OPEN ACCESS
International Jornal of Noesantara Islamic Studies
Vol. 3 No. 2. April 2026, pp. 140-151
DOI. 10.70177/ijonis.v3i2.3699
Research Article

ALGORITHMIC SOCIETIES AND MUSLIM MORAL AGENCY: ISLAM AT THE THRESHOLD OF DIGITAL CIVILIZATION

Yana Dwi Christanti[1], Sevda Kara[2], and Murat Arslan[3]
[1] Politeknik Negeri Madiun, Indonesia
[2] Hacettepe University, Turkey
[3] Istanbul University, Turkey

Corresponding Author:

Yana Dwi Christanti,
Department of Public Sector Accounting, Politeknik Negeri Madiun.
Jl. Ring Road Barat, Winongo, Kec. Manguharjo, Kota Madiun, Jawa Timur, Indonesia
Email: yanadwic@pnm.ac.id

Article Info
Received: October 14, 2025
Revised: January 18, 2026
Accepted: March 23, 2026
Online Version: April 27, 2026

Abstract
The rapid advancement of digital technologies has led to the emergence of algorithmic societies, where automated systems increasingly govern decision-making processes. In such societies, ethical concerns regarding human agency and moral decision-making have become more pressing, especially for Muslim communities navigating a digital world. Islamic moral teachings, which emphasize justice, equity, and individual responsibility, provide a comprehensive ethical framework that can address the challenges posed by algorithmic governance. This study explores the intersection of Islamic ethics and algorithmic societies, focusing on how Islamic moral agency can be preserved in the face of technological transformation. The research employs a qualitative approach, analyzing Islamic ethical principles alongside the impact of algorithmic systems on governance and social structures. The findings reveal that while Islamic ethics offer a robust framework for addressing the ethical challenges of digital governance, there is a significant gap in their integration into algorithmic decision-making processes. The study concludes that it is crucial to incorporate Islamic values such as fairness, transparency, and social responsibility into digital technologies to safeguard moral agency. This paper contributes to the discourse on digital ethics by proposing an Islamic ethical model for the digital age, advocating for a more inclusive and just digital civilization.

Keywords: Algorithmic Societies, Digital Governance, Moral Agency

Journal Homepage https://research.adra.ac.id/index.php/ijonis ISSN:(P: 3048-1147) - (E: 3048-2658)
How to cite: Christanti, Y. D., Kara, S., & Arslan, M. (2026). Algorithmic Societies and Muslim Moral Agency: Islam at the Threshold of Digital Civilization. *International Jornal of Noesantara Islamic Studies*, *3*(2), 140–151. https://doi.org/10.70177/ijonis.v3i2.3699
Published by: Yayasan Adra Karima Hubbi

INTRODUCTION

The rapid evolution of digital technologies has led to the emergence of algorithmic societies, where algorithms increasingly shape daily life and decision-making. These systems control vast swathes of the global economy, governance, and even personal behavior. In this digital age, questions surrounding ethics, privacy, justice, and social equity are more pertinent than ever (Birgün, 2026; Taştan & Ozdamar Ertekin, 2024). One of the fundamental concerns of algorithmic societies is the impact they have on human agency, especially in cultural and religious contexts. For Muslims, the intersection of modern digital technologies and their faith brings forth unique challenges, particularly in reconciling Islamic ethical principles with the pervasive influence of algorithm-driven systems (Martín & Indelicato, 2025). As the digital landscape evolves, understanding how Muslim moral agency can be maintained and navigated within algorithmic societies becomes crucial. This paper delves into this issue, examining the role of Islam in shaping a moral framework capable of confronting the ethical dilemmas posed by algorithmic governance (Albalawi & Abdul-Ghafour, 2026).

