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	<u>The Interaction Of Religion And Technology: Ethical Considerations</u>
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The interaction of religion and technology: ethical considerations

Abstract

The intersection of religion and technology presents a complex landscape fraught with ethical considerations that span diverse cultural, social, and philosophical dimensions. This relationship has evolved significantly in recent decades, driven by rapid technological progressions and shifting religious landscapes worldwide. To dissect these ethical considerations, it's essential to examine several key facets where religion and technology converge and the implications they raise. Firstly, one prominent area of concern is the impact of technology on religious practices and beliefs. Technology has enabled new forms of religious expression and communication, from online worship services and virtual pilgrimages to AI-driven religious counseling and digital prayer apps. While these innovations offer convenience and convenience, they also raise questions about authenticity, spiritual experience, and the potential commodification of religious rituals. Moreover, the use of technology in religious contexts introduces ethical quandaries regarding privacy and data security. Platforms that collect and analyze user data for personalized religious content or recommendations must navigate the limits between convenience and intrusion. Issues of consent, transparency in data usage, and safeguarding sensitive information become paramount, especially given the intimate nature of religious beliefs. Another critical consideration is the influence of technology on religious authority and clarification. The accessibility of information through the internet challenges traditional ladders and empowers individuals to interpret religious texts self-sufficiently. While this democratization of knowledge fosters diversity of thought, it also risks fragmentation and misrepresentation, leading to theological debates and potential conflicts within religious communities. Furthermore, the integration of artificial intelligence and machine learning in religious contexts raises profound ethical questions. AI-powered religious catboats or virtual religious leaders pose challenges regarding genuineness, moral authority, and the ethical implications of delegating spiritual guidance to non-human entities. Issues of accountability, bias in algorithmic decision-making, and the ethical programming of AI to reflect diverse religious viewpoints require careful consideration. Additionally, the ethical implications extend to the broader societal impact of technological advancements on religious beliefs and practices. Technological innovations can either enhance religious inclusivity and

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understanding or worsen existing differences and exclusions within religious communities. The digital divide, disparities in access to technology, and cultural sensitivities surrounding the use of certain technologies underscore the importance of equitable technological integration. Moreover, the ethical dimensions of religious technology extend to broader insinuations for cultural heritage preservation, digital memorialization, and the ethical use of augmented reality in sacred spaces. These technologies raise questions about respect for sacred traditions, preservation of cultural authenticity, and the ethical boundaries of virtual representation in religious contexts. In conclusion, the intersection of religion and technology necessitates a nuanced ethical framework that considers the diverse implications of scientific advancements on religious beliefs, practices, and communities. Addressing these ethical considerations requires collaboration among religious leaders, technologists, policymakers, and ethicists to ensure that technological innovations respect religious diversity, uphold ethical standards, and promote societal well-being. By navigating these intricacies thoughtfully and inclusively, we can harness the potential of technology to enrich religious experiences while safeguarding ethical principles and cultural values.

Key words: Religious practices, Technological advancements, Ethical dilemmas, Privacy, Data security, religious authority

Introduction

In this digital era, the intersection of religion and technology has become a complex and compelling issue. Technological advancements have transformed the way humans live, interact, and engage with the world around them. For Muslims, Islam serves as the foundation for their worldview and the rules that govern all aspects of life, including their relationship with technology. Islamic law, or Shariah, encompasses guidance and philosophies that regulate worship, interpersonal relations, economics, justice, and morality. However, in this rapidly evolving digital era, the progress of technology and the emergence of various digital platforms and urbane devices present new challenges that need to be addressed in the context of religion and ethics.

In the context of Islam, the connection of Islam and technology in the digital era has become an increasingly relevant and attention-grabbing topic. As a religion that encompasses all aspects of life, Islam has a broad scope of legal provisions that involve various aspects, including technology. In addressing the challenges posed

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by digital technology, Muslims and Islamic scholars strive to understand and apply Islamic law appropriately in this context.

