

Islamic Ethics in Personal and Social Life

Putra Muallimin¹, Inayatillah²

¹ Postgraduate UIN Ar-Raniry Banda Aceh, Aceh, Indonesia

² Postgraduate UIN Ar-Raniry Banda Aceh, Aceh, Indonesia

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ABSTRACT

This research aims to examine the concept and implementation of Islamic ethics in personal and social life based on the latest scientific literature review. The method used is *library research* with a descriptive-analytical approach, through the analysis of primary sources in the form of the Qur'an and Hadith as well as secondary sources such as journals and academic books. The results of the study show that Islamic ethics is a theocentric and comprehensive value system, including human relations with God (*ḥabl min Allāh*) and human relations with others (*ḥabl min al-nās*). In personal life, Islamic ethics play a role in shaping individual character through the internalization of values such as honesty, trust, patience, and responsibility. Meanwhile, in social life, Islamic ethics function as a guideline in creating harmonious interactions through the principles of justice, tolerance, and help. This research also found that technological developments and globalization are challenges in the application of Islamic ethics, especially in the context of digital communication. Therefore, strengthening strategies through education, family roles, digital literacy, and contextual approaches are needed so that Islamic ethical values remain relevant and applicable in modern life.

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Corresponding Author:

Putra Muallimin

Postgraduate of UIN Ar-Raniry Banda Aceh, Aceh, Indonesia; 251003007@student.ar-raniry.ac.id

1. INTRODUCTION

Ethics is one of the main foundations in human life that serves as a guideline in determining the good and bad of an action. From an Islamic perspective, ethics is not only understood as a relative social norm, but as an integral part of religious teachings sourced from the Qur'an and Hadith (Romlah & Rusdi, 2023). Ethics in Islam is often juxtaposed with the term morality, which reflects a person's innate and inner behavior in living daily life. Thus, Islamic ethics covers a wide dimension, both in personal life (individual ethics) and social life (social ethics). (Achmad, 2022). In personal life, Islamic ethics emphasizes the formation of individual character based on the values of faith, piety, and spiritual awareness. (Cahyani & Mashitoh, 2023). A Muslim is required to possess commendable qualities such as honesty (*ṣidq*), trustworthiness (*trustworthiness*), patience, and sincerity. These values not only function as moral guidelines, but also as a form of worship that has a vertical dimension to Allah SWT. Therefore, the behavior of the individual in Islam is inseparable from the spiritual responsibility inherent in him.

Meanwhile, in social life, Islamic ethics regulates human relations (*ḥabl min al-nās*) by emphasizing the principles of justice, compassion, tolerance, and social responsibility. (Teaching & Son). Islam provides clear guidelines on how humans should interact in society, including in terms of communication, cooperation, and conflict resolution. Because Islamic social ethics aims to create a harmonious, just, and prosperous social order.

The development of the times marked by globalization and technological advances has brought significant changes in the pattern of human life. Social interaction is no longer limited to physical spaces, but also extends to digital spaces. This phenomenon poses new challenges in the application of Islamic ethics, especially in maintaining individual and social behavior in the midst of a rapid and uncontrolled flow of information. Research shows that the use of social media that is not accompanied by ethics can cause various negative impacts such as the spread of hoaxes, hate speech, and social conflicts.

This shows that communication ethics in Islam have become very relevant. Principles such as honesty, responsibility, and prudence in conveying information are important foundations in interacting, both directly and through digital media. Islamic communication ethics also emphasize the importance of avoiding negative behaviors such as slander, *ghibah*, and *namimah*, which can damage social relationships. Thus, Islamic ethics is not only normative, but also applicable in facing the challenges of modern life.

In addition, the role of Islamic ethics in social life is also very important in maintaining the stability of an increasingly pluralistic society. In a society that consists of diverse cultural, religious, and valued backgrounds, Islamic ethics provides universal guidelines that can be applied inclusively. Values such as justice, honesty, and compassion are widely accepted principles and are the basis for building harmonious social relationships. Research shows that religion has a significant role in shaping social norms and behaviors, as well as providing a framework of values that is the foundation in human interaction. (Hannan, 2022)

However, the application of Islamic ethics in personal and social life does not always go ideally. Internal challenges such as weak religious understanding, as well as external challenges such as the influence of global culture and technology, often lead to behavioral deviations. In this context, a systematic effort is needed to internalize Islamic ethical values through education, family, and the social environment.

