



Networking of Cyberspace Users in the Islamic World

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Abstract

The virtual environment is a powerful realm and tool that has transcended numerous boundaries. Within this environment, there are countless active users who engage in various fields, including that of Islam. The level of user engagement within the Islamic world does not adequately meet the diverse needs of this community. The most strategic, vital, and essential step is to connect users within a network in order to leverage the abundant resources, opportunities, markets, and capabilities available, and to overcome limitations and challenges. The objective of this research is to establish a network among cyberspace users within the Islamic world and address the question of how we can effectively connect users in the cyberspace of the Islamic world. The data collection method employed in this study is primarily based on documentary research and library resources. The data analysis adopts a qualitative approach, utilizing a series of systematic procedures to inductively develop a theory for the phenomenon being investigated. The networking of cyberspace users within the Islamic world encompasses a series of causal, contextual, and intervening conditions, strategies, and outcomes that collectively form a model for connecting users in the virtual environment of the Islamic world.

Keywords: networking, cyberspace users, networking actions, stable relationships, network knowledge, Islamic network identity

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Introduction

The virtual environment has surpassed numerous boundaries of time, place, structure, territories, and culture, giving rise to a new world with distinctive coordinates unique to itself. This space represents the most potent tool in today's world, introducing new opportunities and challenges alike. The virtual environment attracts a multitude of users, with its numbers growing constantly with each passing moment. Users actively engage in shaping and contributing to the dynamic and collaborative nature of this environment. Users derive benefits from this environment based on their knowledge, insights, preferences, tastes, and interests. They actively contribute by either creating content or sharing existing content. Within this specific environment, there are users who utilize it to disseminate information about Islam, both in positive and negative ways. Today, there exists a significant number of anti-Islamic communication websites, channels, and groups, numbering in the thousands. These platforms aim to promote Islamophobia by distorting the teachings of Islam, misinterpreting its principles, fostering skepticism, and sowing seeds of uncertainty. Their activities pose numerous harms to the Islamic Ummah. Moreover, this environment has brought about significant transformations in the beliefs, inclinations, and behaviors of users within Islamic society. Simultaneously, concerned users strive to highlight the profound truth of Islam, defend the Islamic identity, and actively generate, disseminate, and publish Islamic content. They initiate campaigns aligned with Islamic teachings, aiming to foster Islamic movements. However, the current level of activities falls short in meeting the diverse needs of modern individuals. These users operate within this environment based on their individual interests and the cultural, climatic, national, and familial context they belong to, resembling isolated islands. Yet, if they were to establish an organized, constructive, consistent, committed, and robust network, they could assume a dynamic role and engage in extensive activities that cater to the needs of users within this environment. It is evident which group of users is more capable of presenting the truth of Islam to the world: those who spread doubt with bias or those who actively seek the truth?

Research indicates that one of the primary means to bridge the gap and achieve a dynamic, effective, efficient, up-to-date, and relevant presence in the realm of Islamic teachings and identity is through the establishment and advancement of a network among cyberspace users within the Islamic world. This network aims to leverage diverse resources, opportunities, markets, and capabilities available in order to meet the needs of users in a comprehensive manner. This objective can be readily accomplished through the establishment of meaningful communication, long-term commitment, and sustainable engagement within the networking framework. Networking has emerged as one of the most essential and strategic approaches for organizations to address resource limitations and share the risks associated with commercialization over the past decade (Maghsoodi Ganjeh, et al. 2019). Hence, the most strategic course of action to effectively leverage the diverse resources, opportunities, and capabilities of users while mitigating risks, limitations, and potential harms is to establish a network among cyberspace users within the Islamic world. Therefore, the primary objective of this paper is to address the question of how the users within the virtual environment of the Islamic world can be effectively connected through networking. To achieve this goal, the research has gathered relevant data and developed a model for networking cyberspace users within this context.

Questions

Main Question: How can cyberspace users be effectively networked?

Sub-questions: To address the main question, the following integrated sub-questions are considered:

1. What constitutes the central phenomenon of networking cyberspace users within the Islamic world?
2. What are the causal factors influencing the networking of cyberspace users within the Islamic world?
3. What are the contextual factors shaping the networking of cyberspace users within the Islamic world?
4. What are the intervening conditions that impact the networking of cyberspace users within the Islamic world?
5. What strategies can be employed for effectively

- networking cyberspace users within the Islamic world?
6. What are the outcomes and results of networking cyberspace users within the Islamic world?

General Concepts

Cyberspace

The term "cyberspace" or "cyber" originates from the field of cybernetics. The term "cyberspace" (or virtual space) was popularized by William Gibson, the author of the science-fiction novel *Neuromancer*. It refers to the interconnected realm of human interactions facilitated by computers and modern technologies, transcending the constraints of time and physical space. Gibson's initial concept of "cyberspace" may have been more closely associated with artificial intelligence and robotics, rather than the contemporary understanding of the term (Brier 2010, 14). Over time, this concept evolved to become the focal point of philosophical discussions within the field of cyberspace, shifting the focus from a laboratory or scientific domain to an independent world (Bell 2009, 24). The concept of cyberspace pertains to the fictional and imaginative realm of virtual reality and the Internet, serving as an entry point for humans to engage with virtual reality (Khaniki and Babaei 2011, 77).

Cyberspace has garnered significant attention from computer and telecommunication engineers, as well as science fiction writers and scholars in various social sciences disciplines such as communication sciences, sociology, psychology, social psychology, anthropology, and philosophy (Islamic Science and Culture Research Institute 1999, 2). The technological view of cyberspace focuses on aspects such as hardware, software, data transfer quality and quantity, and network interactions. In contrast, the psychological approach examines concepts like mental space, human-computer behavioral patterns, imagination, identity, and personality, while considering the boundary between reality and fantasy (Suler 2004). Additionally, the sociological perspective plays a crucial role, exploring online communities, cyber social networks, and the social impacts of human-computer interaction.

Michael Benedict offers a significant description of cyberspace, emphasizing its importance: Cyberspace is a novel and parallel world constructed and sustained by global communication

networks and computers. It is a world where knowledge, secrets, measurements, indices, entertainment, and various human aspects circulate globally. This electronic realm represents an unprecedented phenomenon, where all visible phenomena, sounds, and presences thrive in an expansive electronic radiance—an experience yet unseen on Earth (see Bell 2010: 22-23). The virtual environment is a multi-dimensional world, encompassing various dimensions and components that have profoundly impacted contemporary societies across economic, industrial, business, public services, and social relations domains (Khaniki & Babaie 2011, 78; Woodward 2009). According to Ramsey and his colleagues, companies can significantly reduce costs associated with transactions, information gathering and dissemination, stock management, and quality control through engagement in the virtual environment (Ramsey, et al. 2003: 250-64).

Communication Instruments in Virtual Space

Modern communication technologies have created an internet-based space that goes beyond the scope of traditional media, encompassing various forms of interactions and communications. This digital realm has eliminated the limitations of one-sidedness and passivity traditionally associated with the audience. Through video-conferencing and chat systems, we can experience the sense of "simultaneity," while discussion groups, mailing lists, and chat platforms enable "multidirectional" interactions (Khaniki & Babaie 2011, 80). Interaction within cyberspace can be facilitated through various mechanisms, including social networks, weblogs, emails, websites, chat rooms, video conferences, instant messaging systems, mailing lists, discussion forums, and podcasts. Each of these communication channels offers a unique level of interaction aligned with its distinctive features. The choice of communication mechanism depends on the intended type of interaction, the requirements of the software environment, and the potential outcomes that can be achieved through them (Khaniki & Babaie 2011, 81).

