# Law and Society in the Artificial Intelligence Era: Socio-Legal Challenges in Muslim Countries and Youth Populations

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| Keywords | Abstract |
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| *AI governance* <br> *Algorithmic bias;* <br> *Artificial intelligence;* <br> *Socio-legal challenges;* <br> *Islamic jurisprudence;* <br> *Maqāṣid al-sharīʿa;* <br> *Privacy;* <br> *Digital ethics;* <br> *Muslim countries;* <br> *Youth populations* | The integration of artificial intelligence (AI) into everyday life introduces significant socio-legal challenges, particularly in Muslim-majority societies and among youth. This paper critically examines the intersections of AI, Islamic jurisprudence, and socio-legal structures, addressing key themes of privacy, algorithmic bias, liability, and youth vulnerability. Drawing from Islamic ethical principles, especially maqāṣid al-sharīʿa (objectives of Sharia) and tawḥīd (unity), the analysis foregrounds the tensions between Western-centric AI norms and culturally embedded frameworks of justice. The study demonstrates that surveillance technology may clash with Qurʾānic injunctions on privacy, and unchecked algorithms can undermine the Islamic commitment to justice. Moreover, it highlights the disproportionate risks Muslim youth face from deepfakes, misinformation, and mental health pressures. Adopting a socio-legal methodology, this paper incorporates leading journal literature and contemporary reports, situating AI governance debates within pluralistic and contextual paradigms. The conclusion advocates for human-centered, Sharia-compliant governance, interdisciplinary collaboration, and youth-inclusive reform, arguing that adaptive regulations grounded in Islamic ethics and global human rights are vital for ensuring justice and dignity in Muslim societies. |

## Introduction

Artificial intelligence (AI) has rapidly emerged as one of the defining technological forces of the 21st century, fundamentally transforming the landscapes of law, governance, and society. From applications in finance, healthcare, and education to surveillance and digital communication, AI technologies have become deeply embedded in daily life worldwide. Whilst this revolution offers unprecedented benefits—enhancing efficiency, access to services, and innovation—it also raises significant socio-legal challenges, particularly concerning transparency, accountability, privacy, and equity (Turner, 2021).

Muslim-majority countries face unique complexities in this evolving AI ecosystem owing to their distinctive legal and ethical frameworks grounded in Islamic jurisprudence (*Sharīa*). The integration of AI technologies into societies where law is informed by religious ethics requires a careful balancing of modern technological imperatives with the foundational principles of Islamic law and theology. Concepts such as *maqāṣid al-sharīa*—the higher objectives of Islamic law focusing on the preservation of religion, life, intellect, lineage, and property—offer normative guidelines for ethical evaluation and governance (Elmahjub, 2023). These principles become critically important as AI systems increasingly impact domains traditionally protected by Islamic ethics, such as privacy, dignity, and social justice.

The challenge is magnified by the opaque nature of many AI algorithms—the so-called "black box"—which hampers

transparency and complicates questions of liability and responsibility. This opacity is especially problematic in contexts where the Qur'an explicitly prohibits spying and unwarranted intrusion into private lives (Qur'an 49:12), thereby demanding that AI surveillance practices reconcile with religious injunctions (Shahzad, 2025). Such tensions highlight a broader issue: the insufficiency of dominant Western-centric AI ethical models in addressing the culturally embedded legal and moral concerns of Muslim societies. Therefore, pluralistic approaches are necessary approaches that integrate Islamic jurisprudential principles alongside universal human rights to create culturally resonant governance frameworks.

Youth populations, who constitute a significant demographic majority across many Muslim-majority countries, represent a particularly important focus of analysis. These individuals interact with AI daily through social media, digital education, and other online platforms, experiencing both its empowering potentials and its risks. Notably, the prevalence of harms like misinformation, algorithmic bias, digital addiction, and identity manipulation through deepfakes disproportionately affects Muslim youth, raising concerns not only for their developmental well-being but also for the preservation of cultural and religious identities (Halal Times, 2024; Islamnicity, 2025). Moreover, AI-induced disruptions in employment pose serious socio-economic challenges, necessitating a keen consideration of the Islamic legal obligation to ensure dignified work and protect *rizq* (sustenance).