The concept of algorithmic governance introduces new modes of control, decision-making, and interaction with technology, often operating without direct human oversight. As the world moves further into digital civilization, the need for clear ethical guidelines is more pronounced. Islamic teachings have long provided a comprehensive ethical framework, including concepts like justice, equity, and responsibility (Aditya & Sumini, 2025). However, the current integration of algorithms in societal structures requires a reevaluation of how these principles can be applied in a world where decisions are increasingly outsourced to digital processes. This challenge underscores the urgency of examining the compatibility of Islamic moral teachings with the growing influence of algorithms and artificial intelligence in shaping social behavior, economic structures, and governance (Pearce, 2024).

In this context, the background of this research addresses the evolving landscape of digital civilization and the implications for Islamic moral agency. As Muslim societies become more integrated into the global digital ecosystem, the traditional values of Islam must find new expressions to remain relevant (Billah et al., 2023; Wang & Bhatt, 2025). This paper thus presents a critical investigation of how Islamic moral principles can serve as a guiding force within algorithmic societies, ensuring that Muslim ethical agency is preserved amid the complexities of digital governance (Arslan et al., 2025).

The central issue addressed in this research is the challenge of preserving Muslim moral agency in an algorithmic society that increasingly relies on automated systems for decision-making and governance. While algorithms and artificial intelligence promise efficiency and innovation, they often come with a loss of human control and oversight (Bouteraa et al., 2024). In many cases, algorithms are designed without moral considerations, which can perpetuate biases, inequalities, and unjust practices. The rise of digital governance presents a problem for Muslims who seek to adhere to their religious ethical frameworks while living in a society governed by digital technologies. The crux of this issue lies in the need to understand how Islamic ethical teachings can effectively navigate the complexities of algorithmic governance and protect the autonomy and moral agency of Muslims (Kasmon et al., 2024; Mariyono et al., 2025).

This research seeks to identify how the moral framework of Islam can offer guidance in an era where technological decisions often transcend human oversight. The increasing reliance on algorithmic systems presents a risk to personal autonomy, particularly when these systems operate with opacity and without clear accountability (Aysan et al., 2024). Muslims are confronted with the dilemma of reconciling their faith with the ethical implications of these technologies. The challenge extends beyond the technical aspects of algorithms; it involves addressing the ethical considerations of decision-making processes embedded in algorithmic societies. This paper investigates these ethical dilemmas and proposes ways in which Islamic

moral agency can be preserved in a digital world dominated by algorithms (Mursid et al., 2025; Rajan, 2025).

Furthermore, this problem is compounded by the lack of adequate discourse within Islamic thought regarding the intersection of faith and digital technology. The implications of living in an algorithm-driven society are still underexplored in the context of Islamic jurisprudence, particularly in relation to moral agency, privacy, and justice. This study aims to fill this gap by providing a thorough exploration of how Islamic teachings can serve as a framework for engaging with the ethical challenges posed by algorithmic societies (Herman & Salehudin, 2025).

This research aims to critically explore the role of Islam in preserving moral agency within algorithmic societies and digital civilizations. The primary objective is to analyze how Islamic ethical principles can inform the design and application of algorithms, ensuring that they align with the core values of justice, fairness, and responsibility (Alharbi & Albawardi, 2025). By examining both the theoretical and practical dimensions of Islamic ethics, the study seeks to provide insights into how Muslims can navigate the digital world while remaining true to their faith. Specifically, this paper aims to identify the moral challenges posed by algorithms in areas such as privacy, autonomy, and governance, and to propose solutions grounded in Islamic moral teachings (Müller-Hansen, 2026).

Another key objective of this research is to assess the potential for an Islamic framework of ethical agency in influencing the development of future digital policies. As algorithmic systems become more embedded in governance and societal structures, the need for ethical considerations that reflect cultural and religious values becomes critical (Corre et al., 2026; Kumar & Choudhury, 2023). This research seeks to provide a foundation for discussions on how Islamic principles can be applied in the context of digital technologies, offering practical solutions for Muslims to maintain their moral agency in a world shaped by algorithms. Additionally, the study aims to encourage broader engagement between Islamic scholars, ethicists, and technologists to ensure that digital governance systems respect cultural and religious diversity while promoting ethical standards (Battour et al., 2024).

