



## The Relevance of Justice Principles in Islamic Law to Address Social Inequality in the Digital Era

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### Abstract

Social inequality that occurs in the digital era is a significant global challenge, especially in the context of legal justice and resource distribution. The principle of justice in Islamic law ('adl) offers a solution to address this injustice through a moral and welfare-based approach. This study aims to analyze the relevance of Islamic justice principles in facing social inequality in the digital era. The method used is the study of literature, by analyzing various primary and secondary sources, including the Qur'an, hadith, scientific journals, and official documents. The results of the study show that the application of Islamic justice principles, such as zakat, waqf, and wealth distribution, has the potential to reduce social inequality, especially through the digitization of Islamic financial instruments. In addition, Islamic law supports the development of more inclusive policies, such as strengthening access to technology and education. This research emphasizes the importance of integrating Islamic principles into technology-based regulations to create sustainable justice in the digital era.



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### INTRODUCTION

Social inequality in the digital era is an increasingly complex global challenge, especially in the context of law and justice. The digital age accelerates the distribution of information, but it often exacerbates injustice due to unequal access to technology (Hakim & Nuryadin, 2024). In the perspective of Islamic law, the principle of justice ('adl) offers a relevant framework for addressing social inequalities through an inclusive and welfare-oriented approach (Siadio, 2024).

Social inequality is a condition in which there are significant differences in the distribution of resources, opportunities, and power within society. Factors such as the economy, education, access to technology, and healthcare are often the main drivers. This inequality can lead to social segregation that exacerbates conflicts and limits social mobility. For example, research by Purwati and Rusadi (2025) highlights how the dominance of global digital platforms exacerbates the gap by monopolizing market access and narrowing local business opportunities (Purwati & Rusadi, 2025). In addition, the research of Fadhilah and Sumpena (2025) identified weaknesses in the implementation of social programs in Indonesia, which often fail to reach vulnerable groups due to policies that are not on target (Fadhilah et al., 2025).

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Solutions to reduce social inequality require cross-sector collaboration. These include public policy reforms, improving inclusive education, and equitable access to technology. According to Prawestri and Cahaya ni (2025), the importance of ethics in governance is the key to creating fair policies (Prawestri & Cahaya Ni, 2025). In addition, research by Tutiasri (2025) highlights the importance of education and public awareness to reduce inequality in urban and rural communities. Data-driven policy enforcement can also ensure that resources reach the communities most in need, thereby accelerating social inclusion (Darozatulloh & Tutiasri, 2025).

The phenomenon of "No Viral, No Justice" is one of the real examples of social inequality that arises due to dependence on digital media (Gussela et al., 2025). In this case, Islamic law can be a tool of social transformation by integrating the principles of justice in every aspect of law, both locally and globally (Kholish & Ulumuddin, 2022). The value of justice emphasized in Islamic law not only includes the legal dimension, but also the social and economic aspects (Lestari & Jubaedah, 2023).

The principle of justice in Islam prioritizes the equitable distribution of resources, protection of vulnerable groups, and economic empowerment of the ummah (Almubarak, 2018). In the midst of digital transformation, this approach is becoming increasingly relevant because many people are marginalized in accessing technology and information (Sudarmanto et al., 2024). Therefore, this study is important to identify the relevance of Islamic justice principles in answering the challenges of the complex digital era.

This research is particularly urgent given the growing social inequalities in various sectors, especially in access to technology, education, and public services. In the context of law, the principles of Islamic justice can provide concrete solutions rooted in universal moral values (Khasan, 2017). Through this study, it is hoped that a legal framework can be found that is able to integrate Islamic justice with the needs of the digital era.

Several previous studies have explored the relevance of Islamic principles in social and economic contexts. For example, Yusuf and Salman (2024) show that Islamic law can be a tool to overcome social inequality through a just redistribution of resources (Salman & Yusuf, 2024). In addition, research by Kahfi and Zen (2024) revealed that zakat and waqf have great potential to reduce economic disparities in society. However, there are still few studies that specifically examine the relevance of Islamic justice principles in the context of social inequality in the digital era (Kahfi & Zen, 2024).

This study aims to analyze the relevance of the principle of justice in Islamic law as a solution to overcome social inequality in the digital era. This research will also identify the potential application of these principles in building an inclusive and equitable legal system.

