

ETHICAL USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE FROM THE QURANIC PERSPECTIVE

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ABSTRACT

As artificial intelligence (AI) continues to reshape the world, ethical considerations surrounding its use are becoming increasingly important. This paper explores the ethical use of AI from the Quranic perspective, focusing on how humans should responsibly engage with AI technology in a way that aligns with Islamic values. The study examines the ten core principles outlined by UNESCO for a human-rights-centred approach to AI ethics and seeks to find Quranic guidance that supports these principles. These include: (i) Proportionality and Do No Harm, (ii) Safety and Security, (iii) Right to Privacy and Data Protection, (iv) Multi-stakeholder and Adaptive Governance & Collaboration, (v) Responsibility and Accountability, (vi) Transparency and Explainability, (vii) Human Oversight and Determination, (viii) Sustainability, (ix) Awareness & Literacy, (x) Fairness and Non-Discrimination. The methodology for this study involves a review of previous literature on AI ethics, followed by a textual analysis of Quranic verses to identify ethical principles that align with the UNESCO's principles. The paper demonstrates that the Quranic values such as justice, respect for privacy, accountability, and human dignity provide a solid foundation for an ethical approach to AI. By aligning these values with UNESCO's principles, the paper offers insights into how AI can be used ethically in line with Quranic values to benefit humanity, ensuring it is developed and used with respect for rights, fairness, and social welfare.

Keywords: Ethical AI, Human-Centred Approach, Quranic Perspective, UNESCO Principles

INTRODUCTION

Recently, artificial intelligence (AI) has become extensively employed in sectors such as education, healthcare, finance, and governance, transforming decision-making, automation, and daily operations. As of 2024, the global AI market is expected to reach \$1.8 trillion, reflecting its growing impact on society. However, this rapid adoption has sparked significant ethical concerns. The 2023 *Stanford AI Index Report* noted that the number of incidents related to the ethical misuse of AI has increased 26 times since 2012 (Stanford HAI, 2023). Another report by *Infosys Knowledge Institute* found that nearly 95% of executives using AI have encountered at least one mishap involving the technology, yet only 2% of organizations meet responsible AI deployment standards (The Economic Times, 2025). Privacy violations, biased algorithms, and lack of transparency have led to real-world consequences, such as discriminatory practices in hiring algorithms and facial recognition technology. These ethical issues stress the urgent need for robust guidelines to govern AI development and ensure its benefits are aligned with societal well-being and justice.

Ethical concerns regarding AI use are not only a global issue but also have particular significance within specific cultural and religious contexts, including the Muslim world. While much of the current discourse on AI ethics centers on secular frameworks, the Islamic perspective is still not widely explored. The Quran, as the foundational text of Islam, offers profound guidance on human conduct, justice, privacy, accountability, and respect for human dignity - values that are highly relevant to the responsible use of AI.

In recent years, AI-related ethical dilemmas in Muslim-majority regions have emerged. For instance, the widespread deployment of facial recognition technologies in several countries has raised concerns about privacy and surveillance, with Muslim communities voicing apprehension about its disproportionate use and issues like algorithmic bias, invasion of privacy, and transparency in AI systems (Hayat, 2024). The Organization of Islamic Cooperation's Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (OIC-IPHRC) has emphasized the necessity of integrating Islamic ethical principles into AI governance (OIC-IPHRC, 2024). Moreover, Muslims in countries such as Saudi Arabia and Pakistan expressed concerns over AI's potential misuse in ways that violate human dignity and fairness, issues that echo core Islamic values (Gorian & Osman, 2024). Even though Malaysia has introduced the National Guidelines on AI Governance & Ethics (AIGE), which promote responsible, transparent, and ethical AI development (MASTIC, 2024), there remains insufficiency in guidelines aligned with Islamic principles despite Malaysia having Islam as the official religion of the federation.

These portray that regardless of the growing body of literature on AI ethics, there is a notable gap in integrating religious perspectives, particularly the Quranic viewpoint, into discussions on AI ethics. Most contemporary discussions on AI ethics are grounded in secular frameworks or human rights-based approaches, with limited attention given to Islamic principles. As such, the potential for aligning AI ethics with Quranic teachings has not been fully explored, leaving a gap in knowledge regarding how AI can be ethically guided by Islamic values.

This study aims to bridge this gap by exploring the ethical use of AI from a Quranic perspective. Specifically, it seeks to identify Quranic principles that align with UNESCO's ten core principles for AI ethics. Through a detailed textual analysis of relevant Quranic verses, this study will demonstrate how these principles can provide a foundation for the ethical use of AI, offering valuable insights for both policymakers and users in ensuring that AI use aligns with Islamic ethical standards.

LITERATURE REVIEW

AI Ethics

AI ethics are the moral principles and guidelines for developing and using artificial intelligence (Floridi, 2023). Other terms used across internet are Ethical Use of AI, Ethical AI, Ethics of AI, as well as Responsible AI. For instance, Responsible AI is a set of principles that help guide the design, development, deployment and use of AI, aligning these technologies with stakeholder values, legal standards and ethical principles, to minimize risks and maximize benefits (Papagiannidis et al., 2025). Scholars, organizations, and research institutes have proposed numerous guidelines and principles to ensure AI technologies are developed and used in

a manner that respects human rights, fosters fairness, and benefits society (Ibitoye et al., 2025; Ryan & Stahl, 2020; Balasubramaniam, 2023).

