

Optimizing the Role of Artificial Intelligence in the Development of Islamic Law: Analysis of the Positive Impact on the Empowerment of Muslim Communities

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ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
Volume: 4 ISSN: 2963-5489 KEYWORD Artificial Intelligence, Islamic Law, Fatwa, Empowerment, Islamic Ethics	The development of artificial intelligence (AI) opens up transformational opportunities for the development of Islamic legal disciplines (fiqh and fatwa). This article analyzes how AI can be optimized to expand the accessibility of Islamic law, improve the efficiency of legal discovery (digital ijtihād), support a faster and standardized fatwa process, and empower Muslim communities socio-economically. The research method is a critical literature review of scientific literature and a conceptual case study. Key findings suggest that the integration of AI—with clear Islamic ethical principles, the involvement of scholars, and verification mechanisms—can support empowerment through: (1) broader access to legal information; (2) legal-religious literacy training; (3) data-driven policy support for social services; and (4) administrative efficiency of religious institutions. However, serious attention is needed to address issues of religious authority, data bias, algorithmic transparency, and accountability. Recommendations include the development of an ethical framework based on maqasid al-shari'ah, collaboration between computer scientists and scholars, and a pilot project for sharia-supervised AI.

1. Introduction

The development of information technology and artificial intelligence is transforming the way society obtains knowledge, public services, and religious guidance. For Muslim communities, rapid access to legal guidance (fatwas), fiqh sources, and sharia literature has the potential to broaden religious understanding and practice in a more inclusive manner. Theologically, the pursuit of knowledge is driven by the Qur'anic injunction: "Read in the name of your Lord..." (QS. Al-Alaq, 96:1) and the principle of justice that underpins social relations: "O you who believe! Be upholders of justice..." (QS. An-Nisa, 4:135). These verses emphasize the importance of knowledge, truth, and justice—values relevant when discussing the use of AI to strengthen access to and implementation of Islamic law.

However, integrating AI into the realm of Islamic law is not without challenges: how to maintain the authority of human ijtihād, prevent algorithmic misinterpretation, and ensure that technology does not replace human moral and legal judgment. This article explores the positive potential of AI in empowering Muslim communities, while highlighting the ethical and methodological requirements for such optimization.

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2. Literature Review

2.1 AI and Ethics from an Islamic Perspective

Recent studies indicate that approaches to Islamic ethics need to be adapted to non-Western value frameworks, including Islamic perspectives that emphasize tawhid, humanity, and maslahat (the common good). Elmahjub discusses the pluralist framework of Islamic ethics from an Islamic perspective and emphasizes the need for an inclusive Islamic ethical benchmark (Ezieddin Elmahjub, 2023).

2.2 AI in the Digital Fatwa and Ijtihād Process

Several empirical studies and studies have explored the use of AI in assisting in the preparation of fatwas, from indexing classical texts and searching for precedents to decision-support systems for muftis. Studies on AI for fatwas demonstrate potential efficiency but highlight the potential for legal authority and validity when AI operates without the supervision of religious scholars (Siti Farahiyah Ab Rahim dkk, 2025).

2.3 Ethical and Regulatory Framework of AI

Various studies have suggested the use of AI for Islamic education (e.g., personalized content, Arabic language learning), and data-driven systems for designing social/economic programs responsive to the needs of Muslim communities. This integration has the potential to empower communities through increased religious literacy, access to services, and support for evidence-based policies (Mahmudulhassan Mahmudulhassan, 2024).

2.4 Ethical and Fiqh Challenges to AI

The literature also highlights issues of data bias, transparency, accountability, and adherence to maqasid (the objectives of sharia). Researchers propose an adaptive fiqh framework—leveraging principles such as maslahah, dar al-mafasid, and gryās—to assess new technologies (Israa Musa Al-Momani, 2025).