Users and Types of Virtual Space

Users are active participants within the virtual space, a realm that offers them a wide range of capabilities and facilities.

However, not all users benefit from these features to the same extent. The virtual space, equipped with various tools, encourages individuals to express their personal, social, political, and religious inclinations. Users engage in diverse activities within the virtual space, such as branding, personal development, forming social circles and audiences, sharing content, mobilization and organization, establishing friendships, building trust, citing and generalizing information, utilizing multimedia, engaging in chat conversations, providing critical feedback, following and being followed, publishing short and long blog posts, producing and sharing cyberspace content, participating in chat rooms, uploading personal photos, voices, and videos, creating fan pages, seeking entertainment, harnessing the power of social capital, social mobility, demonstrating initiative, fostering innovation, and accessing numerous other capabilities made available to them within the cyberspace.

Users can be categorized based on their level of involvement within this virtual space. One notable categorization is the research conducted by Anderson Analytics, which focused on American internet users of social networks, specifically Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, and MySpace. While this research primarily examined American users, its findings can potentially be extended to other societies as well.

The research categorized users into seven distinct groups, focusing on their engagement levels within social networking sites. The first four groups are as follows:

Professional users: These individuals are considered key, active, highly skilled, well-paid, and extensively connected users within the social networks.

1. **Leisure users:** This group exhibits relatively passive behavior, adapting to cyberspace with some delay, and primarily using social networks to communicate with friends and family.
2. **Users seeking entertainment:** This group engages in social networks casually for entertainment purposes and interacting with friends and family. Over time, they may transition into becoming more skilled users.
3. **Business users:** These individuals utilize social networks

purposefully, employing systematic and logical approaches. They recognize the value of virtual networking, its advantages, and its productive applications in both their personal and professional lives.

Additionally, there are users who do not show enthusiasm for social network membership and do not utilize such platforms in their online activities. These non-social-network users can be further classified into three groups:

4. Occupied users: This group holds a negative perspective toward social media but may be inclined to join virtual networks and become business users in the future.
5. Concerned users: These individuals express concerns about their security and privacy, but as they invite their friends, they become leisure users within social networks.
6. Pessimistic users: This group holds a negative view of social networks, considering them to be of little or no benefit. However, some of them may still be professional users of other technology and internet tools.

Users within the virtual space can be grouped based on their level of activity, ranging from active to passive users. Each user is driven by specific goals and engages in various activities within the virtual realm. For instance, users assume different responsibilities and roles in the production, publication, and utilization of content. However, according to an analysis, it was found that content contributors, who actively produce and publish content, constitute only one percent of all users. This creates a sense among users that the content they publish receives little to no attention. For example, in the case of the ice water bucket challenge, ordinary people's videos received fewer than a hundred views, while famous individuals' videos garnered several thousand views. The graph below illustrates the distribution of user roles in social networks, with approximately ninety percent of users observing, nine percent republishing content, and only one percent actively producing content (Haji Hashemi 2016, 167).



The presence of users active about Islam, including those who engage in the production, publication, and consumption of Islamic content, is not an exception. Despite the profound teachings of Islam, the vast population of Muslims, and the number of Islamic countries, active users do not currently hold a prominent and influential position within this space. Studies indicate that one significant approach to amplify the active presence of users is to accelerate and streamline the dissemination of Islamic teachings. This can be achieved by fostering networking among virtual space users, aiming to leverage diverse resources, opportunities, markets, and capabilities. Such an objective is accomplished through fostering meaningful communication, establishing long-term commitment, and nurturing sustainable networking practices.

Networking

Networking is a fundamental strategy in career and career path management, involving purposeful efforts to establish relationships with others. By doing so, individuals increase their access to resources (Hakkak & Feli, 2020) and unlock new opportunities, resources, markets, and capabilities for both themselves and their organizations. Furthermore, networking enhances the potential for acquiring new and supplementary knowledge (Sakhdari, 2015) and contributes to the creation of competitive advantage and organizational improvement (Öberg, 2018, 124-28). Business networks serve as connections between organizations with diverse assets, capabilities, opportunities, and qualifications, enabling the creation of fresh chances and openings (McGrath et al., 2018). These networks also facilitate a company's access to novel abilities (Najafi-Tavani et al., 2018).

A well-built network reveals relationships based on trust and cooperation within communities. It represents a potential and

actual resource that can be accessed through individual connections within the network (Thompson, 2010). Networking behavior involves creating, maintaining, and utilizing relationships to facilitate career-related activities and predict and maximize their benefits (Forret & Dougherty, 2004). A networker is an individual who is knowledgeable about the methods of developing and nurturing their network. An effective strategy for managing an individual's career path through networking involves cultivating and maintaining personal relationships that facilitate the exchange of career-related resources (Forret & Dougherty, 2001).

In general, there are two types of relationships within and between organizations: formal and informal relationship networks. The formal relationship network refers to a deliberate structure of roles within an organization or between multiple organizations that is officially established and defined (Seyyed Javadin, 2004). On the other hand, the informal relationship network emerges within an official organization and simultaneously influences it (Haddadiyan & Ghorbani, 2015).

Individuals or specific organizations alone cannot effectively produce, publish, and promote Islamic content on a national and international scale in the world. This is because organizations and individuals have their own responsibilities and focus on their specific target regions and societies, which limits their ability to have a holistic approach and cater to the entire population. To bridge this gap, a global relationship network can play a vital role.

Types of Networking

Networking can be categorized into three types:

1. **Micro-networking:** This type of networking is organized based on individuals.
2. **Meso-networking:** Meso-networking revolves around organizing networks based on organizations.
3. **Macro-networking:** Macro-networking encompasses very large networks that consist of a combination of human and organizational networks. (Zolfaghari and Zand Hesami, 2016, 59; Arani et al., 2021, 205)

Networking occurs within various environments such as family, friends, colleagues, acquaintances, associations, charities, trade

shows, media, training classes, and internet communication. In the context of virtual space networking within the world of Islam, it entails connecting Muslim and non-Muslim users residing in Islamic regions who are engaged with the Muslim community and share an interest in Islamic values. These individuals may actively use or produce Islamic content, promote and publish it, teach it to others, or possess experiences and knowledge about Islam and its teachings. They strive to ensure that the contemporary world has an accurate and realistic understanding of Islam and Muslims.

The focus of networking in this research is on the users of virtual space who reside in the world of Islam and maintain connections with the Islamic community.

