

Understanding Contemporary Fiqh: Its Meaning and Scope in Responding to the Challenges of the Times

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Info Articles	Abstract
<p>Article History Received: 2024-09-06 Revised: 2024-09-16 Published: 2024-09-30</p> <p>Keywords: <i>Contemporary Fiqh, Islamic Law, Challenges Of The Times.</i></p>	<p>Contemporary Islamic jurisprudence (fiqh) is a branch of Islamic law that has evolved in line with the dynamics of modern life. This study aims to understand how Islamic law can respond to various new issues not explicitly discussed in classical sources. This research aims to examine the meaning of contemporary Islamic jurisprudence and its scope in responding to the challenges of the times. The method used is a library study by analyzing various literature related to Islamic jurisprudence and the development of modern Islamic law. The results of the study indicate that contemporary Islamic jurisprudence focuses not only on understanding texts but also considers the social, cultural, economic, and technological contexts developing in society. The scope of contemporary Islamic jurisprudence encompasses various aspects of life, such as sharia economics, bioethics, information technology, and social issues. With a flexible approach while remaining grounded in the Qur'an and Hadith, contemporary Islamic jurisprudence is able to provide relevant and adaptive solutions to modern problems. Therefore, a deep understanding of contemporary Islamic jurisprudence is essential for Muslims to be able to face the changing times without abandoning sharia values.</p>

I. INTRODUCTION

Fiqh is a branch of knowledge in Islam which discusses sharia laws relating to human actions (Sholeh, 2023). The science of fiqh is a guide for Muslims in carrying out their daily lives in accordance with the provisions set out in the Al-Qur'an and Hadith. With fiqh, Muslims can know what is permitted and what is prohibited in various aspects of life (Robi'ah et al., 2025). As time goes by, various new problems emerge which are not directly explained in the Qur'an or Hadith.

Advances in science, technology, economics, and socio-culture have brought significant changes to modern society. This has given rise to various new problems requiring legal certainty from an Islamic perspective (Al-Nadhair Journal, 2023). This situation demands a more dynamic and adaptive study of Islamic law. Therefore, the concept of contemporary fiqh was born as an effort to

address various contemporary issues while remaining grounded in the principles of Islamic law (Yusuf, 2022). Contemporary fiqh plays a crucial role in providing legal solutions to various modern issues such as Islamic financial transactions, digital technology, bioethics, and various other evolving social issues.

Understanding the meaning and scope of contemporary fiqh is crucial for Muslims to understand and apply Islamic law appropriately in their daily lives (Ridwan, 2024). By understanding contemporary fiqh, it is hoped that Muslims will not be limited to classical understanding but will also be able to adapt to current developments without abandoning sharia values (Abdulah et al., 2023).

Thus, fiqh is not only theoretical, but also applicable and relevant to the needs of modern society.

II. RESEARCH METHODS

This research uses a qualitative approach with library research. The data used is secondary data obtained from books, journals, scientific articles, and other sources relevant to contemporary fiqh.

The data collection technique was carried out through documentation studies, namely by collecting and reviewing various literature related to the understanding and scope of contemporary fiqh. Data analysis used a qualitative descriptive method by describing and interpreting the information obtained to understand the concept of contemporary fiqh comprehensively.

The results of the analysis are then systematically compiled to provide a clear picture of the role of contemporary fiqh in responding to the challenges of the modern era.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. Research result

Research shows that contemporary fiqh is understood as the result of *ijtihad* (intelligence) by scholars in responding to various modern issues not explicitly addressed in classical Islamic sources (Yusuf, 2022). This fiqh is dynamic and contextual, adapting to current developments without abandoning the basic principles of sharia (Al-Nadhair, 2023).

This research found that in practice, contemporary fiqh uses various methods of legal *istinbath*, such as *qiyas* (evidence), *istihsan* (reasoning), *maslahah mursalah* (reasoning), and *sadd al-dzari'ah* (reasoning) to address contemporary issues (Yanti, 2022). This approach allows Islamic law to remain relevant in the face of ever-evolving social, technological, and cultural changes (Sariyekti, 2022).

In addition, the scope of contemporary fiqh is very broad, covering the economic field (such as banking and digital transactions), the social field (such as media ethics and

information dissemination), the health field (such as organ transplantation and medical engineering), and the political and legal fields (such as democracy and human rights) (Robi'ah et al., 2025; Hazin et al., 2021).