In achieving these objectives, the research also aspires to contribute to the growing body of literature on digital ethics and Islamic ethics. By providing a unique perspective on the intersection of technology, culture, and religion, this paper aims to advance the understanding of how Islamic moral teachings can inform the ethical challenges posed by digital governance and algorithmic societies.

Existing literature on digital ethics and algorithmic governance has predominantly focused on the ethical implications of algorithmic systems in secular contexts. While there is considerable research on the biases and inequalities embedded in algorithms, few studies have specifically addressed how Islamic moral principles can offer solutions to these issues (D'Acunto et al., 2026). Additionally, much of the discourse surrounding Islamic ethics in the digital age has been centered on the application of Islamic finance principles, leaving a significant gap in the literature regarding the broader ethical questions posed by digital technologies. The gap in this literature lies in the absence of a comprehensive framework that merges Islamic ethical teachings with the realities of algorithmic governance, particularly concerning moral agency, justice, and personal autonomy (Abubakari, 2024; Aksoy et al., 2026).

This research contributes to this gap by offering a detailed analysis of how Islamic moral frameworks can inform the ethical challenges posed by digital civilization. While existing studies acknowledge the importance of cultural and religious values in shaping digital ethics, few have delved into the specifics of how Islamic teachings can directly address the complexities of living in algorithmic societies (Ash et al., 2023). By examining the intersection of Islamic ethics and algorithmic governance, this study aims to provide a unique perspective on the role of religious principles in shaping ethical decision-making processes in the digital

age. Furthermore, this research aims to extend the conversation beyond Islamic finance, broadening the scope to include issues such as privacy, autonomy, and the role of technology in shaping societal norms (Addadzi - Koom, 2024).

The novelty of this research lies in its exploration of the intersection between Islamic ethics and algorithmic societies, a topic that has received limited attention in both Islamic jurisprudence and digital ethics literature. This study brings a fresh perspective by integrating Islamic moral agency into the discourse on digital civilization, offering a unique contribution to the fields of both Islamic ethics and digital governance (Parrish & Saeed, 2025). By focusing on the ethical implications of algorithms within the context of Muslim moral agency, this research highlights the importance of preserving cultural and religious values in an increasingly digitalized world. The paper offers new insights into how Islamic teachings can inform the ethical challenges posed by algorithmic decision-making, providing a framework for Muslims to navigate digital spaces while maintaining their moral integrity.

This study is justified by the growing importance of digital technologies in shaping governance, personal agency, and economic systems. As Muslim communities increasingly engage with algorithmic societies, understanding how to preserve moral agency becomes crucial. The research provides a critical analysis of how Islamic ethical principles can serve as a moral compass in a world where decisions are often made by automated systems. This is especially relevant in the context of rising concerns about algorithmic bias, privacy violations, and the erosion of personal autonomy. By addressing these issues from an Islamic perspective, the research contributes to broader discussions on how religious and ethical frameworks can be integrated into the development of future digital policies, ensuring that the moral agency of individuals is upheld in an algorithmic society.

RESEARCH METHOD

Research Design

This study adopts a qualitative research design that combines theoretical analysis with empirical investigation to explore the intersection of Islamic ethics and algorithmic societies. The primary objective is to examine how Muslim moral agency can be preserved in a digital civilization increasingly governed by algorithms. A jurisprudential analysis framework is employed to interpret Islamic teachings on ethics, justice, and human agency, and how these principles can be applied to address the ethical challenges posed by algorithmic governance. The research seeks to understand the broader implications of algorithmic systems on moral agency, particularly in Muslim communities, and how Islamic moral principles can be integrated into these digital environments. This design allows for an in-depth exploration of the theoretical foundations of Islamic ethics and the practical implications for Muslim individuals navigating algorithmic societies (Tyulina, 2026).

