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## The Axiological Foundations of Knowledge: A Comparison of Western and Islamic Perspectives and Their Integration in Supporting the Achievement of SDGs

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### Abstrak

**Objective:** This study aims to analyze and compare the axiological foundations of knowledge from both Western and Islamic perspectives and explore the potential for their integration in supporting the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). **Theoretical Framework:** Theoretical Framework focuses on the values underlying the development and utilization of knowledge, including ethical, goal-oriented, and beneficial aspects of human life. The main theories employed are epistemology and axiology from both perspectives, leading to a more holistic understanding of knowledge. **Literature Review:** Literature Review reveals significant differences between the Western approach, which tends to be more secular and rational, and the Islamic approach, which is more holistic, linking knowledge with spiritual and moral dimensions. Previous studies also emphasize the importance of integrating these perspectives to address the challenges of globalization and pluralism. **Methods:** This research employs a qualitative method with a comparative analysis approach. Data were collected through a literature review of both primary and secondary sources, including classical and contemporary works from Western philosophers and Islamic thinkers. The analysis compares the fundamental axiological principles of knowledge in both traditions and explores the potential for integration to enrich the understanding of knowledge. **Results:** Research findings show that despite fundamental differences in their views on the values of knowledge, there is potential for integration between Western rationalism and Islamic spiritual values. This integration provides a more comprehensive and applicable approach to knowledge development. **Implications:** Implications of this study highlight the importance of an educational framework that combines Western and Islamic perspectives to produce scholars who are not only technically proficient but also ethically and spiritually conscious. **Novelty:** Novelty of this research lies in its deeper understanding of the axiological foundations of knowledge through an interdisciplinary perspective and the exploration of potential integration between the two traditions to establish a more inclusive and applicable foundation of knowledge, which is highly relevant in supporting the SDGs.

**Keywords:** axiology, epistemology, Islamic perspective, western perspective, SDGs.

## INTRODUCTION

Knowledge is one of the fundamental elements in the development of human civilization. Throughout history, both Western and Islamic thought have made significant contributions to the advancement of knowledge, although their approaches differ. The Western perspective tends to emphasize rationality, empiricism, and secularism in the development of knowledge, while the Islamic perspective integrates spiritual and moral dimensions, positioning knowledge as a means to achieve both worldly and eternal balance [1].

These fundamental differences raise questions about how the axiological values of both traditions can be compared and integrated to create a more inclusive foundation of knowledge. In today's global context, challenges such as climate change, social inequality, and intercultural conflicts demand a scientific approach that is not only technical but also ethical and spiritual. This is where the integration of Western and Islamic axiology holds significant relevance. This study seeks to explore the axiological foundations of knowledge from both perspectives and their potential for complementarity. Furthermore, this research contributes to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by promoting a more holistic approach to knowledge development, capable of addressing global challenges in a comprehensive and sustainable manner [2].

Science is one of the basic elements of human civilization. It has been the basis for the advancement of technology, science, philosophy, and culture. However, just as every force has a responsibility, science also requires an in-depth analysis of its benefits, goals, and impact on life. This is the focus of axiology, a branch of philosophy that discusses the values of science. Science has a very important role in human life. Human curiosity is the starting point of the journey to develop knowledge. This is the background of various early human studies and hypotheses about the essence of the diversity of reality. Science is one of the vital things that must be possessed in human life. The study of the philosophy of science is the pillar that supports the existence of science, one of them is axiology, which is one of the branches of the study of the philosophy of science that discusses the usefulness or benefits of science [Formatting Citation]

Studying philosophy is inseparable from the realm of human beings. When we call the term philosophy, it refers to the general sense of philosophy, which is a philosophy that questions everything that exists (reality) in this universe to explore the real truth or the essential truth of that reality. In addition to general philosophy, there is also a special philosophy, namely philosophy applied in a certain field of science, where philosophy serves as a philosophical foundation for that science. Thus, there is the philosophy of history, philosophy of law, philosophy of education, philosophy of religion, philosophy of politics, philosophy of mathematics, philosophy of society, and others. However, philosophy of science or epistemology is not a specific philosophy, but a part of general philosophy [2].

It is undeniable that science and religion are increasingly playing an important role in human life. The development of science in the modern world does not indicate a decline in the influence of religion on human life, as predicted by secularization theory. The tendency of science and religion to strengthen has attracted the attention of many circles, especially related to the relationship between the two [3].

