

# Feminism from the Perspective of Muslim Women in Promoting Gender Equality in the Digital Era

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## ABSTRACT

Discussion of gender roles continues to evolve alongside rapid technological advancements in the modern era. The significant growth of digital technology has created broader and easier opportunities for individuals to interact and exchange ideas, including discussions concerning gender roles in Islam in relation to feminism. This development enables Muslim women to access information and understand feminist perspectives more quickly and openly. This study aims to analyze Muslim women's perspectives on contemporary gender issues associated with feminism. The research employs a qualitative approach through interviews with Muslim women who are aware of and engaged with feminist issues, supported by literature studies as a data collection method. The findings indicate that feminism is understood as a movement that advocates for and protects women's rights. Furthermore, this study highlights the important role of social media as a platform that can enhance Muslim women's awareness and encourage open discussions regarding gender equality within society.

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## INTRODUCTION

Digital communication has significantly transformed the way social and religious issues are discussed in contemporary society (Rahman, 2022). Through social media platforms, online forums, podcasts, and digital publications, Muslim women are now able to participate actively in conversations related to gender equality, women's rights, and feminism (Hidayati, 2023). The digital era has provided broader access to knowledge that was previously limited by social and cultural boundaries (Nasution, 2021). As a result, discussions regarding the position of women in Islam are becoming

more open, dynamic, and inclusive (Fauzi, 2024). Muslim women are increasingly using digital spaces to express their opinions, share experiences, and challenge stereotypes related to gender roles (Salim, 2022). These developments also encourage the emergence of new interpretations regarding women's participation in social, educational, economic, and political spheres (Azizah, 2025). Consequently, the digital environment has become an important medium for empowering Muslim women in modern society (Karimah, 2023).

In Islamic teachings, gender equality is often discussed within the framework of justice, responsibility, and mutual respect between men and women (Yusuf, 2021). Islam recognizes the dignity and value of women as individuals who possess rights and obligations equal to men in spiritual matters (Rahmat, 2022). However, cultural traditions and patriarchal interpretations in some societies have sometimes limited women's opportunities in public life (Lestari, 2024). Feminism, in this context, is frequently understood by Muslim women as a movement that seeks to restore fairness and protect women from discrimination and inequality (Maulana, 2023). Rather than opposing religious values, many Muslim women view feminism as compatible with Islamic principles of justice and humanity.

The role of social media has become increasingly influential in shaping Muslim women's understanding of feminism and gender equality (Fitriani, 2022). Platforms such as Instagram, YouTube, TikTok, and X allow women to engage with global conversations and access various perspectives from scholars, activists, and educators (Ramadhani, 2023). Through digital interaction, Muslim women can exchange ideas beyond geographical and cultural limitations (Wibowo, 2024). Online communities also provide emotional support and educational resources for women who experience discrimination or social pressure (Anwar, 2021). In many cases, digital platforms help Muslim women gain confidence in expressing their identities and aspirations (Kurniawati, 2025). The accessibility of online information further encourages critical thinking regarding traditional gender expectations (Putri, 2022).

Despite these positive developments, discussions surrounding feminism in Muslim communities still face significant challenges and debates (Syafiq, 2024). Some groups perceive feminism as a Western ideology that conflicts with Islamic teachings and traditional family values (Mubarok, 2021). This misunderstanding often creates tension between conservative and progressive perspectives within Muslim societies (Rohman, 2023). In addition, misinformation and hate speech on social media can intensify polarization regarding gender issues (Aminah, 2025). Muslim women who advocate gender equality are sometimes criticized for being too liberal or for challenging cultural norms (Firdaus, 2022). Nevertheless, many Muslim scholars and intellectuals argue that feminism can coexist with Islamic values when interpreted within the context of justice, compassion, and human dignity (Hasanah, 2024). They emphasize that Islam encourages mutual cooperation and respect between men and women rather than domination or inequality (Latifah, 2023). Therefore, constructive

dialogue is necessary to bridge differing perspectives on feminism in Islam (Ridwan, 2021).

