

Destroying Hoaxes by Framing the Justice of the Qur'an

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ABSTRACT

Abstrak: Hoaks merupakan tantangan serius di era informasi yang dapat merusak tatanan sosial. Dalam konteks Islam, Al-Qur'an memberikan pedoman tentang keadilan dan kebenaran yang relevan untuk menangkal penyebaran hoaks. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengeksplorasi konsep keadilan dalam Al-Qur'an sebagai kerangka strategis dalam mengatasi fenomena penyebaran hoaks. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif dengan metode analisis isi terhadap ayat-ayat Al-Qur'an yang berkaitan dengan keadilan dan kebenaran. Selain itu, penelitian ini juga mengkaji literatur dan studi kasus tentang penyebaran hoaks serta penerapan nilai-nilai Qur'ani dalam komunikasi. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa konsep keadilan dalam Al-Qur'an tidak hanya mencakup keseimbangan dalam menegakkan kebenaran, tetapi juga pencegahan terhadap penyebaran fitnah dan hoaks melalui prinsip *tabayyun* sebagaimana termaktub dalam QS. Al-Hujurat: 6. Strategi pembingkai keadilan berbasis nilai-nilai Qur'ani menunjukkan potensi yang signifikan dalam menangkal hoaks melalui pendekatan yang menekankan kejujuran, verifikasi informasi, serta kesejahteraan sosial. Penelitian ini juga mengidentifikasi efektivitas penerapan nilai-nilai tersebut dalam kampanye literasi digital dan komunikasi Islami. Pendekatan yang berlandaskan nilai-nilai keadilan Qur'ani dapat menjadi strategi yang efektif dalam memerangi hoaks. Implementasi kerangka ini tidak hanya meningkatkan literasi informasi masyarakat, tetapi juga memperkuat nilai-nilai moral dan spiritual dalam praktik komunikasi.

Abstract: Hoaxes are a serious challenge in the information age that can damage social order. In the context of Islam, the Qur'an provides guidance on justice and truth that are relevant to countering hoaxes. This study aims to explore the concept of justice in the Qur'an as a strategic framework in overcoming the phenomenon of the spread of hoaxes. This study uses a qualitative approach with a content analysis method of the verses of the Qur'an related to justice and truth. In addition, this study reviews literature and case studies on the spread of hoaxes and the application of Qur'anic values in communication. This study found that the concept of justice in the Qur'an not only includes balance in upholding the truth, but also preventing the spread of slander and hoaxes through the principle of "tabayyun" as stated in QS Al-Hujurat: 6. The justice framing strategy based on Qur'anic values shows significant potential in countering hoaxes through an approach that emphasizes honesty, verification of information, and social welfare. The study also identified the effectiveness of implementing these values in digital literacy campaigns and Islamic communication. An approach based on Qur'anic justice values can be an effective strategy to combat hoaxes. The implementation of this framework not only improves public information literacy but also strengthens moral and spiritual values in communication.

Keywords:

Justice

Hoaxes

Minisformation

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I. Introduction

The spread of false information or hoaxes is one of the main challenges in the digital era (Febriansyah Putra & Patra, 2023; Idris, 2018; Juditha, 2018; Sosiawan & Wibowo, 2020). Hoaxes not only cause confusion but can also trigger social conflict, damage reputations, and threaten the stability of society (Darmawan, 2019; Tchakounté, Amadou Calvin, Ari, & Fotsa Mbogne, 2022; Wirdiyana, 2019). According to data released by the Ministry of Communication and Information, the number of hoaxes spread in Indonesia has increased significantly, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic (Bahri, 2021; Ministry of Communication and Information of the Republic of Indonesia, 2020; Prastyo, Ashari, & Marhan, 2020; Rahmanto, Yuliarti, & Naini, 2023). This phenomenon shows that society still has limitations in distinguishing between true and false information, even though there have been various educational and regulatory efforts. However, a more systemic and moral value-based approach has not been widely developed as a solution to this problem.

