

Prophetic Hadiths on Ethics in the Digital Age

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Abstract

In light of the spread of social media and its widespread use in the digital age, it has become necessary to apply Islamic morals in these spaces to ensure a respectful and safe digital environment. Through certain controls, such as abstaining post content that is offensive to others, committing to honesty and respecting different opinions, ethical values can be promoted in digital interaction. Individuals also bear personal responsibility when posting content and should be good examples in online behavior. In addition to that, the religious institutions play a fundamental role in guiding individuals through awareness programs and visual content that promotes ethical behavior. Through these mechanisms, a digital environment based on Islamic morals can be achieved, which contributes to enhancing positive communication and understanding between individuals in the digital world.

Keywords: *Hadiths, Ethics, Digital Age.*

Introduction

The digital age is one of the most important eras in human history, as modern technology has changed many aspects of life, including how individuals interact with each other. Despite the benefits brought by this technological revolution, it has also raised questions about its effects on ethics and social behavior, especially in the field of social communication. This research reviews the Prophetic Hadiths related to ethics and how to apply them in the age of the Internet and modern means of communication.

Importance of the Topic

The importance of this research is to highlight the necessity of adhering to ethical values in the digital age, as the world has become more connected through the Internet and social media. The research examines how the Prophetic Hadiths can guide Muslims to apply morals principles in their digital interactions. Through this research, we aim to raise awareness of the importance of Islamic morals in the digital environment where individuals face new challenges that affect their behaviors.

Research Objectives

This research aims to study the role of the Prophetic Hadiths in defining the foundations of Islamic morals and how to guide individuals in the digital age, by understanding how to apply these Hadiths in daily life and online interactions. The research also seeks to analyze the challenges that individuals may face in this area, and to provide practical solutions that help promote ethical values in digital interactions. In doing so, we aim to motivate society to use technology in a way that reflects the Islamic principles of respecting others and interacting positively and honestly.

Research Problem

One of the most prominent problems of the research is the existence of moral deviations in the behavior of individuals on the Internet, such as the spread of hatred, defamation, and abuses that affect the digital community. Some also suffer from a lack of sufficient awareness about the importance of ethics in digital life, which leads to inappropriate behavior. Hence, the research asks how to apply Islamic ethical principles

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in the reality of social media, and to identify mechanisms for correct guidance that enhance religious and ethical values in digital interactions.

Research Questions

What are the Prophetic Hadiths on ethics that can be applied in the digital age?

How does modern technology affect Islamic ethics?

What are the mechanisms through which ethical values can be promoted in digital communication?

What is the role of social media in distorting or promoting ethics in society?

Research Plan

The analytical method will be used in studying the Prophetic Hadith, and researching how to apply them in the digital age, relying on evidence and religious texts as well as the opinions of jurists and specialists in the field of digital ethics.

First Section: Principles of Ethics in Islam.

First Figure: Ethics in the Holy Quran and the Sunnah.

Second Figure: The concept of digital ethics and its challenges.

Second Section: Prophetic Hadiths and their applications in the digital age

First Figure: Prophetic Hadiths that call for respecting others on the Internet.

Second Figure: Prophetic hadiths related to lying and slander in the digital age.

Third Section: Promoting Islamic Ethics in the Digital World.

First Figure: The role of religious institutions in guiding individuals on the Internet.

Second Figure: Mechanisms for applying Islamic ethics in social media.

First Section

Principles of Ethics in Islam

Ethics are a firm foundation in building the individual and society in Islam, as they are an integral part of the faith and Islamic law. Islam came with an integrated ethical system that aims to organize human relations and direct behavior towards goodness and righteousness. Since ethics are linked to the essence of faith, the Holy Quran and the Sunnah of the Prophet have focused on establishing ethical values as a primary criterion for judging individuals and societies .

To study this topic, it can be divided into two figures as follows:

First Figure: Ethics in the Holy Quran and the Sunnah.

Second Figure: The concept of digital ethics and its challenges.

First Figure

*Ethics in the Holy Quran and the Sunnah**The Role of the Holy Quran and Sunnah in Building Islamic Ethics*

The concept of morality occupies a pivotal position in Islam, as good morals are considered an integral part of true faith. The Holy Quran and the Sunnah of the Prophet came to establish comprehensive moral rules that govern individuals' actions and guide them towards goodness. In the Holy Quran, we find many verses that call for noble morals, such as honesty, trustworthiness, forgiveness, and patience. Allah Almighty said in describing the morals of the Prophet (Peace be upon him): “And indeed, you are of a great moral character,” reflecting the greatness of morals that Islam came to emphasize and promote .

