

Ethics of Artificial Intelligence in Light of the Objectives of Islamic Sharia: Concepts, Controls, and Applications

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Abstract

Artificial intelligence (AI) has become an integral part of modern society, necessitating its incorporation into various aspects of life. This integration calls for the establishment of legal and ethical frameworks to regulate its use. Consequently, this study seeks to address two fundamental questions: To what extent do artificial intelligence applications align with Islamic principles and ethics? And how well do the objectives of Sharia accommodate the advancements and outcomes of artificial intelligence? Through a comprehensive analysis and examination of relevant sources, the study concludes by reaffirming the adaptability and universality of Islamic Sharia, demonstrating its ability to encompass contemporary technological advancements while remaining relevant across different times and places.

Keywords: Ethics, Artificial Intelligence, Sharia Objectives, Islamic.

1. Introduction

The rapid advancement of artificial intelligence technology has given rise to numerous ethical concerns, including issues related to privacy, justice, and social responsibility. These concerns prompt critical questions about the extent to which AI applications align with Islamic values and the principles derived from the objectives of Sharia. In the absence of a well-defined framework that regulates the use of artificial intelligence in accordance with Islamic teachings, there arises a need to establish a comprehensive perspective on AI ethics. This perspective should ensure harmony between leveraging technological advancements and upholding ethical principles rooted in Islamic Sharia.

1.1 Study Problem and Its Questions

The study problem revolves around a central question: How can the foundations and objectives of Islamic Sharia be utilized to develop an ethical framework for AI that effectively addresses contemporary challenges while ensuring adherence to Islamic values? This overarching question encompasses several key sub-questions, including:

1. In what ways do the objectives of Islamic Sharia help regulate the ethical use of AI?
2. What are the controls Sharia-based guidelines that should be considered when implementing AI applications?

1.2 Significance of the Study and Reasons for Selection

The significance of this study and the rationale behind its selection can be outlined as follows: The rapid advancements brought about by the modern information revolution have led to various contemporary challenges, particularly in the field of AI. The growing impact of AI in different aspects of life underscores its undeniable importance in today's world. However, with the increasing reliance on this technology, there is a pressing need to establish ethical guidelines that regulate its use. These guidelines should be rooted in Islamic Sharia to ensure a balanced approach that maximizes benefits while mitigating potential risks and challenges associated with AI applications.

1.3 Study Objectives

This study seeks to achieve the following objectives:

- Exploring the concept of artificial intelligence and the objectives of Islamic Sharia as a foundation for ethical guidelines.
- Identifying the legal controls that should be considered in the ethical use of artificial intelligence.
- Examining artificial intelligence applications within the framework of Islamic Sharia objectives.

1.4 Study Limits

In line with the study's questions, objectives, and findings, its scope is defined as follows:

- Defining key concepts related to artificial intelligence.
- Examining AI ethics through the point of view of Islamic values.
- Assessing the comprehensiveness of Sharia objectives and their capacity to encompass modern technological advancements.

2. Previous Studies

Although numerous studies have explored artificial intelligence, no comprehensive research has been found that specifically focuses on the ethics of AI use following the objectives of Islamic Sharia, including its concepts, regulations, and applications. However, some studies partially intersect with aspects of this topic, such as:

1- Study conducted by Al-Matbouli (2024) related to Artificial Intelligence and Its Role in Achieving the Objective of Preserving Life: A Comparative Jurisprudential Study. This study examines how AI contributes to fulfilling the objectives of Islamic Sharia, particularly in safeguarding human life and well-being. It highlights the role of AI technologies in enhancing healthcare and protecting the human body. However, it differs from the present study as it focuses solely on the objective of preserving life, rather than the broader ethical framework of AI in light of Islamic law.

2- Study conducted by Al-Barai (2022) related to Applications of Artificial Intelligence and Robotics from the Perspective of Islamic Jurisprudence. This research explores the impact of various autonomous robotic systems on human life and emphasizes the necessity of ensuring safety before their deployment. It also stresses the importance of developing AI projects following strict ethical standards and guidelines. While relevant, this study specifically focuses on robotics within AI applications, making it distinct from the present research, which examines AI ethics comprehensively concerning Islamic Sharia.

3. Study methodology

This study adopts a descriptive-analytical approach, examining relevant texts to explore the Islamic principles governing the ethical use of artificial intelligence. The objective is to understand these ethical foundations within the framework of the objectives of Islamic Sharia.

