Application of AI in Halal Marketing: Navigating the Ethical Crossroads

Md Mahfujur Rahman¹, Abdullah Al Mahi², Md Abu Zarif Hossian³

¹ Institute of Halal Management, Islamic Business School, Universiti Utara Malaysia and dr mahfuj@yahoo.co.uk

^{2,3} School of Computing, Universiti Utara Malaysia

ABSTRACT

This article examines the intricate process of applying Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the Halal marketing landscape, situated at a critical ethical crossroads. It explores the integration of AI technologies within Halal marketing strategies, emphasizing the importance of aligning with ethical, legal, and Islamic principles. Highlighting AI's potential to transform consumer engagement and trust, the paper advocates for a proactive approach in developing AI applications that respect Islamic values, consumer privacy, and fairness. It calls for collaborative efforts in crafting regulatory frameworks and ethical AI algorithms that are congruent with Halal standards, thus ensuring technology acts as a catalyst for ethical growth and integrity within the industry. The discussion underscores the dual aspects of opportunities and challenges presented by AI, urging a balanced embrace of technological advancements while safeguarding Islamic ethical and legal norms to foster the ethical expansion of the Halal industry globally.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, Halal Marketing, Ethic, Islamic Principles, Global Halal Market

1. INTRODUCTION

The rapid integration of artificial intelligence (AI) into marketing practices has ushered in unprecedented opportunities for innovation and efficiency [1]. However, amidst the promises of technological advancement, ethical considerations loom large, particularly in the context of AI deployment within the halal industry. Ensuring AI benefits humanity and adheres to Islamic principles requires addressing its ethical and moral implications [2]. As AI becomes increasingly pervasive in shaping consumer experiences and driving marketing strategies, it is imperative to uphold principles of integrity and ethical responsibility [3].

The halal industry, rooted in religious principles and ethical standards, faces unique challenges and opportunities in adopting AI technologies. With the proliferation of AI-powered analytics and machine learning algorithms, the industry stands at a crucial juncture, poised to leverage innovation for sustainable growth while safeguarding its ethical integrity.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Innovation in AI technologies holds the potential to revolutionize various aspects of the halal industry, from production and supply chain management to certification processes. Machine learning algorithms can optimize manufacturing processes while ensuring compliance with halal standards, thus enhancing efficiency and quality control. Moreover, AI-powered analytics offer invaluable insights into market trends and consumer preferences, enabling businesses to adapt and thrive in a rapidly evolving landscape.

However, the ethical implications of AI deployment cannot be overlooked. The opacity and lack of explainability inherent in AI algorithms raise concerns about consumer

autonomy and the potential for manipulation [1]. Moreover, the risk of bias and discrimination underscores the importance of ethical oversight and accountability in AI-driven marketing practices.

In the context of the halal industry, where adherence to ethical standards is paramount, finding a balance between innovation and integrity is crucial. By prioritizing transparency, accountability, and consumer welfare, stakeholders can harness the transformative potential of AI while upholding the principles of halal authenticity and trustworthiness.

This article navigates the complex terrain of AI in the halal industry, examining the opportunities and challenges it presents from an ethical standpoint. By delving into the multifaceted relationship between innovation and integrity, we aim to provide insights that will guide ethical AI deployment and ensure the sustainable advancement of the halal industry.

3. METHODS

This study used a qualitative research methodology [4][5] to investigate the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in halal marketing, with a specific focus on ethical integrity and adherence to Islamic norms. The study thoroughly examines academic publications, industry insights, and conference articles to comprehensively explore the ethical implications of AI in Halal marketing, drawing from influential works and a wide variety of sources.

