

Local

# Psychologist warns of negative impact of using children for social media fame

## Parents seek fortune and fame regardless of problems kids may face: Mosawi

By Majd Othman

KUWAIT: Social media has become a place where people can achieve their desire to be famous and popular, and it helps to publicize people's talents. Some parents see it as a good opportunity to help boost their finances by opening a social media account for their children to attract advertisers and companies, despite some being very young, wanting their children to become famous.



**Imitating Western behaviors unsuitable with Arab and Islamic culture**

This kind of behavior by the parents can affect the future of their children, who did not have a chance to choose whether they want to be famous or not. Regarding the reasons that push parents to enroll their children on social media, Kuwait Times spoke to psychological and social consultant Hassan Al-Mosawi, who explained the issue through several facets. He started by saying that in many cases, mothers share the blame for this problem and is even the main person responsible in certain cases.

"To be specific, mothers are mainly responsible for this issue due to their desire to show off the beauty of their kids. Sometimes, this can be defined as a psychological deficiency, as they try to push their kids to achieve the dreams they weren't able to achieve. Some of them compete with their friends to demonstrate the excellence of their children in a certain area in order to put the spotlight on themselves," Mosawi said.



Hassan Al-Mosawi



decision, merely to achieve fame for their parents."

**Future effects**

Regarding the future psychological effects on children as a result of their access to social media, Mosawi said: "This kind of behavior will affect the kids in the future in several ways such as dropping out of school due to their interests on social media and social appearance, while their personalities will have notable features as being narcissists, egoists and showoffs, which will lead to social isolation due to their difference from others. When these children grow up, their behavior that is acceptable now will be socially unacceptable tomorrow, and this will lead to serious problems such as depression, isolation, fragility and a weak character."

Regarding the importance of passing laws and regulations that prevent parents from enrolling their children on social media at a young age, Mosawi pointed out that this issue should be highlighted under the children's rights issue. "There must be entities and laws in Kuwait and in the Arab world that prevent such behaviors by parents towards their children, and consider it as a kind of exploitation and extortion of children, in order to safeguard the children's right of choosing their future," he told Kuwait Times.

Mosawi warned parents about the psychological affects children could face due to attacks via social media, such as bullying, sexual harassment or financial fraud, which will lead to severe results such as social phobias or isolated personalities, which in some cases may even lead to suicide. "All of this is a result of irresponsible parents who want to be famous on social media," he cautioned.

**Molding personalities**

"Meanwhile, mothers who sign up their children on social media, especially the young ones, are trying to mold their children's personality through social media by highlighting them in specific fields such as fashion, blogging or something else. Which leads us to the same point, that mothers are focusing the lights on themselves for fame," he said. "Imitating Western behaviors has become a trend, despite the content's unsuitability with Arab and Islamic culture. Parents are encouraging their kids to be famous without taking into account the problems the children may face on social media, especially for teenage girls," Mosawi said.

Mosawi mentioned some parents think it is a normal thing for their children to be on social media as long as they are not hurting anyone, although they are causing harm to them. "Unfortunately, the father's role in this matter is weak and not helpful," he rued. "When the children or teenagers become socially accepted on media platforms, it turns from a psychological and social goal into a financial and commercial purpose - working for money," he stressed.

On whether parents have the freedom to choose the future of their children, Mosawi said: "If the parents want to enroll their kids on social media, it should be at an age when their children have reached the stage of awareness and have the ability to make their own decision to enter social media or not. It is not acceptable to sign up kids on social media who are two or three years old and have no power to make a

Apple first asked the finance ministry to exempt it from the rule that stipulates a 5 percent deduction from the total returns of Apple Pay in Kuwait. Apple argued it should not be considered an investment that must pay taxes, as the company presented a description of its financial payment service done through apps and not through its presence in Kuwait, which it argues exempts it from any local taxes.

But finance ministry officials were reportedly not convinced at the time, said the sources who spoke on the condition of anonymity. "They believe that activating the Apple Pay service locally will constitute moving of money outside Kuwait to a foreign company, as Apple will collect a percentage of each transaction from banks that use its payment services, be they Kuwaiti or others," the sources explained. "They insist Apple must pay taxes as the law stipulates, which is at five percent in this regard." Ministry officials also believe that even if the company doesn't have premises in Kuwait, this will not exempt it from paying taxes as long as it benefits from the country's markets, the sources noted.



meetings with company's representatives to explain its tax situation in case it signed up with local banks to apply the Apple Pay service.

According to sources familiar with the meetings,

## Apple Pay to launch in Kuwait soon

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Finance and Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority reached an agreement to launch Apple Pay in Kuwait soon. The two sides are currently working on removing obstacles that had prevented launching the service in Kuwait.

Details of the agreement were not disclosed. The Ministry of Finance had reportedly made a proposal for Apple last year to enter Kuwait through Kuwait Direct Investment Public Authority (KDIPA) to ensure its listing on the roster of foreign companies that are exempt from paying taxes under double taxation treaties. The US technology giant had postponed entering Kuwait through its Apple Pay service, and the ministry reportedly held several

## Health Ministry inaugurates expat testing center in Mishref

KUWAIT: Health Minister Dr Khaled Al-Saeed launched the fifth Expatriates Examination Center at Kuwait International Fairgrounds in Mishref on Sunday. The center, the fifth of its kind in Kuwait, has a daily capacity of 1,000 cases. Dr Saeed toured the site to inspect work following the operational opening of the center as well as the organizational mechanisms that are followed. He said the opening of the new center is part of the ministry's continued efforts to reduce pressure on other centers.

Meanwhile, Director of Public Health Dr Mohammad Al-Suaaidan said the center has 10 registration stations and a waiting area for 500 persons. It also has four x-ray rooms and 20 blood testing clinics, he added. He said the center is



manned by 160 individuals including doctors, nurses, x-ray technicians and administrators. The center operates 12 hours per day, he further noted.



Legalese

## Women's rights

By Fajer Ahmed

fajer@kuwaittimes.net

Following the incident that happened last week, a dramatic and violent beating of a young girl at her school by her father, it is time to review our laws in Kuwait when it comes to women's rights and try to understand why there are recurring harmful and inhumane incidents. Although they may be sporadic here and frequent in many other countries, they are still wrong and need to be addressed in our own country.

As a lawyer, I would like to make it clear that from a legal point of view, a father has absolutely no legal right to beat his daughter violently, whether in public or in the privacy of his home. Regardless of whether the father has custody or not, he must protect his daughter and not be the cause of pain to her. With that said, this seems to be confusing to many, because the law in Kuwait does not punish gentle beatings of a daughter by her father if it is done for disciplinary reasons, which is unfortunate.

This allowance is under article 29 of Kuwait's penal code. The article states: "There is no crime if the act is to use the right to discipline a person authorized by law to do so, provided that it is bound by its limits and its intention is merely to discipline." The law has then been explained to clarify that husbands have the right to beat their wives for disciplinary reasons, just as long as it leaves no physical marks on them, with the same for fathers and their daughters. Violence should not be accepted, especially from a man who is responsible for the safety of his family.