The Western view of science is rooted in the secularism that has developed since the Renaissance and the Scientific Revolution. This approach views science as an entity separate from religion, with a focus on material benefits and boundless exploration. Science is used to understand the world, improve efficiency, and encourage technological progress [4].

In contrast, Islam offers a holistic perspective that integrates spiritual, moral, and practical aspects in the development of science. In the context of Islam, knowledge is considered a mandate that must be used for the welfare of mankind and to get closer to Allah. This approach is based on the principle of monotheism, which makes Allah the source of truth and the ultimate goal of all human endeavours [5].

However, these two points of view are not always in line. The Western approach is often considered to neglect the spiritual and ethical dimensions, while the Islamic approach sometimes receives little attention in the development of modern science. In the advancement of modern science, there is a great challenge to harmonize these two views. On the one hand, the Western perspective has resulted in significant technological advances but often overrides ethical and spiritual aspects. On the other hand, the Islamic approach has great potential to build a more ethical science, although its implementation in the context of contemporary science is often less than optimal [6], [7].

The importance of this discourse is not only academic but also practical. By understanding the Islamic and Western perspectives on the axioms of science, we can bridge the gap between these two paradigms and create a more holistic approach to addressing global challenges [8].

This research will answer the following questions: 1). What are the Axiological Foundations of Science? 2). What is the axiological basis of science from the Western perspective? 3). What is the axiological basis of science from the Islamic perspective? 4). What is the Axiological Integration of Science in Western and Islamic Perspectives?

## LITERATURE REVIEW

The axiological foundations of knowledge delve into the value systems that underpin the purpose, application, and ethical considerations of knowledge. Western and Islamic traditions offer distinct yet sometimes overlapping paradigms, shaped by their unique historical, philosophical, and theological contexts. Understanding these foundations provides insight into the possibility of integrating these perspectives for a more holistic epistemological framework.

### Western Perspective on Axiology and Knowledge

Western philosophy emphasizes the intrinsic and instrumental value of knowledge. Originating from the Greek philosophical tradition, knowledge in the Western context is often pursued for its own sake (intrinsic value) or as a means to societal progress (instrumental value). Enlightenment thinkers like Immanuel Kant advocated for reason and autonomy as the basis of knowledge, focusing on human-centric moral and ethical frameworks. Modern Western epistemology also incorporates utilitarian and pragmatist approaches, valuing knowledge that leads to tangible societal benefits [6], [7].

However, the Western perspective has faced critiques for its anthropocentrism and separation of ethics from spirituality. Postmodernist scholars challenge the dominance of positivist and empiricist paradigms, calling for a recognition of diverse epistemologies and the cultural contexts that shape knowledge. This critique aligns with efforts to reexamine the axiological underpinnings of Western knowledge systems to address contemporary global challenges like inequality, environmental degradation, and moral relativism [6], [7].

### Islamic Perspective on Axiology and Knowledge

In Islamic tradition, the pursuit of knowledge is deeply rooted in the Qur'anic worldview, where knowledge is considered both a means to understand God's creation and an obligation upon every Muslim. The axiology of Islamic knowledge emphasizes three interconnected dimensions: the divine (ta'abbud), the moral (akhlaq), and the utilitarian (maslahah). Knowledge serves as a bridge between human understanding and divine guidance, integrating spirituality with ethical and practical considerations [8].

Islamic scholars such as Al-Farabi, Al-Ghazali, and Ibn Khaldun have emphasized the unity of knowledge ('ilm) and its role in achieving justice ('adl) and societal well-being. The Islamic approach rejects the dichotomy between sacred and secular knowledge, advocating for an integrated system where all forms of knowledge contribute to fulfilling the objectives