The intersection of religion and technology in the digital era involves a range of complex and diverse issues. This includes how Muslims worship, socializes, participate in the digital economy, and manage information in an increasingly globally connected environment. One of the significant impacts of digital technology is the easy and rapid access to religious information. The internet has provided Muslims with access to various sources of information and interpretations of Islamic teachings. However, in this regard, new challenges arise regarding how to filter, validate, and ensure the accuracy and authority of these information sources. The use of social media and other digital platforms has also accelerated the spread of information and opinions, both in line with Islamic law and diverging from it. Therefore, Muslims need to be critical and selective when accessing and disseminating religious information.¹

Furthermore, digital technology has also transformed the way Muslims interact and communicate. Social media, instant messaging platforms, and other communication applications have facilitated the creation of virtual social networks and communities that transcend geographical and cultural boundaries. This has expanded the scope of social interactions and provided a new platform for sharing religious knowledge and perspectives. However, at the same time, this phenomenon has also raised ethical and legal questions regarding proper etiquette in communication, privacy protection, and the dissemination of slander or content that contradicts Islamic teachings. Muslims are required to uphold the integrity of their religion and ethics in their interactions in the digital world.²

One of the main challenges that arise relates to privacy and the use of personal data in the context of digital technology. In this era, many Muslims use social media, instant messaging applications, and online platforms to communicate, share information, and build social networks. However, the presence of technology has serious implications for privacy and the use of personal data. How can Muslims safeguard their privacy while using these technologies? How can personal data

¹Ahmad, H., Zainuddin, N. M. M., Yusuf, R. C. M., Azmi, N. F. M., & Hassan, W. A. W. (2019). Augmented Reality Model to Aid Al-Quran Memorization for Hearing Impaired Students. In *Intelligent and Interactive Computing* (pp. 447-457). Springer, Singapore.

²Baazeem, R. (2020). How religion influences the use of social media: the impact of the online user's religiosity on perceived online privacy and the use of technology in Saudi Arabia (Doctoral dissertation, Kingston University), (pp.247-248)

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protection be regulated and prevent the misuse of personal information in the context of Islamic law? The intersection between Islamic law and technology in the digital era also involves issues of privacy and data security. In an era where personal data is highly valuable, the protection of privacy and data security becomes crucial. For Muslims, this involves considerations on how to ensure the security of personal data, avoid unauthorized profiling, and limit the dissemination of unwanted personal information. In this regard, Islamic law holds relevant principles concerning individual privacy rights and responsibilities in managing and protecting personal data.

Furthermore, in the economic realm, digital technology has brought about new business models such as e-commerce, crypto currency, and digital financial services. In this context, Islamic law, which governs transactions and economic justice, needs to be adapted to the challenges and opportunities presented by the digital economy. For example, Islamic law prohibits practices involving usury (interest) and unfair transactions. Therefore, questions arise regarding how Islamic legal principles can be applied in the context of digital financial transactions, the use of crypto currency, and electronic commerce.

In facing the intersection between religion and technology in the digital era, Muslims need to consider Islamic legal guidance, social context, and the impact of technology when making decisions and implementing their religious values. Islamic scholars and religious leaders play a crucial role in understanding and articulating Islamic principles in this digital context. Through in-depth discussions, research, and profound thinking, Muslims can find a balance between religious values and the demands of the time, enabling them to harness the potential of technology positively and in line with the fundamental principles of Islamic law.³

By gaining a deep understanding of religion and technological advancements, Muslims can seek a balance between religious values and the demands of the time. In facing the intersection between religion and technology in the digital era, Muslims need to consider Islamic legal guidance, social context, and the impact of technology when making decisions and implementing their religious values.

The Influence of Technology in the Islamic Context

³ Devianto, Y., & Dwiasnati, S. (2020). Kerangka Kerja Sistem Kecerdasan Buatan dalam Meningkatkan Kompetensi Sumber Daya Manusia Indonesia. InComTech, volume.(1),(pp. 19-24)

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Technology has had a significant influence in the Islamic context. Through internet access, Muslims can obtain extensive religious knowledge and access interpretations of the Qur'an, hadith, and other religious sources. Communication through online platforms enables the exchange of thoughts and religious discussions among Muslims around the world. Digital financial services and e-commerce that comply with Sharia principles facilitate halal financial transactions. Technology has also improved Islamic education with educational software and online learning platforms. However, ethical and moral challenges also arise, such as content that is inconsistent with Islamic values. Therefore, it is important for Muslims to use technology wisely and ensure that it is used according to religious teachings.

