Original Research Article

An Appraisal of Morality and its Implication: An Islamic Perspectives

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Abstract

Moral according to the teachings of Islam is when we do everything based on the Qur'an, while moral in society is when we do everything that is in accordance with the rules that apply in society. The aim of this research is to highlight that moral is an important aspect that must be learned by everyone. At present there are many cases that illustrate moral degradation such as sexual harassment behavior, the use of illegal drugs and others. This of course needs improvement and the most important thing is improvement in the world of education where there must be moral cultivation in children based on the Qur'an and *Sunnah*. The paper also finds out that Muslims are copying some of the immoral character which is not neither in the Qur'an nor in the *Sunnah*. Analytical method used in the conducting the research. The research also recommended that Muslims should be good morals and emulate the teaching of Qur'an and *Sunnah* of the Prophet SAW on good morals and ethics.

Keywords: Morality, Education, Islam, Implication, Qur'an and Sunnah.

INTRODUCTION

Preamble

Moral is generally defined by psychologists as attitudes and beliefs of someone who helps people to decide what is right and wrong.[1] Furthermore, he states that the concept of morality itself is influenced by the rules and cultural norms in which a person is raised, so that it is internalized within a person. Morality is not part of the "standard equipment" when a person is born, because someone is born without morals. In the Qur'an the moral is often referred to as morals.[2]

Moral is a basic element that must be studied and applied by all generations because it is the core of all religions, so scientists state their roots, goals, and influence on individuals and groups.[3] The aim of all religions is to change the morality of society into perfect morality which will benefit society. The ultimate goal of morality in Islam is to achieve love and faith in the Almighty Allah. Moral education has long been an important and intrinsic learning goal. Islam is a comprehensive way of life, and morality is one of the pillars of Islam.[4]

Morality is one of the fundamental sources of a nation's strength, just as immorality is one of the main causes of a nation's decline. Islam has established several universal fundamental rights for humanity as a whole, which must be observed in all circumstances. To uphold these rights, Islam not only provides legal protection, but also a very effective

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[1] R. Hook, Forty Studies That Changed Psychology, Prentice Hall, New Jersey, 1999, P.23.

[2] Ibid, Forty Studies That Changed Psychology… P.24.

[3] A. Abd-Aziz Al Awamleh, Moral Education, International Journal of Education, vol: 3 No: 2, 2011.

[4] J. Hassan, Islamic Concept, Of Morality as Notion of War Fighting Concept. NDU journal, (np), 2013.

moral system. Thus, anything that leads to the welfare of individuals or society and does not oppose any religious maxims is morally good in Islam, and anything that is morally dangerous is bad.[5]

Definition of terms
Meaning of Islam:

The word "Islam" itself means submission or surrender to the will of God (Allah).[6] It encompasses a comprehensive belief system, a code of conduct, and a way of life for its followers, known as Muslims. Here is the meaning of Islam as understood in the Islamic faith, supported by references from the Qur'an and the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him):

1. Submission to the Will of God: Islam emphasizes the complete submission and surrender to the will of Allah. Muslims believe that true peace and fulfillment can be achieved by willingly obeying and worshiping Allah alone, acknowledging His sovereignty over all aspects of life. As Allah said:

    Indeed, my prayer, my rites of sacrifice, my living and my dying are for Allah, Lord of the worlds.[7]

Meaning of morality:

Morality refers to the principles, values, and standards that guide human behavior in distinguishing between right and wrong, good and evil, and virtuous and immoral actions. It encompasses the ethical framework that individuals and societies use to determine what is considered morally right or wrong. [8]While religious and philosophical perspectives differ in their specific understanding of morality, it generally involves concepts such as justice, fairness, compassion, honesty, and respect for others.

