



Education in the Era of Pandemic Disruption

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Abstract

The COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacted the world of education, triggering disruption that has drastically changed the way education takes place. Some of the main aspects of education in this era of pandemic disruption include: The move to online learning forces teachers, students and parents to adapt to digital technology. However, this move creates access gaps for students who do not have adequate devices or internet access. Teachers and students face digital literacy challenges, including understanding the use of technology and adapting teaching methods. The curriculum, including assessment methods, must be adapted to be more relevant to distance learning. Access and Infrastructure Gaps Technology inequality is a big problem, especially in remote areas that do not have internet access. Many students in rural areas experience obstacles due to limited devices such as laptops or smartphones. The pandemic sparked innovation, such as using augmented reality (AR) technology, gamification and interactive applications to make learning more interesting. Apart from that, the birth of a hybrid learning program (a combination of face-to-face and online) is seen as a long-term solution. Although the pandemic brings many challenges, education in the era of COVID-19 disruption teaches the importance of flexibility, technological adaptation, and a student-centred approach. In the future, online and offline learning can become an educational model that is more inclusive and adaptive to change.

Keywords: Education; Covid 19 Pandemic



1. Introduction

Globalization is a process that refers to the integration of various aspects of human life, such as the economy, culture, and communication, across the world (Stone, 2002). This process has rapidly developed over the past few decades, thanks to advances in information technology, social media, and increasingly sophisticated transportation systems. The internet and digital technology allow people to access information worldwide in seconds, facilitate intercultural interaction, and shorten distances between countries. Globalization not only brings positive impacts in enhancing connectivity and the exchange of ideas but also creates new challenges, especially for groups that uphold strong cultural and religious identities, such as Muslims (Fikri, 2019).

For Muslims, globalization presents a significant challenge in maintaining and strengthening religious identity. Muslim identity is not only defined by the acts of worship performed but also by how they perceive and live according to Islamic principles. Islam provides clear guidance through the Qur'an and Hadith, which govern all aspects of human life. Along with the globalization that brings various foreign values, norms, and cultures, Islamic values passed down for centuries are at risk of being displaced. In this context, Muslim identity becomes increasingly important to preserve so as not to be eroded by external influences that are not in line with religious teachings (Zuriet & Lyausheva, 2019).

As stated in the Qur'an, Surah Al-Hujurat verse 13, Allah SWT says, *"Indeed, the most noble of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous of you."* This verse emphasizes that true Muslim identity is based on piety to Allah, not social status or other external factors. However, in the era of globalization, the challenge for Muslims is how to uphold religious values amid the torrent of external information firmly. Values such as personal freedom, consumerism, and individualism, which are widely promoted in global culture, often conflict with Islamic teachings that emphasize collectivism, brotherhood, and a balanced life between this world and the hereafter (HT, 2021).

The digital era, marked by advancements in information technology, also contributes to the changing dynamics of Muslim identity. Information transmitted through social media, the



internet, and other digital platforms often contains ideas that conflict with traditional values, placing Muslims in a dilemma between maintaining their religious identity or following more secular global trends. Scholars such as Faris A. Hassan, in his 2020 book *Globalization and Islam: Challenges and Opportunities*, reveal that globalization often has an ambivalent impact on Muslims. On the one hand, globalization provides opportunities for Muslims to spread Islamic values across the globe; on the other hand, it demands identity negotiations that can lead to a reduction in religious practice in daily life.

Furthermore, the phenomenon of social media accelerates the spread of more secular foreign cultures that focus on a materialistic lifestyle, which may weaken Muslims' commitment to practising religious values. The consumerist lifestyle that characterizes global culture often distracts individuals from deeper spiritual values, replacing the need for worldly happiness with material achievement. As stated by Abdul Hadi (2021) in his journal *Islamic Identity in a Globalized World*, globalization presents the challenge of cultural pressure to follow what is considered "modern" or "global," which often contradicts Islamic teachings that emphasize modesty and closeness to God.