The Prerequisite of Networking

The significance of virtual space has been amplified due to the contrasting dynamics of the salvation and prosperity Islam offers to everyone, alongside the prevalence of Islamophobia and the proliferation of complex issues within the Islamic world. The utilization of powerful tools, such as virtual space, has further accentuated the importance of this domain. Within this space, some users propagate Islamophobia, while others utilize it to introduce Islam and promote its teachings. Although these users may initially appear isolated, there is a potential for productive, effective, active, and influential presence when they are connected in a network that caters to the needs of users worldwide. Therefore, it becomes essential to bridge this gap through networking. As a result, we examine the advantages and necessity of networking among users of virtual space in the world of Islam:

1. **Companionship with valuable friends:** Networking fosters the sense of having supportive friends and like-minded companions who share a common concern for Islamic values. It creates a feeling of unbreakable brotherhood, as emphasized in the Quranic verse "the believers are brothers" (Quran 49:10). This connection generates self-confidence and synergy among the involved users, instilling a sense of trust that they will not be abandoned or lost in the rapidly changing and transformative contemporary world. Through Islamic

- identification, networking transforms the user's personal assets into social assets and sources of support.
2. Networking enables users to showcase, identify, attract, and distinguish their novel aptitudes and abilities.
 3. Acquiring new information and opportunities leads to a fresh perspective and standpoint for ideation and the production of new knowledge in the direction of Islamization of content, aligning with the needs of users at various levels.
 4. Networking serves as a platform for the exchange of opinions between Muslims and the wider human society. It acts as a highway for the flow of ideas, where through long-term and committed relationships, users recognize and share information with each other, leading to the emergence of diverse notions.
 5. Networking facilitates the exploration of modern strategies and methods for introducing Islam and its teachings to diverse communities and in different languages. Through networking, new approaches are discovered, allowing for innovative ways of spreading knowledge about Islam and promoting its teachings.
 6. Networking enhances the effectiveness of Islam by taking into account the regional, cultural, social, economic, and political environment of the users. It achieves this by creating new opportunities that align with the specific contexts and needs of the users, thereby maximizing the impact and relevance of Islamic efforts.
 7. Networking plays a crucial role in highlighting, evaluating, and boosting the self-confidence of users. By connecting with others, networking helps users distinguish themselves and assess their abilities. When users' skills and services are recognized and they establish strong networks and relationships, it creates numerous opportunities for collaboration. Networking serves as a pathway for growth in innovative activities, fostering self-confidence and self-belief. Over time, the self-confidence built through connections with like-minded individuals in one's field of activity can place a person in a positive and advantageous position.

8. The dynamic nature of Islam's response to the contemporary human needs becomes evident through networking. By bringing together diverse perspectives, networking highlights the relevance of Islam and uncovers its hidden treasures. It allows for a comprehensive exploration of Islamic principles and their application to address the evolving needs of humanity.
9. Creation of opportunities: Networking inherently paves the way for new opportunities. It provides avenues to connect with ideal users, engage with globally influential figures, evaluate Islamic scientific teachings in laboratories, demystify them, foster ideation, and generate synergy among individuals and groups.
10. Accessing current resources and information: Networking enables users to benefit from up-to-date and novel resources and information. It ensures that users have access to relevant and timely knowledge, which can be utilized when needed.
11. Support: Networking provides users with the opportunity to gain the support of influential individuals. Through networking, users can establish connections with high-ranking individuals who can offer assistance during challenging times, such as resource or financial constraints. These individuals can provide valuable support by sharing their experiences and expertise, or by facilitating connections with suitable sources of financial aid. This support network enables users to navigate difficulties effectively and optimize their ability to overcome obstacles.
12. Long-term mutual relationships: Networking facilitates the establishment of enduring and mutually beneficial connections among users. This addresses a significant gap that users in the world of Islam often encounter. Through networking, exchange relationships have the potential to evolve into strong and committed partnerships.
13. Production of up-to-date Islamic content tailored to users: Networking facilitates the ideation and production of content by the users themselves. Content based on Islamic teachings is created in accordance with

the specific local, cultural, economic, social, and political requirements of the users, with their active participation. The speed and breadth of content production are also crucial considerations. According to estimates on social networks, Facebook users share 2,460,000 pieces of content, Twitter users tweet 277,000 times, and so on, every minute (Taylor 2015). Achieving such a volume of Islamic content production is only possible through effective networking among users (Samsar et al., 2015, 47). Moreover, the originality of content has become increasingly important in the public sphere of social networks. If content is perceived as repetitive, it significantly diminishes its potential profitability and impact.

14. Networking alleviates users from engaging in parallel and repetitive tasks, which is a common challenge faced by Muslim users. It addresses the issue of recurring work that fails to consider the potential of the virtual space and the specific needs of the target community.
15. Networking eliminates the need for costly advertisements.

As a result, networking the users of the cyberspace in the world of Islam becomes the most effective, economical, and fastest approach.

The Research Background of Networking Muslims' Activities

There are various resources available on the Muslim network and networking, a few of which are mentioned in what follows.

The book *Building Moderate Muslims Networks* is the result of extensive research conducted at the Rand Institute, organized into ten chapters. The authors of this book advocate for the United States to engage with moderate individuals and groups as a means to counter the threats of jihadi terrorism and the violence associated with traditional Muslims. The book proposes strategies for the United States to address the challenges posed by Islamic communities and their threats, drawing parallels to the approach taken during the Cold War. The main objective is to establish extensive networks and provide intellectual and financial support to moderate voices, along with specific strategies. The book covers topics such as the Cold War experience, similarities between Cold War supporters and challenges in the contemporary Islamic world,

a roadmap for networking moderate elements in the Islamic world, the European pillar, Southeast Asia and the Middle East, networking secular Muslims, and strategic recommendations.

The paper titled "Criticism and Investigation of the Link between the Networks of Moderate Muslims" written by Gholamreza Khosravi sheds light on the formation of networks among moderate Muslims. The article-book emphasizes several key aspects, including the role of American policy in contributing to the rise and support of terrorism in the Islamic world, as well as the lack of transparency in American networking processes.

The "Networking Muslim Scholars" meeting focuses on the exchange of science and technology experiences. This annual event, hosted by the Mustafa Science and Technology Foundation, aims to foster collaboration and interaction among experts and scientists from Islamic countries. The meeting serves as a platform, known as the "meeting for the exchange of science and technology experiences of Islamic countries," which facilitates the creation of synergy and the development of scientific cooperation. It plays a crucial role in promoting discourse on science and technology and advancing the communication network among scientists in the Islamic world through international events. Furthermore, it supports the growth of scientific and technological activities in countries affiliated with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. The meeting also endeavors to enhance scientific interactions at the international level by providing financial support for applied research and connecting researchers and professors from the Islamic world to a network of prominent scientists.

The book titled *Shia in Cyberspace*, authored by the Research Center of Islamic Science and Culture, explores the sociological theorization of the Shia cyberspace and the media norms associated with it. The book delves into the background of the active presence of Shia communities in the digital realm. The author also examines various waves of change within the Shia cyberspace, including the text-centered wave, institution-centered wave, ritual-centered wave, encounter-centered wave, discourse-centered wave, social-centered wave, education-centered wave, and the role of certain seminaries and Shia policies. The book proposes several strategies to enhance the effectiveness of the Shia cyberspace, which include:

1. Paying attention to the content of the Shia cyberspace to avoid repetitive works and fully utilize the opportunities presented by the virtual space.
2. Focusing on communicational and interactional aspects to foster meaningful engagement within the cyberspace.
3. Emphasizing a social-centered approach, considering the impact and influence of social dynamics within the Shia cyberspace.
4. Recognizing the international aspects of the Islamic cyberspace, acknowledging the global reach and interconnectedness of digital platforms.

These strategies aim to optimize the potential of the Shia cyberspace, promote effective communication, and leverage the international dimensions of the Islamic digital landscape.

The article titled "The Reflection of Shia Studies in Cyberspace," written by Hamidreza Kahani, explores the interconnected nature of the web in the realms of humanities, religion, and the increasing importance of Shia intellectual movements. This study delves into the virtual landscape of the English-speaking online sphere, investigating which websites provide information about Shia and the kind of experience an unfamiliar user encounters when searching for the Shia school to gain an understanding of Shia beliefs. Furthermore, it examines whether the existing content on Internet databases effectively conveys an accurate understanding of Shi'ism, appealing to the mindset of a non-Shia audience.