Most previous research has focused on the technical and educational aspects of dealing with hoaxes, such as digital literacy, strengthening regulations, and analyzing information dissemination patterns (Muhammad Salim Albana, Alif Dava Mahesa, Indriani Putri, & Noerma Kurnia Fajarwati, 2024; Putri, Vionia, & Michael, 2020; Santoso et al., 2020; Six, de Vadder, Glavina, Verhoest, & Pepermans, 2023; Witro, 2020). These studies, although making important contributions, tend to under-integrate moral and spiritual values as part of the strategy. Research related to Islamic communication and Qur'anic values in countering hoaxes is still limited to conceptual exploration without developing an applicable strategic framework. This creates a gap in the literature that requires further research on Qur'anic value-based approaches in dealing with hoaxes.

Studies on Islamic communication have highlighted the importance of justice, honesty, and verification of information as the core of ethical communication. Some researchers, such as Alwi Shihab, assert that the Qur'an has complete guidance for building harmonious communication free from slander. Verses such as QS Al-Hujurat: 6 provide important principles in "*tabayyun*" or verifying information before spreading it (Chalimatus Sa'diyah, 2020; Murtiningsih, 2020; Parhan, Jenuri, & Islamy, 2021; Prastyo et al., 2020). However, this research has not been widely applied in specific contexts such as the spread of hoaxes in the digital era.

Recent research shows that a moral value-based approach can improve the effectiveness of digital literacy. For example, a study by Febriansyah Putra & Patra (2023) found that people who understand religious values are more critical of unverified information. In addition, several faith-based community initiatives have succeeded in reducing the spread of hoaxes through education on ethical values (Akmelia Rizki, Irsyad Hidayat, Cheado, Psychology, & Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung, 2021; Gungum, Justito, & Nunik, 2017; Parhan et al., 2021). However, this literature has not yet studied in depth how the values of justice in the Qur'an can be formulated as an Islamic communication strategy to systematically counter hoaxes.

This study has theoretical and practical significance. Theoretically, this study will fill the literature gap by developing a framework based on Qur'anic values to counter hoaxes. Practically, the results of this study can be a guide for communities, media, and policy makers in implementing effective Islamic communication strategies to prevent the spread of hoaxes. Thus, this study not only contributes to the development of literature but also provides applicable solutions that are relevant to the needs of the community.

This study aims to explore and develop strategies based on the values of justice in the Qur'an as an approach to addressing the phenomenon of hoaxes. By understanding these values, it is hoped that the public can be wiser in receiving and disseminating information, and building communication based on justice and truth.

II. Method

This study uses a qualitative approach with a content analysis method to examine the verses of the Qur'an that are relevant to the concept of justice and information verification (*tabayyun*). The main data sources come from the interpretation of the Qur'an and literature related to Islamic communication (Abd. Rahman, 2016; Harisah, 2019; Muhajirin & Ngaisah, 2019; Ridlwan & Khotijah, 2021). The analysis was conducted by highlighting the Qur'anic values that can be applied in the context of information dissemination in the digital era. In addition, this study also uses case studies to identify patterns and effectiveness of the application of these values in countering hoaxes.

Data collection was conducted through literature review and in-depth interviews with Islamic communication experts and community leaders involved in digital literacy education based on religious values. The results of this analysis are used to formulate a strategic framework that can be applied in Islamic communication practices to counter hoaxes (Darmawan, 2019; Mujib, 2018; Yuliani, Sahib, Abdollah, Al-Mhiqani, & Atmadja, 2018). With this approach, research integrates moral and spiritual values in providing applicable solutions to overcome the spread of hoaxes in a sustainable manner.

