



TRANSGENDER IN THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE QUR'AN

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ABSTRACT

This study explores the issue of transgender identity from the perspective of the Qur'an, aiming to examine how Islamic scripture addresses this topic—the research problem centers on understanding the Qur'anic stance on transgender issues and gender transition practices. This article applies a thematic approach combined with library research methodology, which involves a systematic review and analysis of various Qur'anic verses related to gender identity, human nature, and permissible actions. Relevant verses were gathered to construct an overarching view of the permissibility and implications of gender transition from an Islamic standpoint. Findings indicate that Islam, as conveyed through the Qur'an, strictly prohibits acts involving gender alteration, whether transitioning from male to female or vice versa. The Qur'anic perspective emphasizes the significance of preserving the inherent nature (Fitrah) assigned by Allah, viewing any attempt to change one's gender as a contradiction to divine creation and natural order. Moreover, the Qur'an associates altering physical identity and gender with acts of rebellion against the boundaries set by God, suggesting moral and spiritual consequences for those who engage in such practices. Through its thematic analysis, the study reveals that Islamic teachings strongly discourage interventions aimed at changing one's biological sex or social gender identity, advocating instead for acceptance and adherence to one's divinely ordained nature. These findings contribute to broader discussions on gender identity within Islamic ethics, particularly highlighting the religious objections to gender transition as reflected in Islamic scripture.

Keywords: Transgender; qur'anic perspective; gender identity; thematic approach; islamic ethics

1. INTRODUCTION

The phenomenon of transgender individuals presents complex challenges within Muslim communities, where interpretations of Islamic texts and cultural norms often clash with contemporary understandings of gender identity. Discourses surrounding transgender individuals in Islam are diverse, encompassing theological, legal, and social dimensions. This discussion explored religious interpretations, socio-political influences, and the need for further research on transgender issues within the Muslim context. Many Islamic scholars argue that transgender

behavior contradicts the natural order established by God, viewing it as a deviation from divine creation. (Aswindasari & Marhamah, 2024)

The maqāṣidi interpretation emphasizes the preservation of religion, lineage, and intellect, suggesting that transgender practices may undermine these values. (Aswindasari & Marhamah, 2024) In the context of Islam, transgender individuals are often referred to as "Mukhannats" (men who behave like women) or "Mutarajilat" (women who behave like men). Scholars generally agree that intentionally changing one's gender through surgery is prohibited based on interpretations of certain Quranic verses and hadiths. For instance, Surah An-Nisa (4:119) and Surah Ar-Rum (30:30) emphasize the prohibition of altering Allah's creation. (Sakinah & Kurniawan, 2023)

The Qur'an does not directly mention the term "transgender," as it is understood today. However, themes related to gender, identity, and human behavior have been subjects of interest for many "Mufassir" (Qur'anic exegetes). In classical commentaries such as "Tafsir al-Jalalayn" or "Tafsir al-Qurtubi," discussions on gender often focus on the roles of men and women within society. In contrast, contemporary interpretations, such as Muhammad Asad's "The Message of the Qur'an" or Buya Hamka's tafsir, often attempt to relate these themes to modern social phenomena, including gender diversity. (Asad, n.d.)

One verse often cited in this discussion is Surah An-Nisa (4:119), where Allah warns humanity about Satan's attempt to "alter Allah's creation." Some classical scholars interpret this verse as a prohibition against physical alterations, including gender changes. For example, in his "tafsir," Ibn Kathir emphasizes that such actions go against Allah's will and are considered a deviation. However, this interpretation is frequently criticized in modern contexts for its limited understanding of gender identity as a psychological and social construct rather than merely a physical one. (Ibnu Kasir)

On the other hand, transgender-related themes are often linked to hadiths condemning behavior that imitates the opposite gender. A hadith narrated by Imam Bukhari mentions that the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) cursed men who imitate women and women who imitate men (*al-Mutashabbihun bil-Nisa' wa al-Mutashabbihat bil-Rija'*). The interpretation of this hadith, particularly in Islamic jurisprudence, serves as a basis for some scholars to prohibit transgender behavior. However, contemporary interpretations attempt to view this hadith within that time's cultural and social practices while acknowledging the more complex nuances of identity in modern contexts. (al-Bukhari)