Although religious texts, such as the Qur'an and the Bible, provide moral guidance, references from philosophical works can also shed light on the meaning of morality. Here are some references from both religious and philosophical sources that highlight the concept of morality:

i.   Qur'an on morality
     a. And [by] the soul and He who proportioned it, and inspired it with discernment of its wickedness and its righteousness, indeed, successful is the one who purifies it.[9]
     b. This verse from the Qur'an acknowledges the inherent capability of the human soul to recognize the distinction between wickedness and righteousness. It indicates that moral discernment is an innate quality within individuals and highlights the importance of purifying the soul.

ii. Bible on morality:
     a. Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law? And he said to him, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your entire mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.[10]
     b. This passage from the Bible emphasizes the importance of love for God and love for others as the foundational principles of morality. It highlights the interdependence of moral duties towards God and fellow human beings.

2. Sunnah on Morality:
    a. The *Sunnah* of the prophet Muhammad S.A.W provides practical examples and guidance on Moral conduct, serving as a source of inspiration for Muslims to employ righteous character and behavior. Here are some provisions from the *Sunnah* that highlight the importance of morality.
    b. The best among you are those who have the best manners and character.[11]

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[5] L. Terence, Islamic Morality: Teaching to balance the Record, Journal of Moral Education, (Np), Volume 45, Issue 1, 2016.

[6] L. John, Islam in the oxford Encyclopedia of Islamic World, J.L. Esposito (ed), oxford University Press, Oxford, 2009,P.34.

[7] Qur'an 6:162

[8] https://www.Islamweb.net/en/article/34385/morality-in-islam. Retrieved on18/07/23

[9] Qur'an 91:7-8

[10] Bible - Matthew 22:36-40. www.holybooks.com

[11] M. I. Bukhari,,Sahih al-Bukhari, Dar Al-Salam, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 1997, translated by Muhammad Muhsin Kan. book 78, Hadith 56

3. Immanuel Kant:
   Morality is not the doctrine of how we may make ourselves happy, but how we may make ourselves worthy of happiness.[12]
   Kant, a prominent philosopher, emphasizes that morality is not solely concerned with pursuing personal happiness, but rather about cultivating virtues and behaving in a manner deserving of happiness. He emphasizes the importance of moral duty and the pursuit of ethical principles.

4. Aristotle:
   a. Moral excellence comes about as a result of habit. We become just by doing just acts, temperate by doing temperate acts, brave by doing brave acts.[13]
   b. Aristotle believed that morality is not simply a matter of knowing what is right, but it is cultivated through the practice of virtuous actions. He emphasized that moral virtues are developed through habit and practice, shaping one's character over time.

These references from religious texts and philosophical works offer insights into the meaning of morality. They highlight the significance of moral discernment, love for God and others, the pursuit of virtue, and the development of ethical character. They contribute to the broader understanding of morality and its importance in guiding human behavior and fostering a just and virtuous society.

Meaning of implication:

The term "implication" refers to the consequences, effects, or practical applications of a particular concept or belief. It explores the outcomes or results that arise from a given principle or idea. When discussing the implications of a concept in the context of religion, it refers to the practical and real-life significance that arises from adhering to that concept or belief. Here, I'll provide a general explanation of the term "implication" and its meaning in the context of religion.[14]

However, it is important to note that references in religious texts are typically used to support the teachings and principles rather than specifically discussing their implications. Religious texts primarily focus on conveying the message and providing guidance. The implications and applications of these teachings are often derived through interpretation, analysis, and contextual understanding.

In the context of religion, including Islam, the implications of various beliefs and teachings can be understood through a comprehensive study of the religious texts, scholarly interpretations, historical context, and practical applications within the lives of individuals and communities. It involves reflecting on the teachings and deriving insights into how they influence personal behavior, social interactions, and the overall way of life.

While religious texts may not explicitly discuss the implications of specific concepts, they do provide guidance on how to live a righteous and fulfilling life. Muslims rely on these teachings to understand the implications of their faith and apply them to various aspects of their lives. Islamic scholars, through their exegesis and analysis of the Qur'an and the *Sunnah* (teachings and practices of Prophet Muhammad), contribute to explaining the practical implications and applications of Islamic beliefs.