However, the most significant challenge Muslims face in the era of globalization is the threat to collectivist and social values that have become an integral part of their identity. Islam teaches that Muslims are brothers to one another, as mentioned in a hadith narrated by Imam Muslim, "*A Muslim is a brother to another Muslim; he does not wrong him nor let him be wronged.*" (HR. Muslim). In a global society that is increasingly individualistic, these values are often overlooked. Globalization, with all its complexity, tends to encourage individuals to focus more on personal interests rather than collective ones, which can lead to a decline in the quality of social relationships within Muslim communities (Suaidi, 2014).

Another challenge is the emerging pressure on the concept of family in Islam, which is a crucial element in shaping Muslim identity. In many Western countries, traditional family values are often questioned or altered, leading to more fragmented families. In contrast, Islam views the family as the primary foundation in shaping the character and identity of children. As emphasized in the Qur'an, Surah At-Tahrim verse 6, Muslims are reminded to protect



themselves and their families from the fire of Hell, “*O you who have believed, protect yourselves and your families from a Fire...*” This verse underscores the importance of safeguarding the next generation by providing sound religious education so that they remain steadfast in the face of cultural invasions that often conflict with Islamic teachings.

In confronting these challenges, Muslims must build strong identity resilience, especially in a world that is increasingly open and influenced by forces from all directions. This identity resilience can be built through strong religious education in the family, schools, or Islamic educational institutions. As written by Nashwa Ezzat (2022) in her book *Islamic Education in the Globalized World*, deep religious education based on an authentic understanding of Islamic teachings can be a powerful tool to preserve Muslim identity, especially among the younger generation who are more vulnerable to the influence of globalization (Berkey, 2010).

In addition, the active role of scholars and religious leaders is greatly needed in providing clear guidance on how Muslims can remain steadfast in their religious principles without having to isolate themselves from contemporary changes. This is important to avoid extreme attitudes, such as rejecting all forms of change or being trapped in changes incompatible with Islamic teachings. As narrated by Imam Tirmidhi, the Prophet Muhammad SAW said, “Indeed, religion is easy, and no one overburdens themselves in religion except that it will defeat them.” (HR. Tirmidhi). This hadith reminds us that in dealing with globalization, Muslims must be wise in responding to changes without abandoning the essence of religious teachings .

Globalization also presents excellent opportunities for Muslims to introduce and spread Islamic values throughout the world. With the advent of technology, Islamic preaching (*dawah*) can be carried out more effectively, transcending national and cultural boundaries. Through social media and other digital platforms, Muslims can share knowledge, introduce a moderate Islamic lifestyle, and present positive examples of how Islam can coexist peacefully in plural societies. This demonstrates that globalization is not only a challenge but also an opportunity to strengthen Muslim identity in an increasingly interconnected world.

However, these opportunities must be utilized wisely so as not to fall into the negative influences of globalization that can erode religious values. In the Qur'an, Surah Al-Baqarah verse 286, Allah SWT says, *"Allah does not burden a soul beyond that it can bear."* This verse reminds Muslims not to feel burdened by globalization but rather to see it as an opportunity to grow and spread Islamic teachings in a relevant and wise manner.

Ultimately, Muslims need to continue deepening their understanding of Islamic teachings and values so that they can remain resilient amid the currents of globalization. The formation of a strong Muslim identity is not only an individual responsibility but also a collective one as part of a united Muslim community. By holding firmly to authentic Islamic teachings, Muslims can use globalization to strengthen their identity and continue to grow according to religious guidance.

With the following research questions: How does globalization affect the formation of Muslim identity? What factors influence the formation of Muslim identity in the era of globalization? And what strategies can be implemented to preserve Muslim identity amid globalization?

2. Method

This study employs the library research method, in which data collection is conducted through a review of literature in the form of journal articles, research reports, and books relevant to the topic of this paper. The author then examines and analyses these sources using content analysis through a descriptive approach. The next stage of this method involves organizing the data into a descriptive-analytical narrative by describing the collected data related to the study to identify the research results, culminating in a conclusive summary regarding the formation of Muslim identity in the era of globalization.