The challenge in addressing transgender issues within Islam lies in reconciling the rulings of *sharia* with empathy for transgender individuals as creations of Allah who possess equal rights and dignity. Contemporary interpretations, such as those proposed by Fazlur Rahman and Asghar Ali Engineer, emphasize the importance of understanding Qur'anic texts within their context and their relevance to modern social conditions. This perspective highlights that while the Qur'an offers universal moral principles, it requires a contextual approach to address phenomena like transgender identity effectively. (Yafa, 2024)

This article explores how the Qur'an and its classical and contemporary interpretations address the issue of transgender identity. The focus is on how Islam's sacred texts are understood concerning gender identity and how these interpretations have evolved or remained relevant in responding to an ever-changing social reality. This approach aims to provide a balanced understanding that integrates Islamic law, the principles of compassion, and Justice for all humanity.

2. METHODS

This study aims to examine the issue of transgender individuals from the perspective of the Qur'an using a qualitative approach based on library research. The study employs a thematic interpretation (*Tafsir Maudhu'i*) method to analyze Qur'anic verses relevant to gender issues, identity, and human roles in Islamic thought. (Abubakar, 2013; Salim et al., 2011) Below is a detailed explanation of the methodology employed:

a. Research Design

This study adopts a qualitative approach with a library research design. (Narbuko & Achmadi, 2001) This design was chosen because the research object is conceptual and theoretical, focusing on how the Qur'an addresses the transgender issue. The analysis explores Islamic literature, Qur'anic exegeses, and scholarly opinions regarding gender and human nature.

b. Data Collection Procedures

The data used in this research comprises two types. Primary Data, Qur'anic verses discussing themes of human creation, gender, and transgender-related issues. Key verses include Surah Al-Hujurat (49:13) on the creation of humans as male and female, Surah An-Nisa (4:119) on altering Allah's creation, Surah Ar-Rum (30:30) on the natural disposition (Fitrah) of humans. The secondary data is Qur'anic exegeses (such as *Tafsir al-Misbah* by Quraish Shihab, *Tafsir Ibnu Katsir*, and *Tafsir Jalalain*), books on gender in Islam, and relevant academic articles.

The data collection process involves:

1. **Identification of Verses:** tracing Quranic verses is related to gender issues and identity shifts using thematic indexes.
2. **Exegesis Analysis:** Analyzing the interpretation of these verses based on classical and contemporary exegeses.
3. **Supporting Literature Review:** Utilizing journals, articles, and books on transgender issues from an Islamic perspective.

c. Data Analysis Techniques

This study applies content analysis to explore the content and messages of Qur'anic verses. (Suryabrata, 1985) The analysis involves the following steps:

1. **Categorization of Verses:** Grouping relevant verses based on themes such as human creation, altering creation, and natural disposition (fitrah).
2. **Thematic Interpretation:** Employing the *tafsir Maudhu'i* method by integrating perspectives from various exegeses to draw comprehensive thematic conclusions.
3. **Contextualizing the Transgender Issue:** Analyzing the data concerning contemporary transgender issues, including social, psychological, and Islamic legal aspects.
4. **Verification of Findings:** Comparing the analysis with scholarly opinions and previous studies to ensure validity.

d. Ethical Considerations

Since this research focuses on a literature review, it does not involve human subjects or direct participation. However, ethical considerations include. Avoiding interpretative bias by relying on authoritative exegeses and ensuring that discussions on transgender issues are

conducted objectively without prejudice or discrediting any group. Use respectful language, given the sensitivity of gender issues.

e. Data Validation

Validation is conducted through data triangulation, which compares primary and secondary sources. Consistency in Interpretation, Referring to widely recognized exegeses to avoid subjective interpretations, Expert Consultation, Engaging in discussions with academics in Qur'anic exegesis and gender studies to strengthen the findings.

