Fatwa and Virtual Reality: The *Maqāṣid al-Sharīʿah* Perspective on the Metaverse and Virtual Life

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Abstract: This study aims to explore the relevance of *Maqāṣid al-Sharīʿah* in facing the challenges and opportunities presented by the Metaverse, as well as offering an adaptive Islamic legal framework for the virtual world. In an increasingly complex digital era, challenges such as the spread of false information, identity manipulation, digital addiction, economic exploitation, and negative impacts on family relationships have become major issues that require a Shariah-based approach. A literature analysis method was used to review previous relevant and in-depth studies on *Maqāṣid al-Sharīʿah*, digital technology, and contemporary issues in the Metaverse. The results showed that *Maqāṣid al-Sharīʿah* could be flexibly applied in five main dimensions, namely protection of religion (*al-dīn*), life (*al-nafs*), reason (*al-ʿaql*), offspring (*al-nas*l), and property (*al-māl*). Protection of religion includes the development of virtual spaces that support interactive education and da'wah. The dimension of life includes the psychological well-being of technology users through moderation and digital literacy, while reason emphasises the importance of information verification to prevent hoaxes and manipulation. The protection of offspring focuses on Islamic-based platforms to support children education and strengthen family values. The property dimension underscores the need for Shariah regulation in digital economic transactions to ensure fairness and transparency. In conclusion, *Maqāṣid al-Sharīʿah* is not only relevant but also capable of becoming an ethical and normative foundation for creating an ethical, inclusive Metaverse ecosystem consistent with Islamic values. This study also opens up opportunities for further investigations on the practical implementation of Islamic law in the virtual world.

Introduction

The development of digital technology has brought humanity into a new era marked by the emergence of a virtual space known as the Metaverse (Nelson et al., 2024). The Metaverse is a virtual environment that enables human interaction in the form of digital avatars, covering social, economic, and educational activities (Kamalov et al., 2023). This advancement provides various opportunities, but also poses significant ethical, legal, and social challenges, especially in the context of diversity and Islamic law (Triantoro et al., 2023).

In Islam, the application of Sharia law is not only based on normative texts, but also considers the main objectives of Sharia, known as Maqāṣid al-Sharīʿah (Sukron et al., 2025).

Maqasid al-Shariah is the foundation that guides the application of Islamic law in new and complex situations with the main objective of protecting five key aspects: protection of religion (*al-dīn*), life (*al-nafs*), reason (*al-ʿaql*), offspring (*al-nasl*), and property (*al-māl*) (Mursyid Fikri, 2024). These five aspects are not only pillars in understanding Islamic law, but also provide an analytical framework for evaluating new dynamics arising from technology, including the Metaverse. However, although this framework has the flexibility to be adapted, so far there have been few studies that directly link Maqasid al-Syariah with the phenomenon of the virtual world (World Economic Forum, 2025).

Several preliminary studies have begun to explore issues related to virtual interactions and their implications for Islamic law. For example, a study by Mursyid Fikri (2024) explores the validity of virtual marriage in the context of Sharia, using a qualitative approach through document analysis and interviews with scholars and technology experts. The results show that Islamic law has the flexibility to accommodate marriage practices in the virtual world, provided that certain conditions are met. This research is a significant starting point, although it is still limited to the case of marriage. Additionally, other studies provide further insights into the importance of Islamic values in facing modern changes (Bashori et al., 2021). For example, research by highlights the importance of integrating Islamic principles into counselling to support psychological well-being. This indicates the need to consider spiritual and ethical dimensions in various aspects of modern life, including interactions in virtual spaces. Other research, such as that conducted by Wahyu Sugiarto (2022), also highlights the importance of maintaining Islamic values in the context of digital-based education, which is relevant in discussions about virtual worlds such as the Metaverse (Triantoro et al., 2023). In the context of the Metaverse, various opportunities and challenges arise alongside activities such as social interaction, education, economic transactions, and worship. However, there are also risks such as the spread of misinformation, manipulation, and harmful psychological effects. Therefore, the application of Maqāṣid al-Sharīʿah is important to provide ethical and legal guidance that can help Muslims deal with the complexities of this virtual world.

