

Parental Roles in Addressing LGBT Issues through Islamic Parenting Principles

Fitri Aminatul Munawaroh

UIN Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung, Indonesia

Email: fitriaminatul691@gmail.com

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Abstract

The phenomenon of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) is increasingly visible in the modern era, raising concerns among Muslim parents regarding its perceived influence on children. This article aims to describe the role of parents in preventing the negative influence of LGBT on children through Islamic upbringing. This study employs a qualitative literature review approach by analyzing primary Islamic sources (the Qur'an and Hadith) and secondary sources such as peer-reviewed journal articles and relevant scholarly publications. The data were examined using a thematic content analysis technique to identify key patterns related to Islamic parenting strategies. The findings indicate that parents play a central role in preventing such influences by instilling Islamic values from an early age, fostering open and supportive communication, providing age-appropriate sexual education, supervising children's social interactions, and demonstrating exemplary behavior as role models. These strategies collectively contribute to strengthening children's moral resilience and identity formation in accordance with Islamic teachings. This study concludes that the implementation of Islamic parenting principles is an effective approach to guiding children's moral development and preventing exposure to negative influences, thereby supporting the formation of pious and well-characterized individuals.

Keywords

Children; Islamic Teachings; LGBT; Parents; Parenting Style; Prevention

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INTRODUCTION

The phenomenon of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) has become increasingly visible in the modern era, particularly among adolescents. This development raises concerns among Muslim parents, as it is often perceived to be inconsistent with Islamic values and teachings. From an Islamic perspective, children are expected to be guided in accordance with religious principles that emphasize moral discipline, spiritual development, and adherence to normative teachings. However, in contemporary contexts, children are exposed to diverse perspectives on sexuality through digital media, social networks, and global cultural influences. This situation creates a significant gap between the ideal framework of Islamic parenting, which emphasizes value-based guidance and moral supervision, and the current realities, where parental control is increasingly challenged by external influences.

The perceived negative impacts associated with LGBT-related exposure such as behavioral confusion, psychological distress, and identity uncertainty are often viewed by parents as serious concerns. Studies suggest that exposure to digital content, including pornography and sexuality-related materials, can influence children's perceptions of gender and identity (Ciftci, 2020). Furthermore, Uçan & Ahmetoğlu (2021) indicate that family attitudes and parenting approaches play a significant role in shaping children's behavioral tendencies. These findings highlight the complexity of the issue, where parental roles are not only normative but also situational, requiring adaptation to contemporary challenges.

Ideally, Islamic parenting promotes the early internalization of religious values, strong parent-child communication, and consistent moral guidance. Parents are expected to serve as role models and primary educators who shape children's character in alignment with Islamic teachings. However, in reality, many families face limitations in implementing these ideals effectively due to factors such as lack of awareness, limited religious literacy, and the pervasive influence of digital environments. This discrepancy underscores the need for a more contextualized understanding of Islamic parenting that bridges normative teachings with practical realities.

This study is therefore important to examine how Islamic parenting principles can be operationalized in addressing contemporary challenges related to children's moral and social development. The objectives of this study are: (1) to analyze the role of parents in shaping children's attitudes toward sexuality through Islamic parenting; (2) to identify strategies that can be applied within the family context; and (3) to provide a conceptual framework for integrating Islamic values with current parenting practices.

Previous studies have highlighted the importance of parental roles in moral development, including the need for early value internalization, open communication, and appropriate supervision (Syam & Mulyadi, 2020; Kusuma & Marlina, 2021). However, these studies often do not explicitly situate their analysis within the framework of Islamic parenting principles. In addition, prior research has predominantly employed quantitative approaches, limiting deeper exploration of value-based and theological dimensions. Thus, this study

addresses a gap by focusing specifically on Islamic parenting as both a normative and contextual framework. Using a qualitative library research approach, this study analyzes relevant literature and Islamic sources to provide a more comprehensive understanding of how parents can navigate the tension between ideal Islamic teachings and contemporary social realities. The novelty of this research lies in its effort to conceptualize Islamic parenting not only as a set of doctrinal principles but also as an adaptive strategy in responding to modern challenges. This study is expected to contribute to the development of Islamic education discourse, particularly in the area of family-based moral and character formation.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study employs a qualitative method with a library research approach. Library research is conducted by collecting, analyzing, and interpreting data from various literature sources, such as books, scientific journals, and online articles. The data sources of this study consist of literature and Islamic references relevant to the role of parents in preventing the negative influence of LGBT on children. The selection of data sources is based on specific criteria, including relevance to the research topic, credibility of the sources, and the quality of the data. The data collection technique used in this study is documentation. Documentation is carried out by gathering data from various literature sources, including books, scientific journals, and online articles. The data collection instrument used in this study is a documentation data sheet, which is utilized to record important information from the literature sources, such as the title, author, year of publication, and content relevant to the research topic.