This article critically explores the intersections between AI, Islamic jurisprudence, and socio-legal governance, emphasizing the imperative of developing culturally and religiously grounded AI regulatory frameworks in Muslim-majority

contexts. Employing a socio-legal methodology that draws on both doctrinal scholarship and empirical studies, it examines key issues including privacy, algorithmic bias, liability, and youth vulnerabilities. The paper also assesses emerging ethical and regulatory initiatives, such as the Islamic World AI Charter, that seek to navigate the complexities posed by AI within an Islamic normative context.

By foregrounding Islamic legal concepts and amplifying the experiences of Muslim youth, this study contributes to an inclusive and pluralistic discourse on AI governance. It argues for adaptive reforms that harmonize Islamic ethical imperatives with global human rights principles to foster justice, dignity, and equity in the AI era. Ultimately, the article underscores the urgent need for interdisciplinary collaboration and youth participation in AI policymaking to ensure that AI serves as a tool for empowerment rather than marginalization in Muslim societies.

**Literature Review**

The scholarly engagement with the socio-legal implications of artificial intelligence has gained notable momentum across disciplines, emphasizing critical examination of the intersection between law, ethics, and societal norms. Within Muslim-majority contexts, this discourse acquires additional complexity owing to the centrality of Islamic jurisprudence (Sharīʿa) in shaping legal and ethical frameworks. Existing literature highlights the insufficiency of dominant Western AI ethics models when applied uncritically, underscoring the necessity of culturally grounded, pluralistic approaches to AI governance (Turner, 2021; Elmahjub, 2023).

This review synthesizes key themes emerging from the literature, organized into four interrelated domains: Islamic ethical

perspectives on AI; privacy and dignity; algorithmic bias and discrimination; and youth-specific vulnerabilities.

## Islamic Ethical Perspectives on AI

Islamic jurisprudence offers a rich tradition of interpretive tools such as ijtihād (independent reasoning), maṣlaḥa (public interest), and qiyās (analogical reasoning), providing critical resources for adapting ethical evaluations to technological innovations (Elmahjub, 2023). Scholars advocate for a pluralistic ethical benchmarking that centers the *maqāṣid al-sharīʿa*—the higher objectives of Islamic law—including safeguarding religion, life, intellect, lineage, and property.

Recent studies examine the legitimacy and scope of AI in religious contexts. For instance, Kassim et al. (2022) analyse the potential benefits and risks of AI-driven fatwa generation tools, cautioning against the replacement of human scholarly judgment due to AI's limitations in grasping nuanced scriptural intent. Other research explores the legal status of AI-generated creative works, challenging traditional juristic notions of authorship linked to human effort (*kasb*) and rationality (Ansari et al., 2023; Abubakar et al., 2024).

The integration of AI within Islamic jurisprudential processes suggests a need for hybrid governance models that preserve human agency and uphold Islamic principles, avoiding mechanistic or purely technocratic interpretations (Tarshany, 2024).

## Privacy and Dignity

Privacy occupies a pivotal ethical and legal position within Islamic jurisprudence, closely tied to human dignity (*karāmah*) and social harmony. Qur'anic injunctions explicitly prohibit spying and unjustified intrusion into private affairs (Qur'an 49:12), while prophetic traditions reinforce commitments

to confidentiality and respect for personal boundaries (Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim).

Contemporary scholarship critiques the application of AI-powered surveillance systems in Muslim-majority countries, noting tensions between security imperatives and religious prohibitions on spying (Shahzad, 2025; Labanieh, 2024). The opacity and scale of data collection amplify these concerns, threatening both individual dignity and trust in legal institutions.

Comparative analyses caution against wholesale adoption of Western models like the GDPR, arguing for contextual adaptation that aligns with *maqāṣid al-sharī'a*. This may encompass emphasizing collective welfare, preventing harm, and embedding Islamic notions of trust (*amanah*) and mutual consent (*riḍā*) in data governance frameworks (Zailly et al., 2024).

## Algorithmic Bias and Discrimination

Algorithmic bias emerges as a significant socio-legal challenge, with AI systems often reflecting and perpetuating existing social inequities. In Muslim societies, concerns focus on discriminatory impacts in employment, education, and justice systems that undermine Islamic commitments to justice (*adl*) and equality (*musāwah*) (Hakimi et al., 2023).

