BUILDING RELIGIOUS AWARENESS THROUGH EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY IN THE ERA OF INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION 4.0

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Abstract

The industrial revolution became a challenge for someone who could not take advantage of it and became an opportunity to change the growth mindset for productive thinkers. This research aims to discuss efforts to build religious awareness through educational technology in the era of industrial revolution 4.0. This research will explore how technology can be used effectively to increase religious understanding and awareness at various levels of education, from elementary to highest levels. This research method uses library research using content analysis techniques. The research results to build religious awareness require three aspects: first, it requires integration between technology and religious values. Second, involving teachers and religious leaders in the use of educational technology. Third, providing broad access for all levels of society to educational technology. It is hoped that this research can serve as a guide for developing better religious education policies, as well as providing insight for educational practitioners, technology developers and the general public regarding the importance of technology in the Islamic religious context.

Keywords: religious awareness, education technology, industrial revolution

Introduction

In an increasingly advanced era, technology plays a crucial role in human life. In the era of globalization and the advancement of information technology, education holds a very important role in shaping individual character and religious awareness. The rapid development of technological science has made every field digital, including education (Pratikno, 2020). However, there are many negative aspects arising from the rapid technological development, such as gadget addiction, health issues, and other negative impacts (Fadhli et al., 2023). Amid the swift and diverse flow of information, the challenge of maintaining religious values, especially in the context of Islam, has become a focal point of concern. Educational technology can be defined as the utilization of technology and media in learning, both inside and

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outside the classroom. With educational technology, the learning process can be more engaging, effective, and interactive. The use of educational technology in the context of Islam can help increase religious awareness and understanding among Muslims.

Religious awareness is a crucial factor in human life, especially for Muslims. The importance of religious awareness in the context of Islam cannot be underestimated. Islam, as a comprehensive religious teaching, not only governs worship but also regulates aspects of daily life. Religious awareness can be understood as a deep and conscious understanding of the teachings of one’s faith. In the context of Islam, religious awareness includes an understanding of Islamic teachings that encompass worship, beliefs, morals, and behavior in accordance with Islamic values. Furthermore, religious awareness can be considered a religious activity or mental aspect, while religious experience refers to the elements of feeling and consciousness in religion, which are feelings that lead to the conviction resulting from actions (Wahyuni, 2019).

In the context of Islam, the role of educational technology in building religious awareness is highly important. The role of educational media technology in the teaching and learning process is an integral part of the education world (Alamsyah et al., 2023, p. 133). Educational technology can provide wider and easier access for Muslims to gain understanding and knowledge about their religion, whether through educational applications, social media, or online learning platforms. With educational technology, Muslims can easily access information about Islam, gain a deeper understanding of religious teachings, and strengthen their faith and piety. Therefore, building religious awareness through educational technology is a crucial step to ensure the continuity of Islam amid the ever-evolving tide of modernization.

Previous research relevant to this study includes the work conducted by Heru Pratikno titled "Building Awareness of Religious Education in Families in The Digital Age." Heru Pratikno explains the factors contributing to deviations in polite language use and how to implement courteous spoken language in accordance with religious education within the family environment (Pratikno, 2020). The results of this study indicate that the family is the primary environment for applying good and polite language usage in accordance with Islamic religious education

This research aims to investigate how educational technology can serve as an effective means of building religious awareness, particularly in the context of Islam. With dynamic changes in the form and methods of learning, technology becomes a tool that can expand the reach and deepen the understanding of religious values. Through in-depth analysis, this study will explore how technology can be effectively
integrated to enhance understanding and religious awareness at various levels of education, from elementary to advanced levels.

The problem statement to be addressed in this research is how educational technology can build religious awareness in the context of Islam. What are the benefits and challenges of using educational technology to build religious awareness in the context of Islam?

Educational technology in the context of Islamic religious education holds great potential, yet it is not without its challenges. One of the main challenges is how to integrate technology without compromising fundamental religious values. A careful approach is required to ensure that the content presented through technology remains consistent with Islamic teachings and does not deviate into secular content or contradict religious values. Educators and teachers must be able to utilize technology effectively so that materials can be delivered in an engaging and easily understandable manner for learners (Rani, 2023). Additionally, technology accessibility remains a critical factor. Many areas are still not fully covered by technology, so efforts are needed to ensure that the benefits of religious education through technology can be enjoyed by all Muslims, regardless of location or economic background.