The article titled "Muslim Networks, Muslim Selves in Cyberspace: Islam in the Post-Modern Public Sphere," written by John W. Anderson from the Catholic University of America, explores the significant aspects of the intersection between social dynamics and the evolution of the Internet, and its impact on the dynamic nature of Muslim public spheres. The paper examines three stages: technological specialists, official activists, and the emergence of online moderate Islam, investigating the process by which Muslim presence has developed on the Internet.

- A. Technologists: The technologists have shown their Muslim identity for the first time by sharing authentic Islamic texts online, utilizing the Internet as a primary

- platform for scientific and research purposes.
- B. Official Activists (scholars and official organizations): This stage emerged as a response to the previous stage and aimed to establish alternative communication channels with people, particularly at the international level. Various organizational spokespersons (Islamic organizations), the International Islamic University (Islamic Conference Organization), numerous national organizations, and schools of scholars emerged with a focus on introducing Islam and promoting its correct interpretation. They placed significant emphasis on maintaining boundaries and addressing practical concerns of Muslims, such as the availability of mosques, halal butchers, and schools in Western countries. Their attention was directed towards fulfilling the ritual needs of Muslims and addressing their calls for support. Moreover, they increasingly focused on educational initiatives to shape the lives of Muslims and disseminate relevant information. In the 1990s, extensive texts of religious teachings and interpretations were published online through research conducted in cities like Qom and other seminaries. By 1999, Al-Azhar University published content online in both Arabic and English, serving as a web-based resource for authentic religious guidance on behalf of religious organizations. This stage facilitated the development of a broader network, network processes, network habits, producers, consumers, and identities in general, benefiting from the user-friendly advancements in global web technology.
- C. The Emergence of Moderate Online Islam: Moderate Islam encompasses a wider spectrum of perspectives and signifies a shift in discourse and communication aimed at harmonizing religion and contemporary life, particularly in adapting Islam to modern circumstances. Many individuals involved in this stage exhibit interests and professional styles that establish transnational connections, linking Middle Eastern countries and the global Islamic community. This connection between

local and transnational movements spans various regions.

During this stage, a variety of Islamic media outlets have emerged. Some of them align with the objectives of the first stage, such as a fatwa website established by a Muslim youth who graduated from a Catholic university, aiming to share personal experiences. Others follow the active approach of the second stage, like Hezbollah's website in Lebanon, as well as websites belonging to religious schools and foundations in Iran, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, and Al-Azhar. Additionally, there are cases where platforms have garnered broader and more diverse audience engagement, such as Online Islam, which utilizes the latest web technologies proficiently in both Arabic and English. Similar Islamic portals with similar features also exist.

The article titled "Muslim Usage of the Internet," authored by Steven (Musa) Woodward Furber (2017), examines statistical data that establishes a correlation between Internet usage and residence in Muslim minority or majority regions. The objective is to explore how Muslims seek answers to their religious queries by utilizing information resources available both online and offline, apart from the Internet.

The article titled "Muslims in Cyberspace: Exploring Factors Influencing Online Religious Engagements in Malaysia," written by Azimatun Abdul Rahman, Nor Hazlina Hashim, and Hasrina Mustafa, highlights the authors' perspective on the development of Islam and Muslim public spheres in the virtual realm, evolving alongside information and communication technology. Similar to believers of other religions, Muslims are eager to share their faith, beliefs, and values with just a click of a mouse. This study aims to identify the factors that influence Muslims' participation in online religious activities. The research reveals five key factors that predict online religious interactions: Internet attitude-perception, societal religious norms, Internet self-efficacy, level of religiosity among Muslims, and the utilization of media for religious purposes.

It is noteworthy to highlight the emergence of social networks specifically catering to the Muslim community. Recognizing the need for a secure and protected environment with religious content, Muslims have taken the initiative to establish social networks that address doubts, educate and introduce authentic Islam to both Muslims and non-Muslims, and filter out content that contradicts religious beliefs. These

networks include platforms like Taj Al-Islam (similar to Facebook), the Social Network of Tutlub, Shia Chat, the Social Network of Medina, Muxlim PAL, Muxlim, 4visit (<http://4visit.com>), the Virtual Society of Nasr, the Supporters of Vicegerency, and the Internet Network of Muslim Youth (www.muslimyouth.net).

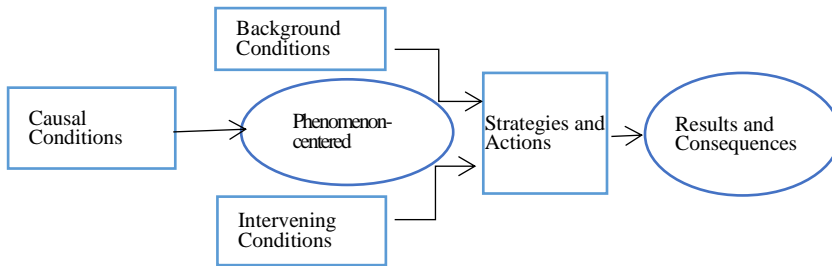
The existing background research reveals a significant research gap concerning the "networking" and "users of virtual space in the world of Islam." Thus, it is essential to address this gap and contribute to the existing knowledge. In light of this objective, the present study aims to explore and discuss the processes and patterns of networking among users in the virtual space within the context of the Muslim world.

Research Method

The data for this study was collected through the document method, and the gathered information has been presented in the form of a paradigm model that depicts the networking of users in the virtual space within the world of Islam. This model is derived from a comprehensive framework, including causal, intervening, contextual, phenomena-centered conditions, strategies, and outcomes, as presented by Strauss. The data-based approach utilized in this research is qualitative and follows an inductive methodology, employing a series of systematic procedures to develop a theory regarding the phenomenon under investigation (Strauss and Corbin, 2011). This method gained significant recognition and validation following the publication of the influential book by Barney Glaser and Anselm Strauss. The data collected by the researchers to describe the networking processes encompass various types of qualitative data, such as observations, conversations, interviews, and government documents (Hakkak and Feli, 2020, 202).

A Proposed Model for Networking the Users of Virtual Space in the Islamic World

Following the data collection process and in-depth analysis of interviews, articles, books, and news related to the networking of users in the virtual space within the Islamic world, a conceptual model has been developed. This model is based on theories that are relevant to the topic and encompasses six key components that are integral to any networking phenomenon.



Causal Conditions: These conditions contribute to the initiation and progression of the phenomenon in question. Causal conditions represent the prerequisites and interests that drive individuals, groups, and organizations to engage in networking activities. In the context of networking users in the virtual space within the world of Islam, the following causal conditions are identified:

Main Category	Subcategory	Basic Concepts
Causal Conditions	The Need for Power	The need for the solidarity of the Islamic Ummah to become a world power
	Material Need	The need to have access to financial resources
	Communication (social and emotional) Needs of the Users	Dynamic and reciprocal social interaction of users Islamic identity formation Value correlation of users
	Spiritual Needs	Giving meaning to the life based on monotheism Performing worshiping rituals and practices in relation to the Muslims
	Information Needs	The need to know Islam and introduce its teachings correctly in various languages
	Defending Islam and Islamic Identity	Defending Islam Information about and response to the doubts and attacks on Islam Defending Islamic identity against Islamophobia
	Creating New Opportunities and Innovation	Creating new opportunities for production, spread and use of Islamic content Innovation in introducing Islam Production and publication of Islamic content altering to the needs of users
	Islamic Response to the Needs	Islamic response to the individual, national and global needs of the users of the virtual space proportionate to today's needs

Motives serve as the underlying causes for networking. Within the context of networking users in the virtual space of the world of Islam, several motivations can be identified. One significant incentive is the desire for solidarity within the Islamic Ummah and the aspiration to establish a global influence. Individuals and organizations require access to financial resources in order to support their virtual activities, thus seeking to connect with like-minded individuals and organizations. The interactive communication needs, both social and emotional, of the users also play a crucial role in driving networking activities.