Studies reveal how AI-based recruitment tools systematically disadvantage women, ethnic minorities, and socio-economically marginalized groups within Muslim-majority contexts (Shafique et al., 2024). Similarly, predictive policing algorithms may intensify the surveillance and stigmatization of minority communities, conflicting with principles of procedural fairness (*adl al-qaḍā'*) (Hakimi et al., 2023; Munir, 2025).

Addressing these biases calls for culturally sensitive auditing mechanisms and

the embedding of *maqāṣid al-sharīʿa* in AI design and deployment processes to ensure equitable outcomes and sustained public trust (Elmahjub, 2023).

**Youth-Specific Vulnerabilities**

Youth populations, which constitute over half of the population in many Muslim-majority countries, experience unique vulnerabilities amid the AI transformation. Studies document the prevalence of exposure to harmful online content, including inaccurate or offensive materials, misinformation, and radicalizing content that threatens religious identity and social cohesion (Halal Times, 2024; Matar, 2025).

Psychological impacts of algorithmic addiction further compound risks, with linked increases in anxiety, depression, and social withdrawal (Islamicity, 2025). Educational disparities along rural-urban lines and linguistic biases in AI impede equitable access to learning opportunities, conflicting with Islamic imperatives for knowledge acquisition and intellectual development (Iqra Study, 2024).

Given that youth are heavily impacted yet often excluded from AI governance discourse, scholarship advocates for their meaningful inclusion in policymaking processes aligned with Islamic concepts of consultation (*shūrā*) and public interest (*maṣlaḥa*) (Goffi, 2024).

Despite growing attention, gaps persist in empirical research on how Muslim youth interact with AI, the development of harmonized regulatory frameworks reconciling *maqāṣid al-sharīʿa* and international human rights standards, and the incorporation of gender perspectives (Hakimi et al., 2023; Islamicity, 2025). Cross-sectoral studies, particularly in healthcare and fintech, remain limited.

Future scholarship should prioritize interdisciplinary approaches combining Islamic legal theory, socio-legal analysis, and empirical fieldwork to generate culturally resonant governance frameworks. Enhancing youth participation and addressing structural socio-economic disparities are critical for harnessing AI's transformative potential in Muslim societies (Elmahjub, 2023).

**Ethical and Regulatory Frameworks in Muslim Countries**

The rapid expansion of artificial intelligence (AI) technologies across Muslim-majority countries has significantly influenced governance, commerce, and daily life. From ambitious smart city initiatives in Gulf states to AI-integrated fintech platforms in Malaysia and Pakistan, adoption rates are accelerating. However, the development of ethical and regulatory frameworks tailored to these innovations remains nascent, with many Muslim countries facing legal uncertainties and risks associated with AI deployment.

Global AI governance models, such as the European Union's AI Act and the OECD AI Principles, offer valuable starting points. Yet, their universalist approaches often conflict with the culturally and religiously grounded values that dominate in Muslim societies. This reality underscores the urgent need for regionally contextualized frameworks that harmonize modern AI ethics with Islamic jurisprudence (*Sharīʿa*).

**Pluralist Benchmarking and Islamic Ethical Foundations**

Elmahjub (2023) argues strongly for a pluralist benchmarking approach to AI ethics in Muslim societies, emphasizing that uncritical adoption of Western models is inadequate. Central to this framework are the *maqāṣid al-sharīʿa*, which prioritize the preservation of life (*ḥifẓ al-nafs*), intellect (*ḥifẓ al-ʿaql*), religion (*ḥifẓ al-dīn*), lineage

(*ḥifẓ al-nasl*), and property (*ḥifẓ al-māl*). These objectives provide a normative foundation for evaluating the socio-legal impact of AI technologies.

For example, the obligation to preserve intellect calls for protections against harms such as misinformation, algorithmic radicalization, and addictive AI designs, while preserving dignity requires stringent safeguards against invasive surveillance and identity manipulation (Tarshany, 2024). Furthermore, the ethical principle of *tawḥīd* (unity of creation) broadens the discourse by framing AI as part of a holistic worldview that emphasizes human dignity and communal responsibility.