3. Result and Discussion

A. The Impact of Globalization on Muslim Identity

1. The Influence of Technology and Social Media on Muslim Perspectives

Globalization has significantly affected how Muslims view the world, primarily through the role of technology and social media. In recent decades, the internet and social media have become powerful tools for spreading information and ideas worldwide. Social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube have provided Muslims with wide access to share religious experiences, discuss Islamic teachings, and disseminate Islamic values. Technology has enabled Muslims to connect with Islamic communities worldwide in real-time, strengthening the global solidarity among Muslims often separated by national borders ('Adilah & Amelia, 2024).

However, on the other hand, the use of social media also has negative impacts on how Muslims perceive their faith. The vast amount of uncontrolled content on the internet, including misinformation or even content that contradicts Islamic teachings, can influence religious views and practices. For example, many young Muslims are exposed to information that introduces secular lifestyles, individualism, and consumerism, which often conflict with Islamic teachings. The book *Islam and the Digital Age: Challenges and Opportunities* (2020) by Omar Hamdan explains that the digital world has become a battleground for Islamic identity, where religion is contested in every discussion and debate in the digital public sphere.

Social media can also affect how Muslims perform worship, particularly in terms of dress, lifestyle, and moral values. On the positive side, many digital platforms are used for Islamic preaching and education, introducing Islamic culture to a broader audience. However, social media also promotes standards of beauty, success, and lifestyle not aligned with religious teachings. As Amina Wadud states in her book *Inside the Gender Jihad* (2019), the digital world opens up space for Muslims to interact with external values that may threaten their Islamic identity, especially when the presented content contradicts the moral values embedded in religion (Mulyadi, Diah Sartika, Hasrian Rudi Setiawan, 2023).

2. Cultural Shifts and Traditional Values

Globalization changes aspects of technology and information and significantly impacts the culture and traditional values within Muslim societies. For instance, in many Muslim communities, values such as collectivism, simplicity, and adherence to religious norms are

deeply rooted and passed down through generations. However, Western cultural influences brought by globalization promote values like individualism, personal freedom, and mass consumption, which often contradict these traditional values.

Cultural changes influenced by globalization often lead to tensions between modernity and tradition. In *Globalization and Its Discontents* (2020), Joseph E. Stiglitz notes that globalization frequently creates disparities between economically advanced countries and those that strive to preserve traditional values. In many Muslim countries, globalization introduces consumerist and capitalist cultures that prioritize material wealth and social status, potentially displacing spiritual values and a more straightforward, faith-based way of life (Abdullah, 2020).

A clear example of this cultural shift is the increasingly materialistic and secular lifestyle trend among young Muslims influenced by global pop culture. In *Islam and the West: The Making of an Image* (2021), Norman Daniel argues that globalization creates a gap between the religious values Muslims uphold daily and the lifestyle promoted by global consumerism. Lifestyles emphasizing extreme consumerism, personal pleasure, and individualism are becoming more dominant, especially in major cities that are more open to external influences.

This cultural change is also evident in how Muslims interact with religious symbols. In many places, materialistic culture is beginning to replace religion's role in daily life, which should serve as a moral and spiritual foundation. For example, many people are forgetting values such as social solidarity and simplicity taught in Islam, shifting toward more hedonistic and worldly values. In this context, the cultural shifts and traditional values brought by globalization pose a significant challenge for Muslims in maintaining their religious identity (Rofidah & Muhid, 2022).

B. Factors in the Formation of Muslim Identity

1. Religious Education and the Role of the Family

Religious education plays a crucial role in forming Muslim identity, as it lays the foundation for understanding the actual teachings of Islam and nurturing a sense of responsibility toward Islamic principles. In this context, the family is the first institution to

provide religious education from an early age. As the closest figures to children, parents play an essential role in instilling spiritual values and guiding them to live according to Islamic teachings (Khotimah, 1970).

Religious education at home involves teaching religious texts such as the Qur'an and Hadith and introducing daily spiritual practices, such as prayer, fasting, zakat, and interpersonal conduct. Imam Al-Ghazali, in his book *Ihya Ulumuddin*, stated that religious education beginning at home shapes children into individuals strong in faith, enabling them to live a blessed life under religious guidance. The family becomes where children learn about God, understand spiritual values, and relate their lives to the hereafter (Zuhby, 2021).