The research results also show that the main challenges in the application of contemporary fiqh are differences of opinion among scholars, the lack of public understanding of the concept of modern fiqh, and the rapid development of technology which gives rise to new, complex problems (Sholeh, 2023; Rangkuti et al., 2025).

Therefore, a collaborative approach is needed between scholars and academics so that contemporary fiqh can provide appropriate, relevant, and applicable solutions in modern life.

B. Discussion

Contemporary fiqh is the intellectual response of Muslims to increasingly complex developments (Yusuf, 2022). Conceptually, contemporary fiqh does not change the basic principles of Islamic law, but rather expands the way these laws are understood and applied in contemporary contexts. This demonstrates that Islamic law is flexible (*murunah*) and relevant throughout time, as long as it adheres to the Qur'an and Hadith as its primary sources (Abdulah et al., 2023).

In understanding contemporary fiqh, the approach used is no longer solely textual, but also contextual (Rangkuti et al., 2025). This means that scholars consider social, cultural, economic, and scientific conditions in establishing laws. *Ijtihad* methods such as *qiyas*, *istihsan*, *maslahah mursalah*, and *sadd al-dzari'ah* are important instruments in exploring the law on issues that do not yet have explicit provisions in the texts (Yanti, 2022). Thus, contemporary fiqh is able to meet the needs of modern society without losing the essence of Islamic teachings (Sariyekti, 2022).

The scope of contemporary fiqh is also increasingly broad, touching various aspects of

life (Robi'ah et al., 2025). In the economic sphere, for example, contemporary fiqh is present through the concepts of Islamic banking, Islamic insurance, and digital transactions such as e-commerce and fintech (Wale et al., 2024). In the social sphere, contemporary fiqh provides guidance on media ethics, the dissemination of information, and the phenomenon of hoaxes that are rampant in the digital era. Meanwhile, in the health sector, contemporary fiqh addresses issues such as organ transplantation, in vitro fertilization, and genetic engineering. In the political and legal sphere, contemporary fiqh also discusses the concepts of democracy, human rights, and a system of government in accordance with Islamic values.

However, the application of contemporary fiqh is not without its challenges. One major challenge is the difference of opinion among scholars in determining rulings on new issues (Hazin et al., 2021). Furthermore, rapid technological developments often give rise to previously undiscussed issues, requiring in-depth and comprehensive study (Purkon, 2023). Furthermore, the public's understanding of contemporary fiqh remains limited, which sometimes leads to misunderstandings or even rejection.

Therefore, synergy between scholars, academics, and practitioners is needed in developing contemporary fiqh. A multidisciplinary approach is also important so that the study of fiqh is not separated from the realities of modern life. Thus, contemporary fiqh can continue to serve as a guide for the lives of Muslims in facing the various challenges of the times, while maintaining a balance between traditional values and the demands of modernity.

IV. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

A. Conclusion

Based on the discussion, it can be concluded that contemporary fiqh is a dynamic and

contextual development of Islamic law in response to various modern issues. This fiqh does not change the basic principles of sharia, but rather adapts its application to contemporary conditions through the relevant method of ijtihad. The scope of contemporary fiqh is very broad, encompassing economics, social sciences, health, and even politics and law, all of which demonstrate that Islam can provide solutions to the various challenges of modern life. Thus, contemporary fiqh plays a crucial role in maintaining the relevance of Islamic teachings amidst the ever-changing times.

B. Suggestion

Based on the study's findings, it is recommended that the development of contemporary fiqh continue to be enhanced through more in-depth and ongoing research, particularly in responding to new issues arising from technological advancements and globalization. Scholars, academics, and practitioners are expected to strengthen collaboration in formulating Islamic law that is not only based on normative evidence but also takes into account ever-changing social realities.

Furthermore, public education efforts are needed regarding the importance of a comprehensive understanding of contemporary Islamic jurisprudence (fiqh) to avoid misunderstandings in the application of Islamic law in the modern era. Educational institutions are also expected to integrate contemporary Islamic jurisprudence studies into their curricula, ensuring that the younger generation has a relevant and contextual understanding of Islamic teachings.

Finally, a multidisciplinary approach needs to be continuously developed, involving various fields of science, such as economics, technology, and health, so that contemporary fiqh can provide more comprehensive, adaptive, and applicable solutions to address the challenges of the times. Thus,

contemporary fiqh can function optimally as a guide for the lives of Muslims that is in harmony with current developments.

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