



The Importance of using Current Technology in the Study of Islamic Ethics

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ABSTRACT

Islamic ethics is an important aspect of Islam after the creed and sharia. It is one of the most valuable bases of Islam. To explain this, the current technology needs to be used. This article aims to shed light on the importance of using current technologies in the studies of ethics in Islam. This study uses library research method to collect important data. This article concludes that the current situation presents a high need for current technologies such as augmented reality, games and others to explain Islamic ethical concepts.

Key words : Islamic Ethics, Technology, Augmented Reality, Smartphones, Games.

1. INTRODUCTION

Building a good character is an important step towards being a 'role model' and being productive in playing a good role. Ethic cum conduct is pertinent in Islamic religion. It could be interpreted in many ways and forms; its perception differs from one person to the other, and sometimes within an individual, but seldom from one religion to the other [12]. Thus, the human capital born of the construction of good character plays a leading role in transforming Malaysia into a superior nation in the future. Hill [21] defines character as something that determines how a person thinks and acts and is motivated to do something. Understanding of this must be done using current technology. This study aims to clarify the importance of current technology for use in studying Islamic ethics.

2. IMPORTANCE OF ISLAMIC ETHICS EDUCATION

Education is a necessity for every human being. This is especially important when it comes to the understanding of the worship and religion itself [23]. Value education is an important element in building a person's personality or

character [18]. Based on the National Philosophy of Education in Malaysia, it emphasizes the construction of a balance of knowledge, emotion, physical and spiritual [22]. 'Ethics' means; first, referring to knowledge of moral or moral principles, secondly, referring to the principle of moral (akhlak) or moral values that became a guidance towards an individual or a group such as association, occupation and others [9].

Important values for a Muslim individual refer to the virtues that every Muslim individual should possess. In Islam, it is better known by the term personality or morality [5]. Character education is based on the Quran and Sunnah, the combination of both aspects, which is to embed a certain character and create awareness that educators and students are able to build their special characters during their life [6]. Example are amanah (trusts) and mas'uliyah (responsibility) which refer to the ethical character of man that must be practiced daily, especially by every Muslim [8]. It is also about integrity. From the Islamic perspective, integrity can be attributed directly, and in parallel, to the attributes of trust, honesty, faith, strong belief, powerful character and noble manners [7].

Comprehensive Islamic education includes the creed, sharia and morality or the Sufism. It is important to shape one's character through the positive religious values that are applied. Islam sees that education must start from birth until death. Among the ethics to be considered are manners toward others and manners with God. All scholars unanimously agree that Allah s.w.t is totally different from all creatures (al-hawadith) in every aspect [13]. This is part of his good relationship with God. There are many great scholars' books on the value of building a character. Examples are works produced by al-Ghazali, such as Ihya' 'ulum al-Din, al-Maqсад al-Asna, Kimmiya' al-Sa'adah, Minhaj al-'Abidin, and works produced by contemporary scholars such as Tarbiyah al-Awlad fi al-Islam of Abdullah Nasih 'Ulwan, which includes a debate on the construction of a child's character, even stressing that such efforts need to be emphasized beginning with the selection of a couple.

3. DEFINITION OF TECHNOLOGY

The word technology is derived from the English word meaning the application of scientific knowledge for practical purposes. This means that technology is a scientific application of knowledge for practical purposes. Technology is also defined as applied science or activities and studies that use science knowledge for practical purposes in industry, agriculture, medicine, business and others [4].

Technology can also be defined as a method or process for dealing with a technical problem based on advanced scientific research such as using electronic equipment, chemical processes, manufacturing, advanced machining and more. Based on the insights from both sources, technology is a manifestation of knowledge developed by humans for the purpose of using it to simplify their lives. Technology is a part of science that develops on its own and is able to create its own world. But technology cannot evolve without the basics of dynamic science [4]. Technology is also seen as the application of science or any systematic knowledge that can bring about change or convenience to the world. It can also be defined as an aspect of science production that facilitates something and if it is done with good intentions and used properly then human well-being will be built [10].

The formation of science and technology in Islam is based on two main sources, the Quran and al-Sunnah and other sources. The growth of science and technology can be traced back to ancient times, especially during the Umayyad and Abbassid times. In addition, well-known Islamic scholars have provided great ideas and contributions in various fields of study such as astronomy, mathematics, physics, chemistry, medicine, engineering and more. It clearly shows that Islam encourages its people to pursue science and technology and to advance science and technology for the betterment of human life [10].

4. THE IMPORTANCE OF USING TECHNOLOGY IN LEARNING

The role of technology in life has become a necessity and important for every user [25]. The technological growth of internet services and devices has enabled users like students easier access to online information and learning [24]. Learning involves communication that requires technology that connects teachers and students. It makes it easy for students to learn things like language, ethics, creeds and so on. For example, when students are able to master multiple languages with a specific technology, this makes them easy to communicate with many nations around the world. Human beings are thus able to use language to speak, write and communicate and establish relationships with other peoples in the world [19].