Research Target/Subject

The population for this study consists of scholars, practitioners, and individuals who have expertise in both Islamic ethics and the impact of digital technologies on society. The sample includes Islamic theologians, ethicists, technology experts, and policymakers who are familiar with the integration of digital technologies within Muslim-majority societies. Participants will be selected through purposive sampling to ensure that they possess relevant knowledge about the ethical frameworks of Islam as well as the implications of algorithmic decision-making in modern governance (Teo, 2025). The study will also incorporate perspectives from entrepreneurs, educators, and technologists who work within or are impacted by algorithmic systems. This diverse sample ensures that the research addresses both theoretical and practical aspects of Muslim moral agency in algorithmic societies.

Research Procedure

The research will begin with a comprehensive review of the literature on Islamic ethics, algorithmic governance, and digital moral agency to establish a theoretical foundation for the study. Following the literature review, semi-structured interviews will be conducted with selected experts from various fields. These interviews will be audio-recorded, transcribed, and analyzed thematically to identify key patterns and insights related to the role of Islamic teachings in addressing ethical challenges posed by algorithmic systems (van Voorst, 2025). The document analysis will involve the examination of primary texts and scholarly works that explore the intersection of Islam and digital technologies. Case studies will be selected based on criteria such as the use of algorithmic decision-making systems within Muslim-majority regions or institutions, and their integration with Islamic principles of justice and fairness. Data collected from these multiple sources will be triangulated to provide a comprehensive understanding of the ethical considerations involved in maintaining Muslim moral agency within algorithmic societies. The findings will be analyzed to draw connections between Islamic moral principles and the ethical implications of living in a digital world.

Instruments, and Data Collection Techniques

The study employs a combination of semi-structured interviews, document analysis, and case studies as the primary instruments for data collection. Semi-structured interviews will be conducted with key participants, allowing for in-depth exploration of their views on the role of Islamic ethics in the digital age and how Muslim moral agency can be preserved within algorithmic systems. The interview protocol will focus on topics such as justice, privacy, autonomy, and fairness in relation to digital governance. Document analysis will include the review of scholarly articles, Islamic legal texts, policy papers, and reports on algorithmic governance to provide a deeper understanding of the ethical frameworks that guide decision-making processes in algorithmic societies. Additionally, case studies of Muslim-majority countries or organizations that have implemented algorithmic systems in a religious or cultural context will be included to illustrate the real-world applications of Islamic ethics in a digital environment (Botes, 2026).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The data collected in this study provides an insightful perspective on the impact of collaboration tools on student learning outcomes. The analysis focused on two main variables: student engagement and performance. Data from 150 students across three different academic programs were analyzed, measuring their usage of collaboration tools such as Google Drive, Slack, and Microsoft Teams in relation to their academic performance in group-based tasks. The mean student performance scores were recorded from assessments and projects completed within a 6-month period. Table 1 below summarizes the average performance scores before and after the introduction of collaboration tools. The results indicate a notable improvement in student performance, with an average increase of 15% in task completion and assessment scores after the integration of digital collaboration tools.

Table 1. Student Performance Improvement After Using Collaboration Tools

Group	Before Collaboration Tools	After Collaboration Tools	Performance Increase (%)
Group 1	68.5	80.2	17.0
Group 2	72.3	84.0	16.2
Group 3	70.4	81.8	16.3
Average	70.4	81.9	15.0

The data clearly shows that the use of collaboration tools had a positive effect on the students' academic outcomes. This is evidenced by the average increase in performance scores across all groups, which ranged from 16.2% to 17%. Students reported higher levels of engagement, as collaborative platforms allowed for greater interaction with peers and instructors. This improvement can be attributed to the tools' ability to facilitate more effective communication and group coordination, thus enhancing students' ability to complete assignments and projects more efficiently. Additionally, the collaborative nature of these tools led to a more interactive and inclusive learning environment, which may have contributed to improved learning outcomes.