Educational technology can provide a more interactive and enjoyable learning experience. Good education should yield optimal learning outcomes (Suyuti et al. 2023,). With educational technology, learning about Islam is no longer limited to conventional, monotonous, and boring teaching methods. Through interactive applications and platforms, learning about Islam can be presented in a more enjoyable and engaging way, such as through videos, games, and animations. This can make the younger generation more interested and enthusiastic about learning Islam. Digital technology has now become a key element in education, profoundly influencing all aspects of students’ experiences.

In this modern age, teaching Islam is no longer solely the responsibility of scholars; the community can also engage in preaching (Pimay & Savitri, 2021). Educational technology can expand the reach of Islamic preaching. With the presence of social media, preaching messages can be quickly and easily disseminated worldwide, without being limited by distance and time. This can broaden the scope of Islamic preaching and introduce Islam to more people. Additionally, educational technology can be utilized to conduct online classes and webinars that can be attended by people all over the world. Thus, Islamic preaching can be carried out on a mass scale and effectively.

Religious expression is the act of endeavoring and behaving to depict feelings, encompassing facial expressions, words, sounds, symbols, and conveying
impressions received related to religious experiences obtained both within the school, family, and society environment (Aprlia et al., 2023). Currently, the development of internet technology has made significant advancements in various fields, where each aspect has the potential to support human work and needs (Rahmanto et al., 2023). Educational technology can help build stronger religious awareness among communities. With educational technology, information about Islam can be disseminated quickly and widely, making it easier for people to acquire knowledge about Islam. Additionally, educational technology can facilitate people’s participation in religious activities, such as study groups, seminars, and worship, online. This can help busy individuals stay connected with Islam and strengthen their religious awareness.

The process of human religious awareness can be considered very unique when compared to other aspects of development. Religious awareness can be understood as a mental aspect that arises as a result of religious activities (Hanafi et al., 2022). Religious actions and awareness are driven by motivation. Motivation or the spiritual force of religion guides an individual’s activities in practicing their religious teachings. According to Dister, some motivations underlying individuals’ adherence to religion include fear, frustration, intellectuality, and morality. Frustration occurs when someone’s sense of frustration is caused by unmet needs or unattainable goals (Arifudin et al., 2019).

Educational technology, according to Hoba, is the combination of human elements, ideas, machinery, management, and procedures. This means that educational technology is a complex and integrated process that involves people, ideas, procedures, equipment, and organizations to analyze issues related to all aspects of human learning and then plan, implement, evaluate, and manage efforts to solve these problems (Aspi & Syahrani, 2022).

**Method**

This research was conducted using a qualitative descriptive method or literature review. Qualitative descriptive is a term used in qualitative research for a descriptive study (Yuliani, 2018). Data collection was carried out through brief reviews of experts’ views and the essence of previous research by reading, studying, and analyzing the contents of journals, articles, and books to support the author’s framework of thinking. By using this method, the author could obtain a deep understanding of existing knowledge and previous understandings in the development of religious awareness through the application of educational technology, particularly in the context of Islam.
Result and Discussion

1. Educational Technology Can Build Religious Awareness in The Era Of Industrial Revolution 4.0

The term technology is not unfamiliar to everyone. Today, in the modern world, it seems almost limitless. According to Non Syafriafdi, the use of technology is not only seen among adults or the educated, but has also started to extend to young children and even the general public (Syafriafdi, 2020). The technology in question includes laptops, mobile phones, computers, and so on. Religious awareness is the most fundamental characteristic of human nature (Langgulung, 1996). Religious awareness is always inherent and has a controlling function in human life (Daradjat, 1990). However, the primary function of religious awareness is the growth and development of human consciousness, which functions to evoke feelings of shame and guilt when mistakes are made (Prastyo, 2022). Religious awareness can influence a person’s behavior, decisions made, and willingness to respect or follow religious teachings (Pranoto & Romadhona, 2023).