3. RESULTS

This study explores the issue of transgender individuals through the lens of the Quran, focusing on thematic interpretations and relevant verses. Below are the findings organized thematically:

a. Creation and Human Nature

The Quran emphasizes human beings' inherent nature and dignity as part of God's creation. Key verses such as:

لَقَدْ خَلَقْنَا الْإِنْسَانَ فِي أَحْسَنِ تَقْوِيمٍ

Translation:

"And We have certainly created man in the best of stature." (Al-Tin: 4)

يَخْلُقْكُمْ فِي بُطُونِ أُمَّهَاتِكُمْ خَلْقًا مِنْ بَعْدِ خَلْقٍ فِي ظُلُمَاتٍ ثَلَاثٍ

Translation:

"He created you in the wombs of your mothers, creation after creation, in three darknesses." (Az-Zumar: 6)

These verses underscore the divinely ordained nature of human beings, emphasizing that creation, including biological differences, is purposeful and deliberate. The notion of being created "in the best of stature" suggests an intrinsic value and worth assigned to everyone, regardless of gender identity. (Permana, 2023) This perspective can be further illustrated by considering the complexity of human existence, which encompasses a vast spectrum of identities, including those who identify as transgender. The Quranic assertion that God creates each individual with intention and care invites us to reflect on how human beings express their identities, thereby challenging the rigid binaries often imposed by societal norms. (Anwar et al., 2022)

b. Gender as a Binary Concept

Several Quranic verses highlight the binary nature of gender, particularly in the context of marriage and procreation:

وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ أَنْ خَلَقَ لَكُمْ مِنْ أَنْفُسِكُمْ أَزْوَاجًا لِتَسْكُنُوا إِلَيْهَا

Translation:

"And of His signs is that He created for you from yourselves mates that you may find tranquillity in them." (Ar-Rum: 21)

وَخَلَقْنَاكُمْ أَزْوَاجًا

Translation:

"And We created you in pairs." (An-Naba: 8)

These verses suggest a divine intention for the binary categorization of gender, which is intricately tied to societal and familial structures in Islamic teachings. The concept of pairs implies a complementary relationship between male and female, often interpreted as foundational for family units and social stability. (Nasr, 2006) However, this interpretation may overlook the experiences of those who do not fit neatly within these categories. For instance, the existence of intersex individuals and the complexities of gender identity challenge the simplicity of a binary framework. The Quran's reference to creation in pairs can be understood as a call to recognize the diversity of human experiences rather than strictly enforcing binary definitions. (Darius et al., 2023)

c. Prohibition of Changing God's Creation

Another thematic finding centers on the prohibition of altering God's creation. Verses such as:

وَلَا مَرْتَهُمْ فَلْيَغْيِرَنَّ خَلْقَ اللَّهِ

Translation:

"And I will command them so they will change the creation of Allah." (An-Nisa: 119)

This verse is often cited in discussions opposing gender reassignment procedures, viewing such actions as transgressions against divine will. However, a deeper analysis reveals the need to contextualize this prohibition. (Ahmad et al., 2023) The emphasis on not altering God's creation can be interpreted as a caution against actions that may cause harm or disrupt the natural order rather than a blanket condemnation of medical interventions to alleviate suffering. For example, gender-affirming surgeries for transgender individuals can be seen as a means of aligning one's physical form with one's gender identity, potentially leading to improved mental health and overall well-being. This perspective invites reconsidering how we interpret divine commandments in light of contemporary understandings of gender and health. (Lee et al., 2024)

d. Compassion and Non-Discrimination

Despite the prohibitions above, the Quran emphasizes principles of compassion, dignity, and Justice:

وَلَقَدْ كَرَّمْنَا بَنِي آدَمَ

Translation:

"Indeed, We have honored the children of Adam." (Al-Isra: 70)

وَلَا يَجْرِمَنَّكُمْ شَنَاٰنُ قَوْمٍ عَلَىٰ أَلَّا تَعْدِلُوا اعْدِلُوا هُوَ أَقْرَبُ لِلتَّقْوَىٰ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ

Translation:

"And do not let the hatred of a people prevent you from being just. Be just; that is nearer to righteousness." (Al-Ma'idah: 8)

