

Cybertainment: A Short Analysis from an Islamic Perspective

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ABSTRACT: Cybertainment Is Among The Popular Forms Of Entertainment In The Globalization Era. Cybertainment Encompasses Any Form Of Entertainment Accessed Or Enjoyed Through Digital Devices And Online Networks, Including Online Gaming, Streaming Services, Virtual Reality, Interactive Web Series, And More. Nowadays, Cybertainment Is Far More Enjoyable, And As A Result, People Tend To Seek More Entertainment Through This Form. So, This Article Will Focus More On Cybertainment Itself And The Islamic Approach Towards This Type Of Entertainment.

KEYWORDS: Cybertainment, Entertainment, Islamic Perspective, Online Networks, Globalization

I. INTRODUCTION

"Cybertainment" Is A Combination Of Two Words, Cyber And Entertainment, Broadly Referring To Entertainment Experiences Delivered Or Experienced Through Digital Or Online Platforms. Essentially, It Is The Intersection Of Entertainment And Technology. There Is Not Much Definition We Can Find About Cybertainment Itself. However, If We Look Through The Words Cyber And Entertainment, We Can See That Cybertainment Is A Popular Form Of Entertainment That People Enjoy Nowadays. The Word Cyber Means Involving, Using, Or Relating To Computers, Especially The Internet (Cambridge Dictionary, 2025; Merriam-Webster Dictionary, 2025), While The Word Entertainment Means Shows, Films, Television, Or Other Performances Or Activities That Entertain People, Or A Performance Of This Type (Cambridge Dictionary, 2025).

In Islam, There Is No Such Definition Of Cybertainment. However, The Word Entertainment Encompasses A Combination Of Artistic Beauty, Linguistic Sophistication, And Cultural Uniqueness, Which Can Soothe The Soul And Create Joy (IIUM, 2025). Islam Is A Moderate Religion That Places Great Emphasis On Spirituality And Spiritual Development, While Also Allowing Its Followers To Enjoy Themselves, Provided It Does Not Exceed The Limits Of Islamic Law. The Desire For Fun And The Love Of Beauty And Elegance Are Human Natures That Allah SWT Has Determined For His Servants. The Messenger Of Allah (Peace Be Upon Him) Said What He Meant: "O Hanzalah! There Is A Time For Worldly Affairs, And There Is A Time For Worship. Moreover, If Your Heart Is Always As If You Are Remembering Allah SWT, The Angels Will Greet You In The Middle Of The Road" (Kutub As-Sittah, 2000). The Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) Explained That There Is A Time Set Aside For Worship, And There Is Also A Time Set Aside For Worldly Life And Having Fun With Family (An-Nawawi, 2021).

II. WHY PEOPLE CHOOSE CYBERTAINMENT

A. Digital Entertainment

Digital Entertainment Is A Form Of Entertainment That Is Created, Distributed, And Consumed In A Digital Format With The Use Of Digital Devices And Online Networks (Chaska, 2023). One Of The Key Aspects Of Digital Entertainment Is Digital Media Itself. Nowadays, People Use Spotify For Music, Netflix For Movies And Videos, Mobile Games, And Esports For Games, Among Other Services. In The Era Of 5G, People Can Easily Access These Various Forms Of Entertainment, Allowing Users To Consume Content Anytime, Anywhere, On A Variety Of Devices.

B. Interactive Experiences

Interactive Experiences Are Engagements That Allow Individuals To Participate And Influence Their Surroundings Actively Through User-Driven Interactions. This Concept Is Vital In Various Media Forms, Especially In Environments Where Consumers Are Encouraged To Connect With Content, Products, Or Brands In A Way That Fosters Engagement And Personal Connection (Fiveable, 2025). Another Key Aspect Of Cybertainment Is Its Interactive Nature. There Are Numerous Benefits To This Interactive Experience, Including Being More Engaging And Memorable Than Passive Forms Of Media. People Nowadays Tend To Communicate And

Cybertainment: A Short Analysis from an Islamic Perspective

Explore Different Environments. By Actively Participating, Users Can Learn More Effectively And Retain Information Better (Eng, 2020).