As for the Prophetic Tradition, it was a practical and behavioral source for clarifying noble morals. The Messenger, peace be upon him, said: “I was sent to perfect good character” (narrated by Ahmad), which highlights the importance of morals as a primary goal of the prophetic message, as it aims to self- discipline and build a cohesive society on proper moral principles.

Prophetic Hadiths That Focus on Moral Guidance

The Prophetic Tradition is full of many hadiths that aim to establish moral values in the lives of Muslims. The most prominent of these is: "No one of you becomes a true believer until he likes for his brother what he likes for himself " (narrated by Al-Bukhari and Muslim), a hadith that encourages solidarity and love for others.

“He who believes in Allah and the Last Day, must speak good or remain silent” (Bukhari), which emphasizes the importance of good words and refraining from verbal abuse.

These prophetic directives establish a society based on respect, mutual appreciation, and humane treatment that ensures the strengthening of social relations, reflecting Islamic values in all aspects of life .

Second Figure

The concept of digital ethics and its challenges

Definition of digital ethics and how technology affects behavior

Digital ethics refers to the set of principles and values that govern behaviors and interactions in the digital world. These ethics relate to the commitment to honesty, integrity, respect for privacy and the preservation of human dignity while using technology. Digital ethics is an extension of traditional ethics, but it responds to the challenges and changes imposed by modern technological developments .

Digital technology has greatly influenced the behavior of individuals, as it has provided quick means of exchanging information and ideas. However, easy access to technology can lead to unethical behavior, such as spreading fake news or violating the privacy of others, making adherence to ethical principles an urgent necessity in this era .

Ethical Challenges Facing Individuals in the Digital Age

There are many ethical challenges that individuals face in the digital world, the most notable of which are:

The spread of fake news and lies: Social media has become a fertile environment for spreading rumors and inaccurate information, which affects the credibility of information.

Lack of privacy and misuse of data: User data is often collected and analyzed without their permission, which threatens the privacy and safety of individuals.

Cyberbullying and Miscommunication: The digital world is witnessing increasing cases of bullying and verbal abuse, which creates a negative environment and affects the mental health of individuals .

In the face of these challenges, the importance of digital ethics emerges as a framework for controlling behaviors and promoting the responsible use of technology, ensuring the benefit of digital means while avoiding their moral and social harms .

Second Section

Prophetic Hadiths and their Applications in the Digital Age

The Prophetic Tradition is a primary source of ethics and values in Islam, providing clear guidance for regulating human relations and good treatment between individuals. With the development of technology and the spread of digital media, there is an urgent need to re-understand and apply these values in light of the new challenges created by the digital age. Technology has created a different reality that requires adherence to ethics that enhance positive interaction and limit negative phenomena such as cyberbullying, lying, and the spread of fake news.

In the digital age, relationships between individuals are no longer limited to face-to-face meetings, but have extended to include interaction via social media platforms, email, and other modern means. Therefore, the prophetic values that call for honesty, integrity, and respect for others remain of great importance in this context .

To study this topic, it can be divided into two figures as follows:

First Figure: Prophetic Hadiths that call for respecting others on the Internet.

Second Figure: Prophetic hadiths related to lying and slander in the digital age.

First Figure

Prophetic Hadiths that Call for Respecting Others on the Internet

Islamic ethics emphasize the importance of respecting others and treating them well, values that should extend to interactions in the digital world. The Prophet's hadiths provide great principles that establish the rules of human interaction, including:

The Messenger of Allah, peace be upon him, said: "The believer is not a slanderer, nor does he curse others, and nor is he immoral or shameless" (narrated by At-Tirmidhi). This hadith urges us to avoid hurtful words and behavior, and it can be applied online by avoiding bullying, cursing, or negative comments that may hurt or offend others.

Likewise, the hadith states: "let him who believes in Allah and the Last Day be generous to his neighbor" (narrated by Bukhari and Muslim). Although the hadith deals with the relationship with one's neighbor, the concept of "neighborhood" can be expanded in the digital age to include those we interact with via social media or any electronic means. Generosity here means respecting opinions, being polite in discussions, and not violating the rights of others or defaming them.

Additionally, the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) said: "Your smile in the face of your brother is charity" (narrated by Tirmidhi). Although this hadith refers to face-to-face interaction, a smile can be translated digitally through positive messages, encouraging words, or responses that help create a friendly and encouraging online environment.