Social change is a process of change that occurs in the structures, norms, values, and practices that exist in a society. In the religious context, social change can have a significant impact on Islamic practices carried out by individuals and community groups. In this paper, we will explore some of the social changes that have taken place and their impact on religious practice.

One of the social changes that have occurred is a demographic shift. Demographic developments involving urbanization, migration, and population growth can affect the composition of religions in an area. When individuals with different religious backgrounds live together in a multicultural society, Islam's practices can coexist, synergize, or clash with each other. This can create the need for dialogue and adaptation between different religious groups so that Islam's practices can undergo changes or adjustments to remain relevant in a changing social context.

The development of information and communication technology has also had a significant impact on religious practices. Advances in technology have changed the way individuals access information and interact with their religion. Holy books and religious writings can be easily accessed via the internet, and religious communities can gather virtually through social media platforms. This is changing the way Islamic practices are carried out, such as praying online, following sermons through live broadcasts, or participating in religious discussion groups virtually. Technology can also help spread Islam's teachings and expand the range of Islam practices, but it also brings new challenges to maintaining the authenticity of traditional culture and values.

In addition, social change can also affect the interpretation and understanding of religious teachings. The values and norms espoused by society can change over time, and this can affect the way individuals view and practice their religion. Some Islamic practices may undergo adjustments to suit evolving social values and norms. For

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example, in some societies that is increasingly accepting of sexual diversity, there is debate and change in religious practices regarding the recognition and inclusion of LGBT people in religious communities.

In the face of social change, religious practices can be a factor influencing change or, conversely, a source of resilience and stability in society. Some Islamic practices can survive and even strengthen themselves in the midst of change. Social media, while others may experience a decline in popularity or change in fundamentals. The challenge for religious communities is to preserve the authenticity of their teachings and core values while responding wisely to social change.⁴

In conclusion, social change has a significant impact on religious practice. Demographic changes, technological advances, and changing social values and norms can affect the way individuals practice their religion. For religious communities, the challenge is to preserve the authenticity of their practices and values while remaining responsive to the social changes taking place around them.

Ethical Challenges in the Use of Technology in religion

The use of technology in religion presents a range of ethical challenges that intersect with cultural, social, and philosophical dimensions. These challenges arise from the transformative impact of technology on religious practices, beliefs, and communities and they require careful consideration to navigate responsibly. This essay explores some of the key ethical challenges associated with the use of technology in religion.

1. *Privacy and Data Security*:

Technology often involves the collection and processing of personal data in religious contexts, such as through online worship platforms, digital counseling services, or religious apps. Ensuring the privacy of sensitive information, obtaining informed consent for data usage, and protecting against unauthorized access are critical ethical concerns. Issues may arise regarding the transparency of data practices, potential breaches of confidentiality, and the implications for trust within religious communities.

⁴ Ibrahim, M. I., Nazri, F. I., Basiron, B., Baharuddin, A, Bidang, M, Persepsi, & Bentong, S. I. (2018). Islam serta pembentukan sains dan teknologi. In Prosiding Seminar Tamadun Islam UTM (pp. 1-2).

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يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اجْتَنِبُوا كَثِيرًا مِّنَ الظَّنِّ إِنَّ بَعْضَ الظَّنِّ إِثْمٌ وَلَا تَجَسَّسُوا وَلَا يَغْتَبَ بَعْضُكُم بَعْضًا ۚ أَيُحِبُّ أَحَدُكُمْ أَن يَأْكُلَ لَحْمَ أَخِيهِ مَيْتًا فَكَرِهْتُمُوهُ ۚ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ ۚ إِنَّ اللَّهَ تَوَّابٌ رَّحِيمٌ⁵

“O you, who have believed, avoid much [negative] assumption. Indeed, some assumption is sin. And do not spy or backbite each other. Would one of you like to eat the flesh of his brother when dead? You would detest it. And fear Allah; indeed, Allah is accepting of repentance and Merciful.”

This verse underscores the importance of avoiding suspicion and respecting the privacy and dignity of others, which is relevant to ethical considerations in data security and confidentiality.