This paper aims to compile a literature review that examines the relevance and application of Maqasid al-Syariah in dealing with the phenomenon of the Metaverse and virtual life. By integrating various studies related to Islamic law, digital ethics, and other contemporary issues, this study provides an initial overview of how Islam can respond to the challenges and take advantage of the opportunities offered by the development of digital technology.

Methods

This research was conducted to explore the relevance and application of Maqāṣid al-Sharīʿah in facing the phenomenon of the Metaverse and virtual life. The main focus of the research is to understand how the principles of Maqāṣid al-Sharīʿah, which include the protection of religion (*al-dīn*), life (*al-nafs*), reason (*al-ʿaql*), offspring (*al-nasl*), and property (*al-māl*) (Abdullah, 2018), can be applied to assess and provide guidance on various activities that occur in the virtual world. This research identifies the ethical, legal, and social challenges arising from the development of digital technology, as well as the opportunities that can be exploited by Muslims in the context of the Metaverse.

This study aims to examine the relevance of the principles of Maqāṣid al-Sharīʿah in assessing the phenomenon of virtual life, identifying the challenges and opportunities presented by the Metaverse, and developing a conceptual framework based on Maqasid al-Syariah that can provide ethical and legal guidance for Muslims in adapting to technological developments. Using a qualitative approach based on literature review, this study integrates insights from various academic sources, including indexed journals, books, fatwas, and relevant legal documents, as well as case studies on the use of digital technology in an Islamic context.

Data collection techniques were conducted through literature studies, document analysis, and case study reviews. The literature study involved a review of previous research on Islamic law, digital ethics, Maqāṣid al-Sharīʿah, and the Metaverse. Document analysis was conducted on fatwas, regulations, and legal documents related to virtual interactions and technology. The case study review included a study of the application of digital technology in economic transactions, social interactions, and religious practices.

The collected data was analysed using content analysis and thematic interpretation methods. The analysis process began with the identification of key themes in the literature relevant to the protection of religion (*al-dīn*), life (*al-nafs*), reason (*al-ʿaql*), offspring (*al-nasl*), and property (*al-māl*). These themes were then categorised within the Maqasid al-Syariah framework to evaluate their relevance to the challenges and opportunities in the virtual world. A comparative approach was used to compare various Islamic legal perspectives and scholars' views on issues arising in the context of the Metaverse. These findings were then synthesised to develop a conceptual framework that supports the research objectives.

This approach enables the research to produce a more comprehensive understanding of how Islamic law, particularly Maqāṣid al-Sharīʿah, can be applied in dealing with the Metaverse phenomenon. This research is expected to make a significant scientific contribution to the development of Islamic studies related to digital technology, as well as offering practical guidance for Muslims in utilising the virtual world ethically and in accordance with the principles of Shariah.

Result and Discussion

The results of this study indicate that Maqasid al-Shariah has a highly flexible capacity to be adapted in facing the challenges and opportunities presented by the Metaverse. As a normative framework of Islamic law, Maqāṣid al-Sharīʿah provides relevant guidance for evaluating various dimensions of the Metaverse, including social interaction, economic transactions, education, and religious practices. The core principles, which include the protection of religion (*al-dīn*), life (*al-nafs*), reason (*al-ʿaql*), offspring (*al-nasl*), and property (*al-māl*), can be used to mitigate risks and support the optimal use of technology in the context of Sharia.

A literature review reveals that several previous studies have touched on issues related to digital life, although they have not explicitly discussed the application of Maqāṣid al-Sharīʿah in the Metaverse. For example, research by shows that virtual marriage practices can be accepted within the framework of Islamic law by adjusting the applicable pillars and conditions. This indicates that Islamic law has sufficient flexibility to respond to technological developments, provided that the core values of Sharia are upheld. Another study by Wahyu Sugiarto (2022) highlights the importance of preserving Islamic values in digital-based education, with a focus on the impact of technology on the psychological and intellectual development of the younger generation. Othman (2019) provides additional insights into the importance of integrating Islamic principles in supporting psychological well-being, which is relevant in the context of virtual interactions in the Metaverse.