These verses serve as a foundation for treating transgender individuals with respect and fairness despite differing interpretations of their identity within Islamic law. The principle of honoring all children of Adam reinforces the idea that every individual, regardless of their gender identity, is deserving of dignity and respect. This perspective aligns with the broader Islamic teachings on Justice and compassion, advocating for an inclusive approach that acknowledges

the struggles faced by transgender individuals within society. The call for Justice, even in the face of prejudice, underscores the ethical obligation to support marginalized people, thereby fostering a more equitable society. (Aswindasari & Marhamah, 2024)

4. DISCUSSION

a. Theological Implications

The theological implications of the Quranic verses regarding gender present a profound and intricate understanding of creation, one that has been interpreted through various lenses over centuries. At the heart of this discussion lies the concept of a divine blueprint that delineates the roles and responsibilities of genders within society. This notion is particularly significant as it reflects a broader theological framework that seeks to harmonize the relationship between the divine and the earthly, the spiritual and the social. The Quran's emphasis on the binary nature of gender—male and female—has traditionally been understood as foundational to Islamic jurisprudence. This perspective aligns with the historical narratives and legal structures that have predominantly framed gender within these two categories, suggesting a clear delineation of roles that support societal cohesion. (Hadia, 2023)

However, the contemporary discourse surrounding gender within Islamic thought is evolving, with scholars increasingly advocating for a more nuanced interpretation of these traditional texts. This shift acknowledges the existence of intersex individuals and the complexities surrounding transgender identities, which challenge the binary classifications that have long been entrenched in Islamic jurisprudence. For example, the work of scholars such as Scott Kugle (2010) has been instrumental in exploring the historical and theological dimensions of gender diversity within the Islamic tradition. Kugle's studies delve into the historical phenomenon of *Mukhannathun*, or effeminate men, in early Islamic societies, providing a rich context for understanding how gender fluidity has existed within Islamic history. These historical accounts not only illuminate the complexities of gender beyond rigid binaries but also serve as a reminder that cultural and societal norms often influence the interpretation of religious texts. (Suud et al., 2024)

The recognition of *Mukhannathun* in early Islamic history illustrates a significant departure from the contemporary understanding of gender as strictly binary. These individuals were often accepted within their communities, sometimes even holding respected positions, which suggests that early Islamic societies were more accommodating of gender diversity than previously acknowledged. This historical precedent invites reconsidering how Quranic verses can be interpreted in light of modern understandings of gender. For instance, the Quranic narrative surrounding the creation of Adam and Eve could be re-examined to explore the potential for a broader understanding of gender that includes non-binary identities. This approach enriches the theological discourse and aligns with contemporary movements advocating for greater inclusivity within religious contexts. (Akeel & Alessandra, 2023)

Furthermore, the theological implications extend beyond mere recognition of gender diversity; they challenge the very foundations of how faith communities engage with modern issues of gender identity. The intersection of gender and theology raises critical questions about the nature of divine intention and the role of religious institutions in shaping societal norms. As scholars and activists continue to advocate for a more inclusive approach, it becomes imperative to analyze how religious teachings can either perpetuate or dismantle harmful stereotypes associated with gender. (Finn, 2016) The potential for reinterpretation of Quranic verses could lead

to a transformative understanding of gender roles that is both faithful to Islamic teachings and responsive to the realities of contemporary society. (Finn, 2016)

In addition, the theological discourse surrounding gender has significant implications for the lived experiences of individuals who identify outside the traditional male-female binary. The intersectionality of gender identity, sexuality, and faith is a complex landscape that requires sensitive engagement from religious leaders and communities. For many individuals who do not conform to traditional gender norms, the challenge lies not only in seeking acceptance within their faith communities but also in reconciling their identities with religious beliefs that may seem at odds with their experiences. This tension often results in feelings of alienation and exclusion, underscoring the urgent need for a theological framework that embraces diversity rather than marginalizes it. (Christi et al., 2024)

Moreover, exploring gender diversity within Islamic theology can catalyze broader social change. By recognizing and affirming the existence of diverse gender identities, religious communities can foster environments that promote understanding, compassion, and inclusivity. This shift can potentially empower individuals who have historically been sidelined, allowing them to reclaim their narratives within the context of their faith. The theological implications of this recognition extend beyond the individual, influencing community dynamics and societal structures in ways that promote harmony and mutual respect. (Mahjabeen, 2024)