## **METHOD**

This study uses a qualitative approach with the type of literature study research (library research). This approach was chosen to deeply explore the concept of justice in Islamic law and its relevance in overcoming social inequality in the digital era. Literature studies are carried out by examining relevant sources, such as Islamic law books, national and international scientific journals, books, and official documents related to the research topic (Zed, 2018)

The data sources in this study are divided into two types, namely primary data and secondary data. Primary data includes the principles of justice in Islamic law sourced from the Qur'an, hadith, and the works of previous scholars that are the basis of Islamic law. Meanwhile, secondary data includes journal articles, previous research results, and books that discuss social inequality and the dynamics of the digital era in the perspective of Islamic law (Thomas et al., 2020).

The data collection technique is carried out through documentation, namely by collecting and reviewing relevant literature. The literature used is selected based on its validity and contribution to

the research topic. These documents are obtained from academic journals, digital libraries, and official websites that provide reliable scientific references (Sugiyono, 2018).

The data obtained was analyzed using the content analysis method. This method is used to identify and understand the meaning contained in the text as well as its relevance to the research topic. The stages of analysis include organizing data, thematic coding, and interpretation of key concepts. Through this analysis, the research seeks to compile a new synthesis of how the principle of justice in Islamic law can be an effective solution to overcome social inequality in the digital era (Bowen, 2009).

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The following table contains 10 articles selected from various sources related to the principle of justice in Islamic law to overcome social inequality in the digital era. These articles are selected based on relevance, contribution to research, and publication in indexed national and international journals. This article is from a valid source and has been accessed through Google Scholar.

Table 1. Literature Review

No	Author	Title	Findings
1	Yusuf, A. M., & Salman, A.	Integrasi Prinsip Keadilan Hukum Islam dalam Mengatasi Fenomena No Viral No Justice	The principles of Islamic justice are relevant to create justice in the digital era with a focus on the distribution of legal justice.
2	Sain, M., & Bahri, S.	Ekonomi Islam sebagai Landasan Fundamental dalam Praktik Bisnis Online Era Digital	The concept of Islamic justice is used to reduce inequality in online business through a sharia approach.
3	Mulyanto, U. J.	Hukum Islam Sebagai Alat Transformasi Sosial: Tinjauan Sosiologi Hukum Islam	Islamic law promotes justice-based social transformation to address social inequality.
4	Sofa, A. R., & Firdausiyah, J.	Relevansi al-Qur'an dan Hadits dalam Pembentukan Nilai Sosial di Era Kontemporer	The principle of justice in the Qur'an and hadith can be the basis for handling social inequality.
5	Kahfi, A., & Zen, M.	Synergy of Zakat and Waqf in Realizing Contemporary Sharia Economic Welfare	Zakat and waqf are the main instruments to reduce economic disparities according to Islamic law.
6	Ulfanur, M., Asyasyura, A., & Isra, M.	Kebijakan Pemerintah terhadap Tapera di Indonesia: Analisis Prinsip Ekonomi Syariah	Sharia economic principles can strengthen policies to overcome social inequality.
7	Tohari, M., & Ariansyah, A. F.	Implementasi Akhlak Al Karimah dalam Ekonomi Islam	Morals in Islamic economics are the basis for an equal distribution of wealth.
8	Irawan, A. D.	Pengaruh Pandemi dalam Menciptakan Ketimpangan Sosial Ekonomi	Social inequality is exacerbated by the pandemic and requires a justice approach based on Islamic law.

9	Putra, H. M., Ahyani, H., & Abdurohman, D.	Relevansi Kesejahteraan Ekonomi Masyarakat Melalui Pendistribusian Pendapatan Negara	Redistribution of state income based on Islamic law to reduce inequality.
10	Sudrajat, J. A., & Ramadhani, K.	Prinsip Keadilan Sosial dalam Konteks Era Digital	The Islamic law-based approach to social justice helps address the challenges of the digital age.

The findings from the table above show that there are various dimensions in the application of Islamic justice principles to overcome social inequality, especially in the digital era. The articles identified provide comprehensive insights into how Islamic law is able to be the foundation for overcoming social and economic challenges in an era that is increasingly dominated by technology. In general, these studies focus on the principle of 'adl (justice) in various aspects, ranging from economic redistribution to the application of social justice in the legal system and sharia-based economic practices.

The first article by Yusuf and Salman (2024) highlights the phenomenon of "No Viral No Justice" which illustrates the dependence of the judicial system on the attention of digital media. The author asserts that the principle of justice in Islamic law, which focuses on equal access and fair treatment without discrimination, can be applied to improve the weaknesses of the modern judicial system. This article is relevant in the context of the digital age where public opinion is often driven by social media trends, which can actually increase inequality of justice (Salman & Yusuf, 2024).