Our approach revolves around thematic analysis [6]. which is specifically designed to identify and evaluate important themes related to the ethical use of AI in Halal marketing strategy. This includes a critical examination of AI's role in enhancing consumer trust, adhering to Islamic ethical standards, and contributing to sustainable practices. The study aims to navigate the ethical dilemmas at the intersection of AI and Halal marketing, advocating for the development of AI solutions that respect Islamic values and consumer rights, thereby facilitating the Halal industry's ethical and global growth.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1. Ethical Guidelines for AI Implementation in Halal Marketing

Rule	Description	Importance	Implementation Strategy
Adhering to	Adhering to ethical principles	Ensures legal	Develop a code of ethics based
Islamic	rooted in Islamic values	compliance and	on Islamic principles outlining
Principles	ensures compliance with legal	reflects Islamic	acceptable practices and
	norms and reflects the	values	consequences for violations.
	organization's commitment to		
	Islamic ethics.		
Investment in	Investing in bias detection tools	Mitigates risks	Allocate resources to develop
Bias Detection	and privacy-enhancing	associated with AI	and implement bias detection
Tools	technology is crucial to	in marketing while	tools and privacy-enhancing
	mitigate risks associated with	upholding Islamic	technology in alignment with
	AI in marketing while	values	Islamic principles.
	upholding Islamic values of		
	fairness and justice.		
Consumer	Educating consumers on	Promotes	Provide easy-to-understand
Education on	managing their data ensures	transparency and	guidelines for data
Data	transparency and	accountability while	management and opt-out
Management	accountability in data	upholding Islamic	mechanisms for consumers,
	acquisition and usage, aligning	values	reflecting Islamic principles of

	with the Islamic principle of mutual respect and consideration for others' rights.		respect and consideration for others' rights.
Engagement	Engagement with lawmakers	Ensures legal	Collaborate with policymakers
with	to establish clear norms around	compliance and	to develop and enforce
Lawmakers	data usage is vital for ensuring	protects consumer	legislation regulating data
	consumer privacy and	data while	usage in marketing in
	upholding Islamic principles of	upholding Islamic	alignment with Islamic
	justice and fairness.	values	principles.

4.1 Ethical Considerations in Ai for Halal Marketing

1. Bias and Privacy in AI for Halal Marketing

In Islamic ethics, transparency and fairness are not merely pragmatic considerations but moral imperatives rooted in the belief in justice and equality before God. The Quran repeatedly emphasizes the importance of justice and impartiality in all dealings (Quran 4:135), reflecting a broader principle of fairness that extends to all aspects of life, including technological advancements like AI. Consequently, the lack of transparency and fairness in AI algorithms poses ethical challenges that resonate deeply with Islamic teachings. Discriminatory AI practices, whether intentional or inadvertent, run counter to the Islamic principle of treating all individuals with equity and respect. By addressing bias in AI algorithms and ensuring transparency in decision-making processes, stakeholders can uphold these fundamental Islamic values while advancing technological innovation.

Privacy holds significant importance in Islamic jurisprudence, reflecting the sanctity of personal autonomy and dignity. Al's extensive data collection practices raise concerns about privacy invasion, echoing Islamic teachings on the importance of respecting individual boundaries and autonomy. Upholding transparency in data collection and usage aligns with the Islamic principle of mutual respect and consideration for others' rights. By adhering to ethical standards that prioritize privacy protection, stakeholders can demonstrate a commitment to Islamic values while harnessing the benefits of AI technology.

2. Intellectual Property Rights in AI for Halal Marketing

In Islamic ethics, the concept of "Hurma" emphasizes the sacredness of property rights and fair exchange. The Quran explicitly prohibits the usurpation of others' property unjustly (Quran 2:188), highlighting the importance of respecting ownership rights and fostering equitable economic relations. Similarly, in AI marketing, navigating intellectual property rights is essential for ensuring fairness and equitable distribution of benefits. Establishing clear rules regarding the ownership of AI-generated content aligns with both ethical considerations and Islamic principles of fair exchange and property rights. By upholding these principles, stakeholders can promote a culture of trust and cooperation while upholding Islamic ethical values in the digital age.

4.2 Ethical Autonomy and Justice in Ai for Halal Marketing

1. Islamic Autonomy in AI for Halal Marketing

Autonomy, a fundamental concept in Islamic ethics, is intricately linked with human agency and free will. Islamic teachings stress the importance of individuals' ability to make decisions freely, without external coercion, in alignment with the meta-autonomy model proposed within AI ethics [7]. However, the delegation of decision-making to AI systems within Islamic contexts requires careful consideration to ensure that human oversight and accountability are preserved.