C. Evolving Landscape

What Is The Difference Between Before The Year 2000 And Now? It Is Technology. Our Form Of Entertainment Has Evolved Because Of The Technology We Use Nowadays. Previously, People Had To Switch On The Television Or Radio To Get Some Entertainment, But Now We Can Stream It Anywhere And Anytime Using Just Our Gadgets And The Internet. Everything Is At Your Fingertips. The Technology Has Evolved. The Networking Technology Has Evolved From Cable To Wireless. Social Media Has Evolved. Internet Use Continues To Grow Rapidly As The World's Primary Multimedia Communication Medium In The 21st Century. Today's Landscape Is Evolving Around Technology, And It Is No Surprise That Cybertainment Has Become So Popular As A Form Of Entertainment.

D. Accessibility and Convenience

Digital Accessibility Is Not Just A Matter Of Convenience, But A Fundamental Right That Ensures Equal Access To Technology And Services For All Users (Patrycja, 2025). Lack Of Accessibility Prevents The Use Of Many Services And Products. However, That Is A Matter Of The Past. Nowadays, The Evolving Internet And Social Media Have Become Tools For Cybertainment, With People Using Online Platforms To Entertain Themselves Or Others. Entertainment Is No Longer Confined To The Square Or Rectangle Of Television Or Limited By Location And Resources. From Just Communication Tools To Those Needing Flexible Income Because Of Jobs Or Personal Commitments, Technology Is Breaking Down Barriers And Changing What Is Possible. The Flexibility Of Cybertainment Fits Perfectly Into Busy Lives, Giving People More Control Over How And When They Want To Entertain Themselves. Apps Break Down Entertainment Into Manageable Chunks, Allowing People To Have Fun Whenever Possible. That Is The Power Of Technology, Which Allows People To Access Any Form Of Entertainment They Want Easily. This Convenience Is Too Much, And We Must Recognize Its Limitations In Islam.

III. CYBERTAINMENT: AN ISLAMIC PERSPECTIVE

Islam Does Not Prohibit Its Followers From Having Fun. However, Cybertainment From An Islamic Perspective Must Be Guided And Evaluated Based On The Pure Values Taught By Religion. It Must Not Contain Elements That Are Prohibited Or Contrary To Islamic Teachings. In Addition, Islam Allows Entertainment Or Cybertainment Because It Is Considered Part Of The Nature Of Human Life (Zulkifli, 2024). This Is Based On A Hadith Narrated By Aisyah R.Anha That Means: "Abu Bakr Entered To Meet Her And The Prophet (Peace And Blessings Of Allah Be Upon Him) Was With Her (Aa'ishah) On The Day Of Eid Al-Fitr Or (Aa'ishah). There Were Two Singers With Her (Aa'ishah) Singing The Song That The Ansar Sang On The Day Of (The Battle Of) Bu'Ath. So Abu Bakr Said: 'The Flute Of The Devil?' He Said It Twice. Then The Prophet (Peace And Blessings Of Allah Be Upon Him) Said: 'Leave Them Both, O Abu Bakr, For Every People Has A Festival, And Our Festival Is Today.'" (Narrated By Al-Bukhari And Muslim).

Based On The Hadith Above, It Is Clear That Entertainment Or Cybertainment That Can Entertain The Soul And Calm The Heart Is Permitted In Islam. This Is, As Stated By Dr. Yusuf Al-Qaradhwai, That Among The Entertainment Or Cybertainment Permitted In Islam Is Entertainment That Can Entertain The Soul, Calm The Heart, And Please The Ears. Islam Permits This Entertainment On The Condition That It Is Not Mixed With Obscene, Lewd Words Or Words That Can Encourage Sinful Acts (Al-Qaradhwai, 2011). Furthermore, It Also Coincides With The Method Mentioned, Which Means: "The Original Law For A Matter Is That It Is Permissible Until Evidence Comes That Indicates That (The Matter) Is Forbidden." (Al-Qaradhwai, 2011).

