

The Problem of Islamic Leadership in the Modern Era and Its Solutions

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.63142/educompassion.v3i2.531>

Received: 14 Desember 2025

Revised: 25 Mei 2026

Accepted: 28 Mei 2026

Published: 29 Mei 2026

Abstract :

Leadership in Islam is an important aspect grounded in the values of the Qur'an and Hadith, such as trustworthiness, justice, and deliberation. However, in practice, Islamic leadership in the modern and globalized era faces various challenges, including changes in social values, technological developments, and the gap between ideal concepts and reality. This study aims to analyze the concept of leadership in Islam, identify the problems faced in the modern era, and formulate solutions based on Islamic teachings. This research employs a qualitative approach using a library research method. Data were collected from various literature sources such as books, scientific journals, and previous studies, then analyzed using descriptive qualitative techniques. The results of the study indicate that leadership in Islam is not merely structural in nature, but also encompasses moral and spiritual dimensions as a trust (amanah) in safeguarding religion and managing the life of the community. The problems faced include authoritarian tendencies, internal conflicts, weak leadership capacity, as well as the challenges of globalization and digitalization. The proposed solutions are the consistent implementation of leadership based on Islamic values and the development of transformational leadership with a prophetic character by emulating the qualities of the Prophet Muhammad SAW (shiddiq, amanah, tabligh, and fathanah). Thus, the ideal Islamic leadership is leadership that is able to integrate spiritual, moral, and professional values in a balanced manner, so that it remains relevant and capable of facing the challenges of the times, particularly in the context of Islamic education.

Keywords : *Islamic Leadership, Problems, Modern Era, Globalization, Prophetic Leadership.*

Abstrak :

Kepemimpinan dalam Islam merupakan aspek penting yang berlandaskan nilai-nilai Al-Qur'an dan Hadis seperti amanah, keadilan, dan musyawarah. Namun, dalam praktiknya, kepemimpinan Islam di era modern dan globalisasi menghadapi berbagai tantangan, seperti perubahan nilai sosial, perkembangan teknologi, serta kesenjangan antara konsep ideal dan realitas. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis konsep kepemimpinan dalam Islam, mengidentifikasi problematika yang dihadapi di era modern, serta merumuskan solusi berdasarkan nilai-nilai ajaran Islam. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif dengan jenis studi kepustakaan (library research). Data diperoleh dari berbagai sumber literatur seperti buku, jurnal ilmiah, dan penelitian terdahulu, kemudian dianalisis menggunakan teknik deskriptif kualitatif. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa kepemimpinan dalam Islam tidak hanya bersifat struktural, tetapi juga mencakup dimensi moral dan spiritual sebagai amanah dalam menjaga agama dan mengatur kehidupan umat. Problematika yang dihadapi meliputi kecenderungan otoriter, konflik internal, lemahnya kapasitas kepemimpinan, serta tantangan globalisasi dan digitalisasi. Adapun solusi yang ditawarkan adalah penerapan kepemimpinan berbasis nilai-nilai Islam secara konsisten, serta pengembangan kepemimpinan transformasional bercorak profetik dengan meneladani sifat Rasulullah SAW (*shiddiq, amanah, tabligh, dan fathanah*). Dengan demikian, kepemimpinan Islam yang ideal adalah kepemimpinan yang mampu mengintegrasikan nilai spiritual, moral, dan profesional secara seimbang, sehingga tetap relevan dan mampu menghadapi tantangan zaman, khususnya dalam konteks pendidikan Islam.

Kata Kunci : *Kepemimpinan Islam, Problematika, Era Modern, Globalisasi, Kepemimpinan Profetik.*

INTRODUCTION

Leadership in Islam is an important aspect in regulating the lives of the people, both in the social, educational, and government spheres. Ideally, Islamic leadership is based on the values of the Qur'an and Hadith such as trust, justice, deliberation, and responsibility. However, in reality, today's leadership practices often face complex challenges, especially in the modern era and globalization. Technological developments, changes in social values, and global dynamics require leaders to be able to adapt without abandoning the basic principles of Islam. This condition shows that Islamic leadership is not only tested in terms of concept, but also in terms of its implementation in the field.

