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I sometime wonder whether we are living in a real or a virtual world. The internet has spread up its web around the globe and it caught every one of us under it. The Internet has become a need now in our day to day life. It has brought the world into our door steps. Now from ordering foods to booking travel packages, from getting research studies to gathering information about different cultures, everything has become easy due to the Internet. The social networking sites have made it possible to keep in touch with the loved ones. In these sites, we can search for people who live far away from us. It has offered us a platform where everyone can come to share and exchange the views.

The cultural exchanges between countries have increased due to them. But this online world has its loopholes also. Many evil minded people are using it as a tool to spread terror and unethical thoughts. The hackers can easily access the personal information of a person through this. Just few days ago I read news about the posting of obscene messages and videos on a particular social networking site. The hackers hacked the person account of people and posted different obscene matters on their friend's wall. This has created a hue and cry among the general public who are using that particular site.

The Internet world has attracted to kids and the teens to a large extent. There are various educational benefits attached to this world also. Students can now access information related to their studies from the Internet only. It helps a lot in accomplishing their projects. The modern day schools assign homework to the kids in their personal mail id provided by the school itself. But while kids and teens are getting closed to this real and at times virtual world, parents and teachers should keep a close monitoring on them.

The following suggestions may help the parents to teach their kids the safety measures while using the Internet:-

• Teach your kids not to disclose any personal information like address, phone number, parents' saving account details etc. without the permission of the parents. The hackers and evil minded people may use these details in wrong ways to spread terror or threat.

• Ask your child to share with you if they come across any information or matter that made them uncomfortable.

• If your child is using a particular social networking site, ask them not to accept any request from the unknown person without the permission of the parents.

• Always ask your child not to post any personal pictures on different sites. These pictures may be used in unethical activities and can harm the personality of the child.

• Tell your child not to disclose the password to anyone apart from you. This will ensure the security of their personal details.

• Teach your child to use the Internet as a productive tool to expand the sphere of knowledge.

Everything in this world has its merits and demerits and The Internet is also not an exception to this rule. It is on us how we are using this potent tool for the betterment of our life, our society and our nation.

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