## Regional Initiatives and Emerging Charters

Several Muslim-majority countries have begun articulating ethical AI frameworks that explicitly incorporate Islamic values. Qatar's national AI strategy integrates *Sharīʿa* principles into policy design, signaling a commitment to culturally rooted governance (Elmahjub, 2023). The United Arab Emirates, with its dedicated Minister of State for AI, embeds AI within its Vision 2031 plan, although its heavy reliance on surveillance technologies has drawn critiques.

At a regional level, the Islamic World AI Charter, developed under the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), represents a pioneering collective effort to define shared ethical norms. It emphasizes principles of accountability, transparency, and fairness but distinguishes itself by grounding these principles in Islamic concepts such as *amanah* (trust), *ʿadl* (justice), and *maṣlaḥa* (public good). Notably, the Charter advocates for the inclusion of religious scholars alongside technologists in policymaking, thereby

institutionalizing *ijtihād* (independent reasoning) in technological governance (Goffi, 2024).

Despite these advances, critics note that enforcement mechanisms remain weak. Labanieh (2024) highlights the absence of adapted arbitration and contract laws capable of addressing the autonomy of AI systems within existing legal architectures, particularly in the UAE.

## AI and Jurisprudential Adaptation

The legitimacy of AI use in jurisprudential functions continues to attract debate. While AI-powered fatwa generation offers scalability and efficiency, scholars caution against ceding human scholarly authority, given AI's inability to fully interpret the in-depth textual nuances (*nuṣūṣ*) required in *Sharīʿa* (Kassim et al., 2022). Similar concerns inform regulatory frameworks that insist on human oversight in AI applications within judicial contexts.

Legal responsibility in AI-related decisions is also evolving. Mansoor et al. (2024) propose hybrid accountability models where moral and legal responsibility is shared between human agents and technology, rooted in the Islamic principle of *taklīf* (moral responsibility).

## Youth-Specific Ethical Considerations

Recognizing the disproportionate vulnerability of youth to AI harms, ethical frameworks in Muslim countries increasingly incorporate youth-centered provisions. AI filters designed to protect minors from harmful content in line with Islamic values exemplify such targeted interventions (Islamicity, 2025). Moreover, bridging the digital divide—addressing disparities in access between urban and rural areas as well as gender gaps—is vital to inclusive governance (Iqra Study, 2024).

While ethical charters like those of the OIC acknowledge the importance of youth inclusion, institutionalizing youth participation in policymaking remains a significant challenge. The absence of regulatory clauses specifically addressing youth leaves young populations at risk of misinformation, addictive digital environments, and exploitation within digital economies (Goffi, 2024).

## Human Rights and Sharīʿa Integration

A recurring tension in AI governance arises from the coexistence of international human rights frameworks and Islamic legal systems. Shahzad (2025) argues that effective AI governance in Muslim countries requires an integrative approach that safeguards dignity, privacy, and equity through both Islamic and international legal norms.

This duality enhances legitimacy: reliance solely on international models risks public resistance, while approaches based purely on religious law may be isolated from global AI governance dialogues. Embedding international human rights within the framework of *maqāṣid al-sharīʿa* offers a promising path for culturally resonant and globally engaged regulation

## Privacy and Data Protection under Islamic Law

Privacy and data protection emerge as critical socio-legal challenges in the context of artificial intelligence (AI) deployment in Muslim societies. AI technologies, particularly those based on big data analytics, machine learning, and pervasive surveillance systems, fundamentally rely on extensive collection, storage, and repurposing of personal information. While global frameworks such as the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) offer foundational models for data privacy, Muslim-majority countries must navigate additional layers of ethical and legal obligations rooted in Islamic jurisprudence (*Sharīa*).

## Qur'anic and Prophetic Foundations of Privacy

In Islamic thought, privacy transcends mere individual entitlement to embody a vital component of human dignity (*karāmah*) and social harmony. The Qur'an explicitly condemns spying and unwarranted intrusion: "Do not spy on one another" (Qur'an 49:12). Classical jurists have interpreted this as a prohibition against unauthorized surveillance, an interpretation directly relevant to modern concerns about AI-enabled monitoring.