Research by Sain and Bahri (2024) highlights how Islamic economics can be the basis for overcoming inequality in online business practices. By integrating sharia principles, such as fairness and transparency, this article highlights that an Islamic-based approach can create a more inclusive business environment. In the context of the digital economy, justice is not only about the distribution of wealth but also access to fair and equal economic opportunities (Sain & Bahri, 2024).

Meanwhile, Mulyanto (2024) focuses on the potential of Islamic law as a tool for social transformation. The author mentions that Islamic law prioritizes the redistribution of resources and collective responsibility to reduce social inequality. This study is important to show how the approach to Islamic law can be a solution in dealing with social challenges, such as poverty and inequality, which are often exacerbated by the development of digital technology (Mulyanto, 2024).

From a more religious perspective, Sofa and Firdausiyah (2025) examines the relevance of the teachings of the Qur'an and hadith in the formation of social values in the contemporary era. The author argues that the principles of justice contained in Islamic teachings can be applied to create a balance in the distribution of resources and opportunities in a society that is increasingly polarized due to technology (Firdausiyah & Sofa, 2025).

Kahfi and Zen (2024) propose a practical approach by showing that zakat and waqf instruments can be a real solution to reduce economic inequality. This research emphasizes the importance of transparent and digital-based management of zakat and waqf to ensure a more equitable distribution of wealth. In this way, Islamic law is not only normatively relevant but also applicable in building social justice (Kahfi & Zen, 2024).

An article by Ulfanur et al. (2024) raises government policies on People's Housing Savings (Tapera) from a sharia economic perspective. The author points out that the principle of justice in Islamic law can be applied to improve economic policies aimed at reducing social inequality. This study shows how Islamic law can be a relevant framework for public policy in the digital age (Ulfanur et al., 2024).

Tohari and Ariansyah (2024) focus on the application of morals in Islamic economics, which is the basis for a fair distribution of wealth. The author emphasizes that moral values in Islamic law are very relevant to overcome social inequality, especially in an economic context dominated by major actors in the digital era (Tohari et al., 2024).

The study by Irawan (2022) underscores how the pandemic has exacerbated socio-economic inequality, and the importance of an Islamic law-based approach to overcome it. This article is relevant to show that Islamic law can provide concrete solutions even in emergency situations, such as pandemics, by emphasizing the fair redistribution of wealth (Irawan, 2022).

Putra et al. (2022) show that the distribution of state income based on Islamic law can be an effective solution to reduce social inequality. The author proposes fiscal policy reforms based on the principles of justice in Islamic law, such as zakat and transparent management of state wealth (Putra et al., 2022).

Finally, an article by Sudrajat and Ramadhani (2024) discusses the importance of a social justice approach in dealing with the challenges of the digital era. The authors highlight that Islamic law can help create a more inclusive society, by emphasizing equitable access to digital technology and services (Sudrajat et al., 2024).

Overall, these articles show that the principle of justice in Islamic law is not only theoretically relevant, but also has practical applications in addressing social inequality in the digital age. By utilizing instruments such as zakat, waqf, and income redistribution, Islamic law can offer a comprehensive and sustainable solution. These findings reinforce the argument that Islamic law has great potential to provide justice amid rapid social and technological change.

## **Discossion**

### **The Relevance of the Principle of Justice in Islamic Law to Overcome Social Inequality in the Digital Era**

The principle of justice in Islamic law rests on the main concepts, namely equality, sustainability, and social harmony. In the Qur'an and Hadith, justice (adl) is referred to as an important foundation for building a peaceful and prosperous society. In the digital era, these principles are very relevant to deal with various forms of social inequality that arise due to unequal access to technology, injustice in information distribution, and exploitation of the digital economy. Islamic law can provide a solution by ensuring that every individual, regardless of social status, gets an equal right to take advantage of digital opportunities.

Distributive justice, for example, can be applied in providing internet access for all groups. Islamic law emphasizes the importance of equitable distribution of resources, as well as the concept of *maslahah ammah* (public good) which puts collective needs above individual interests. With this approach, digital technology can be used to empower marginalized groups, reduce educational gaps, and open up economic access.

### **Potential Application of Islamic Justice Principles in an Inclusive and Fair Legal System**

The application of Islamic justice principles in the legal system in the digital era has great potential in creating inclusive justice. The Islamic legal system based on the values of *adl* (justice), *ihsan* (goodness), and *maslahah* (benefit) can be integrated into technology-based regulations. Digitization of the legal system, for example, can increase public access to justice, especially through transparent and efficient online complaint platforms.