Education is an important aspect of human life. With good education, a person can enhance their knowledge and skills to achieve success in various fields. Ultimately, education aims to enrich the individual as a whole, enabling them to play an active role in society, become responsible citizens, and foster a sense of unity (Nuraeni & Poline, 2019). However, many e-learning platforms today tend to focus on secular content and rarely present materials based on Islamic values. E-learning is a form of information technology applied in education in a virtual format that is not constrained by space and time (Mumthaza et al., 2021).

The emergence of e-learning platforms offering education with an Islamic approach is a much-needed solution. These platforms provide educational content aimed not only at enhancing knowledge and skills but also at developing spiritual and moral values in accordance with Islamic teachings. Islamic e-learning platforms offer a variety of materials across different fields such as Arabic language, religious studies, arts and culture, science and technology, and humanities, all with an Islamic approach that emphasizes the noble aspects of faith, ethics, and morality. These platforms can provide discussion forums, interactive quizzes, and collaborative projects that enable active learner engagement in the learning process and sharing their understanding of Islamic teachings (Nursyahidin et al., 2021).

E-learning platforms enable educators to present materials in engaging ways using various methods, such as incorporating gamification elements or different types of media (Mukhid et al., 2023). By using e-learning platforms, learners can more easily access religious materials. These contents can include lessons on religion, morality, ethics, and Islamic values relevant to current events. According to
Nurdiansyah and Eni Fariyatul Fahyuni (Nurdyansyah & Fahyuni, 2016) the characteristics of e-learning include:

a. Utilizing electronic technology services to facilitate communication between teachers and learners, among learners themselves, or among teachers, in a simple and efficient manner.

b. Optimizing the advantages of computers, such as digital media and computer networks.

c. Leveraging self-paced learning materials stored on computers, allowing flexible access for teachers and learners anytime and anywhere according to their needs.

d. Using computers to view learning schedules, track learning progress, access curricula, and obtain educational administrative information at any time.

E-learning provides learners the opportunity to study independently, review difficult materials, or explore additional content that aligns with their interests. Developing smart applications that focus on Islamic religious aspects can encompass various features and functionalities to add value for Muslim users. The development of smartphone applications has created a wide range of educational implementations through highly diverse apps (Bunyamin et al., 2020). Utilizing Islamic educational applications is a modern solution to meet the needs of religious learning. Through the application of technology, these apps provide easy and quick access for users to deepen their understanding of Islamic teachings. Online learning platforms, mobile applications, and religious education software enable learners to interact by watching sermons, listening to Quran recitations, or participating in interactive quizzes, making learning more engaging and enriching the educational experience (Kholiq, 2023).

Islamic educational applications can offer a number of features, including religious quizzes, information about worship practices, and moral guidance. Advances in technology provide significant opportunities for educators to innovate. This also presents an opportunity to become professional educators by utilizing various technology-based media (Pane, 2023). The use of these applications is expected to enhance understanding and religious awareness. Users can participate in online classes, webinars, or interactive sermons guided by renowned scholars, either live or by watching class recordings. Digital Quran apps equipped with translation options in various languages, as well as reading or audio features, can help users understand and listen to Quranic verses.

This Islamic educational application aims to support the enhancement of Islamic understanding and to elevate an individual’s spiritual dimension. In a busy life full of worldly activities, one can continuously interact with the Islamic
application installed on their device, anywhere and anytime, to enrich their Islamic insights. The goal is to improve Islamic understanding by providing users with access to comprehend the principles of Islam, including teachings, values, and religious practices. This Islamic educational application should feature necessary tools for Muslims to perform their religious duties, such as a complete guide to prayer with procedures and supplications recited during prayers, prayer time reminders, and accurate adhan times that can be adjusted to the user's location. There is significant potential in using Islamic educational applications to enhance religious understanding and awareness among Muslims. By offering relevant and beneficial features, this application can serve as an efficient learning tool. Therefore, the utilization and development of smart and ethical Islamic educational applications have the potential to make a significant contribution to addressing educational challenges and deepening religious understanding in contemporary times.