The collated key principles for the ethical use of AI across many are: fairness, non-discrimination, transparency, explainability, accountability, privacy, safety, security, control, beneficence, non-maleficence, reliability, sustainability, inclusiveness or inclusivity, pursuit of human benefit and happiness, and human-centered approach.

UNESCO Ten Principles of Human-Rights-Centred Approach to AI Ethics

Based on the official website of UNESCO, there are ten principles of human-rights-centred approach to AI Ethics. Firstly, Proportionality and Do No Harm: AI systems should only be used to the extent necessary to achieve a legitimate aim, and potential harms must be identified, prevented or minimized. Secondly, Safety and Security: AI must be built and maintained so that it is safe for users and resilient to misuse or attacks; the design should anticipate and mitigate vulnerabilities. Thirdly, Right to Privacy and Data Protection: From data collection to algorithmic processing, user privacy must be respected and strong data-protection safeguards must be in place. Fourthly, Multi-stakeholder and Adaptive Governance & Collaboration: Governing AI must involve a diversity of stakeholders (governments, private sector, civil society) and adapt as technology evolves.

On the other hand, Responsibility and Accountability: Those who design, deploy or govern AI systems must be accountable; systems should be auditable, traceable and subject to oversight and impact assessment. Transparency and Explainability: AI systems should be understandable and transparent to the appropriate degree, enabling people to grasp how decisions are made and challenge them if necessary. Human Oversight and Determination: Final decision-making (especially where rights are affected) should remain under human control; AI should not displace human responsibility. Whilst sustainability: The development and deployment of AI should respect environmental and ecosystem concerns, supporting sustainable development goals rather than undermining them. Awareness and Literacy, on the other hand: People need to be educated about AI - how it works, its opportunities and risks - so that the public can engage meaningfully and make informed choices. Lastly, Fairness and Non-Discrimination: AI should promote social justice, avoid reinforcing existing biases or discrimination, and ensure equitable access to its benefits across society.

AI Ethics from Islamic Perspective

Although there has been some exploration of AI ethics through the lens of various Islamic perspectives (Gorian & Osman, 2024; Mohd Azhar et al., 2025; Ilhami et al., 2025; Meerangani et al., 2025), there is a noticeable gap in the academic literature regarding Quranic perspectives on ethical use of AI. This paper seeks to bridge that gap by presenting an analysis of Quranic principles as they relate to the UNESCO AI ethics framework. By doing so, it will demonstrate how Islamic ethics can offer valuable insights into the ethical use of AI, contributing to a more inclusive global discourse on responsible AI development and use.

METHODOLOGY

This paper employs a comparative, textual analysis methodology. First, reviews of the UNESCO principles for ethical AI: analyzing each of the ten principles in the context of their ethical implications. Then, conduct of a textual analysis of the Quran: identifying verses that speak to the ethical values highlighted by UNESCO, such as justice, accountability, privacy and fairness. The goal is to draw comparisons between the two frameworks to identify commonalities and differences. This ultimately to offer a Quranic perspective on AI ethics.

FINDINGS & DISCUSSION

Proportionality and Do No Harm

وَأَنْفِقُوا فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ وَلَا تُلْقُوا بِأَيْدِيكُمْ إِلَى التَّهْلُكَةِ . وَأَحْسِنُوا . إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ الْمُحْسِنِينَ

Translation: Spend in the way of Allah and do not put yourselves into destruction, and do good. Of course, Allah loves those who do good.

(Al-Baqarah 2:195)

This verse shows that technology should be used in ways that are beneficial and avoid actions that may cause harm to individuals, society, or the environment. This could also mean developing algorithms and systems that minimize risk, ensure safety, and are designed to protect users from unintended harm, such as bias, privacy breaches, or security vulnerabilities. The phrase “do good” implies that actions (or AI’s outcomes) should be proportional to the goals they aim to achieve, ensuring that the benefits outweigh the potential risks.

وَإِنْ طَائِفَتَانِ مِنَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ اقْتَتَلُوا فَأَصْلِحُوا بَيْنَهُمَا . فَإِنْ بَغَتْ إِحْدَاهُمَا عَلَى الْأُخْرَى فَقَاتِلُوا الَّتِي تَبْغِي حَتَّى تَفِيءَ إِلَى أَمْرِ اللَّهِ . فَإِنْ فَاءَتْ فَأَصْلِحُوا بَيْنَهُمَا بِالْعَدْلِ وَأَقْسِطُوا . إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ الْمُقْسِطِينَ

Translation: And if two groups of believers fight each other, then make peace between them. But if one of them transgresses against the other, then fight against the transgressing group until they (are willing to) submit to the rule of Allah. If they do so, then make peace between both (groups) in all fairness and act justly. Surely Allah loves those who uphold justice.

(Al-Hujurat 49:9)

This verse stresses the importance of justice and fairness, especially when resolving conflicts. AI must not oppress or discriminate against any group but should instead ensure that all individuals are treated fairly, especially in high-stakes areas like criminal justice, hiring, and lending. The directive to “act justly” ensures that actions are balanced and proportionate to the situation. In AI, this could mean designing systems that treat

all individuals fairly without causing disproportionate harm to any group.

وَلَا تُفْسِدُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ بَعْدَ إِصْلَاحِهَا وَادْعُوهُ خَوْفًا وَطَمَعًا ۚ إِنَّ رَحْمَتَ اللَّهِ قَرِيبٌ مِّنَ الْمُحْسِنِينَ ٥٦

Translation: Do not spread corruption in the land after it has been set in order. And call upon Him with hope and fear. Indeed, Allah's mercy is always close to the good-doers.

