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Artificial Intelligence as an Instrument for Empowering the Community: An Interdisciplinary Review in an Islamic Context

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ABSTRAK

The development of artificial intelligence (AI) has had a broad impact on various aspects of human life, including in the socio-religious context. This article aims to examine the potential of AI as an instrument for empowering Muslims through an interdisciplinary approach that combines technological perspectives, Islamic ethics, and sociology. The method used is a qualitative literature study with an analysis of relevant literature from the fields of computer science, contemporary Islamic thought, and technological ethics. The results of the study indicate that AI has significant potential to support the empowerment of the community, particularly in the fields of education, the community economy, and social services. However, its utilization requires a normative framework based on the values of maqāṣid al-syarī'ah to ensure harmony between technological progress and the principles of justice, welfare, and moral responsibility in Islam. Thus, AI must not only be understood as a technical innovation, but also as a means of meaningful social transformation within the framework of Islamic values.

1. Introduction

The development of artificial intelligence (AI) has now become a global phenomenon, significantly impacting various sectors of human life, such as the economy, education, health, and social and cultural structures. AI is no longer merely a technical tool, but has evolved into a strategic instrument shaping human thought patterns, behavior, and interactions in the digital age. This transformation demonstrates that technology is not neutral but has the potential to drive broad and profound social change.

In the Islamic context, the use of technology, including AI, requires a more comprehensive approach, one that is not solely oriented toward efficiency or economic gain, but also toward Islamic values such as justice, welfare, and community empowerment. Islam, as a religion that encourages the development of science and civilization, provides a theological and ethical foundation for the integration of technology into the lives of its people. Therefore, AI needs to be positioned as a strategic tool for realizing holistic community empowerment, across educational, social, economic, and spiritual dimensions. An interdisciplinary approach that combines technology, ethics, and Islamic values is crucial to ensure that AI implementation is contextual, just, and brings broad benefits to Muslim communities.

2. Literature Review

***Sugarto Nasarudin** is a Student of Islamic Education Management Study Program at Postgraduate School, State Islamic University Datokarama Palu, Indonesia. This paper was presented at the 4th International Conference on Islamic and Interdisciplinary Studies (ICIIS) 2025, as a presenter, held by the Postgraduate School State Islamic University Datokarama Palu, Indonesia.

Artificial intelligence (AI) is a form of technological advancement that enables machines or computer systems to mimic human intelligence in completing complex tasks, such as language processing, decision-making, and pattern recognition (Russell & Norvig, 2021). AI applications have expanded across various sectors, including education, economics, public services, and healthcare. In fact, AI is now an integral part of social policymaking and digital government systems (Floridi et al., 2018). While it brings numerous benefits in terms of efficiency and accessibility, the application of AI is not free from ethical and social issues, such as algorithmic bias, unequal access to technology, and the risk of dehumanization in public services (Eubanks, 2018). Therefore, an interdisciplinary approach involving computer science, technology ethics, and social sciences is crucial to ensure the equitable and inclusive development of AI. Within the framework of Islamic thought, technology is viewed as part of humanity's mandate as caliph on earth, tasked with safeguarding and prospering life according to the principles of justice and well-being. AI, as a representation of cutting-edge technology, has great potential in empowering people, as long as its use is in line with Islamic values, such as amar ma'ruf nahi munkar and maqāṣid al-syarī'ah (QS. Al-Baqarah: 30; QS. Al-Mujadilah: 11). Muslim scholars such as Al-Faruqi (1982) and Al-Attas (1993) emphasize the importance of integration between modern science and Islamic values to avoid the secularization of science and technology. In this context, an ethical approach to AI in Islam requires interdisciplinary studies that combine technology, Islamic philosophy, and sharia law (Yazdi, 2007). Contemporary studies also show the urgency of building an AI ecosystem that is based on the principles of social justice and moral responsibility (Dinar, 2020; Iqbal & Majeed, 2021), to ensure that this technology truly becomes an instrument of empowerment, not a tool of domination.

3. Methodology

This research employs a qualitative approach with exploratory and analytical library research methods. Data were collected through a critical review of academic literature, including books, journal articles, and classical and contemporary Islamic documents relevant to the themes of artificial intelligence, technological ethics, and community empowerment from an Islamic perspective. The analysis was conducted using an interdisciplinary approach, combining theoretical frameworks from computer science, the sociology of technology, and Islamic ethics to produce a comprehensive understanding of the role and potential of AI in supporting Islamic humanitarian missions. Emphasis is placed on integrating the values of maqāṣid al-shari'ah in responding to the development of AI. Therefore, the results of this study are expected to provide theoretical and practical contributions to the development of equitable technology based on Islamic values.

4. Results and Discussion

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has significant potential for use in empowering Muslims in various strategic areas, such as education, community economics, social services, and developing Islamic insight. In the education sector, AI can be implemented through adaptive learning systems, Islamic chatbots, and interactive interpretation applications that facilitate access to religious and general knowledge (Iqbal & Majeed, 2021). In the economic sector, AI technology plays a role in optimizing zakat, waqf, and digital-based Islamic financial infrastructure to be more transparent and efficient (Dinar, 2020). Thus, AI is not only a technical tool but also serves as a catalyst for social change that can encourage community participation and independence.

However, the use of AI in a Muslim context also requires a strong ethical and normative framework. This technology is not neutral, but rather carries values and logic shaped by the interests of its producers or developers. Therefore, the application of AI must consider the maqāṣid al-syarī'ah as a primary principle, to ensure that this technological advancement does not undermine fundamental Islamic values, such as justice, humanity, and social responsibility (Yazdi, 2007; Al-Faruqi, 1982).
This is where an interdisciplinary approach becomes crucial—combining computer science, Islamic ethics, and sociology—to ensure that AI development does not simply follow global trends but is also rooted in holistic Islamic values. Thus, empowering the community through AI is not only about access to technology, but also about building a just, ethical, and meaningful digital ecosystem within the framework of Islamic spirituality.

5. Conclusion

Artificial intelligence (AI) is a technological innovation that not only impacts technical and economic aspects but also carries profound social, ethical, and spiritual consequences. In the Muslim context, AI can serve as an instrument of empowerment if directed wisely and in accordance with Islamic values. Through the use of AI in education, the community economy, and social services, there is a significant opportunity to improve the quality of life and the independence of the community.

However, this use must be framed within an ethical paradigm based on the maqāṣid al-syarī'ah (obligatory duties of Allah), to ensure that the technology does not conflict with the principles of justice, humanity, and sustainability.
The above discussion highlights the importance of an interdisciplinary approach in understanding and implementing AI in Muslim societies. Integration of technological science, Islamic ethics, and social sciences is necessary so that AI becomes not only a tool for material progress but also supports the spiritual mission and civilization of Islam. Thus, AI can be a strategic tool in realizing an empowered, knowledgeable, and dignified community in the digital age.

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