4. Study Plan

Introduction: Provides an overview of the research problem, its significance, reasons for selection, objectives, scope, literature review, and methodology, two sections, and a conclusion.

4.1 First Section: Conceptual and Theoretical Framework of AI Ethics

First Requirement: Definition of terms concepts in artificial intelligence and its ethical foundations within the objectives of Sharia.

Second Requirement: The relationship between ethics, artificial intelligence, and the objectives of Sharia.

4.2 Second Section: Ethical Controls and Applications of AI in Light of Sharia Objectives

First Requirement: Applications of the objectives of Sharia and their impact on controlling artificial intelligence.

Second Requirement: The alignment of artificial intelligence with Islamic principles and values.

Conclusion: Summarizes key findings and offers recommendations based on the study's analysis.

First Section: Conceptual and Theoretical Framework of AI Ethics

First Requirement: Definition of terms concepts in artificial intelligence and its ethical foundations within the objectives of Sharia

The Concept of Ethics and Artificial Intelligence

First: Concept of Ethics

Ethics in the language of the Ocean Dictionary: "Ethics with the damma and two dhammahs, nature, character, chivalry and religion." Ethics, as defined in linguistic terms, refers to principles associated with character, moral conduct, and societal values. The term originates from classical definitions encompassing nature, behavior, and virtue. Ethics as a discipline is understood as the study of moral standards that guide the acceptance or rejection of certain actions. These standards can be applied broadly across society, forming a moral code of honor, or they may be specific to professional fields, shaping ethical guidelines for particular groups (Darar & Khadija, 2019).

Second: Concept of Artificial Intelligence

Artificial intelligence (AI) is a term derived from two components: "intelligence" and "artificial."

Intelligence: Linguistically, intelligence is associated with sharpness of mind, quick thinking, and cognitive awareness.

It is said that he was intelligent, he was intelligent, and he was intelligent, so he is intelligent. The fire was kindled, it kindles remembrance and intelligence is limited, and it was kindled, meaning: its flame became intense and ignited, and intelligence is: the sharpness of the heart and the quickness of the intellect (Ibn Manzur, n.d.), Al-Jawhari said: "Intelligence is extended: the sharpness of the heart, and the man was intelligent, he intellects, intelligence, so he is intelligent on fa'il (Al-Jawhari, 1990), meaning on the form of exaggeration." Historically, it has been linked to the ability to reason and recall information efficiently. Scholars have described intelligence as a heightened state of mental acuity that enables individuals to comprehend and respond swiftly.

Artificial in the language: what was made unnatural (Omar, 2008), and the making with the dammah is the source of your saying he did you a favor, and he did with it an ugly making, meaning: he did. Also, the industry: the craft of the maker, and his work. The Persians also made it: it is good at doing it (Al-Jawhari, 1990), and they say: he made the thing, making and making, meaning he did it, so it is made, and made (Investigators Group, n.d.).

Artificial: The term "artificial" refers to anything that is man-made or not naturally occurring. It implies something that is crafted, manufactured, or produced through human intervention rather than existing in its natural form.

In technical terminology, artificial intelligence is defined as a branch of computer science focused on developing systems that exhibit human-like cognitive abilities, such as learning, reasoning, language processing, and problem-solving (Mahmoud, 2005). AI enables computers or robotic systems to mimic human intelligence, allowing them to perform tasks that would typically require human intellect. Another perspective describes AI as the science of designing machines capable of executing functions that, if carried out by a person, would be considered acts of intelligence (Musa & Bilal, 2019).

Third: Concept of Objectives (Maqasid) and Islamic Law

Linguistic Definition of Maqasid

The term objectives (Maqasid) is derived from the Arabic root letters Qaf, Sad, and Dal, which convey meanings related to intention, purpose, and accumulation (Ibn Faris, 1979, Ibn Manzur, 1968, Al-Zubaidi, n.d.). Linguistically, it refers to a directed aim or goal. Scholars have explained that Maqasid signifies a deliberate intention towards a particular objective.

Technical Definition of Maqasid

In Islamic jurisprudence, scholars often use the term Maqasid to mean "intentions." This is reflected in the general legal principle: "Actions are judged according to their intentions," indicating that deeds and behaviors derive their significance based on the purpose behind them (Al-Khudari, 1962).