(Al-A'raf 7:56)

This verse warns against causing harm or corruption after the Earth has been made good. AI systems should not be used for malicious purposes, such as spreading misinformation or causing social instability. Instead, they should be tools for improving the quality of life and promoting the common good. The principle of avoiding corruption implies that the use of AI must be measured and thoughtful. Actions taken by AI systems should not exceed the intended outcomes or cause more harm than good.

ظَهَرَ الْفَسَادُ فِي الْبَرِّ وَالْبَحْرِ بِمَا كَسَبَتْ أَيْدِي النَّاسِ لِيُذِيقَهُمْ بَعْضَ الَّذِي عَمِلُوا لَعَلَّهُمْ يَرْجِعُونَ

Translation: Corruption has spread on land and sea as a result of what people's hands have done, so that Allah may cause them to taste (the consequences of) some of their deeds and perhaps they might return (to the Right Path).

(Ar-Rum 30:41)

This verse speaks to the consequences of human actions that cause corruption. In the context of AI, it underscores the need to ensure that AI systems do not contribute to societal harm, such as through the creation of unfair or biased outcomes, discrimination, or environmental damage. The ethical use of AI should aim to reduce the negative consequences of human actions and contribute to social welfare. The verse highlights that the consequences of actions should be proportional to the harm done. Similarly, the use of AI should be proportionate, ensuring that the benefits outweigh the risks and that any potential harms are carefully considered and minimized.

Safety and Security

مِنَ أَجْلِ ذَلِكَ كَتَبْنَا عَلَىٰ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ أَنَّهُ مَن قَتَلَ نَفْسًا بِغَيْرِ نَفْسٍ أَوْ فَسَادٍ فِي الْأَرْضِ فَكَأَنَّمَا قَتَلَ النَّاسَ جَمِيعًا وَمَنْ أَحْيَاهَا فَكَأَنَّمَا أَحْيَا النَّاسَ جَمِيعًا ۗ وَلَقَدْ جَاءَتْهُمْ رُسُلُنَا بِالْبَيِّنَاتِ ثُمَّ إِنَّ كَثِيرًا مِّنْهُمْ بَعَدَ ذَلِكَ فِي الْأَرْضِ لَمُسْرِفُونَ

Translation: That is why We ordained for the Children of Israel that whoever takes a life-unless as a punishment for murder or mischief in the land it will be as if they killed all of humanity; and whoever saves a life, it will be as if they saved all of humanity. (Although) Our messengers already came to them with clear proofs, many of them still transgressed afterwards through the land.

(Al-Ma'idah 5:32)

This verse emphasizes the sanctity of human life and the profound consequences of actions that harm or take away life. In AI ethics, this highlights the responsibility to ensure that AI systems are designed and used in ways that protect life and promote security. For instance, AI applications in healthcare should aim to save lives, and AI in defense should focus on protection rather than harm. Additionally, the principle of “saving a life” can be extended to AI’s role in preventing harm—ensuring that AI technologies do not contribute to harm, violence, or destruction. This is particularly important in contexts like autonomous vehicles, medical AI, or AI used in law enforcement.

وَأَنْفِقُوا فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ وَلَا تُلْقُوا بِأَيْدِيكُمْ إِلَى التَّهْلُكَةِ . وَأَحْسِنُوا . إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ الْمُحْسِنِينَ

Translation: Spend in the way of Allah and do not put yourselves into destruction, and do good. Of course, Allah loves those who do good.

(Al-Baqarah 2:195)

This verse emphasizes the importance of avoiding harm and destruction, urging people to act in ways that protect themselves and others from damage. Applied to AI, it emphasizes that technologies should be developed with a view toward minimizing risk and avoiding outcomes that could lead to harm. For example, in the case of AI algorithms that make decisions in critical areas like healthcare, justice, or security, their design must prioritize human safety and ensure that the technology is not misused or causes harm.

وَإِنْ جَنَحُوا لِلسَّلَامِ فَاجْنَحْ لَهَا وَتَوَكَّلْ عَلَى اللَّهِ ۗ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ

Translation: If they inclined towards peace, make peace with them. And put your trust in Allah. Indeed, He (alone) is the All-Hearing, All-Knowing.

(Al-Anfal 8:61)

This verse advocates for peace and security through cooperation. It emphasizes that, when the opportunity arises, we should always incline towards peace. In the context of AI, this means that technologies should be used to promote peaceful solutions and societal stability rather than to cause conflict or insecurity. AI systems should foster cooperation, security, and mutual benefit, whether in the form of collaborative decision-making or in ensuring that AI enhances global peace and social harmony.

Right to Privacy and Data Protection

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا اجْتَنِبُوا كَثِيرًا مِّنَ الظَّنِّ إِنَّ بَعْضَ الظَّنِّ إِثْمٌ ۖ وَلَا تَجَسَّسُوا وَلَا يَغْتَب بَّعْضُكُم بَعْضًا ؕ أَيُحِبُّ أَحَدُكُمْ أَن يَأْكُلَ لَحْمَ أَخِيهِ مَيْتًا فَكَرِهْتُمُوهُ

ۗ وَأَتَّقُوا اللَّهَ ۗ إِنَّ اللَّهَ تَوَّابٌ رَّحِيمٌ ١٢

Translation: O believers! Avoid many suspicions, 'for' indeed, some suspicions are sinful. And do not spy, nor backbite one another. Would any of you like to eat the flesh of their dead brother? You would despise that!1 And fear Allah. Surely Allah is (the) Acceptor of Repentance, Most Merciful.