2. *Authenticity and Spiritual Experience*:

The integration of technology can alter the authenticity and depth of spiritual experiences. Virtual worship services, for example, may provide convenience and accessibility but may also dilute the communal and sacred aspects of traditional gatherings. Ethical questions emerge about whether digital interactions can genuinely replicate or enhance spiritual engagement, or if they risk commodifying religious practices and rituals.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِذَا نُودِيَ لِلصَّلَاةِ مِنْ يَوْمِ الْجُمُعَةِ فَاسْعَوْا إِلَىٰ ذِكْرِ اللَّهِ وَذَرُوا الْبَيْعَ ۚ ذَٰلِكُمْ خَيْرٌ لَّكُمْ إِن كُنْتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ⁶

“O you, who have believed, when [the adhan] is called for the prayer on the day of Jumu'ah [Friday], then proceed to the remembrance of Allah and leave trade. That is better for you, if you only knew.”

This verse highlights the importance of physical presence and communal worship in enhancing spiritual experiences, prompting reflection on the potential impact of digital interactions on the authenticity of religious practices.

3. *Religious Authority and Interpretation*:

⁵ Al-Hujurat:49:12

⁶ Al-Jumu'ah :62:9

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Technology challenges traditional structures of religious authority by democratizing access to religious texts, interpretations, and teachings. Online forums, blogs, and social media enable diverse interpretations of religious doctrines, potentially leading to theological fragmentation and conflicting teachings. Ethical considerations include maintaining the integrity of religious teachings amidst diverse interpretations, addressing misinformation, and preserving the authority of religious leaders in a digital landscape.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا أَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَأَطِيعُوا الرَّسُولَ وَأُولِي الْأَمْرِ مِنْكُمْ فَإِن تَنَازَعْتُمْ فِي شَيْءٍ فَرُدُّوهُ إِلَى اللَّهِ وَالرَّسُولِ إِن كُنتُمْ تُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ ۚ ذَلِكَ خَيْرٌ وَأَحْسَنُ تَأْوِيلًا⁷

“O you, who have believed, obey Allah and obey the Messenger and those in authority among you. And if you disagree over anything, refer it to Allah and the Messenger, if you should believe in Allah and the Last Day. That is the best [way] and best in result.”

This verse emphasizes the importance of adhering to legitimate authority and seeking consensus within the framework of religious teachings, relevant to the ethical challenges of maintaining religious authority amidst diverse interpretations facilitated by technology.

4. *Equity and Access*:

The digital divide poses ethical challenges regarding equitable access to technology within religious communities. Disparities in internet connectivity, technological literacy, and economic resources may exclude marginalized groups from participating fully in digital religious practices. Ensuring inclusive access to technological advancements without reinforcing existing inequalities is crucial for promoting equitable religious engagement and community cohesion.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِذَا قِيلَ لَكُمْ تَفَسَّحُوا فِي الْمَجَالِسِ فَأَفْسَحُوا يَفْسَحِ اللَّهُ لَكُمْ ۚ وَإِذَا قِيلَ انشُرُوا فَانشُرُوا يَرْفَعِ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مِنْكُمْ وَالَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْعِلْمَ دَرَجَاتٍ ۗ وَاللَّهُ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ خَبِيرٌ⁸

O you who have believed, when you are told, "Space yourselves" in assemblies, then make space; Allah will make space for you. And when you are told, "Arise," then arise; Allah will raise those who have

⁷ An-Nisa :4:59

⁸ Al-Mujadila :58:11

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believed among you and those who were given knowledge, by degrees.
And Allah is acquainted with what you do.

This verse underscores the principle of inclusivity and equitable participation in community gatherings, reflecting on the ethical imperative of ensuring equal access to religious teachings and practices facilitated by technology.

5. *Cultural Sensitivity and Appropriation*:

Technology enables global dissemination of religious practices and beliefs, which raises ethical concerns about cultural sensitivity and respect for diverse traditions. Virtual simulations of sacred rituals or digital representations of cultural artifacts can inadvertently trivialize or misrepresent sacred practices. Ethical guidelines are needed to navigate the boundaries between cultural appreciation and appropriation, ensuring that technology enhances rather than erodes cultural authenticity and respect.

6. *Ethical Design of Technological Solutions*:

Developers of religious technology must consider ethical implications in the design and deployment of their products. This includes addressing biases in algorithms used for AI-driven religious counseling, ensuring user autonomy and consent in digital interactions, and promoting responsible innovation that aligns with ethical principles of respect, justice, and human dignity.