It is important to approach the topic of implications in religion with respect to the diverse interpretations and understandings that exist within the Muslim community. Different scholars and individuals may derive different implications from the same teachings based on their perspectives and scholarly methodologies. Therefore, the implications of religious beliefs and teachings are often open to interpretation and personal understanding within the broader framework provided by the religious texts.[15]

In summary, the term "implication" in the context of religion refers to the practical applications and consequences that arise from adhering to specific religious beliefs and teachings. While religious texts may not explicitly discuss the implications, they provide the foundation for understanding and deriving insights into the practical implications of religious concepts.

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[12] K. Immanuel, *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*, Cambridge University, University of St Adrews, Scotland, 2011, Pp. 40-41.

[13] Aristotle, S. John, (ed), *The Nicomachean Ethics*, with Eglish Notes, Henry Slatter, Oxford, 1836.

[14] https://www.Islamweb.net/en/article/34385/morality-in-islam. Retrieved on18/07/23

[15] https://mathworld.wolfram.com/logicalImplication.html. Retrieved on 17/07/2023

Morality in Islam

Morality in Islam refers to the ethical principles and values that Muslims are encouraged to uphold in their personal and social lives, based on the teachings of the Qur'an and the example of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). It encompasses the understanding of right and wrong, and guides Muslims in making ethical decisions and behaving in a virtuous manner.[16] Here are some references from the Qur'an and the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) that highlight the meaning of morality in Islam:

Righteousness is not that you turn your faces toward the east or the west, but [true] righteousness is [in] one who believes in Allah, the Last Day, the angels, the Book, and the prophets and gives wealth, in spite of love for it, to relatives, orphans, the needy, the traveler, those who ask [for help], and for freeing slaves; [and who] establishes prayer and gives *zakah*; [those who] fulfill their promise when they promise; and [those who] are patient in poverty and hardship and during battle. Those are the ones who have been true, and it is those who are the righteous.[17]

This verse highlights that true righteousness in Islam is not merely in external rituals or appearances, but it is in the sincerity of belief and the adherence to moral values such as generosity, honesty, fulfilling promises, and patience in times of hardship.

Another verse said:

O mankind, indeed We have created you from male and female and made you peoples and tribes that you may know one another. Indeed, the most noble of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous of you. Indeed, Allah is Knowing and Acquainted.[18]

This verse emphasizes that true honor and nobility in the sight of Allah is based on righteousness and moral conduct, not on social status, wealth, or lineage. Islamic morality promotes equality, fairness, and the recognition of the inherent worth and dignity of all individuals.

Also another verse said about morality:

And your Lord has decreed that you not worship except Him, and to parents, good treatment. Whether one or both of them reach old age [while] with you, say not to them [so much as], *'uff*,' and do not repel them but speak to them a noble word. And lower to them the wing of humility out of mercy and say, 'My Lord, have mercy upon them as they brought me up [when I was] small.[19]

These verses highlight the significance of honoring and respecting parents and treating them with kindness and compassion. It emphasizes the importance of maintaining family ties and fulfilling the duties towards parents as a part of Islamic morality.

According to the *Sunnah* of the Prophet SAW:

The best among you in Islam are those with the best manners, so long as they develop a sense of understanding.[20]

Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) emphasized the importance of good manners and character as a key aspect of Islamic morality. Muslims are encouraged to cultivate noble traits such as kindness, humility, patience, forgiveness, and treating others with respect and dignity.

Another hadith of the Prophet SAW:

None of you truly believes until he wishes for his brother what he wishes for himself.[21]

This hadith highlights the principle of treating others as one would like to be treated, promoting empathy, compassion, and fairness in one's interactions. It emphasizes the importance of considering the well-being of others and promoting mutual respect and care.

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[16] https://www.Islamweb.net/en/article/34385/morality-in-islam. Retrieved on18/07/23

[17] Qur'an 2:177

[18] Qur'an 49:13

[19] Qur'an 17:23-24

[20] M. H. Muslim, Sahih Muslim, Islamic Book service, Canada, edited by Hafiz Abu Tahir Zubair.. book 32, Hadith, 2007. number 6195

[21] M. I. Bukhari,,Sahih al-Bukhari, Dar Al-Salam, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 1997, translated by Muhammad Muhsin Kan. book 2, Hadith 13

These references from the Qur'an and the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) highlight the meaning of morality in Islam. It encompasses beliefs, actions, and character traits that are in accordance with the guidance of Allah and the principles of righteousness, justice, compassion, and respect for others.