III. Result and Discussion

A. The Principles of Justice and *Tabayyun* in the Qur'an

The principles of justice and *tabayyun* in the Qur'an are fundamental values that serve as guidelines for humanity in living in society. In the context of justice, the Qur'an calls on people to always be fair in all situations, regardless of background, group, or personal relationship with the parties involved. Allah says in QS An-Nisa: 135, "O you who believe! Be upholders of justice, witnesses for Allah, even if it is against yourselves or your parents and relatives." This verse emphasizes that justice must be upheld even if it means sacrificing personal or family interests for the sake of truth. Justice in Islam is not just a legal concept, but also a moral value that must be applied in social, economic, and political relations to create harmony and balance.

In line with the principle of justice, the Qur'an also emphasizes the importance of *tabayyun* or verification of information before acting or spreading news. In QS Al-Hujurat: 6, Allah says, "O you who believe! If a wicked person brings you news, then examine it carefully lest you cause a calamity to a people without knowing their condition, and then become regretful for what you have done." This verse emphasizes that actions based on unverified information can lead to injustice and harm to others (Ahmad Bayu Setiawan, 2022; Kamilah, Ulfa, Robbina, W, & Afandi, 2018; Prastyo et al., 2020; Setiyanto, 2019). This principle is especially relevant in the modern era, where the rapid flow of information through social media is often the cause of the spread of fake news or hoaxes. *Tabayyun* is the key to maintaining social stability and preventing conflicts that arise due to incorrect information.

The principles of justice and *tabayyun* are interrelated, because verifying information is the first step to ensuring justice in decisions and actions. Islam views justice not only as an individual obligation, but also a collective responsibility involving all members of society. In social interactions, each individual is responsible for not spreading news without ensuring its truth, because this action can harm the rights of others. The Prophet Muhammad SAW also said in a hadith, "It is enough for a person to be considered sinful if he conveys everything, he hears without checking it first." This hadith strengthens the principle of *tabayyun* as an integral part of Islamic ethics.

The implementation of these two principles not only reflects spiritual values, but also has an impact on social harmony. In the modern world full of challenges, the application of the principles of justice and *tabayyun* can be a solution to various social problems, such as discrimination, legal injustice, and the spread of misinformation. (Rohmah, 2025) By maintaining justice and adhering to the verification of information, Muslims can contribute to the creation of a more just, peaceful,

and respectful society. This principle teaches that truth and justice are the foundation for a dignified life, in accordance with the comprehensive and universal message of the Qur'an.

B. *The Role of Qur'anic Values in Digital Literacy*

Quranic values play a significant role in shaping people's mindsets and behaviors related to digital literacy, especially in facing the challenges of the complex information era. A study using the content analysis method of various verses of the Quran shows that Islamic teachings provide a clear framework for responding to the rapid flow of information. One of the main values identified is the importance of honesty in communication, as emphasized in QS Al-Baqarah: 42, "And do not mix truth with falsehood, and do not conceal truth while you know." This verse shows that in the digital world, where information is often misused for certain interests, honesty must be the main guideline in conveying and receiving information (Muttaqin & Apriadi, 2020; Muwahidah, 2020).

Content analysis also reveals the relevance of the *tabayyun* principle in the context of digital literacy. In QS Al-Hujurat: 6, there is a principle that encourages people to verify every piece of information before believing it or spreading it. In a digital world filled with fake news and misinformation, *tabayyun* is key to preventing the spread of content that can damage someone's reputation or cause social conflict.

Quranic values also emphasize the importance of justice in conveying opinions and information, as stated in QS An-Nisa: 135, "Be upholders of justice, witnesses for Allah, even if it is against yourselves or your parents and relatives." Analysis of this verse shows that justice is the foundation of digital interaction, whether through comments, reviews, or sharing information (Puspitasari, 2023; Qurrotul Aini, 2021). A fair attitude teaches digital media users not to get caught up in biases or emotions that can cause injustice to other parties.

The study also noted that the Qur'anic values of personal and social responsibility are very relevant in digital literacy. The Prophet Muhammad SAW said, "Whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day, let him say good or remain silent." This hadith provides guidance that every individual is responsible for every word or information spread in cyberspace. In the analysis, this responsibility includes maintaining the integrity of information, ensuring the benefits of shared content, and avoiding the spread of harmful content. (Mirhamad & Shamsulddin, 2023; Murtiningsih, 2020; Wirdiyana, 2019).