Definition of Sharia

Linguistically, Sharia refers to a source from which people draw, much like a continuous and uninterrupted water source (Ibn Manzur, 1968). Also, Sharia: that the later scholars made the term Sharia specific to practical rulings, and there is no doubt that the usage mentioned in the Qur'an and Sunnah is better and more preferable, and limiting Sharia to a specific terminology is not disputed after understanding its meaning (Al-Sufyani, 1988).

Over time, later scholars refined the term Sharia to specifically denote practical legal rulings. However, the original usage found in the Qur'an and Sunnah remains the most comprehensive and preferred interpretation.

Definition of Sharia Technically

In Islamic legal terminology, Sharia encompasses the body of laws established by God, as conveyed by the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). These laws govern various aspects of human life, including beliefs, ethics, and legal rulings related to daily practices (Riyad, 2006).

Definition of the Term "Islamic"

The word Islamic is derived from Islam, which linguistically signifies submission and surrender. When applied to objectives, the term indicates that these goals are rooted in Islamic principles, originating from them, and aligned with their core teachings, rather than being independent or contradictory (Al-Khademi, 2001).

Technical Definition of the Objectives of Islamic Law

The objectives of Islamic law (Maqasid al-Sharia) have gained significant scholarly attention in contemporary times due to their crucial role in legal interpretation and reasoning (ijtihad). One of the widely accepted definitions, provided by Nour El-Din El-Khademi, describes Maqasid as the underlying meanings and wisdom inherent in legal rulings. These objectives may manifest in specific legal provisions, broader societal benefits, or overarching principles. Ultimately, they converge toward a singular purpose: establishing servitude to God and ensuring human welfare in both this world and the Hereafter (Al-Khademi, n.d.).

Second Requirement: The relationship between ethics, artificial intelligence, and the objectives (Maqasid) of Sharia

This section explores the ethical foundations of AI from an Islamic perspective, highlighting the role of Maqasid al-Sharia (objectives of Islamic law) in guiding ethical standards in AI applications. It examines how Islamic principles can be used to regulate AI ethics, ensuring that its development and use align with moral and religious values.

First: The Relationship Between Ethics and Artificial Intelligence

The ethical dimension of AI focuses on embedding moral principles into machines, enabling them to navigate ethical dilemmas and operate responsibly. This involves developing AI systems that can independently make ethical decisions while adhering to a defined moral framework. Essentially, AI ethics refers to the values and guidelines that shape the behavior of intelligent systems, ensuring they can distinguish between right and wrong in their operations (Darar & Khadija, 2019).

Second: The Objective Basis for the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence Usage

The ethical framework for AI is rooted in the objectives of Sharia (Maqasid al-Sharia), which originate from faith and serve as its practical application in both individual and societal life. According to the previously established definition (Al-Khademi, n.d.), Maqasid al-Sharia represent the immediate and long-term benefits that God intended for those who embrace Islam and follow divine law. These objectives aim to safeguard human well-being by ensuring that all legal rulings revolve around the best interests of individuals and society while aligning with the core tenets of faith. The Qur'an and Sunnah express these objectives through legal principles, causes, meanings, and benefits, often referring to righteousness, goodness, and virtue while warning against harm, sin, and corruption (Al-Khairi, 2021). Ultimately, these objectives converge on a fundamental purpose: the worship of God, the reform of creation, and the attainment of happiness in both this world and the hereafter. As stated in the Qur'an: "And We have certainly sent among every nation a messenger, [saying], 'Worship God and avoid false deities.'" (An-Nahl: 37).

AI, as a technological advancement, carries both benefits and risks. Its ethical use can be assessed through the lens of Maqasid al-Sharia, particularly the five essential objectives: the preservation of religion, life, intellect, lineage, and money. These five necessities form the foundation of ethical AI applications, ensuring they serve humanity without causing harm. As highlighted by Al-Shatibi in *Al-Muwafaqat* (Al-Shatibi, 1997), the preservation of these necessities involves two key aspects:

1. Affirmation and Establishment – Ensuring the existence and stability of these necessities by upholding their principles and reinforcing their foundations, and this is taking them into account from the aspect of existence.
2. Prevention of Harm and Imbalance – Protecting these necessities from any actual or potential disruption that could compromise their integrity, is taking them into account from the aspect of nonexistence.

By aligning AI development with these ethical standards, its use can contribute to societal well-being while maintaining the moral and religious values central to Islamic teachings.