According to Anderson (2001), networking among Muslims is a dynamic social interaction that stems from the characteristics of networks and Islamic identity. It revolves around organized social technology. In the virtual space, Muslim users can shape and safeguard their identity. They seek to fulfill their spiritual needs by connecting with like-minded friends, sharing worship rituals, and establishing a spiritual space of solidarity and communication with other Muslims. Another driving factor for networking is the need for information and insight about Islam. Individuals and organizations engage in networking in various languages to gain a proper understanding of Islam and effectively promote it. Building a strong, committed, and efficient network is crucial for Muslims to obtain information, address Islamophobia, counter doubts, defend their identity, and respond to individual, national, and global demands within the virtual space.

Furthermore, networking in the world of Islam facilitates the creation of innovative opportunities to introduce Islam and generate impactful Islamic content. It also enables the Islamic community to respond to the diverse needs of virtual space users at individual, national, and global levels.

Background Conditions: specific situations that affect the strategies.

Main Category	Subcategory	Basic Concepts
	Individual Characteristics	Individual efforts to expand and maintain relationships with users Having strong public relations Having the reason for the establishment of network of users

Background Conditions		Believing Islam and its values Having tendency towards the Islamic values and conformity with its norms
	Leader's Characteristics	The power of influence Making coordination in the network
	Career Characteristics (Virtual Activity)	Mutual interaction in joint activities Interest and expertise in the field of activities in the virtual space
	Cultural-Normative Characteristics	Mutual recruitment of individuals and organizations The existence of similarities in terms of attitudes, values, social status, and other individual characteristics Common language and racial characteristics Religious (Islamic) characteristics Tendency towards helping others
	Infrastructures	Technological infrastructures Tools and equipment of networking
	Environmental Characteristics	Individual, group, organizational, regional, national and global characteristics

Among the individual characteristics of networkers in the world of Islam are their individual efforts to establish, develop, and maintain relationships with users in the virtual environment. They possess strong public relations skills and a motivation to create networks of users. Furthermore, they have a strong belief in Islamic teachings, demonstrate an inclination towards Islamic values, and conform to its norms.

The characteristics of network leaders in the world of Islam include their power of influence and ability to establish coordination. There is a complementary relationship between network members and the network manager. Network managers play a crucial role in establishing mutual norms and fostering an atmosphere of trust among network members, contributing to network stability. The presence of a collaborative infrastructure that aligns the interests of various partners is also essential.

Network managers can enhance goal alignment between network members and the entire network by facilitating communication and

bringing members together. This positive impact on network functions has been highlighted by Mandell and Keast (2008). To ensure internal stability, network managers create an environment that encourages favorable and beneficial interactions. They strengthen participation, promote data exchange, maintain coordination, and devise strategies to address strategic and operational challenges, as emphasized by Turrini (2010).

Therefore, the characteristics of a network leader and manager in the virtual environment involve a genuine interest in the field of activity, expertise, and mutual interaction with network members. These factors are crucial for effective networking within the world of Islam.

The cultural-normative characteristics of users play a significant role in networking within the world of Islam. The mutual attraction between individuals and organizations, shared attitudes, values, and social status, as well as other individual characteristics, have an impact on networking dynamics. Commonalities in language, race, sect, or religion, such as being Arab or Turkish, can contribute to the attraction towards networking. The religious aspect and Islamic orientation of users are constructive factors in networking, as like-minded individuals who share religious concerns tend to participate in such networks.

Another important and effective factor is the willingness to help others, which is essential for networking. Individuals who lack this characteristic may have difficulty engaging in networking effectively. Additionally, the availability of appropriate technological infrastructures and the possession of desired tools and equipment are crucial for making progress in the virtual space. Without these resources, it becomes challenging to initiate networking activities.

Environmental and organizational features also play a significant role in networking. The social, political, cultural, economic, and international environment in which organizations and individuals operate, as well as their specific requirements, have an impact on the goals and strategies of networking. These factors shape the context in which networking takes place and influence the overall networking outcomes.

Intervening Conditions: These conditions serve as general and mediating factors that exert influence on strategies and actions within networking. They can either facilitate or limit the impact of other factors involved in the process.

Main Category	Subcategory	Basic Concepts
Intervening Conditions	Mutual interaction and exchange between users	The level of participation and interaction of users The mutual social interaction The exchange of preferences (friendship, interests and information)
	Users' interests	The rate of results and desired rate of the users
	The structural characteristics of the network of users	The size of the network The variety of the network The flexibility of the network
	Quick response to the needs	The rate of quick response to the demands
	Resources for the network of users	Scientific, educational, and content-based Communicative Financial
	The manner of power in the network	Powerful members of the network

Users join a network based on their shared interests and goals with the network. Several facilitating conditions contribute to the success of a network. Dynamic interaction and active participation among users are key factors that contribute to the growth and expansion of the network. When members engage in mutual social interaction and demonstrate a willingness to exchange friendship, interests, and information, it enhances and facilitates networking processes.

Access to network resources also plays a significant role. The more users have access to resources within the network, the greater the positive impact on network actions, procedures, and strategies. Users' expectations regarding the results and benefits they anticipate from the network also influence the network's strategy and goal attainment.

Several factors can either facilitate or hinder networking strategies. These include the source of financial, information, and communication resources available to users, the prominence and influence of certain users within the network, and the level of need for timely responses to Islamophobia and attacks on Islam. The

flexibility, size, and diversity of networks also impact the strategies employed.

Companies can leverage the structures of their networks to enhance performance. Appropriate network structures for business can facilitate commercialization by providing opportunities and network resources derived from diverse partners with distinct characteristics. However, having diverse network structures alone does not guarantee efficient attraction and exploitation of these resources and opportunities. Research indicates that networking capabilities improve the impact of business network structures on performance.

By considering these factors, network leaders and managers can create an environment conducive to effective networking and maximize the potential benefits for all participants within the network (Maghsoodi Ganjeh et al., 2019; Mu, 2014).

Phenomenon-Centered: This serves as the foundation for a process (Strauss 2011). When selecting a category, it is essential to position it at the center so that it meets several criteria:

1. All other main categories can be connected and related to it.
2. The category should emerge repeatedly within the data.
3. The explanation associated with the category should logically and incontrovertibly expand by linking to other categories.
4. The chosen concept should be capable of explaining both the main point derived from the data and the subsequent transformations (Strauss 2011).