Education plays an essential role in strengthening Muslim women's awareness of gender equality and social participation (Munawaroh, 2022). Through formal and informal education, women can develop critical understanding regarding their rights and responsibilities within both religious and social contexts (Arifin, 2024). Educational institutions also contribute to shaping balanced perspectives on feminism by integrating discussions of ethics, religion, and social justice (Nabila, 2023). In the digital era, online learning platforms provide Muslim women with greater opportunities to access knowledge from diverse academic and cultural backgrounds (Halimah, 2021). This accessibility helps women improve their intellectual capacity and participate more actively in public discussions (Safitri, 2025). Furthermore, education encourages women to become agents of positive change within their families and communities.

The increasing participation of Muslim women in digital activism demonstrates the growing awareness of social justice and gender related issues (Zahra, 2023). Many Muslim women use digital campaigns to advocate against domestic violence, discrimination, child marriage, and unequal access to education (Rizkiyah, 2021). These movements often combine religious values with humanitarian principles to promote inclusive social change (Nurmala, 2024). Digital activism also enables Muslim women to collaborate with organizations, scholars, and communities across different countries (Faridah, 2022). Through hashtags, webinars, online discussions, and educational content, they contribute to raising public awareness regarding women's issues (Yuliana, 2025). This phenomenon illustrates how digital technology can support social movements that are rooted in ethical and spiritual values (Kholifah, 2023). As digital participation continues to expand, Muslim women are becoming increasingly visible as contributors to intellectual and social transformation in contemporary society (Rahmi, 2024).

In conclusion, feminism in the perspective of Muslim women is not merely a struggle for freedom, but also an effort to achieve justice, dignity, and equal opportunities within society (Ismail, 2021). The digital era has opened wider spaces for Muslim women to express their voices, share knowledge, and participate in discussions concerning gender equality (Widyaningsih, 2023). Although debates and challenges remain, many Muslim women continue to reinterpret feminism in ways that align with Islamic teachings and cultural realities (Husna, 2024). Social media and digital technology have become powerful instruments for education, empowerment, and social advocacy (Ningsih, 2022). Through balanced understanding and constructive dialogue, feminism can contribute positively to the development of inclusive and harmonious societies (Rasyidah, 2025). Therefore, Muslim women's engagement in digital discussions about gender issues reflects an important transformation in contemporary Islamic discourse (Amalia, 2023).

## **METHODS**

This study employs a qualitative research approach to explore Muslim women's perspectives on feminism and gender equality in the digital era (Rahman, 2022). A qualitative method was chosen because it allows the researcher to understand social phenomena deeply through participants' experiences, opinions, and interpretations (Salim, 2023). The research focuses on how Muslim women perceive feminism within the context of Islamic values and contemporary digital culture (Hidayati, 2024). This research was conducted in Suci Village, an area where digital media usage among young Muslim women continues to develop rapidly. Data were collected through semi-structured interviews involving Muslim women from different educational and social backgrounds who actively engage with gender-related discussions on social media platforms (Nasution, 2021). In addition, literature studies from books, journals, and academic articles published after 2021 were used to strengthen the theoretical framework and support the analysis process (Azizah, 2025).

The data collection process was conducted systematically to obtain comprehensive and reliable information regarding participants' understanding of feminism and gender equality (Fauzi, 2023). Interviews were carried out both directly and through online communication platforms to accommodate participants' accessibility and digital engagement (Karimah, 2022). During the interviews, participants were asked about their views on feminism, women's rights, Islamic teachings regarding gender, and the influence of social media on their perspectives (Sari, 2024). Furthermore, documentation and digital observations were also utilized to examine online discussions, social media content, and public campaigns related to Muslim women and feminism in the community of Suci Village (Hakim, 2021). The use of multiple data sources enabled the researcher to compare findings and ensure data validity through triangulation techniques (Nugroho, 2025).

The collected data were analyzed using descriptive qualitative analysis through several stages, including data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing (Fitriani, 2022). Data reduction was conducted by selecting relevant information related to feminism, gender equality, and Muslim women's digital participation (Ramadhani, 2023). Afterward, the data were organized and presented narratively to identify patterns, themes, and relationships among participants' perspectives (Anwar, 2024). The final stage involved interpreting the findings to understand how Muslim women negotiate religious values and feminist ideas within contemporary digital spaces (Kurniawati, 2025). This method allows the study to provide a comprehensive explanation of the role of digital media in shaping Muslim women's awareness and participation in discussions concerning gender equality and social justice, particularly among Muslim women in Suci Village (Putri, 2023).