In today's era, communication technology is rapidly advancing, and social media has become a new paradigm for addressing religious expression issues in Indonesia. Social media is now inseparable from internet usage. The role of social media is diverse, including social interaction, commerce, information seeking, and serving as a platform for religious preaching (Syarifuddin & Fauziah, 2021). By utilizing social media, religious messages can be disseminated and accessed more easily by many people. Religious communities can grow and interact actively, enhancing religious awareness through positive discussions and dialogues. The potential of social media as a platform for studies, online lectures, and religious dissemination can be effectively utilized (Juniarti Iryani, 2023). Social media platforms such as YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, and others provide opportunities for Muslims to preach more effectively and efficiently. Using social media as a tool to spread religious messages allows reaching a wider and more diverse audience.

Educators and the community can utilize social media as a means to broaden understanding of religious moderation through simple and easily understandable educational content, with the aim of avoiding confusion (Shabur & Siddiki, 2024). The use of social media facilitates access to and dissemination of religious messages to various people. Additionally, social media also facilitates positive interaction and dialogue among different religious communities. However, it is important to remember that the use of social media can bring negative impacts, such as the spread of inaccurate information or hoaxes. Therefore, it is important for social media users to always verify the accuracy of information before sharing it and to maintain ethics while interacting and discussing on these platforms.
Social media serves various functions such as communication, entertainment, knowledge enhancement, and much more (Wulandari, 2021). Through social media, Muslims can easily and quickly access religious information. Various types of educational content and lecture videos can be easily disseminated through social media. This can enhance religious understanding and facilitate Muslims in delving further into Islamic teachings. Through social media, the spread of religious messages can quickly reach various regions and countries. Religious content shared by prominent religious figures can be accessed by Muslims worldwide, shaping a broader and global understanding of Islamic teachings.

2. Benefit of Educational Technology in Building Religious Awareness

The role of educational technology is crucial in shaping religious awareness within society. In today’s digital era, technology has become an integral part of daily life, including in the field of education. By leveraging technological advancements, we can enhance individuals’ understanding, interaction, and engagement with religious matters. Technology offers the following benefits (Salsabilla et al., 2021):

a. It provides learners with opportunities to interact and socialize directly with their surroundings.
b. It facilitates the achievement of learning objectives.
c. It assists educators in designing learning materials.
d. It enhances time efficiency for educators.
e. It encourages learners to delve deeper into understanding online materials.
f. It makes learning more engaging and inspires learners’ enthusiasm for learning.
g. It delivers information or learning materials promptly and allows learners to revisit them if needed.
h. It facilitates the dissemination of information and learning materials to all learners simultaneously.
i. It assists learners in the learning process anytime and anywhere as long as they are connected to the internet.
j. It empowers educators to manage learners’ situations and achievements, even in remote learning formats

Learning will be successful if instructional media are chosen appropriately and tailored to the advancements in science, technology, and the arts (Yanto, 2019). The utilization of technology enables the creation of more engaging and interactive religious learning materials. The use of multimedia, including video, audio, and animation, can contribute to conveying religious concepts in a more engaging and understandable manner. This has a positive impact on the level of engagement and the ability of learners to remember and understand information about religion. Student engagement reflects the energy and effort they invest in their learning community, which can be measured through various indicators of overall behavioral, cognitive, and emotional engagement (Bedenlier et al., 2020).
The multimedia approach in the learning process involves the use of various types of media to convey information, such as text, video, images, audio, and animation (Fitri et al., 2019). This approach aims to provide variation in presenting materials, so that learners with different learning styles can better understand the learning concepts. The combination of text, images, and audio or video elements has the potential to enhance information absorption. Humans tend to remember information more easily when presented in multimedia format than text alone. Religious messages conveyed through multimedia can create a deeper and more memorable impression.

Educational technology enhances accessibility to religious resources. Learners experience increased ease of access to Islamic religious education materials through online platforms (Oktavia & Khotimah, 2023). Through online learning platforms, individuals can access religious studies, lecture recordings, and share religious education materials from various locations around the world. This helps broaden religious knowledge, especially for those living in remote areas or difficult to reach by traditional educational facilities. By expanding access to religious education, communities can strengthen interfaith understanding. This has the potential to reduce tensions and enhance tolerance among different religious groups, shaping a more harmonious society.

