

Artificial Intelligence in the Context of Islamic Law: Contemporary Perspectives on Accessibility, Efficiency, and Empowerment of Muslim Societies

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ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
Volume: 4 ISSN: 2963-5489	In the digital era 4.0/5.0, artificial intelligence (AI) offers new opportunities for developing various aspects of life, including Islamic law. This article aims to analyze how AI can improve accessibility, efficiency, and empowerment of Muslim communities in the context of Islamic law. The method used is library research with a comparative analysis of scientific literature based on books and reputable articles that have DOIs or are published by indexed journals. The analysis results show that AI can help accelerate the process of finding fatwas (legal istinbāt), expand access to classical and contemporary fiqh literature, reduce geographical and resource barriers, and empower the community through adaptive legal decision support systems. However, challenges such as algorithm transparency, data bias, accountability, sharia legitimacy, and human-machine relations remain to be overcome. The conclusion of this article confirms that AI can be a transformational tool in the field of Islamic law, provided it is ethically sound, collaborates with religious scholars and technologists, and aligns with the maqasid al-shari'ah.
KEYWORD	
Artificial Intelligence, Islamic Law, Accessibility, Efficiency, Empowering Muslim Communities, Istinbat	

1. Introduction

Information technology and artificial intelligence (AI) have penetrated various sectors, from economics and education to law. In the Islamic context, the presence of AI raises new questions: to what extent can this technology integrate with sharia principles and support the development of Islamic law responsive to the challenges of the times?

Theologically, Islamic law (sharia/fiqh) is derived from the Quran and Sunnah and interpreted through the method of ijtihad by scholars. Allah SWT says:

يَتَفَكَّرُونَ وَلَعَلَّهُمْ إِلَيْهِمْ نُزِّلَ مَا لِلنَّاسِ لِيُبَيِّنَ الذِّكْرَ إِلَيْكَ وَأَنْزَلْنَا وَالزُّبُرِ بِالْبَيِّنَاتِ

Meaning: Information (miracles) and books. And We have sent down to you the Qur'an, that you may explain to mankind what has been revealed to them and that they may reflect. (Q.S An-Nahl verse 44)

This verse demonstrates that the role of scholars and religious interpretation must be continuously exercised so that humans understand divine guidance within the context of their time. In this modern context, AI can help accelerate, expand, and facilitate the process of interpreting and conveying Islamic law to the community.

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However, despite its great potential, the integration of AI with Islamic law is not without risks. Several questions arise: can machine-made decisions be considered valid within the context of fatwas or Islamic law? How can we ensure that the trained data is not biased toward a particular school of thought or group? How can we maintain the transparency and accountability of AI systems to align with the Islamic value of justice ('adl)?

This article focuses on three main aspects: accessibility, efficiency, and empowerment of the Muslim community within the realm of Islamic law through AI. We review current academic literature with a scientific basis (DOI, indexed journals) as well as classical and contemporary textbooks. Thus, this article is expected to provide conceptual guidance and critical thinking for the future development of Al-Shariah.

2. Literature Review

In this section, we outline the theoretical framework and previous research findings relevant to the topic of AI and Islamic law.

2.1 AI and Islamic Ethics

Several studies have examined the ethical aspects of Islam from an Islamic perspective, particularly regarding justice, transparency, privacy, and public benefit (maslahah/public interest). For example, Elmahjub (2023) discusses a pluralist approach to establishing ethical benchmarks for Islam according to Islamic tradition, emphasizing the principle of maslahah as the normative basis.

Another article, "Ethics of Artificial Intelligence a Purposeful and Foundational Study (MDPI) examines how the teachings of the Sunnah can be used as a reference in forming an ethical framework for AI. The study "Islamic ethical perspectives on AI development and use" also discusses the suitability of AI with Islamic values in terms of technical policies and practices.

2.2 AI in the Context of Islamic Law / Fiqh

Specifically within the realm of Islamic law, several studies have explored the application of AI in legal discovery (istinbāt), automated fatwas, and fiqh algorithms. For example:

1. The Application of Artificial Intelligence in Islamic Law Discovery (Karimullah, 2023) discusses how AI can aid in the analysis of fiqh literature and identify patterns of Islamic legal interpretation (DOI: 10.47971/mjhi.v6i2.748).
2. Artificial Intelligence in Islamic Law: A Comparative Jurisprudential and Ethical Study explores the sharia framework governing AI and its implications for human dignity, moral responsibility, and privacy.
3. Research on fatwas and AI (Fatwa and AI: A Literature-Based Assessment On How AI...) discusses the use of chatbot/automated fatwa technology and its challenges.
4. Islamic Law in the Era of Artificial Intelligence: A Systematic uses a systematic literature review method to identify key issues emerging between AI and Sharia.
5. The study "AI as a Catalyst for Modernizing Islamic Family Law" demonstrates AI's potential to assist Islamic family law decisions (e.g., in divorce).
6. The article "Artificial Intelligence as a Revolutionary Legal Tool in the 21-e-Journal" also highlights the transformation of the ijtiḥad method and legal authority through AI.

