  of  electronic  and,  in  particular,  social   media  has  had  an  impact  on  the  lives  of  Muslims  around  the   world.  According  to  Khurram  T.  Dara  (2011)  “ every  scandal,   controversy,  or  violent  terrorist  attack  perpetrated  by  Muslims   is  put  under  the  microscope. "  He  does  not  mean  that  the  media   has  been  trying  to  willingly  to  spread  stories  one  way  or  another   about  Muslims  in  US  and  the  world.  “ Of  course,  you  have   commentators  and  networks  out  there  with  agendas  they  want   to  push,  but  for  the  most  part  the  impact  the  media  has  had   comes  in  its  evolution  into  a  24/7  industry.  Everything  is   covered,  regardless  of  whether  it  is  quality  journalism  from   reliable  sources. "  (Dara,  2011)   Social  Media  played  a  crucial  role  in  the  way  Muslims  and  Islam   have  been  perceived  over  the  years.  Suzy  Ismail  continues,  “ It   would  be  tough  for  anyone  to  say  that  they  have  not  ‘ heard’  of   Islam  with  the  amount  of  coverage  that  our  deen  has  received  in   the  recent  years  through  so  many  different  media  outlets".   Further  on  she  adds  that  Muslims  have  been  vilified  and   simultaneously  victimized  especially  after  9/11  in  America.   “ There  seems  to  be  two  extreme  reactions  to  the  deen  itself.  One   is  which  is  sincere  curiosity  and  interest  that  motivates   education  and  the  other  is  blind  hatred  and  misunderstanding   that  leads  to  scapegoating  and  stereotyping. "  (Suzy  Ismail)   Social  media  presents  a  big  opportunity  to  reach  out  to  people   who  may  not  even  know  about  Islam  or  Muslims.  Thousands  of   Americans  have  never  met  a  Muslim  but  they  have  access   through  social  media.   In  Texas,  an  event  was  set  up  where  a  Muslim  woman  is  refused   service  in  a  bakery  just  because  she  has  worn  a  headscarf.  ABC   News  Hidden  camera  experiments  THIS  and  the  purpose  is  to   see  what  people’s  reaction  would  be,  which  was  quite  surprising. Recently  in  the  last  few  weeks,  a  controversial  American-­"made   trailer  of  an  Anti-­"Islam  video  called  Innocence  Of  Muslims  has   ignited  protests  across  the  Muslim  world  and  continues  to  grow.   It  is  just  a  trailer  for  a  supposed  future-­"length  film  that  was   uploaded  in  YouTube  a  few  weeks  back  in  America  by  a  man   named  Nakula  Basseley  Nakoula  a. k. a  Sam  Bacile  who  is  thought   to  be  the  writer,  producer  and  promoter  of  the  video.  The  Social   Media  raises  complex  questions  about  the  freedom  of  speech  in   America  (Ruth  Startman,  2012).  Social  Media  has  played  a  vital   role  in  the  rapid  spread  of  this  video  around  the  world  by   sharing  it  through  Facebook,  Twitter,  LinkedIn,  etc.  Many   Muslim  countries  removed  this  video  from  their  network,   however  the  video  still  remains  undeleted  in  America  and  other   Non-­"Muslim  regions  of  the  world.   Twitter  and  Facebook  have  been  undoubtedly  the  two   networking  sites  with  the  most  active  Muslim  users.  These  sites   have  allowed  us  to  connect  with  many  important  persons  such   as  Imams  and  Sheiks,  Political  Leaders  and  so  on….  Some  people   are  also  there  to  cast  a  negative  vote  on  Islam  and  are  online  just   to  do  so.  It  can  be  overwhelming  to  not  care  about  it,  but  we   need  to  remember  that  social  media  has  also  given  us  the   strength  and  the  platform  to  express  ourselves.  In  other  ways,   we  can  increase  the  positive  impact  of  Social  Media  on  the   portrayal  of  Islam  and  Muslims  by  being  more  active  online  and   by  having  lot  of  faith  on  Islam.  (Dara,  2011)   Social  media  is  a  great  tool,  which  can  be  well  used  to  spread   “ Love",  or  abused  to  spread  " hatred".  Let  us  choose  " love"  as   every  religion  of  the  world  is  themed  to  promote  " love"  among   mankind.  No  matter  what,  " love"  will  always  prevail  as  it  is  upon   which  everything  in  life  is  centered  and  without  which  there  is   no  meaning  in  life.   REFERENCES:   - - -   - Ward,  Susan;  Social  Media  Definition  [online].   Available  from:   http://sbinfocanada. about. com/od/socialmedia/g/soci almedia. htm  (Accessed  28  Sept  2012)   Salman,  Javeria;  Impact  of  Media  and  Social  Media  on   Islam  and  Muslims  [online].   Available  at:   http://islamicstudies. islammessage. com/Article. aspx? aid= 678  (Accessed  28  Sept  2012)   Dara,  T.  Khurram  (2011)  The  Crescent  Drive:  AN  ESSAY   ON  IMPROVING  THE  IMAGE  OF  ISLAM  IN  AMERICA,   Tensile.  (Accessed  28  Sept  2012)   ABC  News  hidden  camera  experiments  —  Racism  in   America  “ What  would  you  do? 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