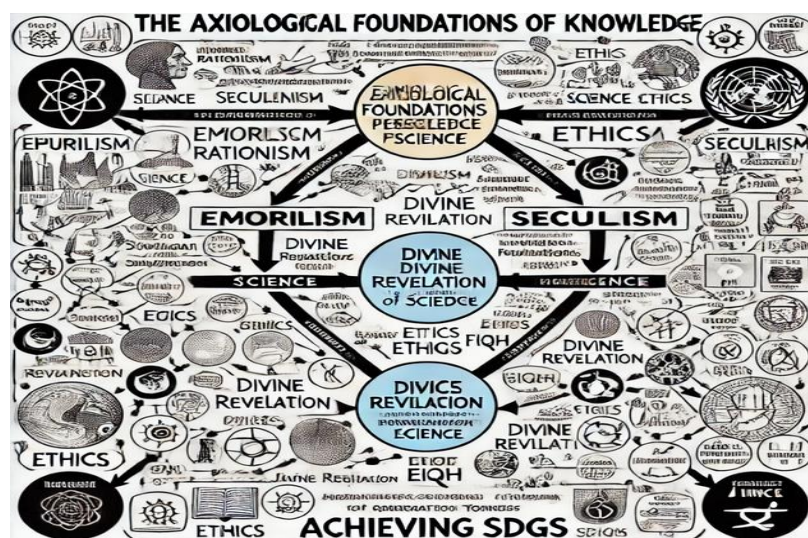
of Shariah (Maqasid al-Shariah). This holistic framework prioritizes values such as justice, compassion, and communal harmony [6], [7].

**Comparative Analysis and Integration.** The Western and Islamic perspectives share commonalities in their recognition of the ethical implications of knowledge and its role in societal advancement. However, the integration of these paradigms requires addressing their divergences. Western epistemology often separates ethics and metaphysics, while Islamic knowledge systems embed ethics within a spiritual framework. This divergence can be reconciled through dialogue that respects the autonomy of both traditions while seeking common ground [8].

Integration efforts can draw from frameworks like Transdisciplinarity and Islamic epistemology's concept of tawhid (oneness). For instance, combining Western scientific rigour with Islamic ethical principles can address global challenges such as climate change and technological ethics. Moreover, Islamic perspectives can enrich Western discourses by introducing value-based approaches to science and education, promoting a balanced worldview [6], [7].

The axiological foundations of knowledge in Western and Islamic traditions provide valuable insights for addressing contemporary epistemological and ethical dilemmas. While these paradigms differ in their metaphysical assumptions and applications, their integration offers a promising avenue for fostering inclusive and value-driven approaches to knowledge. This synthesis not only enhances mutual understanding but also paves the way for a transformative global knowledge system [8].

The axiological foundations of knowledge in Western and Islamic perspectives differ significantly in terms of values and their application to education and development. Western thought emphasizes objectivity and individualism, while Islamic epistemology integrates divine guidance and collective well-being. Their integration can support the achievement of SDGs by fostering ethical, holistic approaches to knowledge that promote social justice, sustainability, and human dignity [8].



**Figure 1. The Axiological Foundations of Knowledge: A Comparison of Western and Islamic Perspectives and Their Integration in Supporting the Achievement of SDGs**

## METHODOLOGY

This study employs a qualitative method with a philosophical approach to deeply explore the axiological foundations of knowledge in Western and Islamic perspectives and their potential integration. The philosophical approach is chosen as it allows for critical and reflective analysis of fundamental concepts related to values (axiology), ethics, and the purpose of knowledge [9], [10].



The research focuses on an in-depth literature review, utilizing secondary data from classical and contemporary philosophical works in both Western and Islamic traditions. Primary sources include the writings of Western philosophers such as Immanuel Kant, and John Dewey, and postmodern thinkers, alongside works by Islamic scholars like Al-Farabi, Al-Ghazali, and Ibn Khaldun. Additional sources such as journal articles, academic books, and related documents will also be incorporated to enrich the analysis [6], [7].

Data analysis is conducted using thematic and comparative analysis to identify similarities, differences, and potential intersections between the two perspectives. The analytical process involves a hermeneutical interpretation of key texts to understand the philosophical and theological contexts of both traditions. The findings of this analysis are expected to contribute theoretically to value-based epistemological integration while offering ethical solutions to global challenges [9], [10].

**Table 1. Research Methodology**

| Aspect              | Description  |
|---------------------|--|
| Method              | Qualitative  |
| Approach            | Philosophical  |
| Focus               | Exploring the axiological foundations of knowledge in Western and Islamic perspectives, including their integration.         |
| Data Sources        | Secondary data from classical and contemporary philosophical works, journal articles, academic books, and related documents. |
| Primary Authors     | Western: Immanuel Kant, John Dewey, Postmodern thinkers<br>Islamic: Al-Farabi, Al-Ghazali, Ibn Khaldun                       |
| Analysis Techniques | Thematic and comparative analysis to identify similarities, differences, and potential integration points.                   |
| Analytical Process  | Hermeneutical interpretation of key texts to understand philosophical and theological contexts.                              |
| Expected Outcome    | Theoretical contributions to value-based epistemological integration and ethical solutions to global challenges.             |

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The integration of Western and Islamic perspectives on the axiological foundations of knowledge reveals both complementary and contrasting elements that can contribute to addressing global challenges, particularly in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The analysis shows that while Western thought primarily focuses on material progress, technological innovation, and individual success, it also incorporates social and ethical responsibilities. In contrast, the Islamic perspective stresses the importance of knowledge in the pursuit of spiritual and societal well-being, guided by the principles of maqashid sharia, which prioritize justice, equity, and sustainability [6], [7].

