



## PRACTICING THE SUNNAH AND HADITH IN EVERYDAY LIFE: A LIVING HADITH STUDY OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SUNNAH VALUES IN MUSLIM COMMUNITIES

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### Keywords

*Sunnah, Hadith;  
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### Abstract

*The Sunnah and Hadith are the second source of Islamic teachings after the Quran, and play a crucial role in shaping individual behavior and the social life of Muslim communities. This study aims to analyze the practice of the Sunnah and Hadith in daily life through a living hadith approach. The method used is qualitative research with a library research approach, utilizing various scientific literature, journals, books, and the latest research findings. The results show that the practice of the Sunnah in daily life remains an important part of Muslim communities, both in the form of worship, morals, and social interactions. The implementation of the Sunnah can shape religious character, increase social solidarity, and strengthen Islamic identity amidst the challenges of modernization. However, technological developments and changes in modern lifestyles also influence the level of understanding and practice of the Sunnah. Therefore, ongoing educational efforts are needed to ensure that the values of the Sunnah remain relevant and applicable in contemporary life*

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Hadith and Sunnah are two closely interrelated concepts within Islamic teachings. Hadith encompasses the sayings, actions, tacit approvals, and endorsements of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), while Sunnah refers to the practical manifestation of Islamic teachings exemplified by the Prophet in various aspects of life. As the second primary source of Islamic law after the Qur'an, the Sunnah serves as an essential guide for Muslims in performing religious obligations and organizing social life. It not only regulates the relationship between human beings and Allah, but also provides guidance on ethics, morality, social relations, economic activities, and other dimensions of life aimed at promoting the welfare of the Muslim community (Suci Ramadhani & Imsar, 2025).

The development of modern society, characterized by advances in information technology, cultural globalization, and changing patterns of social interaction, has transformed the ways in which people understand and practice the Sunnah. Some Sunnah-based practices have been adapted to evolving social conditions, while others have gradually been abandoned because they are perceived as



less compatible with modern lifestyles. At the same time, there has been a growing awareness among certain Muslim communities of the importance of reviving the Sunnah of the Prophet through religious activities, da'wah communities, and digital media. This condition indicates that the practice of the Sunnah continues to undergo dynamic changes in response to contemporary developments. Therefore, its study should not be limited to the textual analysis of hadith but should also examine its implementation within the everyday lives of Muslim communities (Idris Siregar, 2022).

The living hadith approach has emerged as a relevant perspective for explaining how hadith is understood, received, and practiced by society in everyday life. This approach does not merely examine the authenticity and textual meanings of hadith, but also investigates how hadith-based values are manifested through traditions, culture, customs, and the social behavior of Muslim communities. Accordingly, hadith is understood as a living tradition that continuously interacts with constantly changing social realities (Viki Junianto & Mo'afi, 2023). Although extensive studies have been conducted on hadith and Sunnah, most previous research has focused primarily on normative aspects, including the analysis of chains of transmission, hadith texts, and textual interpretations. Studies specifically examining the implementation of the Sunnah in the lives of modern Muslim communities through the perspective of living hadith remain relatively limited. In fact, social transformation, technological development, and cultural diversity influence how Muslims interpret and apply the Sunnah in their daily lives. Therefore, research is needed to describe how Sunnah-based practices are manifested in contemporary society and to explain their contribution to individual character formation and social life.

The practice of the Sunnah in everyday life can be observed in various forms, including exchanging greetings of peace, maintaining cleanliness, demonstrating honesty, respecting parents, strengthening kinship ties, sharing with others, and applying ethical principles in social and economic transactions. These practices demonstrate that the Sunnah encompasses not only ritual dimensions but also social values that remain relevant in addressing the challenges of modern society (Tamjidnor, 2026). Based on the foregoing discussion, this study aims to examine the implementation of the Sunnah in the daily lives of Muslim communities from the perspective of living hadith and to analyze its contribution to individual character formation and the strengthening of social life.