Establishing network connections among users within the virtual space serves as a pivotal category that operates across various dimensions, including:

Main Category	Subcategory	Basic Concepts
Networking (its dimensions)	Illustration management to attract the users	Self-promotion Self-monitoring Positive reputation
	Network relations management	Establishing a network relationship Expanding, maintaining and using network relations Ending a network relationship

	Network learning (network knowledge management)	Knowledge gained from the experience of user relationships Knowledge obtained from the quality of network relations Knowledge of the shared content
	Searching for new active users	Monitoring new users Evaluating new users

1. Illustration management constitutes a significant dimension within networking. The ability to attract new network participants and foster relationships holds paramount importance. Furthermore, employing illustration management techniques can cultivate trust in inter-enterprise relationships. Research indicates that trust-building acts as a catalyst for the exchange of knowledge and information within cooperative ventures, mitigating opportunistic behavior from both parties involved (Sakhdari 2015). Illustration management emerges as a vital solution to address intra-network conflicts that may arise within intercompany relations. Therefore, particular attention should be dedicated to the four techniques of illustration management capabilities, namely self-promotion, self-exhibition, self-monitoring, and positive reputation (Zahedi 2017).

The appropriate illustrations of user networking are as follows:

- A. Self-promotion: The extent to which individuals or organizations actively promote themselves and play a pivotal role in disseminating knowledge about Islam, producing, and publishing Islamic content within the virtual space directly influences their ability to attract network connections. By effectively showcasing their expertise and contributions, they become more persuasive to potential collaborators, thereby facilitating their own networking efforts.
- B. Self-monitoring: Engaging in self-monitoring practices, both individually and within the network, plays a crucial role in achieving goals and plans, ultimately leading to more effective recruitment efforts.
- C. Positive reputation: The reputation individuals or organizations possess in terms of their contributions to

the establishment and promotion of Islamic sciences, as well as their production and publication of effective and up-to-date content, directly influences their ability to attract capable individuals.

2. Network relationship management: Network relationship management encompasses the individuals' ability to establish, develop, and maintain connections with individuals who can provide support in their careers or areas of expertise (Forret and Dougherty 2001, 2). Networking involves engaging with a diverse range of individuals and organizations who collaborate to achieve mutual goals and success. It aims to foster enduring, long-term relationships where members know and assist one another. Users strategically adopt networking as their policy and approach. Networking involves establishing, nurturing, and utilizing relationships to facilitate career-related activities and maximize their benefits (Forret and Dougherty 2004; Wolff et al., 2008).

The main components of relationship management are as follows:

Establishing new relationships: Recognizing the dynamic nature of the environment and the emergence and disappearance of opportunities over time, entrepreneurs who are committed to networking should not only nurture and leverage their existing connections to the fullest extent, but also continually forge new relationships within their network. By actively seeking new connections, entrepreneurs can gain a better understanding of opportunities and threats, leading to enhanced performance (Neghabi et al., 2012, 39). New relationships bring fresh opportunities and information to the network. In the user network of the Islamic world, each new user adds value to the overall network, contributing to its growth and potential.

- A. Expanding, maintaining, and leveraging relationships: A networking entrepreneur strives to both maintain and expand their relationships, recognizing the competitive advantage that can be derived from strong connections (Neghabi et al., 2012, 39). Preserving network relationships not only enhances coordination and builds trust but also places network commitment at the

forefront. Furthermore, establishing both intra- and inter-organizational coordination is vital for sustaining existing relationships (Parida and Westerberg 2017, 20).

- B. Terminating network relationships: Organizations, particularly companies, should appropriately end unprofitable relationships (Maghsoodi Ganjeh et al., 2019). Researchers have recognized the ability to terminate network relationships as a crucial aspect of management capability in network relations (Ritter and Geersbro 2011, 988-93). It becomes necessary to terminate a relationship when either the network as a whole or a member within the network acts contrary to Islamic values or the goals of the network.

3. Network learning (network knowledge management): Network learning pertains to an organization's capacity to leverage experiences gained from previous relationships to foster more profitable connections and improve the management of existing relationships. Additionally, as a learning organization, companies should consistently seek to learn from the talents and abilities of their partners during the establishment of network relationships. They should effectively manage the knowledge acquired from their business partners throughout the course of network relations and disseminate it to all employees (Maghsoodi Ganjeh et al., 2019, 164).

4. Seeking new active users: The pursuit of users to enhance networking performance is crucial. An essential aspect of the capability to find partners is for managers to be cognizant of the knowledge gaps within their company. Through this awareness, they can view every inter-organizational link as a channel to fill these information gaps. This approach not only reduces the likelihood of redundant work and unnecessary challenges but also maximizes the utilization of all available potentials in the business (Sakhdari, 2015).

Strategies: Action strategies encompass purposeful behaviors, actions, and interactions that are adopted in response to a central category, influenced by intervening conditions (Hakkak and Feli, 2020, 220).

Main Category	Subcategory	Basic Concepts
Strategies and Actions	Network actions to plan strategies	Sincere intention Goal setting Determination of societal goals Determination of the field of activity Determination of the characteristics of network users Determination of network structure
	Network actions for illustrations (self-promotion, self-supervision, and positive reputation)	Honesty in illustration Holding periodic meetings to provide reports and transparency of performance in virtual network Active presentation in the meetings, exhibitions, formal and informal internal and foreign gatherings
	Network action to recruit new users (monitoring and evaluation)	Monitoring new users according to the desired features in online and offline media Participating in conferences, exhibitions, as well as cultural, Islamic, and cyberspace festivals,
	Individual actions of users for fostering promoting, maintaining, and terminating relationships	Honesty in action Investment on new users to create, maintain and develop their relations with others Creation of cooperation based on trust Creation of a stable relation Considering the personality aspects of users (compatibility, being introvert or experience-oriented) before starting a relationship Building trust by creating and maintaining relations and cooperation of users with each other Inviting an influential colleague to a meeting or business activity Communicating with an expert to obtain knowledge and information Communicating with interactive users Communicating with people more powerful than oneself Adhering to Islamic moral and axiological principles Focusing on the shared characteristics of users Discovering users' interests

		<p>Asking new users to contribute to the improvement of network activities Improving communication skills of users, especially effective listening Consulting and being consulted in the field of expertise (by users) Dynamic interactive and exchanging communication between users Developing and maintaining relationships with expert and capable users Close interaction with professional users to create and develop deeper relationship with them Dynamic assistance of users to each other Holding periodic meetings to enhance the communicative capabilities of users Following up and constantly communicating with users and not abandoning them Sending posts to users on the networked platform Exchanging personalized messages on a particular occasion between users Terminating relations in accordance to criteria</p>
	<p>Network action for network learning (network knowledge management)</p>	<p>Knowledge management according to relationship experiences of uses and the quality of formation of these relations Collecting information, processing and converting it to the knowledge of networking Supplying, demanding and expanding the network knowledge information Circulation of knowledge and communication in the network and receiving feedback from it Sharing the produced content, evaluating them, and converting them into knowledge</p>

Networking strategies and actions of users involve a dynamic communication process that encompasses a series of individual actions by users and a series of network-level actions.

