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UNDERSTANDING AND APPLICATIONS OF DIGITAL TOOLS IN TEACHING AND LEARNING ISLAMIC EDUCATION IN MODERN ERA

By

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Abstract

Digital revolution has reshaped educational practices worldwide, and Islamic education is adapting these changes. In an era of rapid technological progression, Digital tools offer new opportunities for teaching and learning Qur'an, *Hadith, Fiqh, Seerah*, and Islamic ethics. Using a descriptive and analytical approach, this paper discussed the applications of digital tools in teaching and learning Islamic education in modern era. It identified Online learning platforms, mobile applications, interactive learning tools, Virtual Reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR), Social Media and Online Communities, E-books and Digital Libraries as well as Webinars and Online Workshops as some of the digital tools that could be used to enhance teaching and learning of Islamic Education. The paper argued that by leveraging on application of digital tools in Islamic education, proper training, verified content, and balanced integration, technology can enhance accessibility and understanding of teaching and learning of Islamic education while preserving its core values and moral objectives.

Keywords: Digital tools, Islamic education, e-learning, Pedagogy, Modern teaching.

Introduction

Since the beginning of the 21st Century, the field of Islamic education has undergone a significant transformation due to the digital era. With the use of digital gadgets, educational activities have become more effective and efficient (Diana et al; 2024). The intention is to foster a community around learning activities that can utilize digital devices or media to promote the creation of quality learning experiences and harness the potential and engagement of students. The rapid advancement of educational technology has dramatically

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transformed modern education worldwide, providing innovative tools that enhance learning outcomes, foster creativity, and cultivate critical skills Ubaedullah *et al*; (2025). In an age of accelerating digital transformation and diversified sources of knowledge, religious education is no longer confined to traditional classrooms and printed books.

Education in the digital age transcends the confines of physical classrooms. The integration of digital tools into learning environments has opened significant opportunities for creating more inclusive and flexible educational experiences. In Nigeria, as in other countries, the transition toward digital education is underway, albeit unevenly distributed. Within the realm of Islamic education, Restalia and Khasanah (2024) noted that integrating technology presents unique challenges, particularly in preserving the essence and traditional values of Islam while embracing modern pedagogical tools.

Islamic education has come to be a crucial problem in current years due to the fact it is far related to the growing need for a cutting-edge and applicable training device. Technology-based Islamic education can increase material accessibility Hakim *et al*; (2024). Thus, Islamic schooling wishes to conform to present day traits and make use of generation to reach a wider range of students. This includes the use of online platforms and educational applications that allow students to learn anytime and anywhere. In this regard, Benna Elmosleh Academy (2026) that noted digital technology has proven its ability to create dynamic learning environments that transcend the boundaries of time and place, offering unprecedented opportunities to deepen religious understanding and engage with Islamic content in a contemporary spirit.

This study seeks to delve deeper into the ongoing transformation of Islamic education in the digital era by identifying the principal challenges and opportunities arising from technological integration. It aims to analyze how Islamic educational institutions can

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effectively navigate these dynamics, ensuring that Islamic education remains relevant while preserving its foundational teachings and traditions. Given the critical role of Islamic education in nurturing morally grounded and spiritually aware individuals, this transformation is vital to maintaining its relevance in a rapidly evolving world. By examining the intersection of technology and Islamic education, this paper underscores the importance of aligning technological progress with the preservation of Islamic values to address contemporary challenges effectively.

Digital Tools

Digital Technology or tools is becoming a cornerstone of innovation, competitiveness, and strategic growth in higher education worldwide Alenezi, (2023). According to Al-Dmour *et al* (2025), digital technology or tools encompasses a wide range of technologies, including Learning Management Systems (LMS), data analytics, cloud computing, and digital administrative platforms, all reshaping teaching, learning, and institutional management. These technologies have shown significant potential in streamlining administrative tasks, personalizing learning experiences, and strengthening the reputation of higher institutions as modern, forward-thinking organizations. It provides institutions with vital tools to enhance operational efficiency, educational quality, and institutional reputation, enabling them to meet the evolving expectations of students, faculty, and stakeholders Alsayed *et al;* (2023).

