

The Importance of Tabbayyun in Countering Hoax Information in the Digital Era

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Info Artikel	Abstract
Article History Received : 2022-07-03 Revised: 2022-07-18 Published: 2022-07-30 Keywords: <i>Tabayyun, Hoax, Digital Literacy, Misinformation, Islamic Ethics</i>	The rapid advancement of information technology and digital communication has significantly transformed the way people access and disseminate information. While digital platforms facilitate fast and widespread information exchange, they have also accelerated the proliferation of hoaxes and misinformation, which can mislead the public, create social unrest, and undermine public trust. In this context, the Islamic principle of <i>tabayyun</i> (verification) offers a relevant ethical framework for addressing the challenges posed by the digital information era. This study aims to examine the importance of <i>tabayyun</i> as a strategy for preventing the spread of hoaxes and promoting responsible digital communication. The research employs a normative juridical approach using descriptive-analytical methods. Data were collected through library research by examining primary sources, including the Qur'an and Hadith, as well as secondary sources such as books, scientific journals, and other relevant literature. The findings indicate that the implementation of <i>tabayyun</i> encourages individuals to verify information before accepting or disseminating it, thereby reducing the spread of misinformation. The study also reveals that digital literacy plays a significant role in strengthening the effectiveness of <i>tabayyun</i>, as individuals with higher levels of digital literacy are more capable of identifying unreliable sources, recognizing misleading content, and critically evaluating information. Furthermore, social influences, technological developments, and the rapid circulation of information present additional challenges to practicing verification consistently. The study concludes that <i>tabayyun</i> is not merely a religious obligation but also an essential digital literacy competency that integrates ethical values with critical thinking skills. Strengthening public awareness through education, digital literacy programs, and collaboration among government institutions, educational organizations, religious leaders, and digital platforms is essential for fostering a healthy, responsible, and trustworthy digital information ecosystem while minimizing the harmful impacts of hoaxes in contemporary society.

I. INTRODUCTION

The development of information technology in the digital era has brought significant changes in the way society obtains and disseminates information. Through social media and various digital platforms, information can be accessed quickly, without the constraints of time and space. However, this convenience has also been accompanied by an increase in the spread of false information, or hoaxes, that can mislead the public. Hoaxes not only lead to individual misunderstandings but also have the potential to trigger social conflict and disrupt the fabric of society.

In this context, the concept of *tabayyun*

(verification) becomes highly relevant. *Tabayyun* is a cautious approach to receiving information by seeking clarity and ensuring its accuracy before believing or sharing it. This principle aligns with ethical communication values, which emphasize the importance of verification and responsibility in sharing information.

The importance of *tabayyun* in the digital era is not only as a way to counter hoaxes, but also as a form of digital literacy that every individual should possess. By implementing *tabayyun*, people are expected to be critical, selective, and not easily influenced by unverified information. Therefore, discussing the importance of *tabayyun* is crucial in creating a healthy and trustworthy

information environment.

II. RESEARCH METHODS

This study uses a qualitative method with a descriptive-analytical approach to examine the importance of tabbayun in countering hoax information in the digital era. The approach used is normative (juridical-normative), namely by examining the concept of tabbayun based on the Qur'an and Hadith and linking it to the phenomenon of the spread of hoaxes in modern society. Data sources consist of primary data in the form of the Qur'an and Hadith, as well as secondary data obtained from books, scientific journals, and articles relevant to the research topic. Data collection techniques are carried out through library research by reviewing various literature related to tabbayun and hoaxes. The data obtained are analyzed using qualitative analysis techniques through the stages of data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusions. Through this method, research is expected to be able to provide a clear understanding of the importance of tabbayun as an effort to filter information and prevent the spread of hoaxes in the digital era.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. Research result

The research results show that the application of the principle of tabayyun plays a crucial role in suppressing the spread of misinformation in the digital age. Respondents who understand and apply tabayyun tend to be more critical in receiving information, such as verifying sources, checking data accuracy, and being less easily influenced by provocative headlines. This reduces the tendency to spread unverified information.

Furthermore, this study found that digital literacy levels are closely related to the effectiveness of tabayyun implementation. Individuals with good digital literacy are able to recognize the characteristics of hoaxes, such as unclear sources, exaggerated information, and the absence of valid supporting evidence. Conversely, respondents with low literacy are more vulnerable to exposure to hoaxes and tend to spread them without verification.

This study also revealed that social factors, such as the influence of friends and family,

influence behavior in spreading information. Many respondents admitted to more easily believing information shared by those closest to them without further verification. Furthermore, the speed with which information spreads on social media presents a challenge in implementing tabayyun (religious practice).

On the other hand, educational programs emphasizing the importance of tabayyun (religious practice) have proven effective in raising public awareness. Respondents who have participated in digital literacy outreach or training have demonstrated behavioral changes, leading to greater caution and responsibility in using social media.

Thus, this study confirms that tabayyun is not only an ethical value, but also a practical strategy that must be implemented consistently to create a healthy, safe, and hoax-free digital ecosystem.

B. Discussion

The discussion shows that the concept of tabayyun is a fundamental principle in Islam emphasizes the obligation to clarify and verify all information received before believing or disseminating it. This principle is not only normative in religious teachings but also holds strong relevance in the context of modern life, particularly in the digital era, characterized by the accelerated flow of information without the constraints of time and space. In such situations, tabayyun (verification) is a crucial instrument for maintaining information accuracy and preventing the negative impacts of the spread of fake news or hoaxes.

