
THE EXISTENCE OF UNIVERSAL VALUES OF ISLAMIC POLITICAL ETHICS IN THE FORMATION OF PUBLIC POLICY

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ABSTRACT

The formation of public policy is a fundamental aspect of modern government. In this context, the universal values of Islamic political ethics have a significant influence. Islamic political ethics rooted in the Qur'an and Hadith offer moral guidelines and principles that can be adopted in the public decision-making process. This research aims to explore how these values can influence public policy in different countries, especially the Muslim majority. This research uses a literature method with an Islamic law approach. The research will begin by conducting a comprehensive literature review of primary and secondary sources, including Islamic classics, scientific journals, books on Islamic political ethics, as well as public policy articles and reports. The results of the study show that universal values such as justice ('adl), benefit (maslahah), accountability (amanah), wisdom (hikmah), and public participation (shura) have significant relevance in the context of public policy formation. These values can help create policies that are more just, inclusive, and oriented towards community welfare. However, the application of these values is inseparable from various challenges, such as

pluralistic contexts, diverse interpretations, and incompatibility with contemporary conditions.

Keywords: *Universal values, Islamic political ethics, public policy*

INTRODUCTION

The formation of public policy is a fundamental aspect of modern government. In this context, the universal values of Islamic political ethics have a significant influence. Islamic political ethics, which is rooted in the Qur'an and Hadith, offers moral guidelines and principles that can be adopted in the public decision-making process. This study aims to explore how these values can influence public policy in different countries, especially the Muslim ones.

Islamic teachings as teachings that prioritize religious moderation in their concept (Kurniati, Haris, and Abd. Rahman, 2022), proven to be able to create peace in the midst of a diverse society, Islamic political ethics emphasizes the importance of justice ('adl) in the formation of public policies. Justice in Islam not only means equality before the law, but also includes the fair distribution of wealth and opportunity in society. This principle, when applied in public policy, can result in a more harmonious and prosperous society. As Al-Ghazali argued, fair policies are the key to achieving social welfare (Al-Ghazali, 2018).

In addition to justice, other values such as benefits (maslahah) are also very important. The concept of benefit in Islam refers to efforts to achieve general welfare and avoid losses. In the context of public policy, this means that the government must always consider the impact of each policy on the wider community. For example, economic policies based on the principle of benefit will focus on poverty alleviation and the provision of jobs (Al-Mawardi, 2015).

Accountability (amanah) is another very important value in Islamic political ethics. A trustworthy government is a government that is transparent and responsible to its people. This principle can be applied in various aspects of public policy, including the management of state finances and the provision of public services. As Ibn Taymiyyah suggested, accountability is the foundation of good governance (Ibn Taymiyyah, 2017).

Another relevant ethical value is wisdom (wisdom). In Islam, wisdom means making decisions based on correct knowledge and deep understanding. Public policies made with wisdom will be more effective and

sustainable. Al-Farabi underlined the importance of wisdom in political leadership to achieve a just and prosperous society (Al-Farabi, 2010).

Islamic political ethics also emphasizes the importance of public participation (shura). Shura or consultation is a process in which decisions are made through discussion and community participation. This principle supports the idea of participatory democracy and can be adopted in the process of forming public policy to ensure that the resulting policies reflect the will of the people. According to Abul A'la Maududi, public participation is the essence of democratic and fair government (Abul A'la Maududi, 2005).

Public policies based on Islamic ethical values must also respect human rights. Islam teaches that every individual has rights that must be respected and protected by the state. Policies that violate human rights are contrary to the basic principles of Islam. Research by An-Na'im shows that there are many similarities between modern human rights principles and ethical values in Islam (An-Na'im, 2012).

The values of Islamic political ethics are not only relevant in Muslim-majority countries, but can also be adopted in a global context. With the rise of global interconnectedness and shared challenges such as climate change and economic injustice, universal values such as justice, well-being, accountability, wisdom, participation, and respect for human rights can be useful guides in the shaping of effective and sustainable public policies around the world (J Esposito, 2015).

Overall, this study will explore how the universal values of Islamic political ethics can be applied in the formulation of public policy. As such, it is expected to provide new insights into how moral and ethical principles can contribute to the development of more equitable and effective public policies.