Another study by (Sandia Mohamed Ali AlMelaih AlFzari, 2024) provides a general perspective on the impact of the metaverse on Muslim life, but does not discuss in depth the application of maqasid al-Shariah in the context of the virtual world and the metaverse. The concept of *maqāṣid* is only mentioned briefly without detailed explanations of how these principles can be integrated into more specific metaverse practices, such as virtual marriage and virtual trade. A study conducted by the Islamic Law and Technology Centre discusses trade and transactions in the metaverse from an Islamic law perspective, but its focus is limited to *muamalah* (economic transactions) without considering the social or spiritual dimensions. This article places greater emphasis on the financial and legal aspects of transactions in the virtual world without considering the broader aspects of maqasid al-Syariah, such as the protection of descendants, the preservation of religion, and social welfare. Research by Anisa Mawarni (2023) examines the possibility of career counselling services in the metaverse from an Islamic perspective, as part of the transformation of the world of work and social services in the digital age, but is limited to the service aspect alone. This research has not examined the stability of digital identity and the implications of maqasid such as the protection of reason and soul.

Key Challenges in the Metaverse and the Importance of a Sharia Approach

Besides the opportunities offered by the metaverse, this study also highlights several significant challenges that demand careful attention, especially from the perspective of Islamic law and Maqasid al-Shariah values. The dangers of spreading false information, identity manipulation, digital addiction, economic exploitation, and harm to family relationships are major concerns that could undermine social and moral order at both individual and community levels. If not addressed wisely, these challenges could turn the Metaverse into a space that is unsafe and unjust, diverging from Islamic principles.

One of the main challenges identified is the risk of spreading false information and identity manipulation, which can affect the integrity of individuals and communities in virtual spaces. Deepfake technology, a specific application of AI that can alter images and audio to produce false content, increases the risk of privacy violations and identity theft. The ability of this technology to convincingly imitate someone has serious consequences, such as damage to reputation, emotional distress due to harassment, and financial extortion. In addition, deepfakes can be a very powerful tool for spreading misinformation, further blurring the line between fact and fiction. (Mousa Al-kfairy, 2024)

In Islam, honesty is a fundamental principle, as stated in the hadith of the Prophet Muhammad PBUH: "*Leave what you doubt and take what you do not doubt, for honesty leads to peace of mind, and lying leads to doubt.*" (Narrated by Tirmidzi). In the context of the Metaverse, this principle requires users to be cautious in disseminating or receiving information, as well as ensuring that the virtual identities they use reflect truth and integrity.

The manipulation of identities that often occurs in the virtual world not only affects trust between users, but also has the potential to trigger social conflict. For example, false identities can be used to spread extremist ideologies or provocative content that contradicts Islamic teachings. In the Qur'an, Allah warns: "*And do not follow that of which you have no knowledge...*" (QS. Al-Isra: 36). This verse underlines the importance of verifying information and exercising caution in responding to every interaction, including in the virtual world.

Digital addiction is also a significant threat in the use of the Metaverse. Virtual reality (VR) can trigger addiction mechanisms, meaning that technologies such as the Metaverse are not only a medium of entertainment but can also be a medium that triggers addiction. Research shows that high exposure to the virtual world is negatively correlated with mental health. (Muslihati, 2023) From an Islamic perspective, maintaining physical and mental health is part of protecting life (nafs), which is one of the main objectives of Maqāṣid al-Sharīʿah. As stated in QS. Al-Baqarah verse 195: "*And do not throw yourselves into destruction...*" This verse emphasises the importance of avoiding behaviours that can harm oneself, including uncontrolled technology addiction.

In addition, economic exploitation through digital transactions in the Metaverse poses another challenge that requires Sharia-based regulation. A study mapping criminal risks in the metaverse identified various threats, including financial fraud, money laundering through

digital assets, and economic exploitation of virtual platforms. These findings clarify our understanding of which crimes are the most (and least) dangerous and most likely to be facilitated by the metaverse. (Juliana Gomez-Quintero, 2024)

In Islam, justice in economic transactions is strongly emphasised, as stated in Surah An-Nisa verse 29: "*O you who believe, do not consume one another's wealth unjustly*..." In the context of the metaverse, this principle requires supervision of digital currencies, virtual property, and investments to ensure that all economic activities are conducted transparently and in accordance with the principles of Islamic justice. Without adequate regulation, this virtual space can become fertile ground for fraud, usury, and unfair economic activities.