In this digital era, everything is developing very fast, rapidly, and dynamically. The concept of Islamic education learning has undergone a significant transformation. Many literature reviews highlight how information and communication technology affect learning methods, including in the context of Islamic education. Traditional learning approaches are beginning to shift toward technology integration to expand accessibility, increase student engagement, and improve teaching efficiency Emmanuel *et al*; (2023); & Qodir *et al*; (2020). Studies have

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also shown that the use of digital media, such as learning videos, educational applications, and online platforms, can facilitate a deeper understanding of Islamic teachings Diana *et al*; (2024). However, there are also concerns related to the negative impacts of digitalization, such as disruption of traditional values, dissemination of unverified information, and challenges in ensuring the quality of Islamic education content delivered through digital media Hamami, & Nuryana, (2022). Therefore, this literature review emphasizes the importance of a balanced approach between the use of technology and the maintenance of authentic Islamic values in the learning process.

Azman *et al* (2025) noted that the adoption and integration of digital technology has introduced dynamic teaching strategies, enabling students to access educational resources with increased flexibility and facilitating information delivery through multimedia formats. Tools such as learning management systems (LMS), mobile learning applications, and pedagogical software offer numerous opportunities to enhance teaching effectiveness, promote critical thinking, and enrich students' overall learning experiences. This transformation impacts not only how educators deliver content but also how students engage with material and interact with one another.

Islamic Education

Islamic Education is a holistic form of education that covers every aspects of human life. It is the type of education geared towards inculcating the Islamic values, beliefs and norms to the learners. It derives its lessons from the Glorious Quran and Ahadith of Prophet Muhammad (SAW). According to Audia and Agil (2024), Islamic Education is a continuous effort in changing individual morals through the teaching process, with the aim of achieving goodness for oneself, society, and the surrounding environment, in accordance with the needs of society.

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Adigun (2025) noted that Islamic education is a vital component in the moral, spiritual, and intellectual development of Muslim, as it has long been a cornerstone of the educational landscape for Muslim communities in Nigeria, particularly in the northern regions. Rooted in the teachings of the Qur'an and Hadith, its primary purpose is to provide moral guidance and foster spiritual consciousness. In this regard, Dauda (2025) opined that the aim of Islamic Education is to produce a good and righteous man, he who worships Allah the Creator and acts according to the dictates of Shari'ah. Its teachings aimed at instilling the right types of attitudes capable of developing societies.

In the world today, Muslims are acquiring good ideas, thoughts, knowledge, and skills, from all corners of the world. The world is moving very fast, and in this industrialize world, it is the duty of the teachers to give quality ethical integrated education to the Muslim students worldwide, because children are invaluable assets of future generations Yusuf, (2024). Islamic education plays a pivotal role in shaping individual character, fostering moral values, and providing a profound understanding of Islamic teachings. As society evolves, Islamic education is increasingly confronted with new challenges, particularly in relation to the rapid advancement of digital technology. Restalia and Khasanah (2024) observed that the digital era is transforming nearly all facets of life, including education, necessitating significant shifts in how learning is conducted. While technology offers unprecedented convenience in accessing information and knowledge, it also imposes new demands on educators and students to adapt swiftly to emerging tools and platforms.

Islamic education especially in this digital era, aims to create knowledgeable and skilled Muslim generations so that they can live well, safely, prosperously, and peacefully. Every Muslim should be trained and encouraged to apply Islamic knowledge in their daily lives, and they should also be proficient in applying practical knowledge to manage natural resources to

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meet daily needs (Ulmadevi et al; 2023). Through this education, learners acquire both internal qualities closely related to faith and morality, and external skills closely related to livelihood as a personal responsibility to provide for themselves, their families, and the surrounding community in need.