Determined by the effective conditions, actions, and strategies of networking users in the virtual space are:

- A. The strategic network actions: to devise a strategy, the first step is:
 - 1. Sincere intention: In any Islamic activity, whether in the virtual or real world, the most crucial element is having a sincere intention. It is not about seeking personal recognition or gaining power. In the virtual activity and

- networking of users, individuals should prioritize genuine intentions and place their trust in God.
2. Determination of goals: Determining goals is a vital step in networking. The purpose of networking users is to facilitate extensive, interactive, and enduring communication among individuals in cyberspace, focusing on Islam and its teachings. This enables users to create an interactive and dynamic environment where they can support each other in utilizing and producing Islamic content, publishing and disseminating these materials, and sharing their experiences with others. Each network may have a distinct purpose based on its unique circumstances and background. Consequently, every network should establish both short-term and long-term goals, firmly believe in its path, and strive towards achieving them.
 3. Determining the target community: The focus of user activities is determined by the target community they aim to engage with. This target community can encompass various groups such as networks, families, children, teenagers, adults, students, the general public, Muslims, non-Muslims, individuals from specific ethnicities, races, or nations, and those who speak certain languages. Answering these questions helps identify the specific target community and the nodes within the network that users should prioritize in their networking efforts.
 4. Determining the field of activity: The field in which the network will operate is a crucial consideration. It could involve various areas such as the production of Islamic content, education, raising awareness about Islam, addressing doubts and misconceptions, countering Islamophobia, and launching campaigns centered around Islamic themes like Hijab, Hussain gathers us, and the question of "Who is al-Husayn?"
 5. Determining the characteristics of network members: Determining the criteria and indicators for selecting individuals to be part of the network is crucial. For instance, it is essential to establish that individuals in the

network should not be anti-Islamic or hypocritical when the goal is to produce and promote Islamic content.

6. Determining the network structure: The type of networking we engage in determines the monitoring and evaluation approach for the users involved. Our networking falls under the micro and individual type, where active and influential users with resources and expertise are connected. Additionally, there is a possibility of a mezzo type network, which involves active organizations in the Islamic field. Examples of such organizations include Al-Mustafa International University, Al-Azhar University, Cairo University, the University of Quran and Islamic Sciences of Sudan, the Quran Faculty of Tanta (Egypt), the International Islamic University, Islam Online, Islamic University of Madinah, Al-Asmariyah University (Libya), Higher School of Basic Doctrine of Islamic Faith of Tunisia, the Faculty of Promotion and Basic Doctrine of Islamic Faith of Jordan, University of Gaza, International Islamic University of Malaysia, the Quranic Guidance Association of Lebanon, Central Florida Muslim Academy, and Saudi Islamic Academy (USA), among others.

The most basic level of networking with these organizations is to include links to their websites or resources on our platforms. By doing so, users can easily access information directly related to their specific sect or Islamic perspective. For example, if a user belonging to the Sunni sect searches for Sunni-related information, they can be connected to the Research Center of Al-Mustafa through the provided link. This direct access allows users to obtain accurate information without the filtration of rumors or misinformation. Consequently, this approach helps dispel accusations, misunderstandings, and judgments, bringing us closer to fostering unity within the Islamic Ummah.

If the network structure is of a macro type and operates at a global level, involving organizations and individuals, it impacts the networking processes and strategy formulation differently. Establishing a robust, stable, and interactive network, such as the Conference of Islamic Countries, can lead to the formation of a network that encompasses the following sections:

1. Introducing Islam and its teachings in various languages worldwide, emphasizing Muslim commonalities.
2. Creating a section dedicated to newly converted Muslims, providing a platform for sharing their experiences and supporting their journey.
3. Sharing the experiences of Muslims and non-Muslims in their interactions with Islamic teachings and Muslims, fostering understanding and promoting dialogue.
4. Producing Islamic content that caters to individual, national, and global needs, addressing diverse topics and formats.
5. Organizing exhibitions to showcase Islamic productions and widely promoting these exhibitions globally through shared links.
6. Highlighting religious and contemporary role models who exemplify living according to religious standards, inspiring others through their actions and conduct.
7. Initiating campaigns with Islamic content using hashtags and actively supporting such campaigns. For instance, launching campaigns on social networks, like the "#hijabtome" hashtag, to address misunderstandings about the hijab and empower veiled Muslim women.
8. The process of attracting users and organizations to the network involves employing techniques of self-promotion, self-supervision, and building a positive reputation. Honesty and transparency in illustrating the network's purpose and performance are essential principles that generate trust and encourage cooperation among users. Holding regular meetings to provide transparent reports on the network's performance is another effective technique. Actively participating in both domestic and international official and unofficial meetings not only allows for network exposure but also facilitates learning from others. Attending exhibitions, seminars, and conferences presents valuable networking opportunities, enabling the network to attract a larger community of like-minded individuals who share similar goals and interests.

B. Various techniques can be employed to recruit new active users and effectively monitor and evaluate them. According to Tajweedi and Karami's research, active presence on both online social media platforms (such as Aparat, Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, and LinkedIn) and offline channels (including radio, television, exhibitions, and festivals) can aid in monitoring and identifying potential partners, as well as enhance organizational performance. Significant activities related to monitoring potential partners can be conducted within the realm of social media (Maghsoodi Ganjeh 2019, 164). Furthermore, when evaluating potential partners, one can consider criteria such as possessing adequate financial resources, complementary capabilities, shared goals, and organizational cultures (Alves and Meneses 2015, 23-35). Active participation in the cyberspace to produce, expand, and disseminate Islamic content while adhering to criteria like upholding Islamic values and receiving material and spiritual support can also be used as evaluation indicators. The most suitable venues for establishing connections and networking are festivals, conferences, lectures, campaigns, and significant scientific and Islamic events such as Hajj, Arbaeen, and the Conference of Islamic Countries. These gatherings provide excellent opportunities for engaging with like-minded individuals, exchanging ideas, and forming beneficial partnerships within the network.

C. Individual actions of users play a crucial role in networking, encompassing the establishment, advancement, maintenance, termination, and utilization of relationships between users. Sincerity is an integral component of every user's activities in the virtual space. It is essential to adhere to moral and Islamic principles while considering users' personality dimensions such as extroversion, adaptability, and empiricism. Seeking membership and engaging users' assistance in promoting network activities are also necessary. Networking requires long-term commitment and investment from users to foster stable relationships based on trust. Interactive and reciprocal relationships between users contribute to the dynamism of networking. The provision of services and assistance to others, even before seeking help oneself, is a fundamental principle in

networking. Users should engage in dynamic circulation of mutual support. Strengthening one's capabilities involves networking with capable individuals and organizations, as well as interacting with users who are willing to share resources (time, energy, money, knowledge, experience, and connections) when needed (Pakdaman 2022, 22). Inviting influential users to gatherings or business activities helps deepen relationships, while focusing on commonalities and discovering shared interests expands connections. Effective communication skills, particularly active listening, are essential for network stability. Consulting with and being consulted by experts and professionals contributes to the growth and expansion of relationships. Close interaction and expanding connections with knowledgeable and capable users are significant communication activities within networking. Establishing stable communication and cooperation based on trust is a fundamental aspect of networking. Adhering to ethical principles such as honesty, commitment, and faith values is crucial in Islamic networking. Holding periodic meetings to enhance users' communication capabilities is important for strengthening relationships. Sending personalized posts and occasional messages in a networked platform fosters interactive interconnections among users, deepening their commitment to the network. It is important to maintain dynamic and continuous communication with network users and members, avoiding abandonment. However, if a relationship exhibits harmful criteria or features, it should be terminated in order to maintain a healthy network environment.