7. *Social and Ethical Impact on Communities*:

The widespread adoption of technology in religious contexts can influence social dynamics and community cohesion. Online religious communities may foster connections across geographical boundaries but also face challenges such as cyber bullying, misinformation, and polarization. Ethical considerations include promoting constructive dialogue, fostering digital citizenship, and mitigating harms associated with online interactions within religious communities.⁹

In conclusion, addressing these ethical challenges requires collaborative efforts among religious leaders, technologists, policymakers, and ethicists to develop guidelines and frameworks that uphold ethical principles while harnessing the

⁹ Rosli, T., Muniandy, Y., Jasmi, K. A., Rosli, T., Muniandy, Y., & Jasmi, K. A. (2019). Media Sosial dan Impak Tingkah Laku Menurut Islam. Kertas Kerja Dibentangkan di Seminar Sains Teknologi dan Manusia.(pp.98-99)

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potential benefits of technological innovation in religious contexts. By navigating these complexities thoughtfully and inclusively, we can strive to ensure that technology enhances religious experiences, fosters community resilience, and promotes ethical integrity in an increasingly digital world.

Privacy and protection of personal data in an Islamic perspective

Privacy and the protection of personal data are increasingly important issues in today's digital era. From an Islamic perspective, privacy and the protection of personal data are also important. In an article published by the Indonesian Ulema Council, it is explained that Islam views the protection of personal data as the goal of sharia. This is in line with Islamic principles, which respect human dignity and uphold human rights. From the sad Shariah perspective, personal data contains personal honor and dignity that should not be disturbed.

This shows that in Islam, personal data is considered part of human rights that must be protected. In addition, Islam also teaches that life and death are in the power of Allah SWT so that nothing can interfere with the right to life of others. Therefore, the protection of personal data is also part of the protection of human rights.

In Islam, the protection of personal data is also regulated in a clear and real way. As explained in the article, Islam teaches that everyone must be guaranteed the right to life and freedom, but the rights of the congregation (public rights) take precedence over individual rights. This shows that in Islam, personal data protection must be carried out by considering the public interest. In today's digital era, the risk of crime in cyberspace is increasing. Therefore, the protection of personal data is becoming increasingly important. In the article, it is explained that there are three approaches to protecting citizens' privacy rights in this digital economy era, namely legal, technological, and ethical approaches. From an Islamic perspective, a legal approach is also important in protecting personal data.

The protection of personal data must be regulated by a statutory regulation in order to provide optimal protection for the public. In the article, it is explained that the purpose of this research is to analyze the protection of personal data privacy rights from a human rights perspective. This shows that in Islam, the protection of personal data must also be seen from a human rights perspective.

From an Islamic perspective, privacy and protection of personal data are very important and must be respected. This can be seen from several basic principles in Islam, such as the principles of justice, freedom, and human rights. For example, in

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the Al- Quran, there is a verse which states that everyone has the right to privacy and personal security, as contained in Surah An-Nur:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا لَا تَدْخُلُوا بُيُوتًا غَيْرَ بُيُوتِكُمْ حَتَّىٰ تَسْتَأْذِنُوا وَتُسَلِّمُوا عَلَىٰ أَهْلِهَا ۚ ذَٰلِكُمْ خَيْرٌ لَّكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُذَكَّرُونَ¹⁰

"O you, who believe, do not enter a house other than yours before asking permission and greets its inhabitants. Thus Allah explains to you His laws so that you understand them."

In addition, in the hadiths of the Prophet Muhammad, there are also teachings about the importance of maintaining personal privacy and security. For example, the Prophet Muhammad SAW once said that "Every Muslim has the right to five things: religion, honor, soul, property, and the honor of women."¹¹

In the context of personal data protection, Islam also emphasizes the importance of maintaining the confidentiality of one's personal information. This can be seen from the principle of confidentiality in the relationship between doctors and patients, as well as between lawyers and their clients. In Islam, the confidentiality of this personal information is strictly guarded and can only be disclosed with the permission of the owner of the information.