(Al-Hujurat 49:12)

The Quran forbids spying, directly opposing AI’s potential to engage in invasive surveillance. This verse explicitly forbids spying and backbiting, which are clear violations of privacy. In the context of AI, it serves as

a reminder that individuals' personal data should not be collected, monitored, or shared without their consent or in a manner that invades their privacy.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا لَا تَدْخُلُوا بُيُوتًا غَيْرَ بُيُوتِكُمْ حَتَّى تَسْتَأْذِنُوا ؕ وَتُسَلِّمُوا عَلَى أَهْلِهَا ؕ ذَٰلِكُمْ خَيْرٌ لَّكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَذَكَّرُونَ ۚ ۲۷ فَإِن لَّمْ تَجِدُوا فِيهَا أَحَدًا فَلَا

تَدْخُلُوهَا حَتَّى يُؤْذَنَ لَكُمْ ؕ وَإِن قِيلَ لَكُمْ فَارْجِعُوا فَارْجِعُوا ۚ هُوَ أَزْكَى لَكُمْ ؕ وَاللَّهُ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ عَلِيمٌ

Translation: O believers! Do not enter any house other than your own until you have asked for permission and greeted its occupants. This is best for you, so perhaps you will be mindful. If you find no one at home, do not enter it until you have been given permission. And if you are asked to leave, then leave. That is purer for you. And Allah has (perfect) knowledge of what you do.

(An-Nur 24:27-28)

These verses emphasize the importance of respecting boundaries and obtaining permission before intruding into others' private spaces. This concept is directly related to informed consent in the realm of AI, where individuals must have control over their data and must be aware of how it is being used.

In the context of AI, these verses align with the principle that personal data should not be accessed or used without the individual's consent. Just as one cannot enter another's home without permission, AI systems should not access or process personal data without explicit consent, ensuring privacy and control over personal information.

وَلَا تَأْكُلُوا أَمْوَالَكُم بَيْنَكُم بِالْبَاطِلِ وَتُدْلُوا بِهَا إِلَى الْحُكَّامِ لِتَأْكُلُوا فَرِيقًا مِّنْ أَمْوَالِ النَّاسِ بِالْإِثْمِ وَأَنتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ

Translation: Do not consume one another's wealth unjustly, nor deliberately bribe authorities in order to devour a portion of others' property, knowing that it is a sin.

(Al-Baqarah 2:188)

This verse forbids unjustly consuming the wealth of others and emphasizes the importance of not exploiting or misusing information for personal gain. In the context of AI, this could be related to the unethical use of personal data, such as selling or sharing data without consent or exploiting it for financial or political gain. It also relates to preventing the misuse of AI for activities such as identity theft, data fraud, or illegal surveillance.

Multi-stakeholder and Adaptive Governance & Collaboration

وَإِذْ قَالَ رَبُّكَ لِلْمَلَائِكَةِ إِنِّي جَاعِلٌ فِي الْأَرْضِ خَلِيفَةً ۗ قَالُوا أَتَجْعَلُ فِيهَا مَن يُفْسِدُ فِيهَا وَيَسْفِكُ الدِّمَاءَ وَنَحْنُ نُسَبِّحُ بِحَمْدِكَ وَنُقَدِّسُ لَكَ ۗ قَالَ إِنِّي أَعْلَمُ مَا

لَا تَعْلَمُونَ

Translation: (Remember) when your Lord said to the angels, "I am going to place a successive (human) authority on earth." They asked (Allah), "Will You place in it someone who will spread corruption there and shed blood while we glorify Your praises and proclaim Your holiness?" Allah responded, "I know what you do not know."

(Al-Baqarah 2:30)

This verse highlights humanity's responsibility as stewards (khalifah) on Earth, which includes the ethical and wise use of knowledge and technology, such as AI. The verse is as a call for inclusive decision-making and

diverse participation when it comes to governance. In AI, this would mean involving different stakeholders such as developers, policymakers, ethicists, and the general public to ensure that AI systems are developed and used in ways that are ethical, transparent, and beneficial for all.

هُوَ الَّذِي جَعَلَكُمْ خَلَائِفَ فِي الْأَرْضِ ۖ فَمَنْ كَفَرَ فَعَلَيْهِ كُفْرُهُ ۖ وَلَا يَزِيدُ الْكَافِرِينَ كُفْرُهُمْ إِلَّا مُقْتَبًا ۖ وَلَا يَزِيدُ الْكَافِرِينَ كُفْرُهُمْ إِلَّا حَسَابًا

Translation: He is the One Who has placed you as successors on earth. So whoever disbelieves will bear (the burden of) their own disbelief. The disbelievers' denial only increases them in contempt in the sight of their Lord, and it will only contribute to their loss.

(Fatir 35:39)

This verse emphasizes the responsibility of humans as stewards (successors) of the Earth. In the context of AI, this responsibility is amplified as AI systems are tools that can either contribute to or undermine societal well-being. The verse calls for ethical and responsible governance that considers long-term consequences and includes all relevant parties in decision-making processes. In AI governance, this verse highlights the need for inclusive leadership, where all stakeholders collaborate to ensure that AI technologies are aligned with the greater good. Adaptive governance would require constant review of AI's impacts on society, with input from a diverse range of sectors (e.g., ethical, technological, and social).