Through the framework of Qur'anic values, digital literacy is not only a technical skill but also a moral practice involving honesty, justice, and responsibility. These values serve as ethical filters in sorting information and deciding how to interact in the digital world. This study confirms that the application of Qur'anic values in digital literacy is able to form a society that is more critical, ethical, and responsible in utilizing information technology, so that it can create a more harmonious and dignified digital ecosystem.

C. *Implementation in Anti-Hoax Campaign*

The implementation of Qur'anic justice values in anti-hoax campaigns has proven to be an effective approach in raising public awareness of the importance of verifying information. Case studies show that religion-based digital literacy, rooted in the teachings of the Qur'an, is able to form a critical and responsible mindset in dealing with the flow of information. One of the important values taught by the Qur'an is justice, which is directly relevant to the anti-hoax principle. In QS An-Nisa: 135, Allah says, "O you who believe! Be upholders of justice, witnesses for Allah, even if it is against yourselves or your parents and relatives." This verse emphasizes that every individual must be fair in conveying information, regardless of personal or group interests. In the context of an anti-hoax campaign, this principle encourages people to not only prioritize the truth but also avoid bias that can harm others.

In addition, the anti-hoax campaign based on Qur'anic values places *tabayyun* as the main pillar. In QS Al-Hujurat: 6, it explains that the principle of *tabayyun* needs to be applied in various campaign activities, such as education about the importance of verifying the source of

information before sharing it. This approach teaches that every piece of information received must be tested for its truth so as not to cause social harm or unnecessary conflict.

The implementation of Qur'anic values is also seen in the encouragement to maintain honesty and responsibility in digital communication. The Prophet Muhammad SAW said, "Whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day, let him say good or remain silent." This hadith is a practical guide in filtering the information to be conveyed, ensuring that only goodness is shared through digital platforms. Case studies show that this approach is not only effective in preventing the spread of hoaxes but also building a more positive and harmonious digital culture.

The anti-hoax campaign based on Qur'anic values also emphasizes the importance of collaboration between religious figures, educational institutions, and the general public. By using an approach rooted in Islamic teachings, campaign messages are more easily accepted because they have a strong spiritual foundation. For example, a digital literacy-based training program that integrates the principles of justice and *tabayyun* has succeeded in increasing participants' understanding of the risks of spreading hoaxes and their impact on social stability.

The application of Qur'anic values in the anti-hoax campaign has shown significant results in building public awareness of the importance of verifying information and responsible communication. This approach not only teaches technical skills in digital literacy but also strengthens the moral values needed to create a healthier information environment. By making justice and *tabayyun* the core of the campaign, the public is invited to become wiser, more critical, and more responsible digital users, so that they can contribute to the creation of a more just and dignified information ecosystem.

D. Discussion

The findings of this study indicate that framing Qur'anic values can function as an effective communicative strategy to counter hoaxes, especially in the digital era which is full of a flood of information (Aziz, Imtiaz, & Saeed, 2022; Chong & Druckman, 2007; Piñeiro-Naval, Igartua, Arcila-Calderón, González-Vázquez, & Blanco-Herrero, 2022; Sadri, Buzzelli, Gentile, & Billings, 2022). In this context, the principle of "*tabayyun*" stated in QS Al-Hujurat: 6 becomes very relevant. This principle not only provides moral guidance for Muslim individuals to ensure the truth of information before spreading it, but also provides a practical framework that can be applied in various communication situations, both personal and institutional.

Hoaxes are one of the biggest challenges facing modern society, especially with the existence of social media platforms that allow for massive and instant dissemination of information. In situations like this, the process of "*tabayyun*" or verification is the first step that must be taken before deciding to believe or spread information. This principle teaches the importance of being careful about every news received, especially if the source is unreliable or unclear. This moral value is relevant not only for Muslims, but also for the wider community who want to prevent the spread of false information.