3. Methodology

The research method is a systematic literature review of relevant primary and secondary sources (books, scientific articles with DOI, proceedings, and institutional documents). The research steps include: (1) identifying keywords (e.g., "AI & Islamic law," "AI & fatwa," "AI & Islamic ethics," "AI empowerment of Muslim communities"); (2) searching academic databases and online publications (indexed articles, proceedings, institutional journals); (3) selecting literature based on relevance, credibility, and recency; and (4) conducting thematic analysis to elaborate on the opportunities and risks of AI integration for empowering Muslim communities. The search also included a conceptual case study of an AI platform for fatwas and Islamic education published between 2022 and 2025. Several empirical findings are drawn from the literature review, which includes qualitative data and analysis. Key sources used in this methodology include academic articles and proceedings published between 2022 and 2025 (Ezieddin Elmahjub, 2023).

4. Results and Discussion

4.1 Information Accessibility and Legal Literacy

Studies show that AI (e.g., NLP - natural language processing and retrieval systems) enables the digitization and indexing of classical fiqh texts, allowing the public, including non-experts, to quickly search for legal rulings. Platforms that utilize AI can provide initial answers, text references, and summaries, facilitating learning. However, final assessments must still be made by authenticated scholars to ensure the validity of the law. Studies show that such applications have been tested in several academic institutions and fatwa institutions, although they are still in the pilot stage (Suud Sarim Karimullah, 2023).

4.2 Support for the Fatwa Process: Efficiency without Losing Authority

AI can assist muftis and fatwa committees by providing summaries of precedents, suggesting arguments for qryās, or synthesizing the views of different schools of thought—saving research time and enriching the ijtiḥad material. However, the literature emphasizes human-in-the-loop (the ulama as the final decision-maker) to avoid misinterpretation and maintain legitimacy. Proposed best practices include: source documentation, algorithm audits, and transparency of the validation process (Dr. Ahmad Bin Abdulaziz Alshithisri, 2023).

4.3 Personalization of Religious Education and Social Economic Empowerment

AI in Islamic education (e.g., adaptive tutoring, automated Arabic language learning) increases access to quality religious education for remote communities, young people, and women who may have been underserved. Improving religious literacy and digital skills together can drive economic empowerment (e.g., access to sharia-compliant e-commerce, Islamic value-based startup training). Studies show a real opportunity for AI-based digital skills-based religious education programs. (Mahmudulhassan Mahmudulhassan, 2024)

4.4 Ethical Challenges, Biased, and Legal Validity

Key risks include dataset bias (which can reproduce certain interpretations), a lack of transparency in AI models, and the risk of delegitimizing the authority of scholars if society relies too heavily on automated responses. Researchers caution that the development of AI within the realm of Islamic law must incorporate the principles of maqasid al-shariah (the primary objectives of Sharia), to ensure the technology protects human welfare, justice, and dignity. (Israa Musa Al-Momani, 2025)

4.5 Suggested Model of Supervision and Integration

Based on the literature synthesis, the optimal model includes: (1) AI as assistant, not AI as authority; (2) religious validation protocols (scholarly review) on every AI output; (3) documentation of sources and methods; (4) representative training datasets (covering texts of schools of thought and contemporary opinions); (5) an AI ethics oversight body based on Islamic principles (combining sharia experts, ethicists, and technologists). Initial case studies demonstrate the effectiveness of such an approach when applied at a pilot scale with ongoing evaluation. (Siti Farahiyah Ab Rahim dkk, 2025)

4.6 Positive Impact on Empowering Muslim Communities (Summary)

- Access to knowledge: AI accelerates access to legal texts and interpretations, thereby improving legal literacy.
- Efficient fatwa and educational institutions can serve more people with the same resources.
- Economic empowerment: Digital skills education and data-driven policy support empower vulnerable communities.
- Inclusive, personalized religious learning can reach marginalized groups such as women and the diaspora.

5. Conclusion

AI-Qaida has significant potential to advance Islamic legal practice and empower Muslim communities through increased access to information, streamlined fatwa processes, personalized religious education, and social policy support. However, this potential can only be realized ethically and effectively with the support of sharia oversight, human-in-the-loop involvement, algorithmic transparency, and bias mitigation efforts. An ethical framework based on the maqasid al-shari'ah (the principles of Islamic law) must serve as the foundation.

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