Application of Digital Tools in Teaching and Learning Islamic Education

In the world today, there are numerous digital tools that can be used to enhance effective teaching and learning of Islamic Education. However, some of these tools as identified by Sazeda (2025) include:

1 **Online Learning Platforms:** Online learning platforms like Courser a, EdX, and Udemy offer a variety of Islamic courses taught by knowledgeable scholars. These platforms enable students from all over the world to learn at their own pace, providing flexibility that traditional classrooms may not offer.

2 **Mobile Applications:** With the proliferation of Smart phones mobile applications have become an integral part of Islamic education. Apps such as Muslim Pro and Quran Companion offer features like Quran recitation, translation, and memorization tools. These applications provide users with easy access to Islamic resources, prayer times, and learning materials, making it convenient for individuals to enhance their knowledge on the go.

3 **Interactive Learning Tools:** Interactive tools such as Kahoot! and Quizizz are being used in Islamic educational settings to create engaging quizzes and games. These platforms allow teachers to create interactive sessions that not only test students' knowledge but also make learning fun. By incorporating gamification into lessons, educators can motivate students to participate actively and retain information better.

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4 **Virtual Reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR):** Emerging technologies like VR and AR are beginning to find their place in Islamic education. These tools can provide immersive experiences, allowing students to explore historical Islamic sites, engage with cultural heritage, and understand the context of Islamic teachings in a more interactive manner. For instance, VR experiences that simulate a visit to Mecca or historical Islamic landmarks can enhance students' understanding of Islamic history and culture.

5 **Social Media and Online Communities:** Social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube have become valuable resources for Islamic education. Scholars and educators use these platforms to share lectures, discussions, and insights on various Islamic topics. Online communities and forums allow students to engage in discussions, ask questions, and share knowledge, creating a sense of belonging and collaboration among learners.

6 **E-books and Digital Libraries:** Digital libraries such as Al-Huda Online Library and Islamic Bookstore provide access to a vast collection of Islamic texts, scholarly articles, and research papers. E-books make it easier for students to read and reference important texts without the need for physical copies. This accessibility is especially beneficial for those living in regions with limited access to Islamic literature.

7 **Webinars and Online Workshops:** Webinars and online workshops are increasingly popular in the field of Islamic education. Scholars conduct live sessions on various topics, allowing participants to ask questions in real-time. This format promotes interactive learning and gives students access to expert knowledge from the comfort of their homes.

Benefits of Application of Digital Tools in Teaching and Learning of Islamic Education

Understanding and application of digital tools to teaching and learning of Islamic education in the modern era offers a lot of benefits. Digital technology allows for the adoption of

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interactive and engaging teaching methods, enhancing learner centered methods and understanding of Islamic principles. In this regard, Ubaedullah et al (2025) demonstrates the importance of continuous professional development for teachers, investment in digital infrastructure, and curriculum reform that integrates Islamic teachings with modern technology. A balanced approach is crucial to ensure the integrity of Islamic education while simultaneously harnessing the benefits of technological advancements. Application of digital tools to teaching and learning of Islamic education offers a range of advantages that enhance the effectiveness of religious learning. Some of these benefits are enumerated as thus:

1 **Increased Interaction and Engagement:** Digital media enable direct interaction between the student and the learning material, whether through explanatory videos, interactive activities, or virtual discussions. This creates a learning environment that is more engaging than traditional rote instruction and contributes to developing the learner's critical thinking Benna Elmosleh Academy, (2026).

2 **Connecting Religious Knowledge to Life Contexts:** Digital materials can link religious texts to contemporary life issues through visual examples and practical applications that touch the learner's reality, thereby strengthening the student's connection to religious knowledge and its application in their life.

3 **Flexibility of Learning:** Digital education allows students to learn at their own pace, with the ability to review lessons at any time and from any place, making it suitable for different age groups and levels of understanding.