وَتَعَاوَنُوا عَلَى الْبِرِّ وَالتَّقْوَىٰ ۖ وَلَا تَعَاوَنُوا عَلَى الْإِثْمِ وَالْعُدْوَانِ ۚ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ ۚ إِنَّ اللَّهَ شَدِيدُ الْعِقَابِ

Translation: Cooperate with one another in goodness and righteousness, and do not cooperate in sin and transgression. And be mindful of Allah. Surely Allah is severe in punishment.

(Al-Ma'idah 5:2)

This verse advocates for cooperation in good deeds and discourages collaboration in harmful actions. In the context of AI ethics, this can be interpreted as an ethical framework for collaboration in developing AI technologies that are beneficial to humanity and avoid contributing to harm. It encourages working together for social good, such as using AI to address challenges like climate change, health, and education, while also ensuring that AI does not contribute to unethical practices like surveillance, discrimination, or the spread of misinformation. This verse underscores the importance of collaboration between stakeholders (e.g., developers, policymakers, and communities) to ensure AI is used for the benefit of all, aligned with the public good. Adaptive governance in AI would require ongoing collaboration to adapt to new ethical challenges, ensuring AI is used in ways that contribute to righteousness and not to harm.

وَالَّذِينَ اسْتَجَابُوا لِرَبِّهِمْ وَأَقَامُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَأَمْرُهُمْ شُورَىٰ بَيْنَهُمْ وَمِمَّا رَزَقْنَاهُمْ يُنْفِقُونَ

Translation: who respond to their Lord, establish prayer, conduct their affairs by mutual consultation, and donate from what We have provided for them;

(Ash-Shuraa 42:38)

This verse highlights the importance of consultation (Shura) for a collective decision-making. For AI, this means that key decisions regarding the development, deployment, and regulation of AI technologies should involve consultations with a broad range of stakeholders. This includes technologists, ethicists, sociologists,

policymakers, and the general public. This collaborative process ensures that AI is developed in a way that is ethical, fair, and serves the public interest. It promotes a process where different perspectives are considered before making decisions. It also aligns with adaptive governance, as ongoing consultation helps adjust policies and practices in response to new challenges and insights.

Responsibility and Accountability

إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَأْمُرُكُمْ أَنْ تُؤَدُّوا الْأَمَانَاتِ إِلَىٰ أَهْلِهَا وَإِذَا حَكَمْتُمْ بَيْنَ النَّاسِ أَنْ تَحْكُمُوا بِالْعَدْلِ ۗ إِنَّ اللَّهَ نِعِمَّا يَعِظُكُمْ بِهِ ۗ إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ سَمِيعًا بَصِيرًا

Translation: Indeed, Allah commands you to return trusts to their rightful owners; and when you judge between people, judge with fairness. What a noble commandment from Allah to you! Surely Allah is All-Hearing, All-Seeing.

(An-Nisa 4:58)

This verse speaks to the importance of fulfilling trusts (Amanah) and judging with justice, which directly relates to the ethical use of AI. In the context of AI, this means that developers, companies, and governments have a responsibility to handle AI systems ethically and transparently, ensuring that AI is developed and used in ways that are fair, just, and beneficial to society. AI systems, particularly those in sectors like healthcare, law enforcement, and finance, must be held accountable for their outcomes, such as ensuring that they do not perpetuate biases or discrimination.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا لَا تَخُونُوا اللَّهَ وَالرَّسُولَ وَخَوْنُوا أَمَانَتِكُمْ وَأَنْتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ

Translation: O you who have believed, do not betray Allah and the Messenger or betray your trusts while you know (the consequence).

(Al-Anfal 8:27)

This verse underscores the importance of not betraying trusts or responsibilities, especially when the consequences are known. Applied to AI, it indicates that developers and stakeholders involved in AI must take their responsibilities seriously, ensuring that AI technologies are used transparently and ethically. Betraying trust in the AI context could involve misusing personal data, creating biased algorithms, or deploying AI systems for harmful purposes.

كُلُّ نَفْسٍ بِمَا كَسَبَتْ رَهِينَةٌ ۗ ۃ۸

Translation: Every soul will be detained for what it has done,

(Al-Muddaththir 74:38)

This verse teaches that accountability is a personal responsibility, meaning that those involved in AI development, deployment, and oversight are accountable for the ethical use of these technologies. Each individual or entity involved is responsible for ensuring the ethical and safe deployment of AI.

وَلَا تَقْفُ مَا لَيْسَ لَكَ بِهِ عِلْمٌ ۗ إِنَّ السَّمْعَ وَالْبَصَرَ وَالْفُؤَادَ كُلُّ أُولَٰئِكَ كَانَ عَنْهُ مَسْئُولًا

Translation: Do not follow what you have no (sure) knowledge of. Indeed, all will be called to account for (their) hearing, sight, and intellect.

(Al-Isra 17:36)

The verse reminds AI developers and users that they are accountable for the knowledge they use and the actions they take. AI systems must be based on accurate, transparent information, and their creators must ensure that these systems do not misuse or misinterpret data.

Transparency and Explainability

وَلَا تَلْبَسُوا الْحَقَّ بِالْبَاطِلِ وَتَكْتُمُوا الْحَقَّ وَأَنْتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ

Translation: Do not mix truth with falsehood or hide the truth knowingly.