This research uses a literature method with an Islamic law approach. The research will begin by conducting a comprehensive literature review of primary and secondary sources, including Islamic classics, scientific journals, books on Islamic political ethics, as well as public policy articles and reports. The scientific approach will be applied by critically analyzing various theories and concepts related to Islamic political ethics values, as well as how these values can be applied in the context of public policy. This analysis will include a comparative study of the views of Islamic scholars and scholars on political ethics with contemporary public policy practices in Muslim-majority countries. The data obtained will be interpreted to

identify universal principles that can be used as a reference in the formation of public policies in accordance with Islamic teachings.

In this study, we will examine how universal ethical values such as justice, humanity, and freedom can be applied in public policy practice. We will also examine how Islamic governments can integrate these universal ethical values into their public policies, as well as how these universal ethical values can enhance the legitimacy and accountability of government.

DISCUSSION

The Form of Universal Values of Islamic Political Ethics that Influence Public Policy

The universal values of Islamic political ethics include moral principles drawn from Islamic teachings that are considered applicable to all individuals, including in the formulation of public policy. These principles emphasize aspects such as justice, kindness, social responsibility, and peace that aim to create a just, harmonious, and just society.

Universal values in Islamic political ethics have a very important relevance in the context of public policy formation. The values in Islamic political ethics are not only a guideline for individual Muslims, but also have a significant impact on the formation of public policies that have an impact on society as a whole (Muhammad Ahmed, 2020).

Here are some universal values of Islamic political ethics that are influential in the formation of public policy:

1. **Justice:** Justice is one of the universal values of Islamic political ethics that is very important in the formation of public policy. Justice here not only means justice in decision-making, but also justice in the distribution of resources and benefits. In Islam, justice is one of the five basic principles that a Muslim must uphold, along with honesty, cleanliness, togetherness, and blessing. Justice in Islam also means justice in the relationship between man and Allah and with fellow man. In the context of public policy, fairness means that decisions taken must be fair and non-discriminatory, and take into account the interests of all parties involved.
2. **Welfare:** Welfare here means not only physical well-being, but also spiritual and social well-being. In Islam, well-being is one of the main goals that Muslims must achieve, along with justice and blessings. In the context of public policy, welfare means that decisions taken must

take into account the interests of the community's welfare, as well as ensure that all parties have equal access to resources and facilities (Azyumardi Azra, 2012).

3. Peace: Peace means not only physical security, but also spiritual and social security. In Islam, peace is one of the main goals that Muslims must achieve, along with justice and welfare. In the context of public policy, peace means that decisions taken must take into account the interests of public safety, as well as ensure that all parties have equal access to resources and facilities (Hassan Ali, 2018).
4. Solidarity and Subsidiarity: Solidarity and subsidiarity are other universal values of Islamic political ethics that are very important in the formation of public policy. Solidarity means that every individual must participate in social activities and contribute to the well-being of society. Subsidiarity means that each individual must consider the interests of the community and ensure that the decisions taken do not interfere with the welfare of the community. In Islam, solidarity and subsidiarity are among the values that a Muslim must uphold, along with honesty, cleanliness, togetherness, and blessings.
5. Rationality of Action and Virtue: Rationality of action means that every individual must think clearly and consider the interests of society in decision-making. Virtue means that each individual must consider the interests of the community and ensure that the decisions taken do not interfere with the welfare of the community. In Islam, rationality of action and virtue is one of the values that a Muslim must uphold, along with honesty, cleanliness, togetherness, and blessing.
6. Compassion and Kindness: Compassion and kindness are values that are upheld in Islamic political ethics that emphasize the importance of showing empathy and care for fellow human beings. In the realm of public policy, these principles encourage the government to implement social programs that pay attention to the welfare and needs of the community as a whole, especially for vulnerable or needy groups. This kind of action strengthens social solidarity and promotes common prosperity in society (Amin Abdullah, 2010).
7. Transparency and Accountability: The principles of transparency and accountability are at the core of Islamic political ethics that emphasize the importance of openness and accountability in actions and decisions. In the context of public policy, these values encourage the government to provide wider access to the public in the policy-making process, and

to take responsibility for the decisions taken. This forms a solid foundation for reliable and respected public policy, as well as minimizing the risk of abuse of power.