As we delve deeper into the theological implications of gender within the Quranic framework, it becomes evident that the binary classification of gender is not absolute. The historical examples of *Mukhannathun* and other instances of gender fluidity challenge contemporary interpretations that rigidly adhere to binary classifications. Instead, they suggest that the Quran may indeed accommodate a broader understanding of gender, one that reflects the complexities and diversities of human experience. This perspective enriches our understanding of Islamic theology and invites a more inclusive and compassionate engagement with gender identity issues. (Saadia, 2024; Yafa, 2024)

In conclusion, the theological implications of gender in the Quran are multifaceted and deeply significant. The traditional binary understanding of gender, while prevalent in Islamic jurisprudence, is increasingly being challenged by contemporary scholarship that seeks to acknowledge and embrace the complexities of gender identity. By recognizing historical precedents of gender fluidity within Islamic contexts, scholars and practitioners can pave the way for a more inclusive interpretation of religious texts. This shift has profound implications for faith communities, encouraging them to engage with modern issues of gender identity in a manner that is both respectful and affirming. Ultimately, a re-examination of gender within the theological framework of Islam can lead to a more harmonious society, one that values diversity and promotes understanding among all individuals, regardless of their gender identity.

b. Comparison with Previous Studies

Previous studies often emphasize the prohibition against altering God's creation, as derived from An-Nisa: 119. This verse has historically been interpreted to mean that any form of modification to the human body, whether through surgery, hormonal treatment, or other means, is inherently sinful. The interpretation of this verse has led to a significant discourse within Islamic scholarship, often resulting in a rigid stance against practices such as gender transition. However, scholars like Safi (2021) argue that this interpretation must consider medical and psychological dimensions increasingly recognized in contemporary society. (Ahmad et al., 2023; Aswindasari & Marhamah, 2024)

To illustrate this point, one must first understand the concept of gender dysphoria, which is defined as the psychological distress experienced by individuals whose gender identity does not align with their assigned sex at birth. This condition is acknowledged by major medical organizations, including the American Psychiatric Association, as a legitimate medical issue that can significantly affect an individual's mental health and overall well-being. For instance, individuals experiencing gender dysphoria may face anxiety, depression, and suicidal thoughts due to societal pressures and personal conflicts arising from their gender identity. In this context, transitioning—whether through social, medical, or surgical means—can be viewed not merely as a rejection of divine creation but as a necessary step towards healing and self-acceptance. (Elisa et al., 2023; Yu-Chi et al., 2024)

This perspective invites a re-evaluation of traditional interpretations of religious texts, urging a compassionate approach that prioritizes the well-being of individuals grappling with gender dysphoria. The argument posits that if transitioning can alleviate suffering and improve mental health outcomes, it may be seen as a form of treatment rather than a defiance of divine will. This shift in understanding aligns with a broader trend in medical ethics, where the focus is increasingly on patient-centered care that respects individual autonomy and dignity. (Alastair et al., 2022)

Furthermore, feminist and reformist scholars have pointed to the Quran's overarching themes of Justice and compassion as grounds for re-evaluating rigid stances on issues of gender identity. The Quran frequently emphasizes the importance of Justice ('adl) and mercy (rahma), which are fundamental principles that should guide the treatment of all individuals, regardless of their gender identity. For example, the Quranic injunction to "do good and be just" can be interpreted as a call to support individuals in their pursuit of happiness and well-being rather than condemning them for their identity. (Khdir et al., 2024)

By integrating contemporary understandings of gender identity with traditional Islamic ethics, a more inclusive framework can emerge that respects individual dignity while remaining rooted in faith. This framework does not necessitate altogether abandoning religious principles but encourages a dialogue between faith and modern understandings of health and identity. Scholars advocating for this approach often cite the importance of empathy and understanding in religious practice, suggesting that the true essence of faith lies in compassion and support for those in need.