These hadiths show that Islam places respect for others at the heart of human ethics, which is of utmost importance in the digital age where virtual interactions prevail and there is a need to regulate behaviors in line with noble Islamic values .

Second Figure

Prophetic Hadiths Related to Lying and Slander in the Digital Age

Lying and slander are among the greatest sins that Islam has warned against. The Prophet (peace be upon him), warned of the seriousness of these actions in more than one hadith, due to their negative effects on the individual and society. The Prophet (peace be upon him) spoke about lying and slander in multiple contexts, emphasizing their seriousness in daily life. These warnings can be applied to the digital age in particular .

Prophetic Hadiths That Warn Of Lying And Slander

The Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) said: “Beware of lying. Lying leads to corruption, and corruption leads to the Fire” (narrated by Bukhari and Muslim). This hadith clearly shows that lying is not only forbidden, but it is also a gateway to immorality that leads to dire consequences in the afterlife. In the digital age, fake news and misinformation are among the most prominent challenges that affect the credibility of content and contribute to the spread of temptation.

As the Prophet (peace be upon him) said: “It is enough of a lie for a man that he narrates everything he hears” (narrated by Muslim). This hadith warns of spreading information without verifying it. In the digital age, where news spreads very quickly through social media, spreading rumors and unverified news is a moral crime that must be stopped.

Studying the impact of these values in combating fake news and misleading content on the Internet

With the spread of the Internet and social media, fake news and misleading content have become a problem that troubles societies. The prophetic values related to honesty and verifying information can be used to combat this phenomenon through several mechanisms , most notably:

Verifying sources of information before publishing them:

Hadith urges verification before sharing news. In the digital age, individuals are asked to verify the accuracy of information before sharing it. This includes checking reliable sources and reviewing news before posting it on platforms such as Facebook and Twitter.

Raising awareness among individuals about the importance of honesty in digital content:

Raising awareness among individuals about the importance of honesty and avoiding the spread of fake news can be done through online awareness campaigns, where Prophetic testimonies and guidance are displayed to encourage users to commit to honesty in their digital interactions .

Supporting News Verification Platforms

The principle of fact-checking that the Prophet (peace be upon him) called for can be applied in the modern era by supporting news verification platforms. Many websites and applications provide a service to verify the accuracy of news before it is published, which helps reduce the spread of misinformation .

In conclusion, these hadiths represent a strong call to adhere to honesty and fact-checking in the digital world, which helps combat fake news and misleading content, and ensures a safer and healthier digital environment.

Third Section

Promoting Islamic Ethics in the Digital World

The world today is witnessing rapid technological development that has made the Internet and social media an integral part of our daily lives. This digital revolution has radically changed the way we communicate, as Internet platforms are now used in all aspects of life: from education, work, to entertainment and social engagement. Despite the many benefits that these technologies offer, they have also contributed to the spread of some unethical behaviors, such as cyberbullying, assault, spreading fake news, and privacy invasion .

In this context, promoting Islamic ethics in the digital world is of paramount importance. Islam places high value on ethics as an essential part of faith. The legal texts of the Holy Quran and the Sunnah of the Prophet (peace be upon him) guide Muslims towards high moral values including honesty, trustworthiness, mutual respect, and justice. Therefore, applying these values in the digital environment requires a collective effort to guide individuals towards good behaviors that are consistent with Islamic principles .

To study this topic, it can be divided into two figures as follows:

First Figure: The role of religious institutions in guiding individuals on the Internet

Second Figure: Mechanisms for applying Islamic ethics in social media

First Figure

The Role of Religious Institutions in Guiding Individuals on the Internet

The role of scholars and predicants in raising awareness of moral values in society

Religious institutions play a pivotal role in educating individuals about the moral values that they must adhere to in all areas of their lives, including in online interactions. With the development of digital media and the increasing number of users, it has become necessary for scholars and predicants to provide moral guidance through these platforms.

One effective way that scholars and predicants can adopt is to organize online awareness seminars and programs. These programs can address the importance of Islamic ethics in digital interactions, such as the need to adhere to honesty, respect others and avoid harmful behaviors such as cyberbullying or spreading misinformation. Through these platforms, scholars and predicants can reach a wide audience, whether young or otherwise, and help them understand how to apply Islamic values in the digital space .

Scholars and muftis can also issue fatwas on ethical issues that individuals face in the digital environment, such as spreading rumors or dealing with verbal violence online. These fatwas help provide clear guidance to individuals on how to behave in accordance with Islamic ethics in the online world.