Second Section: Ethical Controls and Applications of AI in Light of Sharia Objectives

First Requirement: Applications of the objectives of Sharia (Maqasid al-Sharia) and their impact on controlling artificial intelligence

The objectives of Sharia (Maqasid al-Sharia) are centered around five fundamental goals that aim to uphold human well-being and justice. These objectives include preserving religion, life, mind, lineage, and money. In the modern era, particularly with the rapid advancements in AI, a significant challenge lies in ensuring that these technologies align with the ethical and moral framework of Islamic law. This section explores how the five Maqasid can be applied to

regulate AI, emphasizing the need to balance technological progress with adherence to Islamic values and principles.

1. Preserving Religion

Among the five necessities, the preservation of religion holds the highest priority, as it ensures the establishment and continuity of faith in both personal and societal life. AI can contribute positively to this objective through various applications designed to support religious practices and education including:

- **AI in Quranic Analysis and Interpretation:** AI-powered tools can assist in analyzing and interpreting the Qur'an, making religious texts more accessible and enhancing understanding.
- **Personalized Religious Guidance:** AI applications can provide users with location-based religious reminders, such as prayer times, iftar schedules during Ramadan, and suggestions for charitable acts in their vicinity (RT Arabic, 2023).

However, AI must not be misused to challenge religious principles, create doubt about fundamental Islamic beliefs, or distort sacred teachings. Any use of AI that undermines religious integrity, spreads misinformation, or manipulates Islamic teachings contradicts the ethical guidelines set by Sharia.

2. Preserving Soul

The preservation of human life is a fundamental objective of Sharia, emphasizing the right to safety, dignity, and well-being. Islamic law has established numerous rulings to protect life, including commands related to proper nutrition, medical treatment, and overall well-being (Al-Khademi, 2001).

Example of preserving the soul: AI has played a significant role in the medical field, particularly in disease diagnosis and treatment. One notable example is the Mycin expert system, which assists in diagnosing infectious diseases, particularly blood infections, by identifying the responsible bacteria and recommending appropriate treatments and dosages (Bonnet, n.d.). Such advancements showcase the potential of AI in safeguarding human health. However, AI must not be misused in ways that endanger human life.

3. Preserving Mind

Islam places great emphasis on protecting and nurturing the human intellect, recognizing knowledge as a cornerstone of progress and development. Ignorance and illiteracy are seen as severe obstacles to intellectual growth (Al-Khademi, 2001), and Islam encourages the pursuit, dissemination, and application of knowledge. AI has significantly contributed to education, particularly through the use of big data and intelligent learning systems.

Recently, some opinions have emerged calling for converting some government universities into smart universities, to face the challenges that have emerged in this era. To play this role, it needs to correct the course of university education (Al-Dahshan, n.d.). One emerging trend is the transformation of traditional universities into smart universities, designed to address modern educational challenges. These institutions leverage AI to enhance learning experiences, shift students from passive recipients of knowledge to active contributors, and foster a knowledge-driven society (Bakro, 2017).

However, AI must not be used in ways that undermine cognitive well-being. Developing software that promotes harmful digital addictions, such as digital drugs or other technologies that impair mental faculties, contradicts the objective of preserving intellect and should be prohibited.

4. Preserving Money

Islamic teachings emphasize the ethical management of financial resources, ensuring that money is protected from misuse and destruction. This is by refraining from the destruction that is forbidden by Sharia (Ibn Ashour, n.d.). AI should be employed in financial transactions

in a manner that upholds Islamic ethical principles, promoting transparency, efficiency, and security.

One beneficial application of AI in finance is the use of smart contracts, which enhance transaction speed and trust while reducing fraud (Mansour, 2021). However, AI must not be used for unethical financial practices, such as manipulating financial markets, engaging in fraudulent schemes, or exploiting individuals through usurious transactions, gambling, or other prohibited commercial activities. Any AI development that facilitates financial deception contradicts Islamic principles and should be strictly regulated.

5. Preserving Lineage

AI can contribute positively to the field of genetics and reproductive health by assisting in the early detection of fetal characteristics, including genetic abnormalities that cannot be seen by the human eye (RT Arabic, 2023) and implantation success rates. These advancements can aid in medical decision-making while adhering to ethical and religious guidelines.

However, AI must not be misused in ways that compromise human diversity, interfere with natural lineage, or alter genetic identity in ways that contradict Islamic principles. Any AI applications that lead to lineage confusion or tampering with human identity must be restricted to ensure ethical and religious compliance.