Further, prophetic traditions emphasize the sanctity of confidentiality and respect for personal boundaries. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) is reported to have said, "Whoever conceals [the faults of] a Muslim, Allah will conceal his faults on the Day of Judgment" (Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim), underscoring the moral imperative to protect others' privacy. Within the framework of *maqāṣid al-sharīa*, privacy is safeguarded under the objectives protecting dignity (*ḥifẓ al-ʿird*), intellect (*ḥifẓ al-ʿaql*), and lineage (*ḥifẓ al-nasl*). Consequently, AI practices involving biometric data collection, behavioral tracking, or facial recognition technologies raise significant ethical concerns given their potential to undermine these foundational protections (Elmahjub, 2023).

## AI Surveillance and Socio-Legal Tensions

Muslim-majority states deploying AI-driven surveillance technologies face inherent tensions between promoting national security and upholding individual privacy. Programs implemented in the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, and Pakistan reveal how smart city infrastructures and security systems increasingly enable comprehensive monitoring of citizens. However, such

initiatives risk violating Qur'anic injunctions against spying, raising profound questions about compliance with Islamic ethical norms (Shahzad, 2025; Labanieh, 2024).

Furthermore, the extensive profiling of youth via social media platforms' AI algorithms often results in exposure to harmful or inappropriate content, which can destabilize religious identity and community cohesion (Halal Times, 2024). These dynamics undermine trust in governance structures and emphasize the necessity of culturally attuned regulatory responses.

## Data Repurposing and Consent in Islamic Law

Data repurposing without explicit consent presents another critical challenge. Islamic jurisprudence enshrines principles of *amanah* (trust) and *riḍā* (mutual consent) as foundational to lawful transactions. Unauthorized use of personal data for profit or surveillance constitutes a breach of trust with ethical and legal implications extending beyond secular notions of informed consent (Zailly et al., 2024).

Advocates propose embedding privacy-by-design principles aligned with *maqāṣid al-sharīa* to ensure that confidentiality and dignity are prioritized from the outset of AI systems' development. This approach reflects prophetic injunctions emphasizing the safeguarding of secrets and the moral weight of privacy protections in Islamic ethics (Shahzad, 2025).

## Comparative Legal Lessons and Sharīa Alignment

While models like the GDPR stress individual autonomy and rights, Islamic legal thought situates privacy within relational and communal frameworks, balancing personal interests with collective welfare. This distinction necessitates adaptations of global data protection standards to reflect local religious and cultural contexts (Elmahjub, 2023).

Case studies from the UAE reveal how AI-enabled surveillance can normalize intrusive monitoring cultures conflicting with Qur'anic principles of dignity and privacy. Effective regulatory frameworks must reconcile such security imperatives with *Sharīa* mandates for confidentiality to maintain legitimacy and public trust (Labanieh, 2024).

## Toward Sharia-Compliant Data Governance

Scholars advocate for hybrid governance models integrating international data protection norms with *Sharīa* principles. Shahzad (2025) emphasizes embedding privacy protections within constitutional and Islamic legal frameworks, recognizing privacy violations as infringements upon both human dignity and religious mandates.

Policy recommendations include:

- Implementing privacy-by-design aligned with *maqāṣid al-sharīa*.

- Establishing consent mechanisms grounded in Islamic notions of *amanah* and *riḍā*.

- Deploying AI-based filters to protect youth from harmful content in accordance with Qur'anic principles.

- Developing cross-border data governance that respects both global norms and local ethical values.

This section underscores the potential for Islamic jurisprudence to contribute robustly to data privacy governance amidst AI expansion. If you wish, I can proceed with the next section focusing on Algorithmic Bias and Discrimination.

## Youth in the AI Era: Socio-Legal Risks and Opportunities

Youth populations constitute a significant majority in many Muslim-majority countries, representing a demographic crucial to understanding AI's socio-legal impact. Young people frequently engage with AI-driven platforms through social media, digital education, and entertainment, offering immense opportunities for learning, creativity, and global connectivity. However, this engagement also exposes them to profound risks that require careful ethical and legal attention.