In today's digital era, where personal information is often stored and processed digitally, it is important for Muslims to pay attention to the privacy and protection of personal data. This can be done by choosing an application or platform that has a clear privacy policy that complies with Islamic principles and by not sharing personal information carelessly.

From a comparative legal perspective, the protection of personal data privacy is also important. In the article, it is explained that the protection of personal data privacy must be regulated by a statutory regulation in order to provide optimal protection for the public. This shows that in Islam, personal data protection must also be regulated by a statutory regulation. Privacy and the protection of personal data are important from an Islamic perspective. Personal data is considered a human right that must be protected. Protection of personal data must also be carried out by considering the public interest. In today's digital era, the protection of personal data must be

¹⁰An-Nur:24:27

¹¹Imam Muslim,Sahih Muslim, Book : 1, Kitab-al-Iman, The Book of Faith, Number: 0001

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regulated by a statutory regulation in order to provide optimal protection for the community.

The ethics of using social media and digital communication from the perspective of Islamic law is very important to understand so that their use does not violate Islamic values. The following are some important points that can be drawn from the sources found.

1. *Respect for Privacy (Stir):*

Islam emphasizes the concept of "stir," which denotes covering or concealing that which is private and not meant for public display. This principle extends to protecting personal information from unauthorized access or disclosure. The Quran states in Surah An-Nur:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَا تَدْخُلُوا بُيُوتًا غَيْرَ بُيُوتِكُمْ حَتَّى تَسْتَأْذِنُوا وَتُسَلِّمُوا عَلَىٰ أَهْلِهَا ۚ ذَٰلِكُمْ خَيْرٌ لَّكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُذَكَّرُونَ¹²

“O you, who have believed, do not enter houses other than your own houses until you ascertain welcome and greet their inhabitants. That is best for you; perhaps you will be reminded”.

This verse emphasizes the importance of seeking permission before entering private spaces, highlighting the Islamic value of respecting boundaries and personal privacy.

2. *Prohibition of Backbiting (Ghee bah):*

Backbiting, or speaking negatively about others behind their backs, is strictly prohibited in Islam. This prohibition extends to disclosing personal information or spreading gossip that may harm an individual's reputation or privacy. The Quran states in Surah Al-Hujurat:

وَلَا يَغْتَابَ بَعْضُكُم بَعْضًا ۚ أَيُّجِبُ أَحَدُكُمْ أَنْ يَأْكُلَ لَحْمَ أَخِيهِ مَيْتًا فَكَرِهْنَاهُ ۚ وَأَنْتُمْ قَالُوا إِنَّ اللَّهَ تَوَّابٌ رَّحِيمٌ¹³

¹²An-Nur:24:27

¹³Al-Hujurat:49:12

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And do not back bite one another. Would one of you like to eat the flesh of his brother when dead? You would detest it. And fear Allah; indeed, Allah is accepting of repentance and Merciful.

This verse underscores the importance of protecting others' dignity and privacy by refraining from gossip or divulging personal information without consent.

3. *Trustworthiness (Amana):*

Trustworthiness and honesty are fundamental virtues in Islam. This principle extends to safeguarding entrusted information or possessions, including personal data. The Quran mentions in Surah Al-Maida:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا أَوْفُوا بِالْعُقُودِ ۖ أُحِلَّتْ لَكُمْ بَهِيمَةُ الْأَنْعَامِ إِلَّا مَا يُتْلَىٰ عَلَيْكُمْ غَيْرَ مُجَلِّي
الصَّيِّدِ وَأَنْتُمْ حُرْمٌ ۗ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَحْكُمُ مَا يُرِيدُ¹⁴

O you who have believed, fulfill [all] contracts. Lawful for you are the animals of grazing livestock except for that which is recited to you [in this Qur'an] - hunting not being permitted while you are in the state of ihram. Indeed, Allah ordains what He intends.

This verse underscores the importance of fulfilling contracts and commitments, which can extend to agreements involving the protection and confidentiality of personal data in contemporary contexts.