The negative impact on family relationships is also a major concern in this study. Excessive interaction in the virtual world often reduces the quality of communication within the family, isolates individuals, and even causes relationship breakdowns. The pervasive presence of social media in the lives of adolescents makes the task of parenting more difficult, as adolescents are constantly exposed to and highly dependent on social media in their daily activities. The results of the study show that adolescents whose parents monitor them more often, set limits, or discuss social media use with them, especially with a non-authoritarian approach that supports their independence, tend to spend less time on social media and do not experience as many problems related to social media use (e.g., addiction, difficulty controlling use, or being influenced by negative content).

In the Qur'an, the importance of maintaining family relationships is emphasised in Surah An-Nisa verse 1: "...*And fear Allah, in whose name you ask one another, and (preserve) the ties of kinship*..." This verse emphasises the responsibility of each individual to maintain harmony in the family, including ensuring that technology does not interfere with family bonds.

The Role of Maqāṣid al-Sharīʿah in Addressing the Challenges of the Metaverse

The development of digital technology, particularly in the form of the Metaverse, has opened up new opportunities in various aspects of life, including in the field of religion. Along with the enormous potential offered by this virtual space, protecting religious values, especially Islam, is very important. In this context, the Metaverse can be used as a means to strengthen faith, spread religious education, and build a global Muslim community. However, despite its positive potential, the Metaverse also presents challenges related to the misuse of digital space, such as the spread of content that contradicts Islamic teachings. Therefore, efforts are needed to create a safe, inclusive ecosystem that supports da'wah and the development of Islamic values in the virtual world.

Religious protection (*dīn*) is a very important element in ensuring that the Metaverse can be used as a means to strengthen faith and Islamic values. The Metaverse offers great potential for spreading religious education, building a global Muslim community, and

supporting cross-cultural dialogue. However, this virtual space is also vulnerable to misuse, such as the spread of extremist ideologies or content that is not in accordance with Islamic teachings. Religious practices in the Metaverse are accepted by some Muslims as a form of technological adaptation, especially for religious education and the dissemination of religious knowledge, as long as these practices do not weaken theological meaning (Henky Fernando, 2025). Therefore, it is important to create a Metaverse ecosystem that is not only safe and inclusive but also supports da'wah and the development of Islamic values.

This study emphasises that the challenges presented by the Metaverse cannot be ignored. Instead, these challenges should be used as opportunities to develop a legal and ethical framework based on Maqāṣid al-Sharīʿah. By ensuring that every aspect of the Metaverse is designed and used in accordance with Islamic values, Muslims can utilise this technology productively while maintaining their religious, moral, and social integrity. This research also paves the way for further exploration of how Islamic law can be comprehensively applied to address the challenges of this digital age.

The protection of life (*al-nafs*) as one of the main objectives in Maqāṣid al-Sharīʿah has very important relevance in the context of digital interaction. This principle includes efforts to maintain the physical, psychological, and emotional health of individuals in order to remain in a healthy balance. In the digital age, the psychological impact of technology use is often overlooked, even though, in reality, technology that is not managed wisely can have serious consequences, such as addiction, social isolation, and mental stress. Research, shows that uncontrolled use of digital technology contributes to a decline in psychological well-being, especially among the younger generation. This data provides strong empirical evidence that protecting the nafs in the digital world requires special attention.

In Islam, the importance of protecting human life is emphasised in the Qur'an, as Allah says: "*Whoever saves the life of one person, it is as if he has saved the lives of all mankind*." (QS. Al-Maidah: 32). This verse emphasises the high value of human life and the responsibility to protect it from all forms of threats, including those arising from excessive use of technology. In this context, psychological well-being is an integral part of life that must be preserved. Intensive digital interaction without boundaries can disrupt emotional balance, trigger stress, anxiety, or even depression, all of which have the potential to damage an individual's quality of life.

An Islamic values-based approach is important in managing interactions in the digital world so that they are in line with Islamic values (Ikhsan Setiawan, 2025). For example, instilling the values of wasathiyah (moderation) has proven to be relevant as a guide for the use of digital media. (The Prophet Muhammad PBUH said: "*The best of matters is that which is moderate*." (Narrated by Ahmad). This hadith emphasises the importance of moderation in all aspects of life, including the use of technology. Therefore, Muslims are encouraged to use technology wisely, not excessively, and in accordance with productive goals.