For example, many Muslims regard the family as the central pillar in shaping their identity, where parents provide academic education and instil an understanding of Islamic ethics, such as honouring parents, sharing with others, and living simply. In *Family and Islam: A Sociological Perspective* (2020), Siti Zubaidah writes that the family's role in teaching religion, preserving tradition, and guiding children to live by Islamic principles is vital in maintaining the integrity of Muslim identity in the face of modern challenges.

However, external influences such as peers and schools also affect the formation of Muslim identity. Although the family is dominant, formal religious education from institutions such as madrasahs or Islamic schools strengthens children's spiritual understanding and conviction. For example, good religious education at madrasahs can provide a solid foundation for understanding Islamic teachings more deeply and help overcome challenges from global culture that often conflict with Islam.

2. Social Environment and Community

In addition to religious education and family, the social environment plays a significant role in shaping Muslim identity. The society where a person grows and develops influences their spiritual outlook and self-identification as a Muslim. In Muslim societies, the social environment is often structured around religious values, creating a sense of belonging and solidarity among Muslims. A strong community can provide vital emotional and spiritual support in reinforcing an individual's religious identity.

According to research published in *Religious Identity in Globalized Societies* (2021) by Abdul Rahman al-Siddiqi, a social environment that upholds Islamic values can strengthen individual and collective spiritual bonds. In Muslim communities, religious activities such as study circles, prayer gatherings, and Islamic celebrations serve as forms of worship and as forums to strengthen community bonds. Here, the community becomes where individuals feel accepted and find their place within a larger social structure.

However, with globalization's influence, many Muslim societies are exposed to diverse views on religion, culture, and identity. Globalization can influence societal mindsets, introducing new values that conflict with established religious norms. In *Globalization and Its Impact on Religion* (2022), Amina Wadud states that while globalization promotes pluralism and openness, it can also create tension within Muslim communities grounded in strong religious and cultural values. The challenge lies in how Muslim communities can balance transparency to the outside world with preserving inherited traditional values.

Social environments that support religious and cultural diversity, while beneficial in enriching life experiences, can also pose difficulties for Muslims trying to remain aligned with Islamic teachings. Therefore, Muslims need to find communities that not only support diversity but also strengthen consistent Islamic practice. In Western countries, for example, Muslims often struggle to maintain their religious identity amidst increasing secularism and pluralism.

C. Strategies for Preserving Muslim Identity in the Era of Globalization

1. Strengthening Education Based on Islamic Values

Amid the intensifying currents of globalization, one of the most effective strategies for preserving Muslim identity is to strengthen education based on Islamic values. In-depth religious education relevant to contemporary challenges is key to shaping a generation of Muslims who are intellectually capable and firm in their faith and piety. When delivered with the right approach, Islamic education can help individuals understand Islamic teachings comprehensively and apply them in daily life. As Abdul Hakim Murad explains in *Islamic*



Education in the Modern World (2020), effective Islamic education must include holistic religious instruction, covering theoretical, practical, and ethical dimensions.

Islamic values-based education should begin early, from the family as the first institution introducing children to God and His teachings. This education should then be continued in Islamic educational institutions such as madrasahs, pesantren, and Islamic universities, which teach worldly and religious knowledge. In her book *The Role of Islamic Education in Modern Times* (2021), Siti Zubaidah states that education integrating religious and general knowledge will produce individuals capable of adapting to contemporary developments while maintaining strong faith to face globalization's challenges (Ali, 2019).

Strengthening Islamic values-based education also involves introducing the younger generation to Islam's rich intellectual tradition. This includes studying the thoughts of classical and contemporary scholars and applying Islamic principles to current social, political, and economic contexts. Such education can encourage youth to be more aware of their role as Muslims in the global community and more prepared to address the challenges of globalization that often conflict with religious values (Unik Hanifah Salsabila et al., 2021).

Furthermore, reinforcing Islamic education requires curriculum reform relevant to contemporary issues. Mohammad Hashim Kamali in *Islamic Education in the Modern World* (2020) emphasizes that effective Islamic education must address present-day challenges like pluralism, climate change, and technological advancement while remaining grounded in Islamic principles. Thus, Islamic education not only strengthens Muslim identity but also equips Muslims to contribute to building a more just and civilized global society (Jameelah, 1987).