One of the most alarming challenges facing Muslim youth is the spread of deepfakes—hyper-realistic AI-generated images or videos that can distort personal identities and undermine social trust. As reported by *Halal Times* (2024), Muslim adolescents are disproportionately targeted by such exploitations, risking reputational harm, cyberbullying, and coercion. Traditional Islamic principles, notably the prohibition of slander and falsehood per the Qur'an (24:15–16) and respect for dignity (*ḥifẓ al-ʿird*), directly counter these harms, underscoring the necessity for robust legal reforms criminalizing malicious AI-generated content.

Another pressing concern involves misinformation and algorithmic radicalization. AI-driven recommendation systems on social media often amplify divisive or extremist narratives, exacerbating identity crises and threatening mental wellbeing among youth. Studies emphasize that misinformation jeopardizes religious education and faith formation, with radicalizing influences clashing with the Islamic objectives of preserving intellect (*ḥifẓ al-ʿaql*) and religion (*ḥifẓ al-dīn*) (Matar, 2025; Iqra Study, 2024). To combat these, Islamic ethical frameworks advocate for AI content moderation aligned with religious values that promote balanced, accurate information, sustainability of communal harmony, and critical literacy.

The mental health implications of constant AI interaction—especially via addictive algorithms embedded in games, social media, and streaming—are gaining attention. Research from *Islamicity* (2025) connects excessive digital engagement with rising anxiety, depression, and social withdrawal in Muslim youth, challenging states and corporations to prioritize ethical AI designs. Islamic ethics emphasize moderation and psychological wellbeing, considering exploitation through addictive design a breach of trust (*amanah*) and public interest (*maṣlaḥa*).

Educational AI tools present a mixed landscape, where personalization can enhance learning but may also deepen digital divides and linguistic biases, disproportionately impacting rural youths and those speaking less-represented languages. Such disparities conflict with the Islamic imperative to foster equitable access to knowledge, a key aspect of preserving intellect. Scholars call for investments in inclusive digital infrastructure, diverse educational datasets reflective of Muslim cultural contexts, and the involvement of religious educators alongside technologists to ensure culturally consonant AI pedagogy.

Importantly, despite these vulnerabilities, youth have often been marginalized in AI policymaking. The principle of shūrā (consultation) calls for inclusive governance models that integrate youth voices, enabling them to shape the AI futures that deeply affect their lives. Collaborative mechanisms like youth councils, participatory workshops, and digital literacy initiatives are recommended to empower Muslim youth as proactive AI stakeholders.

## Employment and Intellectual Property Challenges in the AI Era

AI-driven automation poses significant challenges to youth employment across Muslim-majority countries, where labor markets are already strained. Entry-level roles in sectors such as banking, service, and manufacturing are especially vulnerable, as AI systems replace routine tasks with efficiency gains (Sari & Kartika, 2025). This trend risks exacerbating already high youth unemployment rates in countries like Pakistan, Egypt, and Morocco, raising ethical concerns about the right to dignified work and the preservation of livelihood (*rizq*); concepts deeply embedded in Islamic legal principles and the Qur'anic injunctions against unjust wealth consumption (Qur'an 4:29).

Islamic jurisprudence places a premium on the dignity of labor, viewing work as a form of worship (*ibāda*) when ethically performed. The Prophet Muhammad emphasized earning by one's own effort as a virtue (Sunan Ibn Majah), highlighting the moral imperative for societies to safeguard meaningful employment opportunities. Consequently, governments bear responsibility to regulate corporate AI deployments to prevent socioeconomic destabilization, through mechanisms such as mandatory workforce reskilling, social protections, and measures incentivizing entrepreneurship aligned with maṣlaḥa (public good).

Regarding intellectual property (IP), AI's capacity to autonomously generate creative works such as music, art, and literature complicates traditional understandings of authorship. Islamic law traditionally links authorship to human *kasb* (acquired effort) and *ʿaql* (rational capacity), neither of which AI possesses. This raises jurisprudential dilemmas about granting legal protections for AI-generated outputs, with some scholars proposing sui generis frameworks that assign rights to human stakeholders overseeing AI systems (Ansari et al., 2023; Abubakar et al., 2024). Integrating communal aspects of ownership and ethical redistribution reflects Islamic values divergent from Western individualistic IP norms, aiming for broader social benefit especially benefiting Muslim youth creators.