8. **Honesty:** Honesty is an essential principle in Islamic political ethics that emphasizes integrity and honesty in all actions and words. In the realm of public policy, this principle of honesty encourages the government to act sincerely and avoid corrupt behavior or abuse of power. Actions based on honesty build public trust in the government and public policies that are carried out, as well as strengthen the moral foundation in public decision-making (Aisha Khan, 2019).

By paying attention to the universal values of Islamic political ethics in shaping a public policy, decisions taken in policy formation can be fairer, more oriented to the welfare of the community, and more consider the interests of the community. And the government can strengthen the legitimacy and public trust in the public policies implemented. The application of these values can also help create a more harmonious, inclusive, and equitable social environment for all citizens.

Challenges in Implementing Universal Values of Islamic Political Ethics in the Formation of Public Policy

Applying the universal values of Islamic political ethics in the formation of public policies is inseparable from various complex challenges. Although Islamic moral principles offer a strong framework for fair and equitable decision-making, the process of implementing them is often faced with several obstacles that can hinder their effectiveness.

Islamic values are considered an integral part of the life of the nation and state, one of which is in Indonesia, but they are also considered values that must be integrated into public policy in a way that does not interfere with openness and freedom of religion (Fatima Mahmoud, 2021).

Some examples of challenges that often arise in the context of the application of universal values of Islamic political ethics in the formation of public policies include:

1. **Pluralistic Context:** One of the main challenges in applying Islamic political ethical values is the pluralistic context in which society operates. In a multi-ethnic, multi-religious, and multi-cultural society, there are various views and values that may be contrary to the teachings of Islam. The government must consider this diversity in designing

public policies so as not to cause tension or discrimination against minority groups.

2. Interpretasi yang Beragam : Etika politik Islam sering kali menghadapi tantangan dalam interpretasi nilai-nilainya yang beragam. Berbagai aliran dan pemahaman dalam Islam dapat menghasilkan penafsiran yang berbeda terhadap prinsip-prinsip moral tertentu. Hal ini dapat menyebabkan ketidakjelasan dalam penerapan nilai-nilai tersebut dalam konteks pembuatan kebijakan publik, serta potensi untuk munculnya konflik antara berbagai kelompok atau kepentingan (Khalid Ibrahim, 2017).
3. Incompatibility with Contemporary Conditions: Islamic political ethical values are sometimes considered to be incompatible with contemporary conditions and evolving social dynamics. For example, principles that are conservative in Islam may conflict with the demands of technological development, human rights, or internationally recognized gender equality. The government needs to consider how to accommodate traditional values with the demands and needs of modern society (Amir Salim, 2022).
4. Implementation Challenges: Applying Islamic political ethics values in public policy also involves significant implementation challenges. This includes the formulation of concrete policies, adequate allocation of resources, effective law enforcement, and continuous supervision and evaluation of the implementation of these policies. Without the right infrastructure and mechanisms, these values may be difficult to implement effectively in practice (Muhammad Quraish Shihab, 2018).
5. Opposition Reaction: Opposition reaction is also a challenge because of various parties who may disagree with views or policies based on these values. This can include criticism from secularists, progressive movements, or minority groups who feel marginalized by the policies taken.
6. Limited Resources: In limited resources, both in terms of finance and people. The formation of public policies that are in accordance with Islamic principles often requires significant investments in terms of time, money, and labor. However, in many countries with large Muslim populations, especially in developing countries, these resources are often limited. This can hinder the ability of governments to effectively apply these values in their public policies (Amina Fatima, 2019).

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7. Difficulties in Adjustment: Applying Islamic political ethical values in the context of public policy often involves adjusting to complex political, economic, and social realities. Some Islamic values may be at odds with established political or cultural practices in society. For example, values related to Islamic sharia may be difficult to apply in countries that have secular legal systems or in societies influenced by western culture. This kind of adjustment can take a lot of time and effort, and may cause tension or conflict among various interest groups.
 8. Difficulties in Measurement and Evaluation: Evaluating the effectiveness of the application of Islamic political ethics values in public policy is also a challenge in itself. It is often difficult to accurately measure the impact of policies based on Islamic values, whether in terms of reducing social inequality, improving people's welfare, or fulfilling human rights. This is due to a variety of factors, including data limitations, the complexity of interactions between variables, and dynamic changes in social contexts. Therefore, the development of an appropriate measurement and evaluation system is important to assess the effectiveness of the implementation of these values in practice (Zain Rahman, 2020).