## 2. RESEARCH METHOD

This study employed a qualitative research method using a library research approach. Data were collected through a systematic review of literature from various scholarly sources, including books, national and international journal articles, conference proceedings, and previous studies addressing hadith, Sunnah, and living hadith. The literature search was conducted using keywords such as hadith, Sunnah, living hadith, Sunnah practices, and implementation of the Sunnah through scholarly databases, including Google Scholar, Garuda, and Crossref. The selected literature was required to meet several criteria: relevance to the research focus, publication in credible academic sources, and priority given to recent publications to ensure alignment with current developments in the field. The references were subsequently screened by excluding sources that were not directly related to the research topic or contained substantially overlapping discussions, thereby producing a representative body of literature (Idris Siregar, 2022).

The data were analyzed using a descriptive qualitative analysis technique involving several stages: data reduction, thematic categorization, data presentation, interpretation, and conclusion drawing. In this study, the living hadith approach was applied by examining previous research that documented Sunnah-based practices among Muslim communities. The analysis focused on how hadith is understood, received, adapted, and manifested in everyday life as part of social reality. Accordingly, the discussion was not limited to the normative dimensions of hadith texts but also addressed their practical implementation within the context of modern society.

## 3. RESULT AND ANALYSIS

Based on a review of the relevant literature, the practice of the Sunnah in Muslim societies continues to occupy a strong position as part of both the religious value system and social guidance. Nevertheless, previous studies not only affirm the continuity of Sunnah-based practices but also reveal variations in how they are understood and implemented across different communities. The Sunnah is no longer viewed solely as a normative source of teaching after the Qur'an; rather, it has undergone a

process of social internalization shaped by culture, education, and technological development. In this context, findings from various studies may be synthesized to show that the Sunnah remains alive through dynamic social practices rather than existing as a static form of religious observance.

The synthesis of various sources indicates that Sunnah-based practices have undergone transformations in form without necessarily losing the substance of their teachings. From the perspective of living hadith, this phenomenon should not be regarded as a deviation, but rather as a natural process of social adaptation. However, several studies also indicate a shift in meaning, whereby certain Sunnah practices tend to be understood symbolically without sufficient engagement with their ethical and spiritual significance. This condition reflects an ongoing tension between textual and contextual understandings within modern Muslim societies. Thus, living hadith not only documents the continuity of religious practices but also reveals the negotiation of meanings embedded within them.

The living hadith approach emphasizes that hadith does not merely exist as a normative text, but also as a social reality that is continuously reproduced through communal practices. Accordingly, the analysis in this study does not only describe the forms through which the Sunnah is implemented, but also examines how hadith-based values are interpreted differently across diverse social contexts. The synthesis of the literature demonstrates that education, family environment, religious authority, and digital media play significant roles in shaping how people understand the Sunnah. At the same time, uneven levels of hadith literacy have resulted in variations in practice that are not always consistent and may occasionally lead to distorted understandings.

### **The Implementation of the Prophet's Sunnah in the Daily Lives of Muslim Communities**

Findings from various studies show that the implementation of the Sunnah in Muslim societies is not uniform, but varies according to social and cultural contexts. Sunnah-based practices such as exchanging greetings of peace, maintaining cleanliness, demonstrating honesty, and showing kindness to others remain widely observed. However, the forms through which these practices are implemented have adapted to contemporary developments. In several studies, such practices are understood not only as acts of worship but also as socially embedded customs that have become part of communal culture.

From the perspective of living hadith, this condition demonstrates that the Sunnah has undergone a process of institutionalization within social life. Nevertheless, a more critical analysis reveals that certain practices have shifted from substantive values toward ceremonial expressions. For example, greetings and prayers are sometimes performed formally without a profound appreciation of their ethical significance. In addition, the development of digital technology has transformed the ways in which Muslims practice the Sunnah, as illustrated by the use of instant messaging to maintain social and familial ties. This phenomenon reflects an ongoing dialectic between tradition and modernity within the religious practices of Muslim communities.