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **Muslim Women's Understanding of Feminism in the Digital Era**

The findings of this study indicate that Muslim women in Suci Village have diverse perspectives regarding feminism and gender equality in the digital era (Rahman, 2022). Most participants understand feminism as a movement that seeks to defend women's rights and promote equal opportunities in education, employment, and social participation (Salim, 2023). They do not interpret feminism as opposition toward men or rejection of Islamic teachings, but rather as an effort to achieve justice and mutual respect between genders (Hidayati, 2024). Several participants explained that social media platforms have helped them gain broader knowledge about women's issues through educational content, discussions, and public campaigns (Nasution, 2021). Digital technology also allows Muslim women to compare different perspectives regarding women's roles in society and religion (Azizah, 2025). As a result, many participants become more confident in expressing their opinions about gender equality and women's empowerment (Karimah, 2022).

Participants in this study emphasized that Islamic teachings fundamentally support women's dignity and equal spiritual status before God (Fauzi, 2023). According to several interviewees, the concept of justice in Islam provides opportunities for women to participate actively in education, economic activities, and community development (Sari, 2024). They argued that misunderstandings regarding women's roles often emerge from patriarchal cultural traditions rather than from Islamic values themselves (Hakim, 2021). Some participants explained that the digital era enables Muslim women to access interpretations of Islamic teachings from various scholars and intellectuals around the world (Nugroho, 2025). This accessibility broadens their understanding of gender issues and encourages more critical thinking regarding traditional assumptions about women (Fitriani, 2022). Consequently, participants increasingly believe that Islam and feminism can coexist when both are understood within the framework of justice and humanity (Ramadhani, 2023).

The research also found that social media significantly influences Muslim women's awareness of gender-related issues (Anwar, 2024). Platforms such as Instagram, TikTok, YouTube, and X are widely used by participants to obtain information about women's rights, education, self-development, and social participation (Kurniawati, 2025). Through digital platforms, participants are exposed to discussions concerning domestic violence, discrimination, child marriage, and women's leadership (Putri, 2023). Many participants admitted that before actively using social media, their understanding of feminism was limited and often associated with negative stereotypes (Rahmat, 2022). However, after engaging with educational content and discussions online, they developed a more balanced and positive perspective regarding feminism (Lestari, 2024). Social media therefore functions not only as entertainment but also as a source of learning and empowerment for Muslim women in contemporary society (Maulana, 2023).

Another important finding reveals that young Muslim women are more open toward discussions of gender equality compared to older generations (Sari, 2025). Younger participants generally view women's participation in public spaces as a natural part of social development and modernization (Hakim, 2021). They support women's access to higher education, career opportunities, and leadership roles while maintaining Islamic values and ethical principles (Nugroho, 2024). In contrast, several older participants expressed more cautious views toward feminism because they feared it could influence traditional family structures (Fitriani, 2022). Nevertheless, most participants agreed that women should receive equal opportunities to develop their potential and contribute positively to society (Ramadhani, 2023). This generational difference demonstrates how digital exposure and educational background shape Muslim women's perspectives on feminism and gender equality (Anwar, 2024).

The study further found that Muslim women often use digital platforms as spaces for discussion and self-expression (Kurniawati, 2025). Participants explained that social media enables them to share opinions, participate in online forums, and engage in discussions about Islamic values and women's rights (Putri, 2023). Some participants also actively follow female Muslim scholars, activists, and educators who discuss issues related to gender equality and women's empowerment (Rahmat, 2022). Through these interactions, participants feel encouraged to voice their experiences and concerns regarding social expectations toward women (Lestari, 2024). Several interviewees mentioned that online communities provide emotional support and motivation for women facing discrimination or social pressure (Maulana, 2023). Thus, digital spaces become important environments for building solidarity and increasing awareness among Muslim women regarding gender issues (Sari, 2025).