This dual approach creates a unique opportunity for integration. Western empirical methodologies, with their focus on research, technological advancement, and evidence-based practices, can be effectively combined with Islamic values such as social justice, sustainability, and stewardship of the earth (caliphate). The integration of both approaches can lead to the development of technologies and innovations that are not only efficient and advanced but also ethically grounded and aligned with the values of social and environmental responsibility, key elements of the SDGs [9], [10].

The discussion also emphasizes that the collaboration between these traditions can pave the way for a new paradigm of knowledge—one that blends material progress with spiritual and ethical considerations. The potential impact of this integration in tackling pressing issues such as climate change, inequality, and ethical dilemmas in science is immense. It provides a framework for a more balanced, sustainable, and morally responsible approach to global development [9], [10].

Based on the Indonesian dictionary, axiology refers to the benefits of science in human life as well as the study of values, especially ethics. On the other hand, Suriasumantri stated that axiology is a theory of value related to the usefulness of the knowledge obtained. Axiology is also defined as an education that tests and integrates all these values in human life and maintains and fosters them in the personality of students. Axiology comes from the Greek language, namely *axios* which means value, and *logos* which means science or theory. Axiology is a branch of philosophy that studies value or the theory of value. Values are abstract realities that function as drivers or principles that become guidelines in life. Values can be seen from three realities, namely: thinking patterns, behavior patterns, and individual or group attitudes [9], [10].

According to Fazlur Rahman in his journal, ascensiology includes values that are normative in providing meaning to objective reality such as social, symbolic, and physical-material aspects. Meanwhile, according to Zaprukhan, axiology has several meanings, including:

1. Axiology is the analysis of values, the meaning of analysis is self-limiting, characteristics, origins, types, criteria, and epistemological status of the values themselves.
2. Axiology is a study that discusses general theories about the value of everything valuable.
3. Axiology is the study of philosophy about the nature of values.

Based on the axiological understanding of these various scientists, it can be concluded that axiology is the study of scientific values or the benefits of science, both from Western and Islamic perspectives, which are analyzed from a philosophical point of view [11].

### **Axiology in a Western Perspective**

Western Axiology is an examination of values, an investigation of nature, and the status of metaethics in Greek philosophical thought. The study of this value has given rise to various views from various philosophers, including:

1. Plato regarding the idea of goodness known as common bonnum (the highest goodness)
2. Thomas Aquinas built his thinking of the highest value with the cause of value (*causa prima*) in God as the truth of life, eternity, and the highest good.
3. Spinoza views the value based on metaphysics as being studied separately from the value of general knowledge.
4. Aufklarung Khan explained the relationship of knowledge between knowledge of value and aesthetics, morals, and religion.
5. Hegel gave the view that morality, art, values, religion, and philosophy were formed on a dialectical basis [12], [13].

The value itself becomes a question for scientists who then provide a different perspective. First, some argue that science is value-free, which means that science only tries to understand natural law objectively without being influenced by worldly interests. Science must be neutral to values. The task of a scientist is to discover science, and its application depends on each individual, whether it is used wisely or otherwise [14]–[16].

The second argues that the neutrality of science is only limited to the metaphysical aspects of science, where in its application or the selection of research objects, it must be based on the moral principles that exist in society. This shows that all sciences, especially social sciences, cannot be developed without involving human values or interests. This view is evidenced by the fact that science has been used destructively in two world wars that utilized scientific technologies. Science is developing rapidly and scientists are realizing the potential

for abuse, and science has evolved to create a genetic revolution and social change techniques [\[17\]–\[19\]](#).