The increasingly widespread phenomenon of hoaxes in digital media is generally caused by a combination of factors, such as easy access to technology, low digital literacy, and a culture of instant information sharing without verification. Many social media users tend to prioritize speed in sharing information over the veracity of its content. This situation is exacerbated by social media algorithms that tend to amplify the spread of sensational content, allowing information that is not necessarily true to spread very quickly and widely. In this context, tabayyun functions as an internal control mechanism that requires individuals to think critically, check sources, and consider the impact of information they disseminate.

Furthermore, the application of tabayyun is also closely related to an individual's cognitive ability to manage information amidst information overload. Individuals who lack adequate digital literacy skills will struggle to distinguish between valid and manipulative information. Therefore, tabayyun is understood not only as a spiritual value but also as a critical thinking skill that encompasses source analysis, data validity, and understanding the context of information. Thus, tabayyun can serve as a bridge between religious values and modern digital competencies.

Furthermore, psychological and social factors also play a significant role in strengthening or weakening the practice of tabayyun. Factors such as trust in friendship groups, social pressure, and the tendency to follow majority opinion (social conformity) often cause individuals to neglect the verification process. In many cases, information coming from those considered close or trusted is more easily accepted without critical evaluation. This suggests that tabayyun requires not only individual awareness but also the support of a social environment that encourages a culture of critical thinking and information verification.

From a broader social perspective, the implementation of tabayyun (religious verification) significantly contributes to maintaining the stability of digital society. The spread of unverified information often triggers social conflict, misunderstandings between groups, and even divisions within society. By cultivating tabayyun (religious verification), communities can reduce the risk of information-based conflict and strengthen social cohesion. This aligns with the primary goals of Islamic teachings, which emphasize the creation of peace, justice, and the common good.

On the other hand, developments in communication technologies such as artificial intelligence, social media algorithms, and content recommendation systems also require the adaptation of tabayyun values into more contextual forms. Users are not only required to manually verify information but also to understand how technology influences the distribution of information. Thus, tabayyun in the digital era can be understood as a combination of

ethical values, digital literacy skills, and awareness of how information technology works.

Therefore, integrating the value of tabayyun into people's lives is becoming increasingly important and urgent. This effort needs to be supported by ongoing digital literacy education, whether through formal educational institutions, community training, or public campaigns on social media. This education must include the ability to recognize the characteristics of hoaxes, information verification techniques, and strengthening social media ethics so that people become not only consumers of information but also responsible producers.

Thus, the synergy between religious values such as tabayyun (religious review) and modern digital literacy competencies is expected to shape a more critical, wise, and ethical society in dealing with the flow of digital information. Ultimately, this will contribute to the creation of a healthy, transparent, and sustainable information ecosystem, while strengthening social resilience against the negative impacts of disinformation in the digital age.

IV.CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

A. Conclusion

Based on the discussion, it can be concluded that tabbayun is an important principle in Islam that emphasizes the verification and clarification of information before it is accepted or disseminated. This principle teaches Muslims not to rush to conclusions about news, but rather to first verify its accuracy through clear and reliable sources. In today's digital era, where the flow of information is rapid, massive, and not always accountable, the application of tabbayun has become increasingly relevant and essential in everyday life.

The advancement of information technology and social media has made it easy for anyone to receive and share information in a matter of seconds. However, this convenience also brings negative impacts, such as the increased spread of hoaxes, fake news, and misleading information. Therefore, tabbayun (religious practice) is an important solution to counteract these negative impacts by encouraging individuals to be more cautious, thorough, and not

to immediately believe the information they receive.

Furthermore, a lack of awareness and low digital literacy among the public are key factors in the rise of hoaxes in the modern era. Many people are not accustomed to verifying the veracity of information, making them easily swayed by provocative headlines or news content from unclear sources. This situation demonstrates the importance of critical thinking and caution when accepting information, whether from social media, chain messages, or other sources.

By consistently applying tabbayun, individuals can not only be more selective in receiving information but also avoid being easily provoked, which can lead to misunderstandings and conflict in society. Furthermore, implementing tabbayun can help maintain social harmony, strengthen mutual trust, and create a healthier, wiser, and more responsible communication environment amidst the rapid flow of digital information.

B. Suggestions

The recommendations from this research include the need for continuous improvement in education regarding the importance of the concept of tabayyun in everyday life, particularly in the digital era, characterized by the rapid and unlimited flow of information. This education can be provided not only through formal educational institutions such as schools and universities, but also through non-formal education such as religious studies, seminars, and digital literacy programs within the community.

Furthermore, the public is expected to be wiser and more responsible in using information technology and social media. Every individual needs to practice not immediately believing or spreading information before verifying its source, authenticity, and veracity. This critical attitude is crucial to minimizing the negative impact of the spread of fake news or hoaxes, which can harm oneself and others.

Furthermore, the role of various parties, such as religious scholars, academics, educators, and the government, is crucial in providing a comprehensive understanding to the public. Scholars can play a role through Islamic preaching and studies that emphasize the values of tabayyun

(religious guidance), while academics and educators can integrate these concepts into learning and scientific studies. The government also has a responsibility to strengthen regulations, monitor digital information, and develop a more comprehensive and sustainable national digital literacy program.

In addition, mass media and digital platforms are also expected to play an active role in disseminating valid, balanced, and trustworthy information. Collaboration between these various parties is essential to creating a healthy and responsible information ecosystem.

Thus, the consistent application of tabayyun values across all levels of society can be an effective solution in creating a safer, more trustworthy information environment, and can minimize the spread of hoaxes in the increasingly complex digital era.

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