Social media has become an effective tool for enhancing religious awareness. Through online religious communities, discussion groups, and forums on platforms like Instagram, Facebook, and others, individuals can share religious views, ask questions, and learn from one another. This creates a virtual environment where people can interact, discuss religious issues, and deepen their understanding (Shabur & Siddiki, 2024). Learning through social media allows learners to access information and learning materials with freedom of time and place. This provides greater flexibility in scheduling, learning location, supporting both distance learning and self-learning. Social media enables the rapid and widespread dissemination of religious information. Religious leaders can use this platform to convey religious teachings, provide deeper understanding of religious concepts, and offer contextual religious education. Through various types of content such as videos, images, and other multimedia resources, religious information can be accessible to the public. Religious quotes, inspirational stories, and moral messages shared through social media have the potential to serve as sources of motivation and spiritual reinforcement.

Educational technology creates online learning platforms that can be accessed by anyone, anywhere. This allows individuals from various backgrounds and locations to access religious knowledge globally (Balta & Hamza, 2017).
technology, Muslims can learn at their convenience, whenever and wherever they want. This supports self-directed learning and provides freedom for individuals to schedule their learning time according to their own schedules. Through webinars and virtual events, Muslims can interact directly with religious leaders. This creates a deeper experience and facilitates dialogue between the community and religious leaders. The use of technology in delivering educational content can support the presentation of religious concepts more clearly and comprehensively. These materials aim to help Muslims understand religious teachings more deeply (Salsabilla et al., 2021).

Educational technology is able to provide automatic translation features, allowing Muslims to access materials in their native languages. This opens access to global religious resources without language barriers. The utilization of technology enables participation in webinars and religious events that support the use of multiple languages (Salsabilla et al., 2021). This ensures that religious messages can be reached by a global audience without being hindered by language differences. Question and answer sessions with religious figures or scholars can be conducted with the assistance of translators to respond to questions from the community using different languages. The utilization of educational technology has great potential to shape a society that is more aware of religious values. However, the use of this technology must be balanced with a wise approach, upholding the integrity of religious values and ensuring that technology is used as a tool to achieve religious goals.

3. Challenges of Educational Technology in Building Religious Awareness

Overcoming challenges in integrating educational technology to foster religious awareness can be a complex task that requires careful consideration. Although technology has great potential to enhance understanding and practice of religion, various challenges may arise. One of the main challenges is presenting content that aligns with religious principles and values (Hanafi et al., 2022). Content creators need to ensure that materials delivered through educational technology adhere to religious teachings and do not deviate from true religious values. Before producing content, an important step is conducting in-depth research and consulting with religious experts. This aims to ensure accurate understanding of the doctrines and principles of the religion involved.

In this age of technology, the role of teachers is crucial. Therefore, the presence of qualified teachers or educators is very important to lead the country towards a better future (Pradana & Nasution, 2023). Although technology can provide additional resources, the role of teachers remains crucial in providing guidance and deep understanding of religious values. Not all teachers have the same level of
technological skills. Some may feel less confident or have limited experience in using technology in the learning process. Therefore, the solution to this problem is to organize training and professional development to improve the technological skills of teachers. Encouraging collaboration among teachers to share their experiences and knowledge is also essential (van Laar et al., 2020).

Accessibility challenges still exist in some areas, especially in rural areas, posing obstacles to the implementation of information technology in Islamic education. Limitations in internet connectivity, lack of access to technological devices, and insufficient power supply need to be addressed efficiently (Wahyono, 2023). Students in underdeveloped areas or communities with low accessibility may not have adequate devices or stable internet connections. Religious teachings are often associated with specific languages. The availability of content in various languages can be challenging for individuals who do not master the main language. The solution to this problem is to translate content into various languages to enhance accessibility.