This problematic phenomenon is also seen in the world of Islamic education. Research by Sukari, Sudarto, and Sri Haryati shows that Islamic education currently faces problems such as weak vision and mission of institutions, low competitiveness of graduates, limited infrastructure, and lagging behind in mastery of technology. In addition, there is still a dichotomy between religious science and general science and the existence of moral decadence which is a serious challenge. Another research by Desi Sabtina emphasized that the era of globalization brought changes in values, rapid technological developments, and a shift in the mindset of students, so that Islamic education is required to be able to integrate Islamic values with the development of the times. The same thing was also found in the research of Muhammad Indra Eka Putra et al., who emphasized the importance of integrating Islamic values in the curriculum and the use of technology as an effort to maintain the relevance of Islamic education in the global era.

Meanwhile, in the context of educational leadership, the research of Izudin Hasan et al. revealed that there are various problems such as weak leadership capacity, lack of research utilization, non-objective selection processes, and difficulties in facing the challenges of globalization and technological development. This shows that leadership problems do not only occur in the aspect of education in general, but are also closely related to the quality and competence of the leader himself.

RESEARCH METHOD

This research uses a qualitative method with a library research approach, which is research that focuses on the study of various literature to understand the concepts, theories, and problems of Islamic leadership in the modern era. This approach was chosen because it was able to provide a deep understanding of Islamic leadership values based on scientific sources and relevant references. Through this method, researchers can analyze various views and developments in Islamic leadership studies systematically and comprehensively.

The data sources in this study consist of primary data and secondary data. Primary data is obtained from the Qur'an, hadith, major books, and scientific journals that directly discuss the concept of Islamic leadership. Meanwhile, secondary data is obtained from scientific articles, results of previous research, theses, theses, and various other supporting documents that are related to the research theme. The selection of data sources is carried out selectively by considering the relevance, credibility, and novelty of the information so that the research results have good validity.

The data collection technique is carried out through documentation studies by identifying, reading, recording, and grouping various literature in accordance with the focus of the research. The data that has been collected is then analyzed using qualitative descriptive analysis techniques through the stages of data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawn. In the analysis process, the researcher examines, interprets, and compares various concepts and problems of Islamic leadership so that a complete

understanding of the challenges and implementation of Islamic leadership in the modern era is obtained.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The results of the study show that leadership in Islam has a meaning that is not only limited to structural aspects or power, but also includes moral and spiritual dimensions. Leadership is understood as a mandate to maintain religion (*ḥifẓ al-dīn*) and regulate world affairs (*siyāsah al-dunyā*). This confirms that leaders in Islam are not only required to have managerial skills, but also integrity and religious responsibility. From the perspective of Islamic leadership theory, leadership (*imāmah*) is an obligation to ensure social order and the sustainability of religious teachings. This thinking is also strengthened by the concept of Al-Mawardi which places leadership as a substitute for the prophetic function in maintaining religion and regulating the lives of the people.

Conceptually, these findings are in line with leadership theory that emphasizes the importance of moral influence, vision, and the ability of leaders to inspire positive change. In the context of Islam, this concept is strengthened by prophetic values such as *shiddiq*, *amanah*, *tabligh*, and *fathanah* which are the basis of the leadership of the Prophet PBUH. In addition, transformational leadership in an Islamic perspective also emphasizes changes oriented to the values of justice, responsibility, and the benefit of the *ummah*. This shows that Islamic leadership is in accordance with modern theory, but still has a peculiarity in the spiritual dimension.