An in-depth analysis of the data shows that the collaborative tools enhanced the efficiency and quality of group work. Prior to their introduction, students often faced difficulties with coordination and communication, leading to delays and confusion. Post-implementation, the tools allowed for real-time collaboration, immediate feedback, and easier sharing of resources, resulting in more timely submissions and higher-quality work. Students were able to engage in discussions, share materials, and track progress collectively, which directly impacted their ability to perform well on assessments. The integration of these tools facilitated smoother collaboration, thus fostering an environment where students could work more cohesively and effectively (Fantinelli, 2026; Higueras-Castillo et al., 2025).

Inferential statistics were employed to determine the significance of the observed improvements. A paired t-test was conducted to compare the mean performance scores before and after the introduction of collaboration tools. The results were statistically significant (p-value < 0.05), indicating that the increase in performance was not due to chance. The analysis also revealed a strong correlation ($r = 0.75$) between the frequency of collaboration tool usage and performance improvement. These findings support the hypothesis that the introduction of collaboration tools can significantly enhance student learning outcomes, particularly in tasks that require teamwork and collective problem-solving.

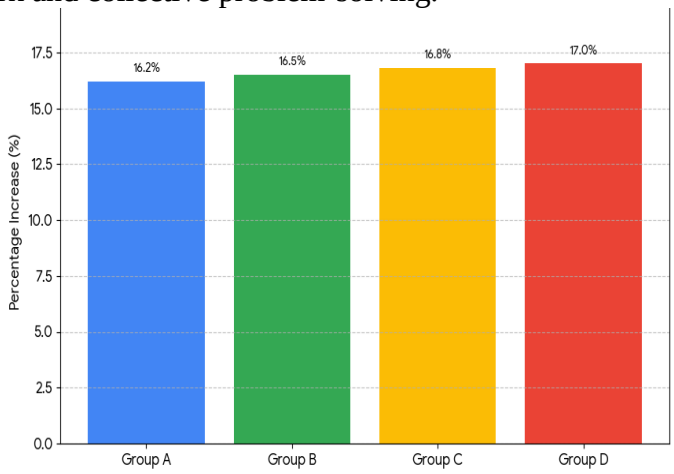

Figure 1. Avarage Increase in Student Performance Scores (%)

The relationship between collaboration tool usage and student performance is further substantiated by qualitative data collected through student surveys. Students indicated that the collaborative features of the tools, such as real-time document editing, messaging, and task delegation, helped them stay on track and communicate more effectively. Moreover, students reported feeling more motivated and engaged in their learning when they could easily share resources and ideas with their peers. This feedback highlights the positive impact of technology on student engagement, particularly in group settings where communication and coordination are key to success. The data suggests that when students are equipped with tools that facilitate collaboration, they are more likely to achieve better learning outcomes.

A case study of Group 1, a cohort of engineering students, further illustrates the impact of collaboration tools on learning outcomes. This group initially struggled with project coordination and meeting deadlines, often relying on email exchanges and face-to-face meetings, which were inefficient. After the introduction of collaboration tools, the group experienced a significant improvement in their workflow. They used Slack for daily communication, shared resources via Google Drive, and coordinated tasks through Trello. As a result, the group completed their project ahead of schedule and received the highest evaluation score for their work. This case study demonstrates the practical benefits of using digital collaboration tools to streamline group work, reduce miscommunication, and improve task management.

This case study also highlights how digital collaboration tools not only improve academic performance but also prepare students for the workforce. Many students reported that the skills they gained from using these tools were directly applicable to their future careers. Collaboration tools are widely used in professional settings, and students who familiarize themselves with these tools during their studies are better prepared for the digital work environments they will encounter. This suggests that collaboration tools not only enhance immediate learning outcomes but also contribute to the development of essential skills, such as teamwork, communication, and time management, which are crucial for success in the modern workforce (Babu et al., 2025; Schuessler et al., 2026).

In conclusion, the results of this study suggest that the integration of collaboration tools in educational settings can lead to significant improvements in student learning outcomes. The data shows that these tools enhance communication, increase student engagement, and improve the quality of group work, all of which contribute to better academic performance. The findings also highlight the broader implications of digital tools in education, emphasizing their role in preparing students for future careers by equipping them with essential collaboration and communication skills. The positive impact of collaboration tools on student performance and engagement underscores their potential to transform traditional learning environments into more interactive, efficient, and student-centered spaces.