2. Justice in AI for Halal Marketing

Islamic principles of justice advocate for fairness, equality, anelimination of biases and discrimination. In AI applications within marketing, biases and discrimination can undermine these

principles, perpetuating inequalities and harming vulnerable groups [8]. Islamic ethics demand a thorough examination of AI algorithms and decision-making processes to ensure fairness and equity, aligning with the ethical imperative to address biases and promote justice.

3. Explicability in AI for Halal Marketing

Within Islamic ethical frameworks, transparency and accountability are paramount for ethical decision-making. Explicability, encompassing the intelligibility and accountability of AI systems, aligns seamlessly with Islamic principles of transparency in governance and decision-making [7]. Ensuring that AI algorithms and processes are transparent and understandable enables individuals to make informed choices, fostering trust and accountability within Islamic communities.

SUPERVISI RESOLUTION HISTORICAL REGULATORY **ETHICAL** STRATEGIES VOID PRECEDENT CONCERNS HURDLES Historical tech Ambiguity Inadequate Rapid AI Solutions fosters legal innovations advancement include tailored faced similar outpaces legal legislation and unethical frameworks legal delays frameworks. behavior like hinder ethical decision (e.g., internet in creating data effective frameworks. exploitation. 1990s). oversight. ambiguity.

LEGAL CHALLENGES IN AI MARKETING WITHIN THE HALAL INDUSTRY

Figure 1. Legal Challenges in AI Marketing within the Halal Industry

4.3 Legal And Social Implications of Ai in Halal Marketing

1. Development of Legal Frameworks in Halal Marketing

The rapid advancement of AI in marketing within the Halal industry has outpaced the establishment of comprehensive legal frameworks, resulting in a regulatory void that poses challenges for both businesses and consumers. Similar situations have occurred historically with technological innovations, such as the emergence of the internet in the 1990s, which took years to address legal concerns like copyright, data privacy, and e-commerce. The rise of social media platforms has also raised issues like free speech, data ownership, and misinformation, currently under discussion [9]. This lack of clear legal structures creates ambiguity, making it difficult for companies in the Halal industry to discern lawful practices, potentially leading to unethical behavior like exploiting consumer data or engaging in unfair business practices. Furthermore, inadequate legal frameworks hinder authorities from effectively supervising and enforcing ethical AI use in marketing within the Halal industry. Strategies to address these challenges include developing detailed legislation tailored to AI in marketing within the Halal industry and leveraging ethical decision-making frameworks (EDMFs) to guide the development and implementation of AIpowered marketing strategies. Examples like the GDPR in the European Union offer precedents for data protection laws applicable to AI applications [10]. EDMFs offer systematic approaches to identifying and prioritizing ethical issues, evaluating risks and rewards, and devising methods to minimize ethical dilemmas, particularly crucial in the complex landscape of AI-powered marketing within the Halal industry. Figure 1, shows the major challenges and strategies for addressing the regulatory void and ethical concerns arising from rapid AI advancement in Halal marketing.

2. Ethical Considerations in AI Deployment in Halal Marketing

Ethical challenges in AI deployment within the Halal industry vary across applications, technological sophistication, and pervasiveness, increasing with the level of intelligence and humanization of AI systems [11]. As AI systems evolve from cognitive to emotional and social intelligence, ethical dilemmas related to beneficence, explicability, justice, and autonomy become more pronounced [12]. While beneficence may increase with AI's intelligence, challenges related to explicability, accountability, and justice also escalate. AI's growing emotional and social intelligence can lead to anthropomorphism, psychological ownership, and emotional attachment, raising concerns about overreliance and dehumanization [13]. From a deontological perspective, ethical evaluations based on norms and principles may not adequately address complex ethical dilemmas posed by AI within the Halal industry. Utilitarian perspectives, weighing benefits and costs across stakeholders, offer complementary approaches to ethical decision-making. Promoting ethical AI deployment in marketing within the Halal industry requires addressing issues of transparency, accountability, and autonomy, ensuring that AI applications serve societal well-being while mitigating potential risks and negative consequences.