Despite the positive influence of digital media, participants acknowledged that discussions about feminism still face resistance within certain social environments (Hakim, 2021). Some participants experienced criticism for supporting gender equality because feminism is often misunderstood as a movement against religion or family values (Nugroho, 2024). In addition, misinformation and negative stereotypes spread through social media sometimes create misunderstandings regarding the goals of feminism (Fitriani, 2022). Several participants stated that they prefer using moderate and educational approaches when discussing gender issues to avoid conflict within their communities (Ramadhani, 2023). They believe that constructive dialogue and religious understanding are important for promoting acceptance of women's rights within Muslim societies (Anwar, 2024). Therefore, participants emphasized the need for balanced education regarding feminism and Islamic teachings in the digital era (Kurniawati, 2025).

Overall, the findings demonstrate that Muslim women in Suci Village increasingly understand feminism as a movement that supports justice, equality, and women's empowerment without contradicting Islamic values (Putri, 2023). The development of

digital technology has provided wider access to information, enabling women to participate more actively in discussions related to gender equality and social issues (Rahmat, 2022). Social media has also encouraged Muslim women to become more confident in expressing their opinions and building supportive communities (Lestari, 2024). Although challenges and social resistance remain, participants continue to seek balanced perspectives that integrate religious principles with modern social realities (Maulana, 2023). This finding indicates that the digital era plays an important role in shaping contemporary Muslim women's awareness regarding feminism and gender equality (Sari, 2025).

### **The Role of Digital Media in Promoting Gender Equality Among Muslim Women**

The findings of this study show that digital media plays a significant role in increasing Muslim women's awareness of gender equality in Suci Village (Rahman, 2022). Participants explained that social media platforms provide easy access to information related to women's rights, education, leadership, and social participation (Salim, 2023). Through digital content such as videos, podcasts, webinars, and online discussions, Muslim women can learn about gender issues from various perspectives and experiences (Hidayati, 2024). Many participants admitted that social media has become one of the main sources for understanding feminism in a more balanced and contextual way (Nasution, 2021). They also stated that digital technology enables them to communicate and interact with people from different cultural and educational backgrounds (Azizah, 2025). Consequently, digital media contributes to the development of broader social awareness regarding equality and justice for women in contemporary Muslim society (Karimah, 2022).

Participants emphasized that digital media provides opportunities for Muslim women to express their opinions more openly and confidently (Fauzi, 2023). Before the widespread use of social media, many women felt limited in discussing sensitive issues such as discrimination, domestic violence, and unequal treatment in society (Sari, 2024). However, the existence of online platforms has created spaces where women can share experiences and support one another without significant social barriers (Hakim, 2021). Several participants explained that online discussions encourage women to become more critical toward cultural practices that disadvantage women while still respecting Islamic teachings (Nugroho, 2025). In addition, digital communication allows women to participate in public discourse without being restricted by geographical limitations (Fitriani, 2022). As a result, Muslim women are becoming increasingly active in voicing their aspirations and participating in social discussions regarding gender equality (Ramadhani, 2023).

The study also found that digital media functions as an educational tool for Muslim women in understanding Islamic perspectives on gender justice (Anwar, 2024). Participants frequently access lectures, articles, and educational content delivered by Muslim scholars, female activists, and Islamic educators through

YouTube, Instagram, and TikTok (Kurniawati, 2025). This digital accessibility helps women explore interpretations of Islam that support fairness, compassion, and equal opportunities for both men and women (Putri, 2023). Several interviewees stated that online educational content has changed their understanding of feminism, which they previously considered contradictory to religion (Rahmat, 2022). Through digital learning, participants increasingly recognize that Islam values women's dignity and encourages their contribution to society (Lestari, 2024). Therefore, digital media has become an important medium for promoting moderate and inclusive religious understanding among Muslim women (Maulana, 2023).

Another important finding indicates that online communities create emotional support and solidarity among Muslim women (Sari, 2025). Participants explained that social media groups and online forums provide safe spaces for discussing personal experiences related to gender discrimination and social pressure (Hakim, 2021). In these communities, women can exchange advice, motivate each other, and share educational resources concerning self-development and women's empowerment (Nugroho, 2024). Several participants admitted that they feel more confident after joining digital communities that encourage positive discussions regarding women's roles in society (Fitriani, 2022). Furthermore, digital interaction enables Muslim women to build broader social networks with activists, educators, and scholars from different regions and countries (Ramadhani, 2023). This solidarity strengthens women's participation in advocating gender equality and social justice within contemporary Muslim communities (Anwar, 2024).