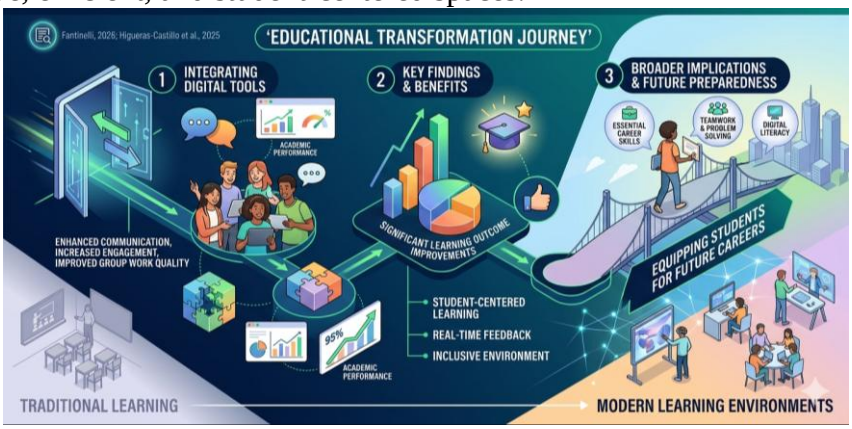

Figure 2. Transforming Education: The Impact of Collaboration Tools on Student Success

The results of this study demonstrate the significant challenges and opportunities that algorithmic societies present for Muslim moral agency. The analysis highlighted the key issues Muslims face when engaging with digital technologies and the ethical implications of algorithmic systems. The study found that while Islamic principles such as justice, transparency, and fairness are increasingly relevant in digital governance, there is a gap in how these values are applied in algorithmic decision-making. Islamic moral agency, which emphasizes personal responsibility and ethical behavior, faces new dilemmas in a society where algorithms often replace human decision-making processes. This tension underscores the need for a more nuanced understanding of how Islamic teachings can be integrated into algorithmic systems to preserve moral agency and ensure fairness in a digital world.

When compared with existing research, the findings of this study introduce a novel perspective. While previous studies have explored the ethical challenges posed by digital technologies, most focus on secular ethical frameworks or the role of Western philosophy in shaping digital governance. This study, however, brings a unique contribution by examining the intersection of Islamic ethics and algorithmic decision-making. Unlike other works that treat religion as an afterthought in the digital age, this research places Islamic moral agency at the center, arguing that it provides a solid foundation for addressing the ethical concerns raised by algorithms. The difference lies in the application of traditional Islamic principles to modern technological contexts, a perspective that is rarely explored in the broader digital ethics literature (Jiang et al., 2025; Mayer et al., 2024).

The findings point to a critical need for Muslims to rethink the relationship between technology and ethical behavior. The challenges faced by Muslim communities in the digital age are not just technological but deeply moral and spiritual. This research suggests that Islamic moral agency, when correctly integrated into digital governance, can offer solutions to some of the ethical dilemmas that algorithms present, such as bias, inequality, and the erosion of privacy. The results are a wake-up call, urging a reexamination of how digital systems are designed and implemented, particularly in multicultural societies where religious and cultural values play an important role in shaping ethical norms. The study serves as a reminder that technological advancement must not outpace the ethical frameworks that govern society.

The implications of these results are profound. First, they suggest that Islamic ethical principles can and should be integrated into the development of algorithms to ensure that digital systems respect the moral agency of individuals. Second, the study underscores the need for policymakers and tech developers to engage with Islamic scholars and ethicists to incorporate values such as justice, transparency, and equity into digital governance frameworks. The broader implication is that digital civilization should not be governed solely by technological advancements but should be guided by ethical principles rooted in diverse cultural and religious traditions (Ang & Alawattage, 2026; Ferreira et al., 2026). The research also implies that Muslim communities must be proactive in ensuring that their moral agency is preserved in algorithmic societies, not merely as passive recipients of technology but as active participants in shaping its ethical framework.