Implication of Morality in Islam

Morality in Islam has various implications for the individual and society. It provides a framework for personal conduct, social interactions, and the overall well-being of the community. Here are some implications of morality in Islam, supported by references from the Qur'an and the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him):

1. **Personal Development and Self-Improvement:** Islamic morality encourages individuals to engage in self-reflection, self-discipline, and self-improvement. It emphasizes the importance of purifying one's heart and character, striving for righteousness, and overcoming negative traits. Allah said:

   Indeed, Allah will not change the condition of a people until they change what is in themselves.[22]

2. **Accountability and Judgment:** Morality in Islam reminds individuals of their accountability before Allah. It emphasizes that every action will be taken into account on the Day of Judgment. This understanding encourages Muslims to be mindful of their behavior and to strive for moral excellence. Allah said:

   O you who have believed, fear Allah. And let every soul look to what it has put forth for tomorrow - and fear Allah. Indeed, Allah is Acquainted with what you do.[23]

3. **Social Justice and Equity:** Islamic morality places a strong emphasis on justice and equity. Muslims are encouraged to be fair, impartial, and just in their dealings with others, regardless of differences in social status, ethnicity, or religious background. Allah said:

   O you who have believed, be persistently standing firm for Allah, witnesses in justice, and do not let the hatred of a people prevent you from being just. Be just; that is nearer to righteousness.[24]

4. **Honesty and Integrity:** Morality in Islam emphasizes the importance of honesty and integrity in all aspects of life. Muslims are encouraged to fulfill their commitments, honor contracts, and be trustworthy in their dealings with others.

   Verily, Allah commands that you should render back the trusts to those, to whom they are due.[25]

5. **Compassion and Kindness:** Morality in Islam promotes compassion, kindness, and empathy towards others. Muslims are encouraged to show mercy and benevolence to fellow human beings, animals, and the environment. It emphasizes the importance of fostering harmonious relationships based on love and care.

   Allah is not merciful to those who are not merciful to people.[26]

6. **Preservation of Family and Community:** Islamic morality underscores the significance of maintaining strong family ties and nurturing a healthy and cohesive community. It encourages Muslims to fulfill their responsibilities towards their families, provide support, and contribute positively to the welfare of society.

   The best among you are those who are best to their families.[27]

These implications highlight the significance of morality in Islam, not only as a personal code of conduct but also as a means to establish justice, foster compassion, and build a strong and cohesive society. Muslims strive to live in accordance with these moral teachings to attain spiritual growth and create a positive impact on their communities.

Recommendation

This research paper is recommended that Muslims should be moral and emulate the teaching of Qur'an and *Sunnah* of the Prophet SAW on morality. Therefore, it is obligatory for every Muslim to be good moral and to avoid the immorality. Allah SWT in many places in the Qur'an shows the significant of good moral and asked Muslims to emulate it.

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[22] Qur'an 13:11

[23] Qur'an 59:18

[24] Qur'an 5:8

[25] Qur'an 4:58

[26] M. I. Bukhari, Hadith - Sahih al-Bukhari 7376, Book-97, Hadith- 6.

[27] M. Y. Ibn Majah, Sunan Ibn Majah, edited Hafiz Abu Tahir Zubair, Dar Al-Salam, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia., 2007. Book 9, Hadith number 1846

CONCLUSION

The paper discusses on the meaning of Islam, Morality, Implication, Morality in Islam as well as the implication of Morality in Islam. It also discusses much on the issues which Qur'an and *Sunnah* of the Prophet SAW provides as morality such as: Personal Development and Self-Improvement, Accountability and Judgment, Social Justice and Equity, Honesty and Integrity, Honesty and Integrity and Preservation of Family and Community.

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12. https://www.Islamweb.net/en/article/34385/morality-in-islam.
13. https://www.Islamweb.net/en/article/34385/morality-in-islam.
14. https://mathworld.wolfram.com/logicallmplication.html.