On the other hand, the results of the study show that there are various problems of Islamic leadership in the modern era, such as the gap between ideal concepts and practices, the tendency of authoritarianism, internal conflicts, and the challenges of globalization and digitalization. This finding is in line with research that states that Islamic education still faces various obstacles such as weak institutional vision, low competitiveness of graduates, and limitations in mastery of technology. In addition, the dichotomy of science and moral decadence is also a serious challenge in the development of Islamic education. The problems of Islamic leadership in the modern era are increasingly complex with the rapid development of globalization, technology, and social change. In the book *Islamic Education Leadership: Maintaining Tradition Towards Global Quality*, it is explained that Islamic education leaders today face great challenges to maintain traditional Islamic values while being able to adapt to the demands of modern times. In addition, various obstacles such as limited resources, changes in education policies, and declining motivation of teachers and students are challenges that must be faced by a leader. Therefore, visionary, adaptive, and integrity Islamic leadership is needed to be able to bring Islamic educational institutions to remain relevant and quality without abandoning the principles of Islamic teachings.

In the context of educational leadership, various studies show that weak leadership capacity, lack of research utilization, and non-objective selection processes also affect the quality of leadership in educational institutions. In addition, the influence of policies and bureaucratic systems can also be an obstacle in realizing ideal leadership. This condition shows that the problems of Islamic leadership are not only conceptual, but also structural and systemic. The problems of Islamic leadership in the modern era are increasingly complex as social, cultural, and technological changes develop that require leaders to be able to adapt to the times. In the book *Pesantren Leadership: Communication Patterns and Commitment to Cultural Integration*, it is explained that leadership is situational and influenced by various environmental factors so that a leader must have the ability to adapt to socio-cultural changes around him. In addition, the leadership of Islamic boarding schools in the modern era has become increasingly dynamic so that Islamic boarding schools are required to continue to improve in order to be able to face global challenges

without abandoning Islamic values and good traditions. Therefore, it is necessary to have an Islamic leader who is visionary, adaptive, has cultural competence, and is able to bridge various differences in society in order to create effective and relevant leadership in the modern era.

This research shows that the solution to the problem of Islamic leadership lies in the consistent application of leadership based on Islamic values. A prophetic approach to transformational leadership is a relevant alternative, as it is able to integrate moral, spiritual, and professional values in leadership practice. In addition, the application of the principles of deliberation (*sura*), justice, trust, and transparency are also key in overcoming leadership conflicts and creating good governance.

The contribution of this research lies in the effort to integrate the ideal concept of Islamic leadership with the problematic reality in the modern era and globalization. This research not only examines leadership from the normative side, but also relates it to actual conditions and offers solutions based on Islamic values. Thus, this research provides a more comprehensive understanding of Islamic leadership and its relevance in facing the challenges of the times.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the research, it can be concluded that leadership in Islam is a mandate that is not only oriented to administrative aspects, but also contains moral and spiritual responsibilities in maintaining religion and regulating the lives of the people. The concept of Islamic leadership is based on the values of the Qur'an and Hadith, such as trust, justice, deliberation, and social responsibility. These values are the main foundation in forming leadership that has integrity, ethics, and is oriented towards the common good. Thus, Islamic leadership has a distinctive character that places the spiritual and humanitarian dimensions at the core in the decision-making process and the implementation of leadership.

This research also shows that the implementation of Islamic leadership in the modern era still faces various problems. The gap between ideal concepts and leadership practices can be seen from the emergence of authoritarian tendencies, internal conflicts, weak leadership capacity, and the challenges of globalization and increasingly complex technological developments. This condition indicates that some leadership practices do not fully reflect Islamic values as a whole. Therefore, efforts are needed to reform and strengthen the leadership system that is able to answer the challenges of the times without abandoning the basic principles of Islamic teachings.

As a solution, this study emphasizes the importance of implementing leadership based on Islamic values consistently through the development of transformational leadership in a prophetic pattern by imitating the traits of the Prophet PBUH, namely *shiddiq*, *amanah*, *tabligh*, and *fathanah*. In the context of Islamic education, strengthening the character, competence, and integrity of leaders needs to be integrated with the use of technology and innovation that is relevant to the times. Thus, it is hoped that an Islamic leadership model can be created that is adaptive, characterful, visionary, and able to make a real contribution to the realization of the benefits of the ummah in the midst of the dynamics of modern society.

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