Excessive reliance on technology in efforts to build religious awareness can pose challenges and impacts that need to be considered (Alchamdani et al., 2020). Although technology can be an effective tool, overuse can bring risks in various aspects. Information and communication technology has advanced in recent years. This progress can be observed through the transformation of ordinary phones into sophisticated smart devices, such as smartphones. Smartphones have more advanced technology compared to ordinary phones, indicating that smartphones are telecommunication devices with capabilities equivalent to computers. Generally, smartphones are equipped with large displays and operating systems capable of running specific and general applications. An individual's dependence on a smartphone does not arise suddenly but is often triggered by various factors. One factor that can trigger addictive behavior is comfort, referring to the feeling of comfort experienced by someone when using the device. The impact of excessive dependence behavior on smartphones can manifest in the form of stress experienced by individuals due to this technology (Hadi, 2020).

The limitation in understanding technology in developing religious awareness often becomes a challenge faced in various communities (Alchamdani et al., 2020). Although technology has the potential as an effective tool to enhance religious understanding, some people may encounter obstacles in understanding or accessing such technology. Many individuals, especially in remote areas or with low levels of education, may lack adequate technological understanding or access to digital devices. Schools or religious institutions may not yet fully integrate technology into religious education. Online religious services have significant benefits, but
individuals with limited technological understanding may struggle to access them. Some members of society may not yet realize the advantages of using technology to deepen their religious understanding (Anwar et al., 2018). Addressing the limitation in technological understanding for shaping religious awareness requires a comprehensive approach involving training, education, and community support. The community needs to be educated about the benefits of technology and how to use it wisely in the religious context. By working together, we can ensure that everyone, regardless of their level of technological literacy, can experience the positive benefits of technology in enriching their religious experience.

The use of technology can create imbalance in religious understanding. Although someone may have extensive technological knowledge, the lack of deep understanding of religious values poses a significant challenge in integrating technology into religion. Imbalance in religious understanding and technology also has the potential to affect everyday religious practices. While someone may use technology for religious purposes, a lack of understanding of religious values can diminish the depth of religious experience. The impact can be seen in religious practices that tend to be formalistic and lack meaning. It is important to acknowledge that technology should serve as an aid, not a replacement, in understanding and practicing religious values. Therefore, efforts are needed to align the use of technology with the primary goal of enriching religious understanding. Training and education covering both technological aspects and religious values can help address this imbalance.

**Conclusion**

Increasing religious awareness through educational technology in the context of Islam poses both challenges and opportunities that can create a society more conscious of religious values. With the advancement of information and communication technology, the utilization of digital media and Islamic educational applications becomes increasingly important to strengthen the religious understanding of Muslims. When developing and implementing Islamic educational technology, several aspects need to be considered to ensure the success and sustainability of these efforts. Firstly, there needs to be a reasonable integration between technology and religious values. This requires a deep understanding of Islamic teachings and the needs of the community so that technology can be used as a tool to enrich religious understanding, rather than replacing it. The development of Islamic educational applications and online platforms must ensure that the content presented aligns with religious teachings and provides additional benefits to its users. Secondly, the involvement of religious teachers and figures in utilizing
Educational technology is crucial. Teachers can play a key role in guiding and ensuring that students have a deep understanding of religious values. Training and support are needed for educators to effectively integrate technology into religious instruction. The Islamic education system can also utilize webinars, online seminars, or specialized platforms to enhance teachers' competence in the optimal use of technology. Additionally, accessibility is a key aspect in ensuring access to religious educational technology for all layers of society. Furthermore, accessibility is a key aspect in ensuring access to religious educational technology for all layers of society. Limitations in accessibility in remote areas or in communities with low levels of education need to be addressed by providing infrastructure, training, and adequate assistance to ensure that everyone has an equal opportunity to use religious educational technology. Awareness of the dangers of unwise technology use also needs to be instilled in society. This includes understanding the negative impacts such as content that is inconsistent with religious teachings, the spread of false information, or technology addiction. Building religious awareness through educational technology in the context of Islam involves cooperation between religion, education, and technology. By considering these aspects, society can derive maximum benefits from the use of technology to deepen religious understanding and cultivate a generation more conscious of religious values.

References


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