Practical guidelines for maintaining a balance between technology use and mental health can include education on Islamic-based digital literacy, setting limits on digital device usage, and creating digital spaces that support spiritual reflection. Digital literacy accompanied by an understanding of Islamic values can help individuals not only avoid addiction but also utilise technology to strengthen their faith, expand their religious knowledge, and build healthy social relationships. In addition, digital platforms can be designed with features that encourage balance, such as usage time reminders, content that supports mental health, and access to Sharia-based counselling resources.

The importance of promoting productive use of technology is also closely related to the purpose of a Muslim's life, which is to be a caliph on earth. In Surah Al-Baqarah verse 30, Allah says: "*Verily, I am going to make a caliph on earth.*" As caliphs, humans have a responsibility to use all resources, including technology, for noble and beneficial purposes. Digital technology, including the Metaverse, can be utilised to support religious education, build an inclusive community, or create sharia-based economic opportunities. However, all of this can only be achieved if technology is used with full awareness of moral and spiritual responsibilities.

This study emphasises that protecting the nafs is not limited to physical health, but also includes efforts to maintain mental health in the face of the challenges of the digital world. By applying an Islamic value-based approach, individuals and communities can maintain balance in their use of technology while maintaining a good quality of life. This research also opens up opportunities for the development of Sharia-based policies and programmes that support the psychological well-being of Muslims in the digital age. Through clear guidance and proper implementation, Muslims can utilise technology productively and healthily, in accordance with Islamic principles that uphold the value of life.

The protection of reason (*al-ʿaql*) in Maqāṣid al-Sharīʿah is a fundamental element that aims to maintain the human ability to think healthily, critically, and rationally. In the context of the Metaverse, this principle becomes increasingly important given the vastness of the digital space that allows for the spread of false information, manipulation of public opinion, and distortion of facts that can damage social harmony. The Qur'an emphasises the importance of using reason correctly in understanding reality, as stated in Surah Al-Baqarah verse 269: "*He gives wisdom to whom He wills. Whoever is given wisdom has indeed been given much good. And none can take heed except those of understanding.*" This verse shows that the use of sound reasoning is the key to achieving wisdom and insight.

In a virtual world such as the Metaverse, the spread of hoaxes and digital manipulation not only has implications for individuals but can also trigger widespread social tension. For example, research by Kuncari (2024) shows that the spread of false information in digital spaces contributes to religious discrimination in Indonesia. Hoaxes targeting certain religious symbols can cause conflicts between religious communities, thereby threatening social

harmony. This is in line with the hadith of the Prophet Muhammad SAW, which warns of the dangers of lying: "*Whoever lies on my behalf deliberately, let him take his place in hell*." (Narrated by al-Bukhari and Muslim). This hadith underlines the importance of maintaining the integrity of information, both in the real and virtual worlds.

The Muslim community is now active in the digital realm, making digital literacy a necessity to ensure that interactions and consumption of religious content are carried out critically and responsibly (Wahid, 2024). Digital literacy helps Muslims distinguish between facts and opinions and detect content manipulation, thus becoming a bulwark against negative information or extremism (Sukijan Athoillah, 2023). The importance of digital literacy for the Muslim community in the Metaverse is one of the steps towards realising intellectual protection.

In the view of scholars, preserving reason also means avoiding things that can damage one's ability to think. Imam Al-Ghazali in Ihya Ulumuddin states that reason is God's greatest gift to humans, and damaging it is a sin that must be avoided. Therefore, providing education on how to use technology wisely is part of the collective responsibility of the Muslim community. In addition, it is important to note that digital technology, including the Metaverse, brings not only threats but also great opportunities. With proper use, the Metaverse can be a means of spreading Islamic values, supporting religious-based education, and strengthening global da'wah. However, these opportunities can only be utilised if users can critically assess content. As mentioned in Surah Al-Hujurat verse 6: "*O you who believe! If a wicked person comes to you with any news, ascertain the truth, lest you harm people unwittingly and afterwards become full of repentance for what you have done*." This verse is the basis for the importance of verifying information as part of protecting the mind.