### **Axiology in Islamic Perspective**

Islamic Axiology is the study of Islamic values embraced by scientists in determining their application and utilization in life. Islamic science tends to argue that the value of knowledge is bound by value (value bound), which means that the neutrality of knowledge to value is only limited to the metaphysical aspect, while in its application it is based on moral principles. Referring to the ontological basis of the concept of God (Allah) which is functional and the revelation given to the Prophet Muhammad as a form of God's affection for humans, then axiologically all Islamic scientific concepts are bound by revelation [\[20\]–\[22\]](#).

Islam places knowledge in the context of divine and universal values. Knowledge is not only seen as a way to understand natural phenomena but also as a medium to get closer to God. Here are some key points:

1. Link with Tawheed. In Islam, knowledge is directed towards the ultimate goal, which is the recognition of the oneness of Allah (monotheism). The development of knowledge aims to strengthen faith, as explained by Zainuddin, that knowledge is an integral part of religion and revelation.
2. Balance of the World and the Hereafter. Unlike the Western viewpoint that focuses on pragmatism, Islamic axiology emphasizes a balance between physical and spiritual needs. Knowledge is used to achieve happiness in the world while preparing for life after death.
3. Ethics and Morals. The application of knowledge must be based on good morals. Al-Shaibani emphasized that science in Islamic education aims to produce positive changes in the lives of individuals and society, both morally and socially [\[23\]](#), [\[24\]](#).

### **The Difference in the Axiology of Science in Western and Islamic Perspectives**

#### **Value Orientation**

In the Islamic view, science has a transcendental dimension that comes from revelation and sharia. Knowledge is not considered a value-free entity but is always connected to moral values and divine purposes. This concept is rooted in the belief that all knowledge comes from Allah, the Supreme Creator. Qur'anic verses, such as QS Al-Baqarah: 31 which explains that Allah taught Adam names (knowledge), show that science is not only related to the physical world but also to a higher metaphysical dimension. Knowledge must be used for the benefit and within the ethical boundaries that have been established by the Sharia [\[25\]–\[27\]](#).

In contrast, in the Western tradition, science is more focused on rationality, empiricism, and secularism. Western thought, especially since the Enlightenment, separated religion from science. The value orientation in Western philosophy of science emphasizes a pragmatic approach that is materialistic. Science is directed at understanding nature through scientific methods and experiments, as well as contributing to improving the quality of human life. In this context, spiritual values are often considered subjective and irrelevant in the development of science. However, this secular orientation also raises various criticisms. Many modern philosophical figures, such as Jürgen Habermas, question whether science can be completely free of value. In the context of technological developments such as nuclear weapons or genetic engineering, for example, criticism of secular orientation is increasingly important because its negative impact on humanity and the environment is often ignored [\[28\]–\[30\]](#).

#### **Final Goal**

Islam sees knowledge as a way to achieve Allah's pleasure and eternal happiness. Science is not only used to master nature but also to deepen the understanding of God's creation and

give more meaning to life in a spiritual and social context. In Islam, science functions as a tool that supports the ummah in achieving a higher goal, namely salvation in this world and the hereafter. For example, Islam teaches that science without good intentions and the principle of justice will only plunge a person into evil [\[31\]](#), [\[32\]](#).

On the other hand, Western countries place more emphasis on material success and technological innovation. In this context, science is used to achieve progress in worldly life, such as improving the quality of life, efficiency, and the development of technology that can bring material prosperity. In many ways, Western science is seen as a means to create wealth and power, with practical goals that are both short-term and secular [\[33\]](#), [\[34\]](#).

### **The Axiological Integration of Science between Western and Islamic Perspectives**

The axiology of science in the Islamic and Western views shows different approaches regarding the value, purpose, and utilization of knowledge. However, by identifying the commonalities, the merger of the two can result in a paradigm of science that prioritizes sustainability, social justice, and spiritual values [\[35\]](#).

#### **1. Convergence in Universal Value**

The Islamic and Western perspectives have universal values that can be the foundation of integration, such as the benefit of humanity and ethical responsibility. In Islam, knowledge is directed to achieve maqashid sharia, namely the preservation of religion, soul, intellect, descendants, and treasures to create a balance between life in this world and the hereafter. The West, through utilitarianism, also emphasizes the importance of science to achieve the greatest happiness for the greatest number of people. However, these values have a point of difference, where Islam bases benefits on divine will and transcendental principles, while the West often prioritizes a rational and empirical approach to determining what is beneficial [\[36\]](#), [\[37\]](#).