(Al-Baqarah 2:42)

This verse shows the importance of truthfulness and transparency, highlighting that information must not be distorted or hidden. In the context of AI, this means that AI systems should operate with full honesty, providing clear and understandable explanations for their processes and decisions. There should be no hidden algorithms or biased data driving decisions without disclosure. AI systems should be transparent in their operation, ensuring that users and stakeholders can easily access and understand how decisions are made.

وَقُلْ أَعْمَلُوا فَسَيَرَى اللَّهُ عَمَلَكُمْ وَرَسُولُهُ وَالْمُؤْمِنُونَ وَسَتُرَدُّونَ إِلَىٰ عِلْمِ الْغَيْبِ وَالشَّهَادَةِ فَيُنبِّئُكُمْ بِمَا كُنْتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ

Translation: Tell (them, O Prophet), “Do as you will. Your deeds will be observed by Allah, His Messenger, and the believers. And you will be returned to the Knower of the seen and unseen, then He will inform you of what you used to do.”

(At-Tawbah 9:105)

This verse emphasizes openness and accountability. It encourages transparency in actions, knowing that one’s actions are visible to others and subject to scrutiny. In AI, this means that the workings of AI systems should be open to review and inspection. Decisions made by AI must be explainable, and those responsible for AI systems should be accountable for how they operate and the consequences of their decisions

وَلَا تَقْفُ مَا لَيْسَ لَكَ بِهِ عِلْمٌ ۚ إِنَّ السَّمْعَ وَالْبَصَرَ وَالْفُؤَادَ كُلُّ أُولَٰئِكَ كَانَ عَنْهُ مَسْئُولًا.

Translation: Do not follow what you have no (sure) knowledge of. Indeed, all will be called to account for (their) hearing, sight, and intellect.

(Al-Isra 17:36)

The principle here is that AI systems must not operate based on hidden or unverified data. Instead, the systems should be explainable, with transparent processes that allow users to understand the data, algorithms, and rationale behind AI decisions. This ensures accountability and trust in the technology. This verse also teaches that users should act only on verified information, and any action taken without full understanding or

transparency will lead to accountability.

Human Oversight and Determination

وَإِذْ قَالَ رَبُّكَ لِلْمَلَكَةِ إِنِّي جَاعِلٌ فِي الْأَرْضِ خَلِيفَةً ۗ قَالُوا أَتَجْعَلُ فِيهَا مَنْ يُفْسِدُ فِيهَا وَيَسْفِكُ الدِّمَاءَ وَنَحْنُ نُسَبِّحُ بِحَمْدِكَ وَتُقَدِّسُ لَكَ ۗ قَالَ إِنِّي أَعْلَمُ مَا لَا تَعْلَمُونَ

Translation: (Remember) when your Lord said to the angels, “I am going to create a deputy on the earth!” They said, “Will You create there one who will spread disorder on the earth and cause bloodshed, while we proclaim Your purity, along with your praise, and sanctify Your name?” He said, “Certainly, I know what you know not.”

(Al-Baqarah 2:30)

This verse speaks about the human role as stewards (Khalifah) on Earth, with a responsibility for managing resources and making decisions. In the context of AI, it implies that humans, as those entrusted with authority, must maintain oversight of AI systems, ensuring that they are used responsibly and ethically. AI cannot be allowed to make unchecked decisions that affect humanity’s well-being; instead, humans must guide AI’s use and intervene when necessary to align AI systems with ethical values and societal needs.

وَلَقَدْ كَرَّمْنَا بَنِي آدَمَ وَحَمَلْنَاهُمْ فِي الْبَرِّ وَالْبَحْرِ وَرَزَقْنَاهُمْ مِنَ الطَّيِّبَاتِ وَفَضَّلْنَاهُمْ عَلَى كَثِيرٍ مِمَّنْ خَلَقْنَا تَفْضِيلًا

Translation: And We bestowed dignity on the children of ‘Ādam and provided them with rides on the land and in the sea, and provided them with a variety of good things and made them much superior to many of those whom We have created.

(Al-Isra 17:70)

This verse shows the inherent dignity and responsibility granted to humans. Humans are given authority over the earth, and part of this responsibility is to use knowledge and technology, such as AI, ethically and with care for human dignity. In the context of AI, this means that humans must oversee AI’s development and applications, ensuring that it serves humanity’s best interests, respects human rights, and upholds dignity.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِن جَاءَكُمْ فَاسِقٌ بِنَبَأٍ فَتَبَيَّنُوا أَن تُصِيبُوا قَوْمًا بِجَهَالَةٍ فَتُصْحَبُوا عَلَيَّ مَا فَعَلْتُمْ نَادِمِينَ

Translation: O believers, if an evildoer brings you any news, verify (it) so you do not harm people unknowingly, becoming regretful for what you have done.

(Al-Hujurat 49:6)

This verse is foundational to the concept of *tabayyun*, which calls for human oversight over AI systems to ensure that they do not act on inaccurate, incomplete, or biased data. The verse stresses the need for humans to intervene and review AI decisions, ensuring that AI systems operate transparently and ethically. Human oversight ensures that AI is used responsibly and that any actions taken by AI are consistent with human values and societal norms.

وَلَا تَقْفُ مَا لَيْسَ لَكَ بِهِ عِلْمٌ إِنَّ السَّمْعَ وَالْبَصَرَ وَالْفُؤَادَ كُلُّ أُولَٰئِكَ كَانَ عَنْهُ مَسْئُولًا

Translation: Do not follow what you have no (sure) knowledge of. Indeed, all will be called to account for (their) hearing, sight, and intellect.