Moreover, it is essential to consider the implications of maintaining a rigid stance against gender transition within the Muslim community. Such a position can lead to significant harm, including social ostracism, mental health crises, and even violence against individuals who do not conform to traditional gender norms. By fostering an environment of acceptance and understanding, religious communities can play a crucial role in supporting individuals experiencing gender dysphoria. This support can manifest in various forms, such as providing safe spaces for dialogue, offering mental health resources, and advocating for policies that protect the rights of transgender individuals.

In conclusion, the discourse surrounding gender transition within Islamic scholarship is complex and multifaceted. While traditional interpretations of religious texts may emphasize the prohibition against altering God's creation, it is imperative to consider the medical and psychological dimensions of gender dysphoria. By adopting a compassionate approach that prioritizes individual well-being and aligns with the Quranic principles of Justice and mercy, scholars and community leaders can work towards a more inclusive understanding of gender identity that respects faith and individual dignity. This re-evaluation not only benefits those

experiencing gender dysphoria but also enriches the broader Muslim community, fostering an environment of empathy and understanding that aligns with the core tenets of Islam.

c. Significant Patterns and Trends

A notable trend in contemporary Islamic discourse is the growing recognition of the distinction between biological sex and gender identity. This shift represents a significant evolution in understanding gender within Islamic thought, moving away from rigid, binary classifications towards a more nuanced perspective that acknowledges the complexities of human identity. The increasing awareness of this distinction can be attributed to several interrelated factors, including advances in psychology, the visibility of transgender individuals, and the broader socio-cultural dynamics at play within Muslim communities.

The advances in psychology, it is mainly in understanding gender dysphoria and the spectrum of gender identities, have played a crucial role in shaping contemporary discussions about gender within Islamic contexts. Historically, many interpretations of Islamic texts have adhered to a binary view of gender, often rooted in traditional readings of the Qur'an and Hadith. However, contemporary psychological insights have illuminated the experiences of individuals who do not conform to these binary categories. For instance, the concept of gender fluidity challenges the notion that individuals must strictly identify as either male or female based solely on their biological characteristics. This understanding is fundamental in Islamic discourse, as it encourages scholars and community leaders to reconsider how they interpret religious teachings in light of modern psychological knowledge. (Najla & Arthur, 2023)

Moreover, the lived experiences of transgender individuals within Muslim communities have become increasingly visible, prompting a re-evaluation of existing narratives surrounding gender identity. Personal stories shared by transgender Muslims often highlight the struggles they face, including discrimination, familial rejection, and the challenge of reconciling their identities with their faith. These narratives are powerful illustrations of the complexities of navigating gender identity and religious belief. For example, a transgender woman who has experienced marginalization within her community may articulate her journey toward self-acceptance and the difficulties she faces in seeking recognition and support from her faith community. Such personal accounts not only humanize the issue but also challenge traditional interpretations that may overlook or dismiss the realities of transgender lives.

The increasing visibility of transgender individuals in Islamic contexts calls for a critical examination of how religious teachings are applied in practice. This visibility has been facilitated by social media and advocacy groups that amplify the voices of transgender Muslims, creating spaces for dialogue and reflection. Through platforms such as Instagram and Twitter, individuals can share their experiences, engage with others, and foster a sense of community that transcends geographical boundaries. This digital landscape allows for exploring diverse interpretations of Islamic teachings, encouraging a more inclusive approach that acknowledges the validity of different gender identities. For instance, discussions surrounding the concept of "Khawla" (the idea of gender non-conformity in Islamic texts) have gained traction, prompting scholars to reconsider how these teachings can be applied in contemporary contexts.

In this evolving discourse, scholars and community leaders play a pivotal role in fostering a more nuanced understanding of gender identity that aligns with faith and human experience's realities. By engaging with contemporary issues and integrating insights from psychology, they can develop interpretations of Islamic teachings that reflect the diversity of human experiences. This approach requires a delicate balance between scriptural fidelity and contextual understanding, as scholars must navigate the complexities of religious texts while remaining attuned to the lived realities of individuals within their communities.