In facing these challenges, governments need to adopt a thoughtful and comprehensive approach. This involves inclusive dialogue with various stakeholders, increased awareness of Islamic political ethical values, adaptation of policies appropriate to local contexts, and tangible efforts to ensure that these values are applied consistently and fairly in all aspects of public policy.

The Role of the Community in Supporting the Application of Universal Values of Islamic Political Ethics in the Formation of Public Policy

The role of the community in supporting the application of universal values of Islamic political ethics in the formation of public policies is very important. The community has an active role in influencing and supervising the political decision-making process, as well as in ensuring that the policies made are in accordance with the universal values of Islamic political ethics. In the context of Islam, society has the responsibility to monitor and ensure that the policies made not only take into account the interests of individuals or groups, but also pay attention to balance and justice in society (Abdurrahman Wahid, 2017).

Public awareness and commitment to these values can be enhanced through effective education and campaigns, and the public should be encouraged to engage in dialogue and debate on relevant political issues. In this way, the voices and aspirations of the community can be taken into account in policymaking, thus ensuring that the resulting policies truly serve the interests and needs of society as a whole. In addition, the community can monitor and oversee the policy decision-making process directly (Fathul Osman, 2018).

Overseeing the decision-making process is also very important for the community to prevent misappropriation or manipulation. They can do this by monitoring government activities, as well as criticizing and overseeing policies that will be made. Cooperation with other community organizations can also help ensure that policies are made in accordance with the universal values of Islamic political ethics. Therefore, transparency and accountability in the policy decision-making process taken by the government is also something that should be done so that the public can ensure that the necessary information is available and can increase public trust with the government (Nurul Huda, 2019).

Strengthening the institutions responsible for the supervision and implementation of public policies is also a priority. Institutions such as the legislature, judiciary, and supervisory bodies must be strengthened to ensure that the resulting policies are not only in accordance with the principles of Islamic political ethics, but also carried out with high transparency and accountability (Kamarudin Sulaiman, 2008).

In addition, it is also important to create a social environment that supports the application of Islamic political ethics in daily life. This includes the development of moral and responsible social norms and the formation of a political system that is not only fair and sustainable, but also in accordance with the teachings of Islam. That is the importance of awareness, participation, education, institutional strengthening, and the creation of a supportive social environment for the community.

The role of the community in supporting the application of universal values of Islamic political ethics in the formation of public policies is very important. The community must be active in influencing and supervising the political decision-making process to ensure that the resulting policies are fair and balanced, in accordance with the ethical values of Islamic politics. This can be achieved through increased public awareness and commitment through education and effective campaigns, as well as

involvement in political dialogue. In addition, transparency and accountability in the decision-making process are essential to prevent irregularities, which can be supported through the strengthening of supervisory institutions. By creating a supportive social environment, moral social norms, and a fair political system, the resulting public policy can truly serve the interests of the community and be in accordance with the teachings of Islam.

CONCLUSION

The application of universal values of Islamic political ethics such as justice, welfare, peace, solidarity and subsidiarity, rationality of action and virtue, compassion and kindness, transparency and accountability, and honesty in the formation of public policies can create decisions that are fairer, oriented to the welfare of the community, and take into account the interests of the community. This not only strengthens the public's legitimacy and trust in the government, but also helps create a harmonious, inclusive, and equitable social environment for all citizens.

Applying the universal values of Islamic political ethics in public policy faces challenges such as the diversity of society, different interpretations, incompatibility with contemporary conditions, implementation challenges, opposition reactions, limited resources, difficulties in adjusting to socio-political realities, and difficulties in measurement and evaluation. Governments need to adopt an inclusive and adaptive approach to address these barriers and ensure the effective and equitable implementation of these values.

The community has an important role in the formation of public policies in accordance with the values of Islamic political ethics through active participation, supervision, education, and campaigns. Transparency, accountability, and strengthening of supervisory institutions are key to preventing manipulation and ensuring policies that are fair and in accordance with Islamic teachings. Cooperation with community organizations and the development of moral social norms are also needed to create a sustainable and fair political system.

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