## Liability and Accountability in Autonomous AI Systems

AI's increasing autonomy challenges traditional legal doctrines grounded in clear human causality for harm. Autonomous AI systems, capable of independent decision-making, introduce uncertainty in attributing responsibility for errors or damages. This raises complex questions about whether liability falls on developers, operators, users, or the AI system itself.

Islamic jurisprudence emphasizes moral responsibility (*taklīf*) requiring accountability frameworks adapted to AI's unique characteristics. The principle of *amanah* (trust) indicates that human actors deploying AI bear responsibility to prevent foreseeable harms, while the legal maxim *ʿādah muḥakkamah* mandates preemptive measures to block harmful consequences (*sadd al-dharāiʿ*). Scholars endorse liability approaches combining strict liability for high-risk AI applications with nuanced, shared accountability models recognizing multiple stakeholders (Mansoor et al., 2024).

Specific domains exemplify these challenges. In healthcare, AI misdiagnoses implicate developers, medical professionals, and institutions in proportionate liability grounded in justice (*ʿadl*) and equitable redress (*qiṣāṣ*). Similarly, in education, AI-based decision-making affecting students, such as grading or content provision, requires

vigilant oversight ensuring protection of youth intellect (*ḥifẓ al-ʿaql*).

Legal systems in Muslim countries are at early stages of adapting to AI liability. Gaps exist, especially in arbitration and contract law, potentially leaving victims without adequate redress (Labanieh, 2024). To address these, policy recommendations emphasize establishing clear liability regimes, mandating risk assessments, and enforcing transparency to enable contestability and trust.

## Broader Societal Impacts and Future Directions

AI's rapid expansion in Muslim-majority societies intersects with enduring social challenges including inequality, digital divides, and cultural sovereignty. Wealth disparities, urban-rural divides, and gender inequities risk being exacerbated by uneven AI access and benefits. This is especially critical for youth, who face infrastructural limitations and linguistic marginalization, threatening their equitable participation in knowledge economies—a concern aligned with Qur'anic imperatives to seek knowledge (Iqra).

Additionally, AI raises profound questions regarding cultural sovereignty and epistemic justice. Dependence on AI systems trained primarily in Western contexts threatens to perpetuate orientalist narratives and Islamophobic biases, thereby undermining authentic Muslim voices in global knowledge production. Investing in indigenous AI development and culturally attuned datasets is essential for preserving ethical autonomy and supporting socio-cultural resilience.

Islamic jurisprudence, grounded in maqāṣid al-sharia and tawḥīd, offers a holistic framework guiding AI governance toward justice, dignity, and communal wellbeing. Regional initiatives like the Islamic World AI Charter represent promising advances but require operationalization through inclusive, participatory, and cross-border governance structures.

Youth emerge as pivotal agents shaping this future. Ensuring meaningful youth participation in AI policymaking, through mechanisms inspired by shūrā (consultation), is critical for truly responsive governance. Enhancing digital literacy, supporting interdisciplinary collaboration, and fostering international partnerships grounded in pluralism can enable Muslim societies to harness AI as a force for empowerment rather than marginalization.

## Conclusion

Artificial Intelligence (AI) presents transformative opportunities and complex socio-legal challenges in Muslim-majority societies, especially impacting youth populations who constitute a significant demographic. The integration of AI into everyday life—spanning finance, healthcare, education, governance, and digital platforms—confronts Muslim societies with ethical and regulatory dilemmas deeply intertwined with Islamic jurisprudence (Sharīa).

Central tensions emerge around the alignment of AI systems with the maqāṣid al-sharīa (objectives of Islamic law), including the protection of religion, life, intellect, lineage, and property. Challenges related to privacy violations from AI-enabled surveillance, pervasive algorithmic bias, youth exposure to misinformation, deepfakes, and mental health risks starkly highlight gaps in current governance frameworks. The rapid displacement of youth from traditional entry-level jobs and unclear intellectual property rights over AI-generated

works further exacerbate socio-economic vulnerabilities.