Second Requirement: The alignment of artificial intelligence with Islamic principles and values

In the context of Islamic ethics, AI must be governed by fundamental principles that align with Sharia. These principles ensure that AI technologies uphold justice, transparency, and the protection of rights while preventing harm or unethical practices. The following guidelines must be observed to maintain AI's compatibility with Islamic values:

- **Avoiding Harm to Others**

Islamic teachings emphasize the principle of "No harm and no reciprocation of harm" as stated by the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him): "No harm and no harm in return" (Al-Zayla'i, 1997). AI should enhance human capabilities rather than replace them, ensuring that technological advancements serve humanity without causing physical, psychological, or economic harm.

- **Upholding Principle of Absolute Justice**

Justice is a cornerstone of Islamic governance and ethics. As Allah commands in the Quran: "Indeed, God commands justice and good conduct." (Surah An-Nahl: 90). AI systems must operate within the framework of absolute justice, ensuring fairness and non-discrimination. AI-driven decision-making processes should be free from bias and uphold the ethical values of Islam across all applications.

- **Ensuring Transparency and Credibility**

Islam encourages honesty in both speech and action, as it is a trait of the righteous. The Quran states: "Allah will say, 'This is a Day when the truthful will benefit from their truthfulness. For them are gardens beneath which rivers flow, wherein they will abide forever. God is pleased with them, and they are pleased with Him. That is the great victory.'" (Surah Al-Ma'idah: 119). AI algorithms must be developed and deployed with high reliability, avoiding deception or manipulation. Transparency in AI operations ensures accountability and builds trust within society.

- **Protecting Rights and Privacy**

Islamic law emphasizes the protection of individuals' rights and privacy. Sharia has decided to protect the right of its owner from any aggression with different types of supports, including responsibility before God, civil liability, and establishing the right to litigation (Al-Zuhayli, n.d.). The Quran explicitly warns against invading personal spaces without permission: "Allah will say, O you who have believed, do not enter houses other than your own until you have asked permission and greeted their inhabitants. That is better for you that

you may remember. But if you do not find anyone therein, do not enter until you are permitted. And if it is said to you, 'Go back,' then go back. It is purer for you. And God is aware of what you do." (Surah An-Nur: 27-28). AI must not be misused to violate privacy, exploit personal data, or engage in unauthorized surveillance. It should be designed with strong ethical and legal safeguards to prevent the misuse of sensitive information.

Ethical Regulation of AI in Islamic Contexts

AI applications must be carefully regulated to ensure they comply with Sharia principles. Their use should be restricted from unethical financial transactions, privacy violations, and deceptive practices. By following these ethical controls, societies can harness the benefits of AI while safeguarding Islamic values and moral principles.

5. Conclusions and Recommendations

5.1 Conclusions

1. Ethics play a crucial role in the development of AI. Without ethical regulations, AI technologies may pose significant risks.
2. Ethics are an essential component of artificial intelligence, as AI systems operate based on human-defined values, necessitating legal and ethical guidelines.
3. The objectives of Sharia in AI applications are clearly reflected in the Five Necessities, which serve as fundamental principles for ethical regulation.
4. Islamic Sharia is characterized by its comprehensiveness, adaptability, and relevance to all times and circumstances, enabling it to address emerging issues and technological advancements.
5. The objectives of Islamic Sharia provide a framework for regulating artificial intelligence by promoting benefits and preventing harm.
6. The objective of preserving religion ensures ethical oversight of digital content generated by AI, preventing its misuse in distorting religious values or spreading intellectual corruption.
7. The objectives of preserving life and mind serve as critical guidelines for AI applications in security, healthcare, and education, ensuring that AI does not endanger human well-being or disseminate misinformation.
8. The objective of preserving money plays a vital role in the commercial applications of AI, safeguarding against financial exploitation and technological monopolies.

5.2 Recommendations

1. Establish specialized Islamic institutions to oversee the ethical use of AI, ensuring its alignment with Islamic law and moral values.
2. Develop Islamic principles and guidelines for AI technology design, setting clear standards to govern these systems.
3. Implement legislative frameworks derived from Sharia objectives to regulate AI applications, particularly in critical sectors such as security, healthcare, and the economy.
4. Promote collaboration between researchers, Sharia scholars, and technology experts to create unified Islamic and technical regulations for AI development in the Muslim world.
5. Encourage scholarly research on AI ethics from an Islamic perspective, fostering specialized studies that offer Sharia-based and technical solutions to challenges posed by digital advancements.

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