2.3 Challenges and Critical Issues

These studies also identified challenges such as:

1. Transparency of algorithms and the "black box" of AI systems, which are difficult to explain to users.
2. Data bias/tendencies of certain schools of thought in AI models that can disadvantage minority views.
3. Sharia legitimacy—can AI decisions be accepted as fatwas or legal rulings?
4. Accountability and responsibility—who is responsible for errors or injustices?
5. The quality of training data and the availability of representative digital fiqh literature.
6. Resistance from scholars/society to new technologies, especially if they are perceived as displacing humans.

Furthermore, regulatory aspects, AI governance, and integration with the principles of maqasid al-Shari'ah (the principles of Islamic law) are key concerns.

3. Methodology

This research is a qualitative study using a library research/literature review approach and comparative analysis. The methodological steps are as follows:

1. Literature selection: Searching for quality scholarly articles (reputable, with DOIs or indexed references) and relevant books in the fields of Islamic law, Islamic ethics, Islamic law, and technology and religion.
2. Inclusion and exclusion criteria: Inclusion of literature discussing Islamic law + Islam + law (fiqh/sharia); exclusion of popular, non-scholarly literature or literature without academic references.
3. Content analysis: In-depth reading and extracting key themes: accessibility, efficiency, empowerment, and challenges.
4. Comparison and synthesis: Combining findings from various literatures, comparing different perspectives, and constructing a comprehensive analytical narrative.
5. Conceptual validation: Testing the alignment of findings with basic principles of sharia (such as justice, *maslahah*, *ijma'*, *qiyas*) and Islamic ethical norms.

Due to its literary nature, this research does not collect primary data (e.g. surveys or interviews), but rather relies on verified secondary literature.

4. Results and Discussion

The following is a summary of the main findings and their analysis based on the aspects of accessibility, efficiency, and empowerment, along with a discussion of challenges and mitigation measures.

4.1 Accessibility

AI enables intelligent searches and summaries of classical and contemporary fiqh literature, allowing believers or researchers with language, location, or resource limitations to access Islamic legal discourse more easily. (Karimullah, 2023).

With increased access to web-based AI tools or applications, Muslims in remote areas can obtain Islamic legal explanations on contemporary issues without having to rely entirely on local scholars. This reduces geographical barriers and the cost of consultation. However, there is a risk that the interpretations presented by AI do not take into account the local context (culture, customs, and social conditions), requiring users to be informed about the limitations of the AI system.

4.2 Efficiency

Several studies suggest that AI can even assist in legal drafting or preparing fatwas in a shorter timeframe. (According to Artificial Intelligence as a revolutionary legal tool in the 21-e-Journal).

With high efficiency, AI enables fatwa institutions or Islamic legal institutions to produce answers to contemporary cases more quickly, especially when the number of questions and the variety of cases are large. This efficiency also helps reduce the backlog of questions from the public. However, this speed should not sacrifice quality and accuracy. Human involvement remains essential in the supervision and validation of AI decisions to ensure they comply with Sharia norms.

4.3 Empowering the Muslim Community

With AI, Islamic da'wah and educational institutions can create interactive modules based on Islamic legal recommendation systems tailored to user needs (e.g., zakat, muamalah, marriage), so that the public actively learns and asks questions.

Empowerment through AI means empowering the public to be more legally informed—rather than relying entirely on religious scholars. AI, as an "Islamic legal assistant," can provide freedom in acquiring basic knowledge, while the final decision still involves human sources. However, it is important that public literacy regarding technology is also strengthened, so that they understand the limitations, risks, and validity of AI decisions.

5. Conclusion

Based on an analysis of the scientific literature, we can conclude that artificial intelligence (AI) has significant potential to strengthen Islamic law through:

- Increasing accessibility: AI enables Muslims with geographical, language, and resource limitations to access Islamic legal materials more easily and inclusively.
- Efficient legal processes: AI accelerates the process of legal discovery (*istinbāt*) and fatwa drafting, helping religious institutions handle the burden of inquiries more quickly.

- Empowering communities: AI can become an "Islamic legal assistant" that enables citizens to independently access basic legal knowledge, increase legal awareness, and reduce total dependence on human mediators.

However, this potential must be exercised with caution in light of various challenges: transparency, bias, Sharia legitimacy, accountability, and cultural resistance. For AI to become a legitimate and beneficial transformational tool in the realm of Islamic law, the following conditions must be met:

1. Development of explainable and auditable algorithms.
2. Pluralistic and representative training datasets.
3. Oversight by sharia institutions and collaboration between scholars and technologists.
4. Regulation and governance of AI based on the principles of maqasid al-shari'ah (general welfare, justice, preservation of religion, intellect, life, and progeny).
5. Public literacy in technology and Islamic law so they can understand the limitations and responsibilities of AI use.

By meeting these prerequisites, AI can become a catalyst for the transformation of Islamic law that is relevant and adaptive to the challenges of the times, while strengthening the role of Muslims in accessing and developing legal knowledge in accordance with Islamic values.

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