Moreover, the opacity of AI decision-making and the difficulty of assigning liability underscore pressing needs for accountability mechanisms consistent with Islamic ethical principles of amanah (trust) and taklif (moral responsibility).

This study underscores that prevailing Western-centric AI ethical models insufficiently address the particularities of Muslim societies, underscoring the imperative for pluralistic frameworks deeply rooted in Sharīa and Islamic ethics. Addressing these challenges requires an adaptive, inclusive, and interdisciplinary approach that foregrounds youth voices and integrates diverse stakeholders.

Through harmonizing Islamic jurisprudence with global human rights norms, and fostering culturally resonant AI governance, Muslim countries can harness AI's potential to foster justice, dignity, equity, and resilience amid rapid technological change.

**Policy Recommendations for Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement**

To foster ethical, equitable, and effective AI governance, the following policy approaches are recommended for all relevant stakeholders:

**1. Governments and Regulators**

- Develop culturally grounded AI regulatory frameworks that embed maqāṣid al-sharīa principles alongside international human rights standards (e.g., GDPR, UNESCO AI ethics).

- Mandate AI impact assessments and bias audits incorporating Sharīa-informed ethical checks prior to deployment, especially for high-risk applications affecting youth and vulnerable groups.

- Enforce data privacy protections aligned with Islamic legal concepts of privacy, consent (riḍā), and confidentiality, adopting privacy-by-design and minimizing unwarranted surveillance.

- Foster national strategies for youth digital inclusion, investing in infrastructure, digital literacy, and equitable access bridging rural-urban and gender divides.

- Institute legal provisions to address liability and accountability gaps, establishing clear redress mechanisms for harms caused by AI systems and promoting transparency.

- Encourage workforce reskilling and socio-economic safety nets to mitigate youth unemployment caused by automation, with special focus on dignified, ethical labor aligned with Islamic values.

**2. Islamic Scholars and Jurists**

- Engage actively in AI ethical development through interdisciplinary dialogues with AI technologists and policymakers to ensure Sharīa compliance in AI governance.

- Provide interpretative guidance grounded in maqāṣid al-sharīa on emerging AI legal questions, including intellectual property, liability, and algorithmic justice.

- Participate in the design and scrutiny of AI systems deployed in religious and legal domains (e.g., fatwa generation, judicial analytics), emphasizing the necessity of human oversight and ijtihād.

- Lead community education and awareness initiatives on the ethical use of AI technologies, focusing on youth empowerment and safeguarding dignity and knowledge preservation.

### 3. Academic Researchers and Technologists

- Prioritize the development of culturally contextualized AI models that reflect local languages, norms, and Islamic ethical values to reduce bias and epistemic injustice.

- Advance research on AI's socio-legal impacts within Muslim societies, with special attention to youth experiences, gender dynamics, and intersectional inequalities.

- Foster collaborations between Islamic law scholars and AI experts to design AI auditing tools embedding maqāṣid al-sharīa for fairness, transparency, and accountability.

- Advocate for open, representative datasets capturing diverse Muslim identities and experiences to improve AI inclusivity.

### 4. Civil Society, Youth, and the Public

- Promote digital literacy and ethical AI awareness campaigns, empowering youth and communities to navigate AI risks and opportunities critically.

- Establish youth councils and participatory platforms ensuring meaningful inclusion of young voices in AI policy-making and governance.

- Demand transparent AI practices from corporations and governments, including accountability for harms and respect for privacy and cultural values.

- Engage in global dialogues to advocate for Muslim perspectives in international AI ethics forums and collaborative governance.

### 5. International Organizations and Multilateral Bodies

- Facilitate regional and global cooperation frameworks contextualizing AI governance within Islamic ethical paradigms while aligning with international norms.

- Support capacity-building initiatives empowering Muslim countries to develop indigenous AI expertise, resilience, and culturally attuned normative frameworks.

- Encourage harmonization of AI regulations that respect cultural sovereignty without compromising universal human rights and dignity principles.

- Incorporate youth engagement as a core pillar of AI governance programs to secure intergenerational justice.

By implementing these multisectoral policy directions, Muslim societies can ensure that AI development and governance serve as instruments of justice, dignity, and equity, transforming risks into opportunities for inclusive socio-economic and spiritual flourishing.

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