In the development of a digital legal system, Islamic principles can support transparency, procedural justice, and protection for vulnerable groups. Technologies such as blockchain can even be used to record zakat or waqf transactions, thus ensuring accountability. With this approach,

Islamic law contributes to building a just and harmonious society, by preventing discrimination based on social, gender, or ethnicity.

### **Implementation of Zakat, Waqf, and Alms in the Digital Era**

Zakat, waqf, and alms are important instruments in Islamic law to reduce social inequality. In the digital era, the management of these instruments has undergone a significant transformation.

1. **Digital Zakat:** Currently, various digital applications and platforms have been developed to facilitate the collection and distribution of zakat. With features such as automatic zakat calculation, people can fulfill their obligations more practically. This approach also allows for a more targeted distribution of zakat to groups in need.
2. **Digital Waqf:** Waqf is no longer just in the form of land or buildings, but has now expanded into the form of productive waqf such as stocks and bonds. Digital technology allows transparency in the management of waqf funds, so that the proceeds can be used to finance social projects such as education or health services.
3. **Crowdfunding:** Islamic-based crowdfunding platforms such as kitabisa.com or other alms platforms have opened up opportunities for the wider community to help each other online. Transparency in the use of funds is the main key to the success of this approach.

The implementation of technology in zakat, waqf, and alms not only increases efficiency, but also revives the spirit of social solidarity according to Islamic teachings.

### **Analysis of Islamic Law and Digital Rights**

Islamic law regulates various aspects of human life, including digital rights that are relevant in the modern era. Digital rights include the right to privacy, access to information, and security in cyberspace. In Islam, privacy is maintained through the prohibition of tajassus (peeping) and the obligation to keep the secrets of others. This principle is relevant to the protection of personal data which is a crucial issue in today's digital technology.

In addition, Islam emphasizes the importance of conveying correct information (tabayyun). This is the foundation in fighting the spread of hoaxes and fake news that are rampant in the digital era. Islamic law also supports digital security, for example through the development of a transaction system that is halal, safe, and free from riba elements, such as in Islamic fintech.

### **The Role of the State in Integrating the Principles of Islamic Justice**

The state has a great responsibility in ensuring that the principles of Islamic justice are integrated in the digital legal system. Steps that can be taken include:

1. **Creating Progressive Regulations:** Countries can develop Islamic values-based laws to protect digital rights, encourage transparency, and ensure justice in cyberspace.
2. **Improving Digital Infrastructure:** Providing equitable infrastructure will help reduce the digital divide, especially in remote areas.
3. **Collaboration with Religious Institutions:** The state can work with zakat, waqf, and alms institutions to digitize the process of collecting and distributing social funds.

### **Challenges and Obstacles to the Implementation of Islamic Justice in the Digital Era**

The application of Islamic justice principles in the digital era faces various challenges:

1. **Technology Access Gap:** Not all people have equal access to the internet and digital devices.
2. **Lack of Digital Literacy:** Many people do not understand the benefits of technology or how to use it properly.

3. Cybersecurity: The threat of hacking and data misuse is a major obstacle in building trust in digital systems.
4. Algorithmic Discrimination: Digital algorithms are often biased against certain groups, which can magnify social inequality.

### **Digital Ethics in Islamic Perspective**

Digital ethics in Islam emphasizes the importance of integrity, responsibility, and the public good. Some of the relevant principles are:

1. Honesty (Sidq): Not manipulating information or spreading fake news.
2. Trust: Responsible for the data managed and the use of technology.
3. Maslahah: Using technology for good, not to damage or create conflict.
4. Manners in Interaction: Maintain politeness and do not violate the rights of others in cyberspace.

By combining Islamic values and technological developments, society can build a more inclusive, fair, and civilized digital environment.

### **CONCLUSION**

This study concludes that the principle of justice in Islamic law offers a holistic solution to overcome social inequality in the digital era. Through an approach based on the values of 'adl, ihsan, and maslahah, Islamic law is able to provide an inclusive framework for resource redistribution, protection of vulnerable groups, and equal access to technology. The implementation of digital-based zakat, waqf, and alms shows great potential in reducing economic disparities. In addition, Islamic law can be the foundation for building a transparent, fair, and accountable digital regulatory system, such as blockchain-based social fund management.

As a suggestion, further research needs to be conducted to identify specific obstacles in the application of Islamic justice principles in different countries with different socio-cultural contexts. The government is also expected to strengthen digital infrastructure and public literacy to reduce inequality in access to technology. Cross-sector cooperation between governments, religious institutions, and community organizations is also needed to accelerate the adoption of Islamic justice-based technology. It is important to ensure that digital transformation goes hand in hand with the principles of universal morality and justice.

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