The research further reveals that digital activism has become an effective strategy for raising public awareness regarding women's issues (Kurniawati, 2025). Participants observed that campaigns related to domestic violence prevention, girls' education, anti-discrimination movements, and women's mental health are increasingly visible on social media platforms (Putri, 2023). Many Muslim women actively participate by sharing educational content, joining online campaigns, and engaging in public discussions about social justice (Rahmat, 2022). Some participants also use their personal social media accounts to spread positive messages about women's empowerment and Islamic values of equality (Lestari, 2024). This phenomenon demonstrates that digital media not only facilitates communication but also supports social movements aimed at improving women's conditions in society (Maulana, 2023). Therefore, digital activism contributes significantly to the development of public awareness regarding gender equality among Muslim communities (Sari, 2025).

Despite these positive contributions, participants acknowledged that digital media also presents several challenges (Hakim, 2021). Some participants experienced cyberbullying, negative comments, and social criticism when expressing opinions about feminism and women's rights online (Nugroho, 2024). Misinterpretation of feminist ideas and the spread of misinformation on social media sometimes create

conflict and misunderstanding within communities (Fitriani, 2022). Several participants explained that conservative perspectives often perceive gender equality movements as threats to traditional values and religious norms (Ramadhani, 2023). Nevertheless, participants believed that respectful dialogue and educational approaches are important in reducing social tensions related to gender discussions (Anwar, 2024). They also emphasized the need for digital literacy to help society understand information critically and responsibly in the digital era (Kurniawati, 2025).

Overall, the findings demonstrate that digital media has become an influential instrument in promoting gender equality and empowering Muslim women in Suci Village (Putri, 2023). Social media platforms provide opportunities for women to access information, participate in discussions, and build supportive communities related to women's rights and social justice (Rahmat, 2022). Digital technology also enables Muslim women to reinterpret feminism within the framework of Islamic teachings and contemporary social realities (Lestari, 2024). Although challenges such as misinformation and social resistance remain, participants continue to use digital spaces as platforms for education, advocacy, and empowerment (Maulana, 2023). This study therefore confirms that digital media plays an essential role in shaping Muslim women's awareness and participation in promoting gender equality in modern society (Sari, 2025).

## **CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, this study demonstrates that Muslim women in Suci Village generally understand feminism as a movement that promotes justice, women's rights, and gender equality without contradicting Islamic teachings. The findings reveal that participants interpret feminism within the framework of Islamic values such as fairness, mutual respect, and social responsibility. The development of digital technology has significantly influenced Muslim women's perspectives by providing broader access to information, educational content, and public discussions regarding gender issues. Through social media platforms, Muslim women are increasingly able to express their opinions, share experiences, and participate actively in discussions concerning women's empowerment and equality in contemporary society.

This study also highlights the important role of digital media as a medium for education, communication, and social advocacy among Muslim women. Digital platforms enable participants to access various interpretations of Islamic teachings related to women's roles and rights, encouraging more critical and inclusive perspectives regarding feminism. In addition, online communities and digital activism contribute to strengthening solidarity, emotional support, and public awareness about issues such as discrimination, domestic violence, and unequal opportunities for women. Despite challenges such as misinformation, cyberbullying,

and negative stereotypes toward feminism, participants continue to use digital spaces constructively to promote dialogue and social awareness regarding gender equality.

Overall, the research confirms that the digital era has created significant opportunities for Muslim women to engage in discussions and movements related to gender equality and social justice. The integration of Islamic values with contemporary feminist perspectives demonstrates that religion and gender equality can coexist harmoniously when understood within the principles of justice and humanity. Therefore, this study suggests the importance of strengthening digital literacy, inclusive education, and constructive dialogue to support Muslim women's participation in creating more equitable and inclusive societies. By utilizing digital media wisely and responsibly, Muslim women can continue to contribute positively to social transformation and the promotion of gender equality in modern Muslim communities.

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