Furthermore, in the current digital era, Islamic ethics also face new challenges related to technological developments such as artificial intelligence and information manipulation. Recent studies show that the application of Islamic ethical principles such as justice (*'adl*), honesty, and information verification (*tabayyun*) can be a solution in overcoming ethical problems in the digital age. This shows that Islamic ethics has a strong relevance in answering various contemporary problems.

Thus, the study of Islamic ethics in personal and social life is very important to be carried out. This study aims not only to understand the concept of ethics in Islam, but also to examine its implementation in real life, especially in facing the challenges of the times. Through a comprehensive approach, it is hoped that Islamic ethics can be a solution in forming individuals with noble character and a harmonious and just society.

2. METHODS

This research uses a qualitative approach with the type of library research. This method is carried out by collecting and analyzing various sources of literature that are relevant to the topic of Islamic ethics in personal and social life, both in the form of books, scientific journals, and the results of previous research. The approach used is descriptive-analytical, namely by describing the concept of Islamic ethics based on primary sources such as the Qur'an and Hadith, as well as secondary sources in the form of contemporary academic literature. The data obtained was then systematically analyzed to find patterns, concepts, and relevance of Islamic ethics in modern life.

The data collection technique is carried out through documentation, namely by browsing the latest scientific journals that discuss Islamic ethics, both in personal and social contexts. This research also uses a thematic approach (*maudhu'i*), which is by grouping verses of the Qur'an and hadith related to ethics, then analyzed based on certain themes.

3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The Basic Concept of Islamic Ethics in Personal and Social Life

The results of the literature review show that Islamic ethics is a value system that is sourced from revelation (the Qur'an and Hadith) that regulates all aspects of human life, both in the personal and social realms. In Islamic terminology, ethics is often referred to as morality, which substantially refers to behavior that arises from within a person spontaneously based on internalized values.

Contemporary research confirms that Islamic ethics have theocentric characteristics, meaning that all human behavior is always associated with awareness of the existence of Allah SWT as a supervisor (*muraqabah*). This distinguishes Islamic ethics from secular ethics which tend to be anthropocentric. Thus, Islamic ethics not only emphasizes aspects of human relationships, but also human relationships with God.

Ethics and morals play a very important role in Islam.²⁰ Islam provides clear and unequivocal guidelines on what is considered good and bad, and teaches individuals to behave well and have noble morals. Here are some of the ethical and moral principles in Islam:

- a. Justice: Islam strongly emphasizes the importance of justice in all aspects of life. (Asnaini, 2019) Individuals are expected to be fair in all relationships and treatment of others, regardless of ethnicity, race, religion, or social status.
- b. Honesty: Islam teaches the importance of being honest in all things. Honesty is considered one of the most noble traits and is the foundation of good relationships between individuals. (Nurgiansah, 2021)
- c. Politeness: Islam encourages individuals to behave politely and civilly. Respecting others, using good language, and maintaining ethics in social interactions are integral to Islamic morality.
- d. Patience: Islam teaches the importance of patience in facing challenges and trials in life. Patience is considered one of the necessary traits to maintain calm and determination in the midst of difficulties.
- e. Generosity: Islam encourages individuals to behave generously and be generous to others. Providing assistance to the needy and sharing wealth is a highly recommended value in Islam.
- f. Respect and Respect for Others: Islam teaches the importance of respecting and respecting the rights of others, including the rights of neighbors, families, orphans, the elderly, and the weak in society. Islam prohibits all forms of treatment that degrade human dignity.
- g. Keeping Promises and Trusts: Islam encourages individuals to keep promises and trusts. (Amiruddin, 2021). Keeping promises, honoring covenants, and maintaining the trust of others are values that are highly upheld in Islam.
- h. Forgiving: Islam teaches the importance of forgiving the mistakes of others. Forgiving and forgiving the mistakes of others is a value taught in Islam to create harmony and brotherhood between individuals.
- i. Humility: Islam encourages individuals to have a humble attitude and avoid arrogance. (Fitriani, 2018)
- j. Humility is a quality that is considered good in Islam and involves acknowledging human vulnerability and absolute dependence on Allah.
- k. Protecting the Environment: Islam teaches the importance of protecting and preserving the environment. (Muhammad, 2022) Individuals are expected to be good stewards of this earth and not damage the environment.