How religious institutions can use digital platforms to guide individuals

Create official accounts to spread Islamic values: Religious institutions can use social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to create official accounts to publish religious content that focuses on moral values in digital life. Short clips containing hadiths and verses from the Quran can be published that encourage good treatment of others and the importance of patience and honesty in online interactions. These accounts can be a reliable source of Islamic content that aims to promote positive behavior in the digital space .

Producing visual and audio content that promotes ethical behavior: Religious institutions can produce visual content such as awareness videos or podcasts that focus on explaining Islamic ethical behaviors in the

digital world. These materials may include guiding individuals towards positive use of the Internet, such as how to spread useful information, interact with others respectfully, and the importance of maintaining people's privacy. Through these means, religious institutions can effectively guide individuals on how to follow ethical behaviors online .

Interacting with ethical questions raised by individuals: Through social media platforms and online forums, religious institutions can interact with questions raised by individuals regarding ethical issues on the Internet. Scholars and predicants can respond to inquiries directly, either through public responses or via private messages, allowing individuals to receive clear and specific religious advice on how to behave in different digital situations. For example, some may wonder how to behave when faced with online bullying or what the Islamic position is on fake news, and these are opportunities that religious institutions should seize to answer such questions.

Through these steps, religious institutions can play a vital role in spreading Islamic moral values in the digital age, contributing to building a more respectful and safe digital environment.

Second Figure

Mechanisms for Applying Islamic Ethics in Social Media

Controls for using social media

Refrain from sharing content that offends others in Islam: Respecting others and preserving their dignity are considered basic values that individuals should apply well in their daily lives, including interaction via social media. Therefore, users should refrain from publishing or sharing any content that offends individuals or groups, whether through images or words. It must be ensured that the content being published does not contain bullying, cursing, or slander. Islamic law has urged us to preserve the sanctity of people and not to interfere in their private affairs or publish anything that harms them .

Commitment to honesty and respect for different opinions: Honesty is one of the most important values that Islam promotes in all of an individual's interactions with others, especially in the digital space. Individuals should commit to conveying accurate information and avoid spreading rumors or false news. The Messenger of Allah (peace be upon hum) said: "Refrain from lying, because lying leads to blatant evil" (narrated by Bukhari and Muslim). Respecting different opinions online is also a noble Islamic morality. Individuals should accept intellectual diversity and calm dialogue without offending others, which contributes to creating a more tolerant and respectful digital environment .

The Role of Individuals in Promoting Digital Ethics

Taking personal responsibility when posting content: Every individual is responsible for their digital identity and what they present online. In Islam, a person is considered responsible for every action they take, whether in the real world or the digital world. Users must be aware of what they post and verify the accuracy of information before posting it. They must also bear the consequences of their actions on social media platforms, as the content posted can have a negative or positive impact on individuals and communities .

present a positive digital role model: Everyone can be a digital role model by posting content that contributes to enriching discussions in a positive way and promotes Islamic values such as cooperation, justice, and tolerance. In this context, the individual should be a role model in how to deal politely and respectfully in comments on posts or responses to others. Posting constructive ideas and interacting in a sophisticated manner with different opinions contributes to enhancing mutual understanding and raising moral awareness in the digital community .

Through these mechanisms, the digital community can become a place of respect and equality, reflecting Islamic values that call for goodness and righteousness, and contributing to building a safer and healthier online environment for all.

Conclusion

The digital age, with its developments in communication and interaction, has changed many lifestyles, but it has also created ethical and behavioral challenges that require contemplation and attention. By studying the Prophetic Hadiths, clear guidelines can be derived to enhance ethical values in dealing with others through the digital space. Islam, as a universal and comprehensive religion, provides ethical rules that are applicable at all times and places, making Islamic ethics an important reference for interaction in the modern era.

Research Findings

Hadiths emphasized the importance of ethics such as honesty, trustworthiness, and good behavior, which are principles that can be applied in online communication.

The study showed that adherence to Islamic values reduces negative behaviors such as cyberbullying and spreading rumors.

The study showed the need to enhance awareness of ethical values derived from the Islamic religion in the digital context through education and media.

Hadiths highlight the importance of individual and collective responsibility in building a digital society based on respect and honesty.

Recommendations

The necessity of launching online awareness programs to promote ethical values in digital interactions, inspired by the Prophetic Hadiths.

Inserting educational materials in school curricula that focus on the ethics of using social media.

Encouraging community initiatives that contribute to enhancing awareness of ethical digital behavior, such as media campaigns and seminars.

Calling on religious and educational institutions to cooperate in publishing ethical content via digital platforms, in keeping with the challenges of the era.

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