Protecting the intellect in the digital world also requires a multidimensional approach, including collaboration between scholars, educators, technology experts, and policymakers. Collective efforts to build a culture of digital literacy based on Islamic values will help create a healthier and more ethical digital environment. As an implementation step, Islamic educational institutions can incorporate digital literacy into the curriculum to prepare the younger generation to face the challenges of the digital age. In addition, fatwas and guidelines from religious institutions are also needed to provide clear direction on the use of technology in accordance with Sharia law.

Thus, protecting the mind (*al-ʿaql*) is not only the responsibility of individuals, but also the collective duty of the Muslim community to ensure that digital technology, including the Metaverse, is used wisely and does not become a tool that undermines Islamic values. Strong digital literacy, based on the teachings of the Qur'an, hadith, and the guidance of scholars, is a strategic step to protect reason from corruption and make technology a means of mutual benefit.

The protection of offspring (*al-nasl*) within the framework of Maqāṣid al-Sharīʿah plays an important role in maintaining the continuity of religious, moral, and social values amid the challenges of modern life, including in virtual spaces such as the Metaverse. This principle covers not only the biological aspects of offspring, but also the aspects of education, morals, and character building of the younger generation so that they remain in line with Islamic values. In the context of the virtual world, the protection of offspring is relevant to ensure that the family remains the primary institution for instilling Islamic values, even though digital technology increasingly influences the way humans interact, learn, and build relationships.

The Metaverse, as a virtual space that allows for unlimited interaction, has great potential to support children's education and development. However, if not used wisely, this technology can also disrupt family harmony. Excessive interaction in the virtual world, for example, can reduce the quality of communication within the family, isolate individuals, and divert attention from the main tasks of educating the younger generation. Research by Wahyu Sugiarto et al. (2022) highlights the importance of Islamic-based education in the digital world to ensure that children and adolescents remain connected to religious values. This is in line with the Islamic view that religious education is the main foundation in building the character of the younger generation.

The Qur'an clearly emphasises the importance of protecting offspring and educating children with the right values. In Surah At-Tahrim verse 6, Allah says: "*O you who believe! Protect yourselves and your families from the fire of Hell*..." This verse underlines the responsibility of parents to ensure that their families, including their children, remain on the right path. In the context of the Metaverse, this responsibility extends to supervising the use of technology, ensuring that the digital platforms used support religious values and do not expose children to harmful content.

The Hadith of the Prophet Muhammad PBUHalso reinforces the importance of parental responsibility in educating children. He said: "*Each of you is a leader, and every leader will be held accountable for those under his leadership*." (Narrated by Bukhari and Muslim). In the context of the virtual world, this hadith is relevant as a reminder that parents have a responsibility to ensure that their children's use of technology is within the boundaries of Islamic law.

In practice, protecting offspring in the virtual world involves developing digital platforms specifically designed to support religious learning and family values. For example, Metaverse-based applications or programmes can be used to hold virtual religious classes, present interactive simulations about Islamic history, or provide community spaces that strengthen family relationships. Virtual Reality (VR) technology has proven to be an effective medium in religious education (Zainal Asril, 2023) Further research shows that the use of metaverse technology can significantly improve social development, including communication skills, relationship building, and increased involvement in the community.

With a little adaptation, the metaverse can function as a community space that strengthens social bonds, which in this context can include family relationships, especially for families who are geographically separated (Enaam Youssef, 2024). However, it is important to ensure that the content provided on this platform is in accordance with Islamic law and free from influences that can be morally damaging.

Scholars also pay special attention to the importance of Islamic values-based education in shaping the character of the younger generation. Imam Al-Ghazali in Ihya Ulumuddin states that educating children is a great responsibility for parents, because they are a trust that must be safeguarded. Children have pure hearts and are ready to accept any influence. If they are accustomed to goodness and knowledge, they will grow up happy in this world and the hereafter, and their parents and teachers will be rewarded (Al-Ghazali, 2010). In an increasingly digitally connected world, good education includes Islamic-based digital literacy, which teaches children to use technology wisely and responsibly.