(Al-Isra 17:36)

The principle here is that AI systems must be understandable and controlled by humans. Humans must have the knowledge to oversee AI's actions and ensure it operates in a manner that aligns with human values and does not take actions that are outside human ethical control.

Sustainability

يَبْنَیْ ءَادَمَ خُذُوا زِينَتَكُمْ عِندَ كُلِّ مَسْجِدٍ وَكُلُوا وَاشْرَبُوا وَلَا تُسْرِفُوا إِنَّهُ لَا يُحِبُّ الْمُسْرِفِينَ

Translation: O Children of Adam! Dress properly whenever you are at worship. Eat and drink, but do not waste. Surely, He does not like the wasteful.

(Al-A'raf 7:31)

The ethical use of AI includes designing systems that reduce waste and environmental impact, promote energy efficiency, and help preserve natural resources. Just as the verse calls for moderation, AI should avoid excessive consumption of resources, ensuring that it does not contribute to the depletion of the Earth's ecosystems and strive for sustainability by promoting practices that respect natural limits.

وَلَا تَمْشِ فِي الْأَرْضِ مَرَحًا إِنَّكَ لَنْ تَخْرِقَ الْأَرْضَ وَلَنْ تَبْلُغَ الْجِبَالَ طُولًا ۝٣٧

Translation: And do not walk on the earth arrogantly. Surely you can neither crack the earth nor stretch to the height of the mountains.

(Al-Isra 17:37)

The verse encourages AI developers to consider the long-term environmental impact of their technologies. This means designing AI systems that prioritize the planet's well-being and contribute to ecological balance, such as AI systems that optimize energy consumption, reduce pollution, and help address the environmental challenges caused by overexploitation of resources.

ظَهَرَ الْفَسَادُ فِي الْبَرِّ وَالْبَحْرِ بِمَا كَسَبَتْ أَيْدِي النَّاسِ لِيذِيقَهُمْ بَعْضَ الَّذِي عَمِلُوا لَعَلَّهُمْ يَرْجِعُونَ

Translation: Corruption has spread on land and sea as a result of what people's hands have done, so that Allah may cause them to taste (the consequences of) some of their deeds and perhaps they might return (to the Right Path).

(Ar-Rum 30:41)

This verse shows the importance of using AI for good, to prevent or reverse environmental damage. AI can be leveraged to detect and reduce environmental degradation, monitor pollution, and help in sustainable resource management.

وَإِذَا تَوَلَّى سَعَىٰ فِي الْأَرْضِ لِيُفْسِدَ فِيهَا وَيُهْلِكَ الْحَرْثَ وَالنَّسْلَ ۗ وَاللَّهُ لَا يُحِبُّ الْفُسَادَ

Translation: And when they leave (you), they strive throughout the land to spread mischief in it and destroy crops and cattle. Allah does not like mischief.

(Al-Baqarah 2:205)

The principle of avoiding corruption and harm is essential in ensuring that AI systems do not lead to environmental degradation or social harm. AI should be designed with sustainability in mind, using resources efficiently, promoting positive outcomes, and minimizing negative impacts on the environment and society.

Awareness & Literacy

اقْرَأْ بِاسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ ۙ ١ خَلَقَ الْإِنْسَانَ مِنْ عَلَقٍ ۚ ٢ اقْرَأْ وَرَبُّكَ الْأَكْرَمُ ۙ ٣ الَّذِي عَلَّمَ بِالْقَلَمِ ۚ ٤ عَلَّمَ الْإِنْسَانَ مَا لَمْ يَعْلَمْ ٥

Translation: Read with the name of your Lord who created (every thing), He created man from a clot of blood. Read, and your Lord is the most gracious, who imparted knowledge by means of the pen. He taught man what he did not know.

(Al-'Alaq 96:1-5)

This verse is the first revelation of the Quran, emphasizing the importance of reading, learning, and acquiring knowledge. This is a call to promote awareness and understanding of AI technologies. By fostering AI literacy, individuals can better understand how AI systems work, their potential benefits, and the risks associated with them. This awareness allows people to make informed decisions, ensuring that AI is used ethically and responsibly.

وَلَا تَقْفُ مَا لَيْسَ لَكَ بِهِ عِلْمٌ ۚ إِنَّ السَّمْعَ وَالْبَصَرَ وَالْفُؤَادَ كُلُّ أُولَٰئِكَ كَانَ عَنْهُ مَسْئُولًا

Translation: Do not follow what you have no (sure) knowledge of. Indeed, all will be called to account for (their) hearing, sight, and intellect.

(Al-Isra 17:36)

This verse advises humans to act based on knowledge and understanding, emphasizing the importance of informed action. In the context of AI, it underscores the need for individuals to be knowledgeable before engaging with AI technologies, as decisions made by AI can have significant consequences.

لَقَدْ كَانَ لَكُمْ فِي رَسُولِ اللَّهِ أُسْوَةٌ حَسَنَةٌ لِّمَن كَانَ يَرْجُوا اللَّهَ وَالْيَوْمَ الْآخِرَ وَذَكَرَ اللَّهَ كَثِيرًا

Translation: Indeed, in the Messenger of Allah you have an excellent example for whoever has hope in Allah and the Last Day, and remembers Allah often.

(Al-Ahzab 33:21)

This verse encourages those involved in AI development to be models of ethical behavior, grounded in knowledge and awareness of the broader societal impacts. AI developers, much like those following the Prophet's example, should prioritize ethical AI practices, promote understanding, and make efforts to enhance AI literacy among users and stakeholders. By doing so, they help ensure that AI systems are not only technically proficient but also morally responsible.