4 **Smart Assessment:** Benna Elmosleh Academy (2026) noted that Digital tools such as Learning Management Systems (LMS) provide direct testing of student performance and

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instant feedback, helping to accurately gauge the level of understanding and identify areas that need reinforcement.

5 **Learning Material Development**: Digital tool enables the creation of interactive digital content, such as instructional games, animated films, and simulations. Karim (2024) noted that by adapting teaching materials to students' interests, skills and learning preferences, content can also be made more personally relevant to them. In addition, translation and transliteration assistance in the acquisition of the Qur'an and Hadith by offering these services in various languages.

6 **Teaching Strategy:** Students can ask questions and receive answers, practice, and support from digital AI chatbot-based virtual instructor. Karim (2024) observed that digital tools such as AI are used in project-based learning to solve practical problems. Finding opportunities for improvement is facilitated by the use of AI in learning data analysis.

7 **Learning Evaluation:** By using adaptive assessment, test questions are leveled according to student abilities. Automated feedback reacts to student replies in a timely and targeted manner. Comprehensive performance evaluations evaluate students' social and emotional competencies in addition to their cognitive understanding Nguyen *et al*; (2023).

Challenges of Digital Islamic Education

Despite its many benefits, digital Islamic education faces a number of challenges that require educational and institutional attention. Some of these challenges as enumerated by Benna Elmosleh Academy (2026) include:

1 **Technical Infrastructure Gap:** Unequal access to digital devices or high-quality internet limits the spread of digital education in some areas, requiring institutional efforts to strengthen infrastructure.

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2 **Teachers' Digital Capabilities:** While technology provides powerful tools, the lack of adequate training for teachers in using digital media may limit its educational impact. Continuous training programs are therefore needed to develop digital implementation skills.

3 **Content Regulation and Quality Assurance:** It should be noted that digital abundance does not necessarily mean quality content; therefore, scholarly organization and religious review of digital sources become essential to ensure the soundness and accuracy of information.

Way Forward

In order to ensure effective understanding and adoption of digital tools in teaching and learning of Islamic education in the modern era, the following recommendations are pertinent:

1 Islamic religious education must enhance the quality of its human resources to be competitive in the digital era. Improving the quality of Islamic religious education will have a significant impact on both institutions and other elements.

2 Building technology-based digital infrastructure: This is crucial to raising standards of teaching and learning of Islamic education and keeping pace with modern advancements.

3 Utilizing computer-based learning resources. This has become a challenge due to the widespread integration of the Internet into people's lives. The use of digital media is a necessity in Islamic educational activities.

4 There is a need to inculcate in Islamic education curriculum the ideas of *Maqasid Al-Shari'ah*, which highlights the goals of Islamic law. Therefore, the goals of preserving justice, eradicating injustice, and preserving life, enhancing intelligence, and protecting property can be achieved through the direction of AI growth. This will make it easier to

guarantee that digital technology is applied to uphold Islamic beliefs while improving the quality of education.

5 Data security and openness in the application of digital tools must be considered. Islamic education must ensure that digital tools are accountable and the data used to train them is free from bias.

Conclusion

Teaching and learning of Islamic education through digital media is not merely a future option, but an educational necessity in the information age. When technology is employed carefully and in line with the goals of Islamic education, it does not merely facilitate access to knowledge it deepens understanding, develops the learner's awareness, and strengthens the spirit of belonging to values. In an era of changing learning patterns, application of digital tools to Islamic education remains a strategic tool for building an aware society capable of facing the challenges of the age with faith, awareness, and a clear vision. Digital platforms such as e-learning systems, Islamic educational applications, and social media enable wider dissemination of Islamic teachings, reaching students across geographic boundaries, including those in remote areas or with physical limitations. Conversely, the digital era presents unparalleled opportunities for advancing Islamic education.

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