Furthermore, protecting the next generation does not only cover children who are still in education, but also involves efforts to maintain the family structure as a social unit that plays an important role in shaping a strong generation. Research shows that the use of technology without adequate control can have a negative impact on family relationships. For example, a study revealed that the frequency of smartphone use by parents can increase feelings of anger and sadness in children (Matea Bodrogi Selak, 2025). Other research also shows that the presence of digital media can replace face-to-face interaction, which in turn damages trust and harmony within the family (Nia Maulina, 2025) . Therefore, protecting the next generation also includes strengthening family communication through regulating the use of technology, including the Metaverse.

Protecting offspring (*al-nasl*) in the context of the Metaverse requires a holistic approach, which includes developing digital platforms that support religious values, strict parental supervision, and Islamic values-based education for children. By integrating the principles of Maqasid al-Syariah in the management of the virtual world, Muslims can ensure that the younger generation is not only protected from the negative impacts of technology but also grows into individuals who are able to utilise technology for the benefit of the community and uphold Islamic values in every aspect of their lives.

Protection of offspring in Islam emphasises the importance of legitimate offspring through marriages recognised by religion and law. In the context of marriage in the metaverse, which uses avatars and virtual technologies such as VR and AR, the main challenge lies in how the protection of offspring can be guaranteed, given that there is no physical interaction that binds the couple in reality (Mursyid Fikri, 2024). Although virtual marriage allows for the integration of cultural and religious elements, such as ijab qabul, fundamental aspects such as the recognition of a child's status, inheritance rights, and birth remain issues that require attention. Therefore, the protection of offspring in the metaverse must be

seriously considered to ensure that the rights of offspring remain protected and valid according to Sharia principles.

The protection of property (*al-māl*) is one of the main principles in Maqāṣid al-Sharīʿah, which emphasises the importance of preserving and managing wealth wisely, fairly, and based on Sharia values. In the context of the metaverse, where digital economic transactions are increasingly developing, this principle becomes even more relevant to ensure that economic interactions that occur in virtual space meet the standards of fairness, transparency, and sustainability regulated in Islam. Transactions in the Metaverse encompass various activities, such as the use of digital currency (cryptocurrency), the purchase of virtual property, and investment in other digital assets. Further development can be achieved through the wakaf and syirkah application models on Islamic banking platforms in the metaverse. In addition, another model being developed is a platform for selling MSME products through the metaverse, where sellers and buyers can interact virtually in real time. (Husain Insawan, 2025) However, these developments also pose significant risks, such as economic exploitation, fraud, legal uncertainty, and the potential for usury or gharar (uncertainty).

Islam strictly regulates economic principles that aim to create justice and prevent harmful practices. In the Qur'an, Allah says: "*And let not some of you devour the wealth of others among you unjustly*..." (QS. Al-Baqarah: 188). This verse emphasises the prohibition of taking wealth by unlawful means, including fraud, manipulation, or exploitation in economic transactions. In the context of the Metaverse, this prohibition is an important foundation for ensuring that digital economic activities do not violate Sharia principles and do not harm others.

Anwar's (2020) research provides a relevant framework on how Islamic economic principles can be applied in digital transactions. One of the main principles in Islamic economics is justice (*al-ʿadl*), which ensures that every transaction is conducted transparently and without harming either party. In the digital world, this justice can be realised through clear digital contract arrangements, identity verification in transactions, and regulations that prevent market manipulation. In addition, the principle of sustainability in Islamic economics emphasises the importance of maintaining a balance between individual and community interests. In the Metaverse, this can be realised through the use of transparent blockchain technology to minimise the risk of fraud and create a sustainable transaction system.

One of the main risks in economic transactions in the Metaverse is the existence of usury and gharar. Usury, which is strictly prohibited in Islam, often appears in the form of interest charged on loans or unfair profits in transactions. In a hadith, the Prophet Muhammad PBUH said: "*Allah curses those who consume usury, those who give usury, the witnesses, and the writers*." (Narrated by Muslim). This prohibition highlights the importance of ensuring that all economic transactions, including those in the virtual world, are free from

usury. *Gharar*, or uncertainty in contracts, is also a major threat in digital transactions. In virtual property transactions, for example, ambiguity regarding ownership or asset value can lead to uncertainty that violates Sharia principles.