Regarding This Entertainment, Guidelines Were Issued By The 68th MKI Fatwa Committee Discussion Meeting On 12 April 2005 To Ensure That The Entertainment Achieves Its Purpose And Aligns With Islamic Principles. Among The Guidelines Are The Following:

(JAKIM, 2025)

- ✦ Aiming For Goodness And Well-Being.
- ✦ Held In A Suitable Place So As Not To Disturb Public Order And Crowds.
- ✦ Taking Into Account The Time That Is Appropriate For The Sensitivity Of The Community And Islamic Teachings.
- ✦ Not Accompanied By Unlawful Or Immoral Acts.
- ✦ Does Not Contain Provocative Events That May Cause Prejudice Or Hostility.
- ✦ Does Not Contain Elements Of Worship Or Worship That Are Contrary To Islamic Teachings.

How About Cybertainment? In Islam, Cybertainment, Like All Forms Of Entertainment, Is Permissible As Long As It Adheres To Islamic Principles And Does Not Contradict Core Beliefs. For Instance, In The MLBB Tournament In Malaysia, Are Muslims Barred From Participating In The Competition?. The Permissibility Hinges On The Content And Purpose Of The Tournament. If It Does Not

Cybertainment: A Short Analysis from an Islamic Perspective

Violate Islamic Law (Sharia), It Is Acceptable. However, If It Is Harmful, Promotes Immorality, Or Distracts From Religious Obligations, It Is Considered Forbidden In Islam. Remember, Islam Is Not Just A Set Of Rituals But A Complete Code Of Life. It Provides Guidance On Every Aspect Of A Believer's Life. The Messenger Of Allah (Peace Be Upon Him) Said What He Meant: "Halal Is Clear, And Haram Is Clear; Between Them Are Doubtful Matters About Which Not Many People Know" (Narrated By Al-Bukhari).

IV. CYBERTAINMENT: IS IT COMPATIBLE WITH ISLAM There Are Several Things To Consider:

A. Compliance with Islamic Law (Sharia)

Although There Is No Specific Fatwa About Cybertainment, People Must Realize That Cybertainment Should Not Violate Islamic Law (Sharia). We Recognize That Cybertainment Differs From Traditional Entertainment Due To Its Reliance On Gadgets And The Internet. Nevertheless, As A Citizen Educated In Eastern Customs And Islamic Teachings, We Must Uphold Islamic Characteristics And The Eastern Culture, Which Is Renowned For Its Polite And Gentle Manners (Nor Hazrul, 2023). This Includes Avoiding Sexually Suggestive Content, Promoting Violence, Or Being Considered Disrespectful To Islam Or Other Religions. Be A Content Creator, Youtuber, Or Streamer, As A Muslim, They Should Know That Some Guidelines Have Been Set In Islamic Law In Order To Entertain Themselves Or Others. Allah Said In The Al-Quran, Which Means: "O Believers! Do Not Forbid The Good Things Which Allah Has Made Lawful For You, And Do Not Transgress. Indeed, Allah Does Not Like Transgressors". (Al-Maidah (5): 87).

B. Modesty And Haya

Muslims Are Encouraged To Practice Modesty And Haya In Their Online Interactions. However, Nowadays, There Are Two Types Of People When It Comes To Cybertainment Itself: Those Who Practice Modesty And Haya, And Those Who Transgress And Seek Attention. The Messenger Of Allah (Peace Be Upon Him) Said: "Shyness Is Part Of Faith." (Narrated By Al-Bukhari). This Shows That Shyness Is An Important Characteristic For A Muslim And Is Closely Related To One's Faith.