Fairness and Non-Discrimination

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا كُونُوا قَوَّامِينَ بِالْقِسْطِ شُهَدَاءَ لِلَّهِ وَلَوْ عَلَىٰ أَنفُسِكُمْ أَوِ الْوَالِدِينَ ءِ وَالْأَقْرَبِينَ ءِ ۚ إِن يَكُنْ عَنِيًّا أَوْ فَقِيرًا فَاللَّهُ أَوْلَىٰ بِهِمَا ءِ
فَلَا تَتَّبِعُوا أَهْوَىٰ ۚ إِن تَعَدَّلُوا ءِ وَإِن تَلْوُوا أَوْ تُعْرِضُوا فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ خَبِيرًا

Translation: O you who believe, be upholders of justice - witnesses for Allah, even though against (the interest of) yourselves or the parents, and the kinsmen. One may be rich or poor, Allah is better caretaker of both. So do not follow desires, lest you should swerve. If you twist or avoid (the evidence), then, Allah is all-aware of what you do.

(An-Nisa 4:135)

AI models should be audited for bias, ensuring that decisions in areas like hiring, lending, or healthcare are fair. Developers are morally responsible for removing prejudices that could cause harm to marginalized groups. Just as the verse warns against letting personal inclination compromise justice, AI systems must be designed and governed to make fair, evidence-based decisions, not influenced by data or developer bias.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا كُونُوا قَوَّامِينَ لِلَّهِ شُهَدَاءَ بِالْقِسْطِ ۚ وَلَا يَجْرِمَنَّكُمْ شَنَاٰنُ قَوْمٍ عَلَىٰ ءِ أَلَّا تَعْدِلُوا ءِ ۚ أَعْدِلُوا هُوَ أَقْرَبُ لِلتَّقْوَىٰ ءِ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ
ۚ إِنَّ اللَّهَ خَبِيرٌ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ ءِ

Translation: O believers! Stand firm for Allah and bear true testimony. Do not let the hatred of a people lead you to injustice. Be just! That is closer to righteousness. And be mindful of Allah. Surely Allah is All-Aware of what you do.

(Al-Ma'idah:8)

When developing AI for policing, credit scoring, or recruitment, data fairness must be prioritized to avoid perpetuating discrimination. AI explainability mechanisms should allow humans to trace and justify decisions transparently. In essence, AI must serve all equally, reflecting the Quranic principle that fairness is closest to righteousness.

لَا يَنْهَىٰكُمُ اللَّهُ عَنِ الَّذِينَ لَمْ يُقَاتِلُوكُمْ فِي الدِّينِ وَلَمْ يُخْرِجُوكُم مِّن دِيَارِكُمْ أَن تَبَرُّوهُمْ وَتُقْسِطُوا إِلَيْهِمْ ءِ ۚ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ الْمُقْسِطِينَ

Translation: Allah does not forbid you as regards those who did not fight you on account of faith, and did not expel you from your homes, that you do good to them, and deal justly with them. Surely Allah loves those who maintain justice.

(Al-Mumtahanah 60:8)

In the AI context, this reinforces the idea that AI systems must serve humanity universally, without discrimination. AI research and resources should not be monopolized by a few nations or corporations but should benefit developing societies as well. Ethical AI governance should promote inclusion, ensuring that underrepresented groups are not left behind by technological progress.

يَأْتِيهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّا خَلَقْنَاهُمْ مِنْ ذَكَرٍ وَأُنْثَىٰ وَجَعَلْنَاهُمْ شُعُوبًا وَقَبَائِلَ لِتَعَارَفُوا ۗ إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ أَتْقَاهُمْ ۗ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ خَبِيرٌ

Translation: O mankind, We have created you from a male and a female, and made you into races and tribes, so that you may identify one another. Surely the noblest of you, in Allah's sight, is the one who is most pious of you. Surely Allah is All-Knowing, All-Aware.

(Al-Hujurat 49:13)

This verse proclaims the equality of all human beings, emphasizing that differences in race, gender, or ethnicity exist for mutual understanding - not for discrimination. This verse proclaims the equality of all human beings, emphasizing that differences in race, gender, or ethnicity exist for mutual understanding - not for discrimination. Ethical AI frameworks must reflect global humanity, ensuring AI benefits everyone regardless of background. This verse perfectly captures the foundation of fairness and non-discrimination in AI - true value lies in righteousness and integrity, not in human differences.

CONCLUSION

This paper demonstrates that the ethical use of artificial intelligence (AI) can be guided by both modern human rights frameworks and traditional Islamic values. The Quran provides a comprehensive ethical foundation that aligns with UNESCO's AI principles, offering a unique perspective on how AI can be developed and used responsibly. Future research could explore the practical application of Quranic ethics in AI systems, particularly how Islamic values can be incorporated into AI governance frameworks at a global level. Comparative studies between Islamic ethical principles and other cultural or religious ethical systems could provide deeper insights into universal AI ethics frameworks. Additionally, research could focus on developing AI models and algorithms that are explicitly designed with Quranic ethical values in mind, testing these systems in real-world applications like healthcare, education, and governance. Further interdisciplinary studies combining Islamic jurisprudence, AI ethics, and computer science will be crucial in ensuring that AI technologies align with both ethical and religious guidelines, ultimately fostering a more equitable and responsible future for AI development.

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