The understanding and practice of ethical and moral values in Islam is a guide to behave well, be responsible, and contribute positively to social life.

In personal life, Islamic ethics are oriented towards the formation of a complete personality (*insan kamil*), that is, individuals who have a balance between spiritual, emotional, and social aspects. Meanwhile, in social life, Islamic ethics function as a value system that regulates human interaction in order to create order and harmony in society.

The Dimension of Islamic Ethics in Personal Life

The results of the literature review identify several main dimensions of Islamic ethics in personal life, including:

a. Ethics towards oneself

Ethics towards oneself includes efforts to maintain integrity, honor, and self-balance. Individuals are required to avoid behaviors that are detrimental to themselves, both physically and spiritually. Research shows that high *self-awareness* contributes to the formation of ethical behavior. (Teguh & Bisri, 2003)

b. Ethics in worship

Worship is not only understood as a ritual, but also as a means of character building. Values such as discipline, sincerity, and patience contained in worship have direct implications for individual behavior.

c. Ethics in the use of technology

In the modern context, the use of technology has become an important part of personal life. Recent studies show that digital *ethics* is one of the important issues in the study of Islamic ethics. Principles such as honesty, information verification (*tabayyun*), and responsibility are the foundation for interacting in the digital world.

Islamic Ethics in Social Life

In social life, Islamic ethics function as a guideline in regulating relationships between individuals and groups. (Latif et al., 2022). The results of the study show that the application of Islamic social ethics can improve the quality of social interaction and reduce conflicts in society.

One of the main principles in Islamic social ethics is justice (*'adl*). Justice is not only related to legal aspects, but also includes fair treatment in various aspects of life, such as economics, education, and politics. Research shows that societies that uphold the value of justice tend to have a higher level of social stability.

In addition, the principle of help-help (*ta'awun*) is also an important foundation in social life. This value encourages individuals to help each other in good and prevent evil. In this context, social solidarity is one of the indicators of the success of the application of Islamic ethics in society.

Communication Ethics in an Islamic Perspective

Recent research shows that communication is one of the important aspects of social life that is greatly influenced by ethics. In Islam, communication is not only seen as a process of conveying information, but also as a form of moral responsibility. (Lutfiyah & Khuluq, 2024)

The ethical principles of Islamic communication include honesty (*ṣidq*), clarity (*tabligh*), and responsibility (*amanah*). In addition, Islam also prohibits communication practices that harm others, such as slander, *ghibah*, and hoaxes.

In the digital era, communication ethics have become increasingly important because information can be easily disseminated without going through a verification process. Research shows that low digital literacy and communication ethics are one of the main causes of the spread of incorrect information in society.

Challenges of Implementing Islamic Ethics in the Modern Era

The results of the study show that there are various challenges in the application of Islamic ethics, both in personal and social life. (Latif et al., 2022) These challenges include:

a. Cultural globalization

Globalization brings in various values and cultures that are not always in line with the teachings of Islam. This can affect the mindset and behavior of individuals, especially the younger generation.

b. Technological developments

Technology provides convenience in various aspects of life, but it also brings negative impacts if not used wisely. Research shows that unethical use of social media can damage social relationships and lower an individual's moral qualities.

c. Moral crisis

Some studies show a decline in moral values among the community, which is characterized by an increase in deviant behaviors such as corruption, violence, and intolerance.