C. Avoiding Haram Activities

Cybertainment Should Not Encourage Or Facilitate Activities That Are Forbidden In Islam, Such As Gambling, Excessive Flirting, Or Other Forms Of Immoral Behavior. As Mentioned Before, Technology Has Evolved, And Intelligent People Have Evolved Alongside It. Humans Create A Positive Impact On Cybertainment, Such As Health Competition In Esports, Making Friends, Sharing Beneficial Content, And More. However, They Also Create A Negative Impact On Cybertainment, Such As Hate Speech, Cyberbullying, And Many More. Everything At Your Fingertips. Allah SWT Said In The Al-Quran: "Corruption Has Appeared Throughout The Land And Sea By [Reason Of] What The Hands Of People Have Earned So He May Let Them Taste Part Of [The Consequence Of] What They Have Done That Perhaps They Will Return [To Righteousness]". (Surah Al-Rum (30): 41). Human Actions Can Lead To Halal Or Haram Activities, Particularly In The Realm Of Entertainment Or Cybertainment, They Choose.

D. Continuous Evaluation

Muslims Should Continuously Evaluate Their Online Activities And Ensure They Align With Islamic Values And Principles. A Question Was Once Asked Of The Mufti, Using The Internet: Is It Haram Or Not? The Mufti Said, "The Internet Is Only An Instrument And There Is No Ruling On It. The Ruling Depends On The Content And The Person's Use Of It. If A Person Uses It For Beneficial Purposes, Such As Scientific Research Or Calling People To Islam, Then It Is Good And Beneficial. However, If A Person Uses It In Dissoluteness And Corruption, Then It Is Forbidden. It Is Like Poetry: If Its Content Is Good, Then It Is Good, And If Its Content Is Harmful, It Is Not Good (Islamweb, 1999). So, In Terms Of Cybertainment, The Intention Of Having Fun Also Needs To Be Considered. The Entertainment Chosen Should Aim To Refresh The Mind, Relieve Stress, Or Increase Insight, Rather Than Focusing On Things That Are Futile Or Negligent.

Are Cybertainment And Islam Compatible? As Long As It Complies With Islamic Law, People Can Pursue Any Form Of Entertainment They Desire. Good Cybertainment Is That Which Does Not Contradict Islamic Teachings, Brings Benefits And Does Not Neglect Religious Obligations. Have Fun Appropriately And Not Excessively. Avoid Actions That Violate The Norms Of Decency, Socialize Freely, Or Do Things That Could Cause Slander. Although Islam Does Not Prohibit Cybertainment, We Must Remember That Islam Does Not Open Up The Cybertainment Space So Widely That There Are No Limits At All. Avoiding Cybertainment In The Form Of Insulting, Degrading, Or Exposing Someone's Shame Is Prohibited In Islam. Avoid Cybertainment That Resembles Other Religions In Terms Of Their Beliefs Or Worship, And Cybertainment That Pranks People So That They Are Scared Or Shocked Is Not Permitted In Islam (Nur Mohammad, 2020). The Prophet (Peace And Blessings Of Allah Be Upon Him) Said: "It Is Not Permissible For A Muslim To Intimidate Another Muslim." (Narrated By Abu Daud).

V. CONCLUSIONS

Islam Does Not Prevent Someone From Having Fun. This Is Because Our Life On Earth Is Not Simply About Performing Worship In The Mosque, Continuously Remembering Allah, Or Reading The Quran All The Time. Yusuf Al-Qaradhwai Said In His Book The Lawful And The Prohibited In Islam, "Islam Does Not Require Humans To Have All Their Daily Words As Dhikr, All Their Reflections As Thinking, All Their Listening To Be Only The Quran, And All Their Free Time Must Be In The Mosque. Islam Recognizes The Existence Of Humans With Their Nature And Character As Created By Allah SWT For Them. Allah SWT Created Humans So That They Can Be Happy, Laugh, And Play, As He Created For Humans The Desire To Eat And Drink." In Terms Of Cybertainment, Have Fun Appropriately And Not Excessively. In Essence, Cybertainment In Islam Is Not About Complete Abstinence From Entertainment, But Rather About Engaging With It Responsibly And Ethically, Always Mindful Of The Broader Islamic Framework. Having Fun Is Permitted, But Matters Related To Halal And Haram Need To Be Emphasized By Muslims So That Their Lives Always Receive The Pleasure Of Allah.

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