2. Optimizing Technology for Da'wah and the Spread of Islam

In the globalization era, technology plays a vital role in spreading Islamic teachings and reinforcing Muslim identity. Technology, especially the internet and social media, offers excellent opportunities for Muslims to expand da'wah, reach broader audiences, and introduce Islamic values to the world. Digital platforms such as YouTube, Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook allow preachers and scholars to share Islamic teachings, host online study

sessions, and enlighten Muslims worldwide. In *Islamic Digital Media and Its Impact on Religious Identity* (2021), Abdullah Saeed explains that social media has become a significant means of spreading Islam, especially among youth who are more connected to the virtual world (Abdullah, 2020).

The use of technology in da'wah offers Muslims the chance to promote pure and authentic Islamic values amidst the unfiltered flow of information. Through digital da'wah, Muslims can present Islam as a peaceful, tolerant, and inclusive religion, countering negative stereotypes often portrayed by Western media. Mona Siddiqui in *Digital Islam: A New Era of Religious Communication* (2020) states that digital da'wah should prioritize messages of peace and tolerance to prevent Islam from being misunderstood or misrepresented by those unfamiliar with the faith.

However, optimizing technology for da'wah requires a careful approach, as the digital world is also filled with challenges such as hoaxes, hate speech, and content not aligned with Islamic teachings. Therefore, scholars and da'wah activists must provide educational, constructive, and Islamically appropriate content, avoiding divisive or hateful messages. In this context, technology can be a highly effective tool for reinforcing Muslim identity by providing space for Muslims to articulate their beliefs more widely and openly (Gellner, 2019).

Moreover, technology-driven da'wah can also facilitate religious learning and access to Islamic knowledge. Khaled Abou El Fadl in *Islam and the Digital Age: The Challenges and Opportunities* (2021) emphasizes that tech-based religious education can help Muslims in remote areas or those without access to formal religious institutions continue learning and deepening their understanding of Islam. In this way, technology not only aids in the spread of Islam but also enhances religious knowledge among Muslims.

Overall, revitalizing Islamic culture in a way that aligns with global contexts strengthens Muslim identity and enables Muslims to contribute to building a better world. By integrating Islam's universal values with modern developments, Muslims can demonstrate that Islam is a religion compatible with globalization and capable of offering solutions to contemporary personal, social, and global issues (Zain, 2020).

4. Conclusion

Globalization has brought significant changes to human life, including in the formation of religious identity, particularly for Muslims. Globalization, marked by advances in information technology, social media, and global cultural interaction, presents challenges and opportunities for Muslims to strengthen their identity amid rapid changes. Muslims face the threat of declining traditional values deeply rooted in Islamic culture. At the same time, they are allowed to utilize technology for da'wah and the dissemination of Islamic teachings.

The importance of education based on Islamic values becomes one of the key factors in maintaining a strong Muslim identity. Education that integrates religious knowledge and general sciences enables the Muslim generation to have a comprehensive understanding of Islamic teachings and equips them to face the challenges of globalization without losing their identity. In addition, optimizing technology for da'wah and the dissemination of Islam allows Muslims to spread messages of peace, tolerance, and justice throughout the world, bridging differences and building collective awareness of the importance of Islamic values in modern life.

Revitalizing Islamic culture relevant to the global context is also an important strategy to strengthen Muslim identity. By preserving and reintroducing Islamic traditions and values aligned with the developments of the times, Muslims can adapt to social changes without sacrificing the fundamental principles of religion. This process not only enriches the personal lives of Muslims but also enables them to contribute positively to an increasingly plural and diverse global society.

Overall, maintaining Muslim identity in the era of globalization requires a holistic approach involving education, technology, and the revitalization of Islamic culture. Through these strategies, Muslims can strengthen their identity, uphold the integrity of religious teachings, and remain relevant in facing contemporary challenges. This also demonstrates that Islam, as a religion full of mercy and solutions, can adapt to the changes of the times without losing its essence.

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