Before the advent of mass media such as radio and television, Muslims relied on print media such as newspapers and magazines for the latest information. With the passage of time and the ever-expanding sophistication of technology, it has changed the tendency of today's society. It is undeniable that the existence of this media technology has both positive and negative impact on its users. If it is used in a positive way, it is of great benefit and in this way Islamic education can be disseminated to the community. It helps teachers to better teach according to the Sunnah of the Prophet (p.b.u.h.) and can spread it in a faster way. If we highlight the method of teaching in the early stages of Islamic development, we find that the Prophet s.a.w also applied various current approaches aimed at facilitating the delivery of knowledge to his companions (sahabah). The Prophet s.a.w communicates with his companions based on their intellect. He also associated with them according to circumstances. Syed Hassan suggests that developers of information and communication technology (ICT) applications should increase the number of applications related to sunnah education [20].

Educational system has undergone a major evolution in education technology after the introduction of mobile concept learning or M-Learning (Mobile Learning). It aims to improve the level of learning and teaching. In Malaysia, this concept is practically new in the process of learning in education centers. The learning process can be done without being tied to the physical location of the learning process. This kind of learning has also been further enhanced by the existence of Android and iOS platform-based smartphones. Android and iOS applications are easy to use and accessible to students. They can easily find variety of Android and iOS applications for free for use in their learning. In addition to telecommunication tools, the variety of gadgets such as smartphones with the platform is very much needed by students as it can increase their interest and motivation in the learning process [1].

Teaching patterns in schools are mostly centered around the teacher. This approach does not encourage students to come up with and develop their own ideas. When it is transformed into game-based teaching, it is believed that critical thinking skills and creativity can be enhanced with the latest technology applications. Education based on information and communication technology (ICT) can also promote problem solving and self-learning. Technology needs to be adaptable and interactive in order to make a meaningful impact on students and to attract students. This is because in solving problems, students need to have high levels of interest and motivation to keep working on their solutions. Without high motivation, it is likely that students will start to give up and no longer want to continue the experiment. Therefore, digital games or game-based learning are introduced to help improve creative solutions [16].

When it comes to the need and influence of games in human life and especially in education, it becomes necessary for researchers to develop game conceptual guidelines that have Rabbani's character formation. From the spiritual aspect of Islam, a game should be designed based on Islamic ethical concepts. The Muslim individual who designed the game must always maintain his relationship with humanity and maintain his relationship with Allah s.w.t. The content of the game also needs to be taken into account in that it must nurture the inner or spiritual elements of the individual in order to build a true Muslim identity. Therefore, the game that is created must be ensured that the design and content of the game does not violate the Shari'ah [15].

5. THE NECESSITY OF TECHNOLOGY IN TEACHING ISLAMIC ETHICS

Allah s.w.t has honoured the ummah by making it the best of all nations and sending the Prophet Muhammad p.b.u.h the revelation to all beings to liberate them from the darkness of disbelief to the light of faith [11]. So, Muslims need to take advantage of current technology for the sake of ethics and more. This is to reinforce their status as the best people. The use of information technology (IT) has undergone rapid development. Recently, the latest technology to be introduced in the transmission of information is augmented reality (AR) technology. With this technology, users can visualize historic objects or objects in 3-dimensional shapes. AR has the advantage of being interactive and real time so that it is implemented in various fields. The current use of AR technology has expanded into many aspects of individuals' life and its development is very significant. This is because the use of AR technology is very interesting and facilitates its use in something [14]. Therefore, if it is used in explaining the concept of ethics then it is believed that it can attract students to understand it.

As to the benefits of technology in education mentioned earlier, Syed Hassan et. al [20] suggests that technology application developers can increase Sunnah education-related applications. Thus, this technology is seen as one that can be used to explain one of the Sunnahs in particular in introducing and teaching Islamic personality to humanity.

Significance of the use of this technology in explaining Islamic ethics can be seen as the world's population today is almost seven billion and the number of mobile phones used is four billion. This number represents about 70% of the world's population. This shows that most people today are exposed to the 'App' for short term 'mobile applications' through the use of smartphones used for various purposes such as entertainment, referral, business, and learning [3]. Almost every individual in the community uses smartphones like android. By using mobile phones, people will be able to access information easily. By using technologies such as AR, it will provide information about something interesting and unique

[2]. To this end, the use of current technology to explain Islamic ethical concepts is crucial.

Thus, it is here that the role of Muslim individuals with information technology skills is introduced to provide applications that explain the noble values that can enhance the spirituality of Muslim individuals. It can serve as a platform for preaching. Many 'apps' can be developed through various methods such as infographic videos, documentaries, games and others to explain the need to eliminate bad personalities like deception, stubbornness, arrogance and others, as well as inviting the public to practice such virtues as trustworthiness, generosity, humility, superstition and so on.

In addition, knowledge of Islamic ethics can also be disseminated through applications such as Facebook, Instagram, WeChat, WhatsApp, Youtube and others. Students and educators can collect variety of references, be it primary or secondary, through PDF-based softcopy and Microsoft Words in large quantities without the need for large physical spaces such as bookshelves and so on [17]. With today's technological advancement, they can store these references on personal computers, ipads, tablets, smartphones and more through al-Maktabah al-Shamilah application. This explains that Islamic preaching in particular Islamic ethics can indeed be distributed more easily and quickly through today's technology.

By using smartphones, people can easily access the information they need especially when using technologies such as AR. It will find information about something interesting and unique. The concept of Islamic ethics can also be effectively taught to the public through AR technology.

6. CONCLUSION

The use of current technology is very much synonymous with human daily life. It is a medium for every community for various activities such as interacting with each other and learning. Therefore, teaching the concept of Islamic ethics based on technology is so important that people can easily understand it in accordance with the demands of Islam which calls for preaching wisely.

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