4. *Ethical Conduct in Business and Transactions: *

Islam emphasizes fairness, transparency, and ethical conduct in all dealings, including business transactions and interpersonal relationships. The principles of "adl" (justice) and "amanah" (trustworthiness) are foundational in maintaining privacy and respecting confidentiality in business and personal interactions.¹⁵

In summary, while the Quran and Hadith do not explicitly address modern-day concepts of digital privacy and personal data protection, Islamic principles emphasize respect for privacy, trustworthiness, and ethical conduct in all aspects of life. These principles provide a framework for Muslims to navigate contemporary issues related to privacy and the use of personal data responsibly, ensuring that

¹⁴Al-Maida :5:1

¹⁵Syahri, A. (2018). Spirit Islam dalam teknologi pendidikan di era revolusi industri4.0. ATTARBIYAH,vol: 28,(pp. 62-80)

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ethical considerations align with Islamic teachings of dignity, respect, and mutual trust.

Islamic legal response to digital content that violates religious values

In Islam, digital content that violates religious values is considered an act that is not permissible. As Muslims, we are required to respect copyright. The Indonesian government also wants social media to be used for productive things, encourage creativity and innovation, and improve people's welfare.

In promoting products labeled sharia in online media, empirical juridical research shows that the object of legal review of promotional content for products labeled sharia in online media is to find out whether the content follows Islamic religious values. Religious moderation in the digital realm is very important to voice religious narratives according to moderate, essential, and tolerant religious values. Basic Natural Sciences from an Islamic Perspective in Higher Education also contain Basic Natural Sciences that are integrated with Islamic values. From the perspective of socio-cultural anthropology, the construction of religious moderation in Indonesia shows that Islamic radical and fundamentalist groups have non-religious educational backgrounds.

In digital content, several Islamic religious values must be maintained, including Respect for Allah SWT and Rasulullah SAW, Respect for copyright and privacy, Respect for other people and the environment, Concern for truth and justice, and Concern for the welfare of society and the environment.¹⁶

In the 21st century of digital literacy, research shows that revitalizing the values of Islamic education in 21st-century digital literacy is very important. Young people need to create positive content in digital form and make it as creative as possible to spread the values of religious moderation. Therefore, each component of the family has an important role in instilling religious values in children in the digital era. ICT learning in madrasas must also integrate religious values into the learning content. Islamic religious values that must be maintained in digital content include respect for Allah SWT and Rasulullah SAW, copyright and privacy, other people and the environment, truth and justice, as well as community and environmental welfare. Instilling religious values in children in the digital era is very important for families

¹⁶Fahyuni, E. F. (2017). Teknologi, Informasi, dan Komunikasi (Prinsip dan Aplikasi dalam Studi Pemikiran Islam),(pp.499)

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and madrasas. Young people also need to create positive digital content and make it as creative as possible to spread the values of religious moderation.¹⁷

In conclusion, Islamic legal responses to digital content that violates religious values prioritize the protection of moral integrity, social harmony, and religious sanctity. These responses combine legal measures with educational efforts to uphold Islamic principles in an evolving digital landscape, ensuring responsible media practices and ethical conduct in content creation, distribution, and consumption.

Navigating the Intersection of religion and Technology

Navigating the interaction of religion and technology involves exploring how these two domains intersect, influence each other, and pose ethical considerations. Here are several key aspects to consider:

1. *Impact on Religious Practices:*

Technology has transformed how religious practices are conducted and experienced. From live streaming of religious services to mobile apps for prayer times and Quran recitation, technology has made religious resources more accessible and convenient for believers worldwide.

2. *Ethical Considerations:*

The integration of technology in religious contexts raises ethical questions, such as data privacy concerns with religious apps, the authenticity of digital religious experiences versus physical attendance, and the potential for misinformation or misuse of religious teachings online.

3. *Global Connectivity and Outreach:*

Technology enables global connectivity among religious communities, facilitating dialogue, collaboration, and outreach efforts beyond geographical boundaries. Social media platforms and virtual gatherings foster connections and promote religious teachings and interfaith dialogue.¹⁸

¹⁷Juliswara, V. (2017). Mengembangkan Model Literasi Media yang Berkebhinnekaan dalam Menganalisis Informasi Berita Palsu (Hoax) di Media Sosial. *Jurnal Pemikiran Sosiologi*, vol:2, (pp.142-164)

¹⁸Purwanto, E., Yana, K. El, Oktarina, S., & Zainal, A. G. (2021). The Role of Islamic Boarding Schools and Character Building of Santri through Increasing Social Capital and Human Capital

4. *Challenges to Traditional Authority:*

The democratization of information through the internet challenges traditional religious authority structures. Individuals can access diverse interpretations and religious teachings independently, leading to both enriching dialogue and potential fragmentation within religious communities.