4.4 Guidelines For Ethical Ai Use in Halal Marketing

1. Establishing Ethical Guidelines for AI in Halal Marketing

Marketing professionals in the Halal industry must develop ethical rules for creating and implementing AI-powered marketing strategies rooted in Islamic principles. Adhering to ethical principles ensures compliance with legal norms and reflects the organization's commitment to Islamic ethics. Investing in bias detection tools and privacy-enhancing technology is crucial to mitigate risks associated with AI in marketing while upholding Islamic values of fairness and justice. Companies should allocate resources to develop such tools and educate consumers on managing their data, ensuring transparency and accountability in data acquisition and usage [14], aligning with Islamic principles of mutual respect and consideration for others' rights. Engagement with lawmakers to establish clear norms around data usage is vital for ensuring consumer privacy and upholding Islamic principles of justice and fairness. Table 1, outlines key ethical guidelines for the implementation of AI in Halal marketing, rooted in Islamic principles of fairness, justice, and accountability. Adhering to these guidelines ensures legal compliance, protects consumer privacy, and reflects the organization's commitment to upholding Islamic ethics in marketing practices.

2. Conflicts of Interest and Competition Law

Antitrust and competition law implications are significant in AI-powered marketing within the Halal industry. The use of AI algorithms may concentrate market power, leading to anticompetitive behavior and breaches of antitrust laws. Dominant corporations may use AI to gain an unfair advantage over rivals, hindering market competitiveness. To address these concerns, antitrust authorities should emphasize openness and accountability in developing AI-based marketing algorithms. Ethical rules stressing fair market processes and competition are essential, with companies pledging not to engage in anti-competitive behavior [15], [16]. A multidisciplinary approach emphasizing openness, transparency, and ethical guidelines is crucial to mitigating these challenges.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the integration of AI in Halal marketing presents both opportunities and challenges, necessitating careful consideration of ethical and legal implications. By adhering to ethical guidelines rooted in Islamic principles of fairness, justice, and accountability, businesses can navigate these challenges responsibly while maximizing the benefits of AI technology. Strategies such as establishing clear legal frameworks, investing in bias detection tools, and fostering

transparency in data usage are essential for ensuring legal compliance and protecting consumer privacy. Additionally, engagement with lawmakers and stakeholders is crucial for establishing norms that uphold consumer rights and ethical standards in AI-powered marketing. By embracing ethical AI implementation practices, businesses can build trust with consumers, foster competitiveness, and contribute to the advancement of Halal marketing in alignment with Islamic values.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We extend our gratitude to the Institute of Halal Management, Islamic Business School, Universiti Utara Malaysia, for their support in this research.