Scholars also emphasise the importance of integrating Islamic values into digital economic activities. For example, in digital currency transactions, the aspects of certainty and trust are important elements that must be maintained. Blockchain technology, which is often used in cryptocurrency systems, can help achieve transparency in transactions. However, its use still requires Sharia supervision to ensure that the system is not used for activities that are not in accordance with Sharia, such as gambling or money laundering.

In addition, the regulation of economic transactions in the Metaverse also requires regulations based on the principle of cooperation (*taʿāwun*) in Islam. This principle emphasises the importance of mutual assistance and support in economic activities to create blessings and mutual prosperity. As mentioned in Al- -Qur'an: "*And help one another in righteousness and piety, and do not help one another in sin and transgression*." (QS. Al-Maidah: 2). This principle can be applied in the development of a Metaverse platform that supports Sharia-based transactions, such as a digital marketplace that prioritises halal products and Islamic financial services.

Protecting assets in the context of the Metaverse also requires good digital literacy among users, especially Muslims, to avoid unclear or illegal investment traps. Education on how to identify safe and Sharia-compliant platforms, as well as supervision by Islamic financial institutions, are strategic steps to protect the wealth of the ummah. For example, supervision by the Sharia Supervisory Board (DPS) on digital platforms can ensure that economic activities in the Metaverse meet sharia standards.

The protection of assets (*al-māl*) in digital economic transactions in the Metaverse requires a holistic approach, including Sharia-based regulations, strict supervision, digital literacy, and the development of technologies that support transparency and fairness. By applying Islamic economic principles such as justice, sustainability, and cooperation, Muslims can utilise the potential of the Metaverse to create an ethical, fair, and Islamic-compliant economic ecosystem. These measures will not only protect the wealth of the Muslim community from exploitation but also support sustainable economic development in the digital age.

The results of this study also contribute to the development of existing theory by offering modifications to the Maqāṣid al-Sharīʿah framework for the virtual world context. For example, religious protection (*al-dīn*) in the Metaverse context can include the development of virtual spaces that support global and interactive religious learning. The protection of life (*al-nafs*) must be expanded to include the psychological well-being of technology users, while the protection of reason (*al-ʿaql*) requires digital literacy as a preventive measure against the threat of information manipulation. The protection of offspring (*al-nasl*) emphasises the

importance of Islamic-based digital platforms to support children's education, and the protection of property (*al-māl*) includes digital economic regulations to prevent exploitation.

This research provides a strong foundation for understanding how Maqasid al-Syariah can be applied in facing the challenges and opportunities presented by the Metaverse. By integrating these findings into the Islamic legal framework, this research expands the scope of Shariah application in the digital age and offers new insights that can support the development of a virtual space that is inclusive, fair, and in accordance with Islamic values. This research also paves the way for further studies to explore more deeply the dimensions of Islamic law in the virtual world, both from a normative, regulatory, and practical implementation perspective.

Conclusion

This study demonstrates that Maqāṣid al-Sharīʿah possesses remarkable flexibility and relevance for adaptation in addressing the challenges and opportunities presented by the Metaverse. As an Islamic legal framework, Maqasid al-Syariah can be applied to various dimensions of digital life, including the protection of religion (*al-dīn*) through the development of virtual spaces that support religious education, the protection of life (*al-nafs*) by maintaining the psychological well-being of users, the protection of reason (*al-ʿaql*) through digital literacy to prevent information manipulation, the protection of offspring (nasl) with Islamic-based educational platforms, and protection of wealth (*al-māl*) through Shariah-based digital economic regulations. This study also identifies significant challenges in the Metaverse, such as the risk of spreading false information, identity manipulation, digital addiction, economic exploitation, and the impact on family relationships. In this context, the Maqāṣid al-Sharīʿah -based approach offers practical and normative solutions to create a more ethical, inclusive, and Islamic-values-compliant digital ecosystem. This study opens up opportunities for more in-depth follow-up studies, particularly regarding the development of Shariah-based policies for regulating the Metaverse, strengthening digital literacy with Islamic values, and empirical exploration of the impact of the virtual world on the lives of Muslims. Collaboration between scholars, academics, and technology experts is essential to design a more beneficial and sustainable digital ecosystem for the community.

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