5. *Cultural Adaptation and Innovation:*

Technology allows for cultural adaptation and innovation in religious practices and teachings. For example, digital Quran apps may offer translations in multiple languages, catering to diverse global audiences and enhancing understanding of religious texts.¹⁹

6. *Education and Religious Literacy:*

Digital platforms provide opportunities for religious education and literacy initiatives. Online courses, webinars, and podcasts offer accessible resources for learning about different faith traditions and promoting religious tolerance and understanding.

7. *Digital Divide and Accessibility: *

While technology enhances access to religious resources for many, it also exacerbates the digital divide, limiting accessibility for marginalized communities or regions with limited internet infrastructure. Efforts are needed to bridge this gap and ensure equitable access to religious teachings and practices.

8. *Regulation and Governance:*

Governments and religious institutions face challenges in regulating online content to uphold religious values and protect against misinformation or hate speech. Balancing freedom of expression with responsible online conduct requires collaborative efforts and ethical guidelines.

9. *Spiritual Well-being and Technology Use:*

for Social Changes in the Community. International Journal of Progressive Sciences and Technologies (IJPSAT, 26(1), (PP. 625-632).

¹⁹ <http://mui.or.id/wp-content/uploads/files/fatwa/Fatwa-No.24-Tahun-2017-Tentang-Hukum-dan-Pedoman-Bermuamalah-Melalui-Media-Sosial.pdf>

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Technology's pervasive presence raises concerns about its impact on individuals' spiritual well-being. Balancing technology use with mindfulness and spiritual practices is essential to maintain a holistic approach to religious life.

10. *Future Directions:*

Looking ahead, navigating the interaction of religion and technology requires ongoing dialogue, adaptation, and ethical reflection. Embracing technological advancements while upholding religious values and principles fosters a harmonious integration that benefits believers and society as a whole.²⁰

In conclusion, navigating the interaction of religion and technology involves embracing opportunities for innovation and connectivity while addressing ethical challenges and preserving the integrity of religious teachings and practices in a digital age. It requires thoughtful engagement, collaborative efforts, and continuous adaptation to ensure technology serves as a tool for enhancing religious experiences and promoting ethical conduct.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the interaction of religion and technology presents a dynamic landscape filled with opportunities and challenges that profoundly impact individuals, communities, and societies worldwide. Throughout this exploration, several key themes have emerged: Firstly, technology has revolutionized religious practices by enhancing accessibility, connectivity, and educational resources. From digital platforms offering virtual religious services to mobile applications facilitating scripture study and community engagement, technology has democratized access to religious knowledge and fostered global connectivity among believers. However, alongside these advancements come significant ethical considerations. Issues such as data privacy in religious apps, the authenticity of virtual religious experiences versus physical attendance, and the potential for misinformation or divisive narratives online demand careful scrutiny. Balancing technological innovation with ethical responsibility is crucial to ensure that technology enhances rather than undermines religious values and practices. Moreover, the integration of technology challenges traditional religious authority structures by empowering individuals with unprecedented access to diverse interpretations and teachings. While this democratization of information promotes dialogue and inclusivity, it also raises

²⁰Setiyanto, D. A. (2019). Hoax: Teks dan Konteks dalam Al-Quran. Indonesian Journal of Religion and Society, vol:1,(pp.1-3)

Website: <https://al-awan.com.pk/index.php/Journal>

concerns about potential fragmentation and misinformation within religious communities. Looking forward, navigating the interaction of religion and technology requires a multifaceted approach that prioritizes ethical reflection, inclusive dialogue, and proactive engagement. Collaborative efforts among religious leaders, technologists, policymakers, and communities are essential to establish ethical guidelines, promote digital literacy, and bridge the digital divide to ensure equitable access to religious resources and practices. Ultimately, by embracing the transformative potential of technology while upholding the timeless values of respect, integrity, and ethical conduct rooted in religious teachings, societies can navigate this intersection in ways that foster spiritual enrichment, communal harmony, and societal progress in the digital age.