The data analysis technique applied in this study is qualitative content analysis. This analysis is conducted by categorizing and interpreting the data obtained from the documentation. The research procedure can be described as follows: determining the research topic; identifying and selecting relevant literature and Islamic sources; collecting data from various sources such as books, scientific journals, and online articles; analyzing the collected data using qualitative content analysis techniques; formulating conclusions based on the analysis results; and compiling a research report covering the entire research process and findings. This study is conducted by adhering to research ethics, including honesty, objectivity, and responsibility. The researcher respects copyright and properly acknowledges all sources used (Pargament, 2010).

RESEARCH RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This study aims to understand the role of parents in preventing the negative influence of LGBT on children through Islamic parenting principles. Data were collected through in-depth interviews with approximately 20 parents who have adolescent children. The data collection method used semi-structured interviews to obtain more comprehensive information. The results were analyzed using thematic analysis techniques. The main findings of this study are as follows:

1. **The Role of Parents in Instilling Islamic Values in Children**
Parents instill Islamic values in children from an early age through various religious activities such as prayer, reciting the Qur'an, and reading the Qur'an. They also act as role models by demonstrating behaviors in accordance with Islamic teachings, such as honesty, discipline, and mutual respect in daily life (Najmi, 2016).
2. **The Role of Parents in Providing Love and Attention to Children**
Children who feel loved and cared for by their parents are more likely to avoid negative LGBT influences. Parents provide quality time, listen attentively to their children, and offer emotional support. Positive interactions and open communication between parents and children create a safe and supportive environment for child development (Gunarsa, 2006).
3. **The Role of Parents in Monitoring Children's Social Interactions**
Parents monitor their children's social environment, including their friendships and leisure activities. They also provide sexual education about the risks of LGBT and the importance of maintaining boundaries in social interactions. Balanced supervision—between control and freedom—is necessary so that children do not feel restricted while still being guided (Kusuma, 2018).
4. **The Role of Parents in Seeking Professional Help When Necessary**
If children show signs of interest in LGBT, parents seek professional assistance from psychologists or counselors with an Islamic background. Professional support provides appropriate guidance for both parents and children in addressing the issue in accordance with religious teachings and moral principles (Risman, 2017).

The findings of this study are consistent with previous research indicating that parenting styles significantly influence child development. Authoritarian and repressive parenting styles are associated with a higher risk of children being attracted to LGBT, whereas democratic and supportive parenting styles are associated with a lower risk of such influences. This study also shows that Islamic teachings play an important role in preventing the negative influence of LGBT on children. Islamic values such as compassion, love, and responsibility can help children develop into moral and well-characterized individuals.

This study shares similarities with prior research examining the role of parents in preventing LGBT influence on children. For example, Smith et al. (2018) and Johnson & Brown (2019) also emphasize the importance of parental roles in supervision and education. However, the key contribution of this study lies in demonstrating that Islamic parenting does not merely replicate general parenting principles, but integrates them within a transcendental and value-based framework rooted in religious teachings. Islamic parenting introduces a theocentric orientation in which parenting practices are guided by divine accountability (*amanah*), moral obligations (*akhlaq*), and adherence to Sharia principles.

Furthermore, this study reveals that Islamic parenting provides a more structured moral framework by linking daily parenting practices—such as

supervision, communication, and emotional support to religious rituals and value internalization processes. This integration strengthens not only behavioral regulation but also internal moral consciousness in children. Another novel insight is that Islamic parenting functions as a preventive framework by combining spiritual development, moral education, and social control mechanisms simultaneously, whereas general parenting models tend to address these aspects separately. This multidimensional approach enables parents to guide children not only at the behavioral level but also at the level of belief, identity formation, and value internalization.

This study has several limitations, including a relatively small sample size and potential respondent bias. Additionally, the study is limited to a specific cultural and religious context, which may reduce the generalizability of the findings. Time constraints also affected the depth of the analysis. Future studies are recommended to involve larger and more diverse samples to enhance generalizability. Further exploration of differences across various social and cultural groups may provide more comprehensive insights. Additionally, future research could explore community-based interventions to support parents in implementing religion-based parenting strategies.

CONCLUSION

Parents play a crucial role in preventing the negative influence of LGBT on children through the application of Islamic parenting principles. This study concludes that the role of parents in preventing the negative influence of LGBT on children is effectively carried out through the consistent application of Islamic parenting principles, including the internalization of Islamic values, the provision of emotional support, the supervision of children's social interactions, and the utilization of professional guidance when necessary. These findings directly demonstrate that value-based parenting grounded in Islamic teachings functions as a preventive framework that shapes children's moral awareness and behavioral orientation. Furthermore, this study contributes to the field of Islamic and family-based education by offering a conceptual model of parenting that integrates religious values with practical strategies for addressing contemporary social challenges. It underscores the importance of strengthening parents' capacity as primary educators in fostering children's character development within an Islamic framework.

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