### **Sunnah Practices in the Formation of Muslim Character and Morality**

Various studies emphasize that the Sunnah of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) plays an essential role in shaping Muslim character, particularly in relation to honesty, trustworthiness, patience, and social concern. However, the synthesis of previous findings indicates that the effectiveness of internalizing these values depends heavily on the social environment in which individuals are formed, especially the family and educational institutions.

Viewed through the perspective of living hadith, character formation does not occur solely through the transmission of knowledge, but also through repeated social habituation. Nevertheless, several studies reveal a gap between normative understanding and actual practice, as Sunnah-based values are not always fully reflected in the everyday behavior of certain members of society. This situation suggests that the internalization of hadith-based values continues to face significant challenges, particularly in the digital era, which exposes individuals to alternative values originating from outside religious teachings.

### **Sunnah Practices in Social Relations and Community Life**

The synthesis of various studies demonstrates that the Sunnah plays an important role in strengthening social cohesion within Muslim communities. Practices such as maintaining social ties, engaging in deliberation, helping one another, and showing respect for others remain relatively strong components of communal life. Nevertheless, the forms through which these values are practiced are not uniform, as they are influenced by local culture and changing patterns of social interaction.

From the perspective of living hadith, this phenomenon indicates that hadith remains alive within a constantly changing social environment. However, several studies also identify a tendency

toward the reduction of the social meanings embedded in the Sunnah. For example, the practice of maintaining social relationships has increasingly shifted toward digital communication, which may involve limited emotional interaction. This condition demonstrates that although the Sunnah continues to be practiced, significant challenges remain in preserving the depth of the social values contained within it.

### Challenges and the Relevance of Sunnah Practices in the Modern Era

Technological development and globalization have produced a dual impact on the practice of the Sunnah. On the one hand, broader access to information has made it easier for people to study hadith and has expanded the reach of Islamic preaching. On the other hand, these developments have also created challenges, including the dissemination of unreliable religious information and the interpretation of hadith without adequate consideration of its context.

The synthesis of the literature indicates that the Sunnah remains relevant to modern life, although its relevance depends greatly on society's ability to interpret it contextually. From the perspective of living hadith, the adaptation of Sunnah-based practices in the digital era does not merely represent technical change, but also reflects the dynamic ways in which religion is understood and negotiated within society. Therefore, strengthening hadith literacy has become an urgent necessity so that Muslims do not understand the Sunnah merely at a textual level, but are also able to appreciate and apply its substantive values within an ever-changing social environment.

## 4. CONCLUSION

The practice of the Sunnah and hadith in everyday life represents a tangible manifestation of Islamic teachings that continue to live, develop, and adapt to the dynamics of Muslim societies. Through the living hadith approach, this study demonstrates that the Sunnah is understood not merely as a normative text, but also as a social reality embodied in various aspects of life, including worship, moral formation, cleanliness, social relations, education, and socioeconomic activities. The implementation of the Sunnah contributes to the formation of religious character, the strengthening of social solidarity, and the preservation of Islamic identity amid the challenges of modernization and technological development. These findings affirm that Sunnah-based practices continually undergo processes of interpretation, adaptation, and internalization in accordance with the sociocultural contexts of Muslim communities without diminishing the substantive values embedded within them.

Theoretically, this study contributes to the development of living hadith scholarship by emphasizing that hadith functions not only as a source of normative teachings but also as a living tradition that is continuously reproduced and reinterpreted within contemporary Muslim societies. Practically, the findings have important implications for the development of Islamic education, the strengthening of contextual da'wah strategies, and the improvement of hadith literacy within society. Islamic education should reinforce the internalization of Sunnah-based values through learning processes that are not merely textual, but also contextual and applicable to everyday life. In the field of da'wah, adaptive approaches to technological developments and digital media are required so that the teachings of the Sunnah can be communicated effectively. Furthermore, strengthening hadith literacy has become an urgent necessity to enable Muslim communities to understand, critically assess, and implement hadith comprehensively. In this way, the values of the Sunnah can remain relevant and provide meaningful solutions to the various challenges of modern life.

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