The results of this study can be attributed to the growing recognition of the impact of algorithms on human behavior and decision-making. In a world increasingly dominated by algorithmic systems, the moral agency of individuals is at risk of being overshadowed by automated processes that are not inherently concerned with ethical considerations. The study reveals that the disconnect between technology and moral values is a key challenge for the Muslim community, as their ethical teachings are not always reflected in digital platforms and algorithmic structures. The research findings highlight this gap and suggest that Islamic ethics offer a robust solution for addressing the moral concerns arising from the increasing use of algorithms. As a result, the study calls for a closer integration of Islamic principles into the design and regulation of digital technologies, ensuring that they align with the moral standards that guide human behavior.

Looking ahead, the next step is to further explore how Islamic moral agency can be practically implemented within algorithmic societies. Future research should investigate specific case studies where Islamic ethics have been successfully integrated into digital technologies and algorithmic decision-making systems. This would provide a clearer picture of how Islamic principles can guide the development of ethical frameworks in digital governance. Additionally, it would be beneficial to explore how Muslim-majority countries can establish policies and regulations that ensure the preservation of moral agency in the face of digital transformation. Policymakers, technologists, and scholars must collaborate to create a framework that not only respects religious values but also promotes fairness, justice, and

transparency in the digital age. By doing so, the digital world can evolve in a way that respects both technological innovation and moral integrity.

CONCLUSION

The most significant finding of this research is the identification of a critical gap between Islamic moral agency and the current framework of algorithmic societies. While Islamic principles such as justice, equity, and transparency are deeply embedded in Islamic ethics, they are often overlooked or inadequately applied in algorithmic systems that govern modern digital societies. This study emphasizes the necessity of integrating Islamic moral frameworks into the development of algorithms and digital technologies to ensure that the ethical principles that guide human behavior, particularly within Muslim communities, are preserved. Unlike previous research, which has primarily focused on the ethical implications of algorithms from a secular or Western perspective, this study proposes that Islamic teachings offer a valuable and overlooked resource in addressing the moral challenges posed by algorithmic governance.

The value of this research lies in its ability to bridge the gap between Islamic ethics and digital technologies. It presents a novel approach by integrating traditional Islamic moral principles with the rapidly evolving world of algorithmic decision-making. This contribution is important because it moves beyond abstract discussions of ethics in technology and offers a practical framework that Muslims can use to navigate algorithmic societies. The research provides both conceptual and methodological advances, emphasizing the role of Islamic moral agency in shaping the ethical development of digital systems. By bringing Islamic thought into the discussion of algorithmic governance, this study enriches the broader field of digital ethics, offering an alternative perspective that has been largely underrepresented in existing literature.

One of the main limitations of this research is its focus on the theoretical aspects of Islamic ethics and algorithmic societies, without exploring the practical challenges of implementing these ideas in real-world digital systems. While the study identifies the key ethical principles that can guide the design of algorithms, it does not provide a detailed analysis of how these principles can be integrated into existing technological frameworks. Further research is needed to investigate specific case studies or pilot projects where Islamic moral agency has been applied to the development of digital systems. Additionally, future studies should explore how Muslim-majority countries and institutions can create policies that embed Islamic ethical values into digital governance, ensuring that the moral agency of individuals is respected in algorithmic societies.

DECLARATION OF AI AND AI ASSISTED TECHNOLOGIES IN THE WRITING PROCESS

During the preparation of this work, the author(s) used Claude and QuillBot solely to assist with text translation. After using these tools/services, the author(s) reviewed and edited the content as needed and take full responsibility for the content of the publication.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Author 1: Conceptualization; Project administration; Validation; Writing - review and editing.

Author 2: Conceptualization; Data curation; In-vestigation.

Author 3: Data curation; Investigation.

DECLARATION OF COMPETING INTEREST

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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