The application of "*tabayyun*" in the digital context can be translated into various forms of digital literacy. Digital literacy based on the values of Qur'anic justice encourages individuals to understand how social media algorithms work, recognize credible sources of information, and utilize technology to verify information. For example, one can use a fact-checking site or news verification platform to ensure the truth of a claim before sharing it with others. Thus, "*tabayyun*" is not only a spiritual guideline but also a practical tool to face the challenges of information in the modern era.

Furthermore, the principle of "*tabayyun*" contains an element of justice that requires individuals to be fair in conveying or assessing information. In QS Al-Hujurat: 6, Allah warns that one should not be trapped in prejudice or spread unverified information, because this can cause harm or injustice to others. This message is in line with the concept of social responsibility in modern communication, where each individual has a role to play in maintaining the integrity of information for the common good.

In addition, other Qur'anic values such as honesty (*shidq*) and amanah are also relevant in communicative strategies to counter hoaxes. Honesty is the foundation of effective communication, while amanah emphasizes the importance of responsibility in disseminating information. The combination of these values can form a critical mindset needed to face the challenges of information in the digital age. Individuals who uphold these values tend to be more careful in receiving and disseminating information, and are more motivated to seek the truth.

At the institutional level, Qur'anic values can be integrated into organizational communication policies. For example, media institutions can apply the principle of "*tabayyun*" as an operational standard in the process of news coverage and publishing information. Journalists can be encouraged to conduct in-depth investigations and verify each source before writing news. Similarly, social media platforms can develop algorithms that support the dissemination of credible information and minimize hoaxes, by referring to the values of justice and social responsibility.

Education also plays an important role in internalizing Qur'anic values as a communicative strategy. The educational curriculum can be designed to teach digital literacy based on moral values, including "*tabayyun*" and honesty. Thus, the younger generation can be equipped with the ability to think critically and ethically in dealing with information. This value-based education is not only useful in the context of countering hoaxes, but also in building a healthy and constructive communication culture in society.

The use of Qur'anic values in countering hoaxes also has a spiritual dimension that strengthens personal integrity. By practicing "*tabayyun*", individuals not only maintain the truth of information, but also draw closer to Allah by obeying His commands. This dimension provides additional motivation for Muslims to always be careful in communication, because they realize that every action will be accounted for before Allah. This spiritual motivation can be a strong driver for building a culture of honest and responsible communication (Almakki, 2023; Jain & Rathi, 2023; Muhammad Salim Albana et al., 2024; Onwezen, 2023).

In the fast-paced digital era, the main challenge in implementing the principle of "*tabayyun*" is the limited time and attention. Information often comes in large quantities and in a short time, making it difficult to verify thoroughly. However, modern technology can also be an effective tool. For example, artificial intelligence (AI) can be used to identify hoax patterns or verify facts in a short time. Thus, technology can be integrated with Qur'anic values to create practical and efficient solutions.

Ultimately, the application of Qur'anic values as a communicative strategy to counter hoaxes requires cooperation from various parties, including individuals, institutions, and the government. Individuals need to build awareness of the importance of "*tabayyun*" and digital literacy, while media institutions and digital platforms are responsible for creating a healthy information ecosystem. The government can also play a role by issuing regulations that support the dissemination of credible information and prevent the spread of hoaxes.

Qur'anic values such as "*tabayyun*", honesty, and amanah have great potential to be used as communicative strategies in countering hoaxes in the digital era. These principles are not only morally relevant but can also be practically applied through digital literacy and modern technology. By integrating these values into various aspects of life, society can build a healthier, fairer, and more responsible communication culture, and be able to face information challenges more wisely.