Strategy to Strengthen Islamic Ethics

In the face of various moral and social challenges in the modern era, the strengthening of Islamic ethics is an urgent need. Contemporary research shows that the degradation of moral values is not only caused by the weak understanding of individual religious teachings, but also by the lack of support systems capable of instilling and sustaining these ethical values in a sustainable manner. Therefore, a comprehensive and integrated strategy is needed in strengthening Islamic ethics, both in personal and social life.

One of the main strategies is through value-based education. Education has a strategic role in shaping individual character from an early age. The integration of Islamic ethical values in the curriculum is not only carried out through religious subjects, but also through the entire learning process. This approach emphasizes that ethics is not just a theory, but rather must be part of the school culture that is reflected in students' attitudes and behaviors. Research shows that education that emphasizes character building has a significant impact on increasing students' moral awareness and social responsibility. (Romlah & Rusdi, 2023)

In addition, the role of the family is also a very decisive factor in strengthening Islamic ethics. The family is the first and main environment in the process of socializing moral values. Parents have a responsibility to set a good example and guide their children in understanding and practicing Islamic teachings. The example of parents in being honest, disciplined, and responsible will have a strong influence on the formation of children's character. Studies show that children who grow up in a religious family environment tend to have higher levels of morality compared to those who do not receive adequate guidance. (Mulyadi et al., 2022)

On the other hand, the development of digital technology requires the strengthening of digital literacy as part of the strategy to strengthen Islamic ethics. Digital literacy includes not only technical skills in using technology, but also an understanding of ethics in interacting in the digital world. Individuals need to be equipped with the ability to sort information, avoid the spread of hoaxes, and maintain communication ethics on social media. Research shows that low digital literacy is one of the main factors in the increase in unethical behavior in the digital space, such as hate speech and the spread of false information.

Another strategy is the application of a contextual approach in understanding and practicing Islamic ethics. Islamic ethical values are basically universal, but their implementation needs to be adjusted to the conditions and developments of the times. A contextual approach allows those values to remain relevant without losing their essence. For example, the principles of honesty and responsibility can be applied in a variety of modern contexts, including in the use of technology and global interactions. With this approach, Islamic ethics is not only understood as a traditional norm, but also as an adaptive solution to various contemporary problems.

Overall, strengthening Islamic ethics requires synergy between education, family, and the social environment, and is supported by a contextual understanding of religious teachings. This effort must be carried out on an ongoing basis so that Islamic ethical values can be deeply internalized and become a guideline in daily life.

The Relevance of Islamic Ethics in Contemporary Life

The results of the study show that Islamic ethics has strong relevance in dealing with various problems of modern life. Islamic ethical principles such as honesty, justice, and responsibility can be a solution in overcoming various moral and social challenges. (Nur, 2024)

In a global context, Islamic ethics also have universal values that can be applied in various cultures and societies. This shows that Islamic ethics are not only relevant for Muslims, but also have a contribution to building a better civilization.

In addition, the concept of maqasid al-shariah provides a flexible framework in applying Islamic ethics. This approach allows ethical values to be adapted according to the needs of the times without losing their essence.

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the literature review, it can be concluded that Islamic ethics is a comprehensive value system and has a fundamental role in shaping human life, both personally and socially. In personal life, Islamic ethics function as a foundation for the formation of individual character with noble character through the internalization of values such as honesty, trust, patience, and responsibility. This internalization process takes place gradually through cognitive, affective, and psychomotor aspects, resulting in behavior that is in harmony with Islamic teachings. In social life, Islamic ethics play a role as a guideline in regulating human relations in order to create a harmonious, just, and prosperous social order. Principles such as justice ('adl), help-help (ta'awun), tolerance, and communication ethics are the main foundations in building healthy and constructive social interactions.

However, the implementation of Islamic ethics in the modern era faces various challenges, especially due to the influence of globalization and the development of digital technology that can affect individual mindsets and behaviors. Therefore, efforts are needed to strengthen through value-based education, family roles, digital literacy improvement, and contextual approaches so that Islamic ethical values remain relevant and able to respond to the dynamics of contemporary life. Thus, Islamic ethics not only serves as a normative guideline, but also as a practical solution in dealing with various moral and social problems in the modern era.

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