Furthermore, this re-evaluation of gender identity within Islamic discourse has broader implications for the Muslim community as a whole. It invites a critical examination of the structures of power and authority that often dictate interpretations of religious teachings. By challenging traditional narratives, individuals, and communities can work towards creating a more inclusive environment that respects and affirms the identities of all members. This shift not only benefits transgender individuals but also enriches the broader community by fostering a culture of acceptance and understanding.

As these discussions unfold, it is essential to acknowledge the challenges of reconciling traditional beliefs with contemporary understandings of gender identity. Resistance from conservative factions within the Muslim community may pose obstacles to progress, as some individuals may feel threatened by the prospect of reinterpreting long-held beliefs. However, it is crucial to approach these discussions with empathy and an open mind, recognizing that change often requires time and dialogue. By fostering spaces for respectful conversation, communities can work towards bridging the gap between tradition and modernity, ultimately enriching their understanding of faith and identity.

In conclusion, the growing recognition of the distinction between biological sex and gender identity within contemporary Islamic discourse marks a significant shift in the understanding of gender within Muslim communities. Influenced by advances in psychology and the lived experiences of transgender individuals, this trend challenges traditional interpretations of religious teachings and calls for a more nuanced approach that respects both faith and the complexities of human identity. By engaging in these discussions, scholars and community leaders can contribute to a more inclusive environment that affirms the identities of all individuals, fostering a culture of acceptance and understanding within the broader Muslim community. Ultimately, this evolution in discourse not only enriches the understanding of gender within Islam but also reflects the dynamic nature of faith as it intersects with the realities of human experience.

d. Unexpected Observations

One surprising observation is the Quran's consistent emphasis on human dignity (Al-Isra: 70). This principle is increasingly invoked by progressive scholars to advocate for the inclusion and fair treatment of transgender individuals, arguing that marginalization contradicts Islamic ethical principles. The invocation of human dignity as a cornerstone of Islamic ethics provides a compelling argument for re-examining the treatment of transgender individuals within Muslim communities. By prioritizing dignity and respect, scholars can challenge discriminatory practices and advocate for policies supporting all individuals' rights and well-being, regardless of gender identity. (Mohamed, 2022)hma

e. Critical Analysis and Hypotheses

Hypothesis 1: The Quran's focus on human dignity implies an ethical obligation to support transgender individuals, particularly in contexts where their mental and physical well-being is at stake. This hypothesis suggests that the ethical imperative to uphold dignity could lead to a more compassionate approach towards transgender individuals, advocating for their rights and needs within Islamic frameworks.

Hypothesis 2: The binary interpretation of gender in Islamic jurisprudence may be more cultural than theological, suggesting a potential for reinterpretation within the bounds of Islamic tradition. This hypothesis invites further investigation into the cultural influences that shape understandings of gender within Islamic contexts, highlighting the need for critical engagement with tradition.

f. Exploration of Possible Explanations

The Quranic prohibition against altering creation (An-Nisa: 119) could be understood as addressing broader acts of corruption (Fasad) rather than medical interventions to alleviate suffering. This interpretation allows for a more compassionate understanding of gender-affirming procedures, framing them as necessary interventions that promote well-being rather than as acts of defiance against divine will.

The emphasis on compassion and Justice implies that societal attitudes towards transgender individuals should align with principles of empathy and fairness. This alignment can serve as a foundation for advocacy efforts aimed at improving the lives of transgender individuals within Muslim communities, fostering an environment of acceptance and support.

5. CONCLUSION

The Quran's perspective on transgender issues is multifaceted, reflecting a tension between adherence to divine creation and the ethical imperative to uphold human dignity and Justice. While traditional interpretations favor a binary understanding of gender, emerging scholarship suggests a more inclusive approach that considers the lived realities of transgender individuals. This discussion underscores the need for continued dialogue that balances theological principles with contemporary insights, fostering a more compassionate and just engagement with this complex issue. As the understanding of gender continues to evolve, Muslim scholars and communities must engage with these developments thoughtfully and empathetically, ensuring that the principles of Justice and compassion remain at the forefront of their interpretations and practices. Ultimately, the Quran's teachings on dignity and respect can serve as a robust foundation for advocating for the rights and well-being of transgender individuals, fostering a more inclusive and equitable society for all.

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