Table 1. Qur'anic Values in Overcoming Hoaxes

Qur'anic values	Explanation	Implementation in Real Life	Source
<i>Justice (Adl)</i>	<i>Maintaining balance in conveying information and ensuring its accuracy</i>	<i>Applying the principle of "tabayyun" when receiving information</i>	<i>QS Al-Hujurat: 6</i>
<i>Honesty (Sidq)</i>	<i>Prioritize truth in all forms of</i>	<i>Do not spread false</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>

	<i>communication</i>	<i>information, even if it is considered profitable.</i>	<i>of Al-Misbah</i>
<i>Trustworthiness</i>	<i>Responsible for the information conveyed</i>	<i>Ensure that the sources of information used are reliable</i>	<i>QS An-Nisa: 58</i>
<i>Prohibition of Slander</i>	<i>Avoiding the dissemination of information that could damage reputation or trigger conflict</i>	<i>Refrain from spreading unverified news</i>	<i>QS Al-Isra: 36</i>
<i>Tabayyun (Verification)</i>	<i>Ensure the accuracy of information before conveying it to others.</i>	<i>Conduct fact-checking on news received</i>	<i>QS Al-Hujurat: 6</i>

The Qur'anic values as listed in the table are relevant moral guidelines to counter the challenges of communication in the digital age. The principle of justice (Adl) emphasizes the importance of balance in conveying information, which is realized through the process of “*tabayyun*” as recommended in QS Al-Hujurat: 6. By applying this principle, individuals are invited to always check the truth of information before sharing it, thereby preventing the spread of fake news that can harm others. Honesty (Sidq), which is sourced from Tafsir Al-Misbah, further emphasizes the obligation to convey correct information and avoid lying, even in situations that are tempting to do otherwise.

In addition, the principles of amanah and the prohibition of slander provide a framework for building responsible communication. Amanah, as explained in QS An-Nisa: 58, teaches that every individual must be careful and responsible for the information they spread, ensuring that the source is reliable. The prohibition of slander, which is based on QS Al-Isra: 36, requires avoiding unverified news that can cause social harm or conflict. By integrating these values into everyday life, such as through fact-checking and using trusted sources, society can create a healthier and more ethical information ecosystem.

IV. Conclusion and Suggestion

This systematic literature review has demonstrated that Islamic values—particularly *Tabayyun*, Amanah, Sidq, and Ikhlas—offer a strong ethical foundation to counter hoaxes and misinformation in digital media. The findings reveal that the integration of these values into media literacy and digital behavior can significantly strengthen society’s resilience against disinformation. Moreover, the review shows that technology, including artificial intelligence and chatbot-based platforms, has the potential to support information verification in alignment with Islamic ethics, although it should not replace the human role in interpretation and moral judgment.

This research shows that Islamic values, particularly the principle of *Tabayyun*, play an important role in addressing hoaxes and misinformation in the digital world. While *Tabayyun* is widely discussed in theoretical literature, its application in social media and digital platforms remains limited. Islamic ethics can provide strong guidance in verifying circulating information, but its implementation in the digital world still needs further development. Additionally, technologies like AI hold great potential for detecting hoaxes, but the application of AI based on Islamic values for detecting and verifying information in the online world is still very limited.

Future research needs to focus on developing practical *Tabayyun*-based methods that can be implemented on social media platforms to fight hoaxes and misinformation. The application of AI based on Islamic values should also be the focus of future research to develop more ethical algorithms in detecting hoaxes. Furthermore, *Tabayyun*-based education should be integrated into digital education curricula to equip the younger generation with critical skills in verifying the information they receive online. This approach will help create a society that is more discerning in filtering information circulating on social media.

Given the critical role of ethical literacy in the digital era, it is suggested that future research should explore practical models for integrating Islamic ethical values into formal digital education curricula, especially for youth. Educational institutions, religious authorities, and technology developers are encouraged to collaborate in creating platforms that promote verified and ethical

information sharing. Furthermore, digital tools such as Islamic chatbot assistants and AI-based filters should be developed with advisory input from Islamic scholars to ensure theological consistency and moral responsibility. Lastly, policymakers and media platforms should work hand in hand to design inclusive digital literacy programs rooted in cultural and religious values to minimize the negative impact of misinformation.

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