D. Network action for network learning (network knowledge management) involves the continuous management of knowledge within the network. It should be based on users' relationship experiences and the process of forming relationships. Collecting information, processing it, and transforming it into network knowledge are essential aspects of knowledge management. Facilitating the provision, demand, and expansion of network knowledge management among users helps eliminate redundant and repetitive tasks. The flow of information and relationships within the network, along with received feedback, contribute to the expansion of network knowledge management. Additionally,

sharing produced content, evaluating it, and transforming it into network knowledge supports the development of knowledge management within the network. For instance, consider the production of content on monotheism during a specific time, addressing a significant need for Western Muslims. Similarly, there may be instances where the method of Islamic sacrifice (*dhibh*) faces criticism from animal rights advocates. In response, scientific research can be conducted, providing answers and capturing the attention of users. Effectively managing such information prevents users from engaging in repetitive tasks, optimizing their efforts within the network.

Results: The implementation of these strategies yields tangible outcomes that contribute to the growth and achievement of excellence.

Main Category	Subcategory	Basic Concepts
The Outcome of Networking (the Excellence of Network)	Promotion of effectiveness and efficiency of the network	Users' regular and coordinated interaction and exchange Increasing the skills and capabilities of like-minded users Network users' synergy in the production and publication of Islamic content Coordination between the network users Efficiency and effectiveness of network users' activities Effective decisions in the network field Production of diverse, up-to-date content catering to the users' needs Fulfillment of ritual, social, and spiritual needs of users Satisfaction of information and educational needs of users Increased effectiveness of network activities Identity formation and promotion of Islamic identity
	Network relationship improvement	Increased user cooperation and interactive communication Deepening of stable and strong relationships Relations based on trust and honesty Formation of social capital
	Negative outcomes	Network user conflict

Considering the factors that influence networking and its procedures and outcomes, Gibson et al. (2014) have highlighted that

networking leads to gaining power, advancing in business, achieving excellence, and attaining career success. Networking among users in the virtual space yields positive results and outcomes, including improved relations and increased effectiveness and efficiency of the network. In scientific networking and making appropriate choices, the establishment of criteria and features based on Islamic identity and moral values fosters the formation of social capital and enhances users' cooperation and exchange of communication. These relationships are strong and stable due to their alignment with the users' faith identity.

Networking also enhances users' skills and capabilities. With the flow of network information resources and regular, flexible interaction between users, synergy is created in the production, expansion, and dissemination of diverse, up-to-date, and Islamic content that caters to the users' needs. The network activities are effective, aligned with the network's objectives, and reach the desired level in terms of financial, information, and communication resources. Additionally, one significant outcome of networking is the formation and development of an Islamic identity in accordance with Islamic values and principles.

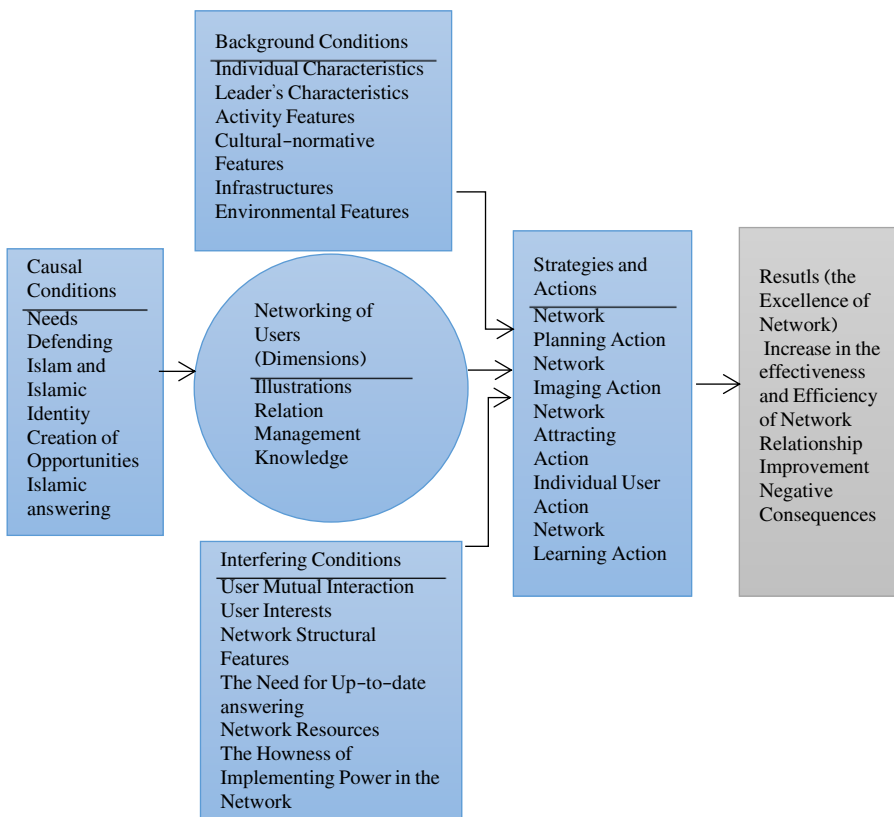
Networking among employees can have both positive and negative outcomes, and it is crucial for organizations and management to carefully observe and address the negative consequences. While networking among employees can bring about positive results such as problem-solving, facilitating management activities, preserving organizational values and identity, and fostering unity and harmony, the negative implications of this phenomenon on individuals and organizations often receive less attention.

Some of the negative consequences of employee networking include inappropriate interference in decision-making processes, undermining the unity of command, spreading rumors and false information, and generating conflicts between formal and informal organizational roles (Hakkak and Feli 2020). These negative outcomes can also manifest in networking among users in general. Conflicts arising from divergent interests and performance discrepancies among users are examples of such negative outcomes.

It is important for organizations and management to be aware

of these potential negative consequences and take proactive measures to mitigate them. This can involve setting clear guidelines and boundaries for networking activities, promoting open and transparent communication channels, and addressing conflicts or issues that arise promptly and effectively. By proactively managing the negative outcomes, organizations can ensure that networking among employees or users remains beneficial and conducive to overall organizational success.

Based on the discussions thus far, we can propose the following model for networking among virtual space users in the world of Islam.



Conclusion

The activities of virtual space users in the world of Islam are in need of networking. Despite the presence of engaged Muslims in the cyberspace, these activities often occur in parallel without fully utilizing the opportunities presented by the cyberspace environment. There is a lack of attention to the interactive and exchange relationships among users, limited production and dissemination of Islamic content involving user participation, and insufficient focus on Islamic needs at individual, national, and international levels. Networking users can address these gaps.

Each networking process consists of various causal, background, intervening, and phenomenon-centered conditions, strategies, and outcomes. Causal conditions include prerequisites, creating opportunities and innovation, defending Islam, forming Islamic identity, and addressing Islamic needs. Background conditions encompass individual characteristics, leadership, cyberspace activity, cultural norms, environmental factors, and infrastructure, all of which influence networking strategies. Interfering conditions involve the mutual interaction of users, users' interests, network structural characteristics, the need for up-to-date responses within the network, network resources, and the implementation of power in the network. These interfering conditions either facilitate or restrict networking strategies and actions.

The networking aspects center around imaging management, relationship management, knowledge management, and user recruitment, which are the focus of phenomenon-centered research. Networking actions include strategy planning, the use of illustrative techniques, user attraction techniques, network learning, and individual actions. These strategic actions contribute to the excellence of networking, increased effectiveness and efficiency of the network, improved relationships, and the mitigation of negative consequences such as conflicts.

While the general framework of networking entails processes, relationships, and components, each individual network is unique based on its specific background, phenomenon-centered conditions, and strategies. It is recommended that the model for each networking endeavor be localized and tailored to the specific conditions and requirements of that network.

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