#### **2. Strengthening Ethics in the Application of Knowledge**

Islam provides a clear moral foundation, prohibiting the misuse of knowledge for detrimental purposes, such as environmental damage or excessive genetic manipulation. In the Western tradition, scientific ethics is also a crucial issue, as in the debate about bioethics and scientific responsibility in the application of modern technology. For example, in the context of artificial intelligence (AI) technology, Islam emphasizes the importance of using technology for good without forgetting moral values such as justice and privacy. An integrative approach can be applied by adopting Western scientific methodologies that are data-based and empirical, but still guided by profound Islamic ethical principles [\[38\]](#), [\[39\]](#).

#### **3. Balancing Worldly and Spiritual Needs**

Islam presents a balance between physical and spiritual needs with the view that knowledge is a means to achieve happiness in this world and the hereafter. In this case, knowledge is considered worship if it is used by Sharia and aims for the welfare of the people. Meanwhile, Western approaches often prioritize material achievements and technological innovations to improve the quality of life. Integration can be achieved by taking advantage of Western technological innovations while ensuring that its use is aligned with Islamic spiritual values. For example, in the field of health, modern technology can be utilized for healing purposes, but it must still be by Islamic principles, such as maintaining the sanctity of life and respecting the will of the patient [\[40\]](#), [\[41\]](#).

#### **4. Science as a Tool for Sustainability and Social Justice**

The Islamic perspective emphasizes that knowledge must be utilized for the common good and its distribution must be done fairly. This principle is contrary to the tendency of knowledge capitalization in the Western tradition, which often results in social inequality and exclusion for marginalized communities. An integrative approach can be applied by



encouraging inclusive and empowering research, which combines Western methodologies with Islamic values to create equitable solutions [42], [43].

On the issue of sustainability, Islam emphasizes the importance of maintaining a harmonious relationship between humans and nature, as affirmed in the concept of caliph (preservation of the earth). This is in line with modern ecological ideas in the West, which emphasizes the importance of sustainability in the use of natural resources [44], [45].

### **Analysis and Discussion**

The analysis and discussion of the Axiological Foundations of Knowledge between Western and Islamic perspectives reveal fundamental differences in the values underlying the theory of knowledge. In Western thought, knowledge is often seen as a result of rationality and objectivity, focusing on individual achievement and personal development. Western educational systems emphasize empirical and analytical theories, prioritizing proof through experience and experimentation. This approach aligns with the paradigm of sustainable development based on innovation, technology, and scientific progress [44], [45].

In contrast, in Islamic thought, knowledge is viewed as a gift from God, meant to be used for the welfare of humanity. The axiology in Islam emphasizes the relationship between knowledge and morality, with the ultimate goal of achieving both worldly and spiritual well-being. Knowledge in Islam focuses not only on material aspects but also on ethical and social values such as justice, solidarity, and social responsibility. Therefore, the integration of both perspectives can contribute a more holistic approach in supporting the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly in education, poverty alleviation, and equitable prosperity. This integration allows the application of knowledge that is not only based on technological advancement but also on moral values that prioritize collective well-being [44], [45].

### **CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, the axiological integration of science from both Islamic and Western perspectives reveals that, despite their differing approaches, there are universal values that can serve as a shared foundation. Islam emphasizes the transcendental dimension of knowledge, with the ultimate goal of achieving Allah's pleasure and benefiting the ummah through maqashid sharia principles. Meanwhile, the West focuses on worldly goals, such as technological innovation and material success, while maintaining a focus on social and ethical responsibility. The integration of these perspectives can combine the empirical methodologies of the West with the spiritual values of Islam, creating a paradigm of science that is not only materially beneficial but also morally grounded and sustainability-oriented. This integrative approach is essential for addressing global challenges, such as social inequality, environmental degradation, and ethical dilemmas in modern science, while aligning with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Islam's principles of social justice and sustainability complement Western research and technology, and conversely, the West offers advanced scientific methods. By fostering dialogue and collaboration across these traditions, science can contribute to building a more harmonious, just, and value-driven civilization. Therefore, the development of curricula integrating both Western and Islamic knowledge, interdisciplinary research centers, and policies that prioritize sustainable technology can play a key role in achieving the SDGs, ensuring a balanced approach to development, ethics, and sustainability.

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### Author Contribution

All authors contribute equally to the publication of this paper, all authors read and agree to this paper, and all authors declare no conflict of interest.

### Conflicts of Interest

All authors declare no conflict of interest.

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