REFERENCES

- [1] B. H. Zhang, B. Lemoine, and M. Mitchell, "Mitigating unwanted biases with adversarial learning," in Proceedings of the 2018 AAAI/ACM Conference on AI, Ethics, and Society, pp. 335-340, 2018.
- [2] M. M. Rahman and Z. Ahmad, "Lifelong Learning and Technologic Advancement in the Halal Industry: Navigating the Digital Age Embracing Technological Advancements for Lifelong Learning," in Embracing Technological Advancements for Lifelong Learning, pp. 186-216, IGI Global, 2024.
- [3] S. Spiekermann, "Ethical IT Innovation: A Value-Based System Design Approach," CRC Press, 2015
- [4] M. Khan, Elius, M. R. B. M. Nor, M. Y. Z. B. M. Yusoff, K. Noordin, and F. Mansor, "A Critical Appraisal of Interreligious Dialogue in Islam," SAGE Open, vol. 10, no. 4, pp. 1-10, 2020.
- [5] N. N. B. A. Khan, M. Y. Z. Rahman, B. M. Yusoff, and M. R. B. M. Nor, "History, Problems, and Prospects of Islamic Insurance (Takaful) in Bangladesh," SpringerPlus, vol. 5, no. 785, pp. 1-7, 2016.
- [6] A. Khan, F. Muneem, M. A. W. F. Mansor, B. Mohd, and M. M. R. Balwi, "Critical Review on Issues and Challenges of Malaysian Islamic Financial System," Journal of Southwest Jiaotong University, vol. 56, no. 2, 2021.
- [7] Raquib, B. Channa, T. Zubair, and J. Qadir, "Islamic virtue-based ethics for artificial intelligence," Discover Artificial Intelligence, vol. 2, no. 1, pp. 11, Jun. 20, 2022.
- [8] Jobin, M. Ienca, and E. Vayena, "The global landscape of AI ethics guidelines," Nature Machine Intelligence, vol. 1, no. 9, pp. 389-399, 2019.
- [9] T. S. Muhammed and S. K. Mathew, "The disaster of misinformation: a review of research in social media," International Journal of Data Science and Analytics, vol. 13, no. 4, pp. 271-285, 2022.
- [10] J. Kingston, "Using artificial intelligence to support compliance with the general data protection regulation," Artificial Intelligence and Law, vol. 25, no. 4, pp. 429-443, Dec. 2017.
- [11] M. M. Rahman, "Ensuring Halal Compliance in AI-Driven Healthcare Solutions: Balancing Innovation and Faith," in Federated Learning and AI for Healthcare 5.0, pp. 298-320, IGI Global, 2024.
- [12] M. H. Huang and R. T. Rust, "A strategic framework for artificial intelligence in marketing," Journal of the Academy of Marketing Science, vol. 49, no. 1, pp. 30-50, 2021.
- [13] L. Floridi and J. Cowls, "A unified framework of five principles for AI in society," in Machine Learning and the City: Applications in Architecture and Urban Design, pp. 535-545, May 21, 2022.
- [14] J. Wirtz et al., "Corporate digital responsibility: dealing with ethical, privacy and fairness challenges of AI," Journal of Business Research, 2023.
- [15] K. Klinova and A. Korinek, "Ai and shared prosperity," in Proceedings of the 2021 AAAI/ACM Conference on AI, Ethics, and Society, pp. 645-651, 2021.
- [16] D. Kumar, and N. Suthar, (2024), "Ethical and legal challenges of AI in marketing: an exploration of solutions", Journal of Information, Communication and Ethics in Society, Vol. 22 No. 1, pp. 124-144. https://doi.org/10.1108/JICES-05-2023-0068

BIOGRAPHIES OF AUTHORS



Md Mahfujur Rahman, PhD D Dr. Md. Mahfujur Rahman is a senior lecturer at the Islamic Business School, Universiti Utara Malaysia. He holds a Ph.D. in Halal Food Authentication and is a renowned academic and researcher. His work primarily focuses on Halal science and management, integrating Islamic knowledge with management, CSR, and sustainability practices, and teaching Islamic ethics. Dr. Md. Mahfujur Rahman's current research includes the application of artificial intelligence to ensure Halal compliance, effectively bridging the gap between traditional Islamic principles and contemporary industrial challenges. His commitment to academia and the Halal industry has earned him numerous accolades, affirming his role as a contributor to the field's ethical stewardship and growth.

email: dr_mahfuj@yahoo.co.uk; mahfuj@uum.edu.my



Abdullah Al Mahi Abdullah Al Mahi is a Bachelor of Computer Science student at University Utara Malaysia with a profound interest in the field of artificial intelligence (AI) and its applications. He is passionate about exploring the latest advancements in AI technology and its potential impact across various domains. With a focus on areas such as machine learning, natural language processing, and computer vision, Abdullah Al Mahi aims to delve into the practical applications of AI to solve complex problems and improve efficiency in diverse sectors. Through his academic journey, he seeks to deepen his understanding of AI algorithms and techniques, with the ultimate goal of contributing to the development of innovative AI solutions that address real-world challenges.

email: abmahi2803@gmail.com



Md Abu Zarif Hossain Md. Abu Zarif Hossian, a Bachelor of Computer Science student at University Utara Malaysia, is dedicated to exploring the applications of artificial intelligence (AI) across various fields, with a particular focus on addressing ethical considerations. His research interests span natural language processing, computer vision, and data analysis, where he seeks to leverage AI for innovative solutions. Additionally, Md. Abu Zarif is committed to ensuring the ethical implementation of AI. Through his academic pursuits, he endeavors to contribute to the development of AI technologies that uphold ethical standards, regulatory standards, and religious values.

email: mazhossain003@gmail.com