

ISLAMIC FAMILY LAW AND THE DYNAMICS OF HOUSEHOLD HARMONY: A LITERATURE REVIEW

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Abstract

Household harmony remains a central concern in contemporary Muslim family life, particularly amid social change, shifting family roles, and increasing marital conflict. This study examines the role of Islamic family law in achieving household harmony through a descriptive qualitative library research approach. Data were drawn from books, national and international journal articles, theses, laws and regulations, including Law No. 1 of 1974 and the Compilation of Islamic Law, and other relevant scholarly sources. The analysis synthesized conceptual and empirical literature on the purposes of marriage, spousal rights and obligations, child protection, conflict resolution, and the application of Islamic family law in contemporary society. The findings show that Islamic family law functions not only as a legal framework but also as an ethical and educational guide for fostering *sakinah*, *mawaddah*, and *rahmah* within the family. It supports household harmony by clarifying role distribution, promoting justice, protecting children's rights, and institutionalizing deliberation (*shura*) and mediation (*hakam*) as mechanisms for resolving disputes and minimizing divorce. Effective implementation, reflected in mutual responsibility, open communication, equitable role-sharing, and child protection, is associated with stronger marital stability, improved child psychosocial well-being, and greater family resilience. Conversely, limited understanding or misapplication of Islamic

family law principles may contribute to conflict, role uncertainty, and increased divorce risk. The study concludes that strengthening the comprehension and contextual application of Islamic family law is essential for sustaining harmonious and resilient Muslim households in the modern era. This study contributes to Islamic family law discourse by emphasizing its preventive, ethical, and restorative functions, with practical implications for premarital counselling, community education, and legal-social services.

Keywords: Islamic Family Law; Household Harmony; *Sakinah* Family; Spousal Rights and Obligations; Family Resilience.

INTRODUCTION

The family is the smallest social unit in society and plays a crucial role in fostering social, moral, and spiritual resilience. From an Islamic perspective, the family is viewed not only as a bond between a man and a woman through marriage, but also as a means of realizing a peaceful, loving, and mutually complementary life. This goal is reflected in the concept of a harmonious, loving, and compassionate family, which serves as the primary foundation of domestic life in Islam. Therefore, Islamic family law is crucial as a guideline for regulating relationships between family members, ensuring harmony and balance within the household (Syarifuddin, 2014).

Islamic family law is a branch of Islamic law that regulates various aspects of family life, from marriage, the rights and obligations of husband and wife, child maintenance (*hadhanah*), divorce, and inheritance. In Indonesia, the existence of Islamic family law is legitimized through various regulations, one of which is the Compilation of Islamic Law, which serves as a guideline for the Muslim community and religious courts in resolving various family issues (Moors, 2018). The existence of the Compilation of Islamic Law demonstrates that Islamic family law holds a strategic position within the national legal system, particularly in regulating the family life of Muslims (Manan, 2017).

Marriage in Islam is not only intended to fulfill biological needs, but also to establish a harmonious and sustainable family. As explained in Surah Ar-Rum, verse 21 of the Quran, Allah SWT created life partners so that humans can attain peace (*sakinah*) and cultivate feelings of love (*mawaddah*) and compassion (*rahmah*) in their married life (Khasanah, 2021). These values serve as the foundation for building a healthy relationship between husband and wife, thus creating a harmonious and responsible family environment.

However, the realities of modern life show that domestic harmony often faces various challenges. Rising divorce rates, family conflict, domestic violence, a lack of understanding of the rights and obligations of partners, and the influence of social change are factors that can disrupt family stability (Thodukayil et al., 2026). These issues demonstrate that not all families are able to optimally apply the values of Islamic family law in their daily lives. As a result, the goal of marriage to create a happy and prosperous family is often difficult to achieve.

In this context, Islamic family law serves not only a normative function but also an educational and preventive one. Islamic family law provides guidance on the husband's responsibilities as head of the family, the wife's obligations to uphold the honor of the household, the rights of children, and mechanisms for resolving conflict in the event of family disputes (Harun, 2026). Through these regulations, Islamic family law strives to create justice, balance, and protection for all family members, thereby minimizing the potential for conflict (Ali, 2018).

Furthermore, Islamic family law emphasizes the importance of deliberation, communication, and shared responsibility in maintaining household integrity. Family harmony is not solely determined by economic aspects but also influenced by the quality of emotional, spiritual, and social relationships among family members (Aryani et al., 2025). Therefore, the comprehensive application of Islamic family law is a crucial effort in building family resilience amidst increasingly complex social changes (Tarigan, 2019).

Previous literature demonstrates strong consistency regarding the central role of Islamic family law in realizing household harmony. The first study by Arifin and Khairuddin (2023) found that family harmony can be achieved through two main aspects: the spiritual aspect (*hablumminallah*) as a vertical relationship with Allah, and the material aspect which includes the division of technical roles between husband and wife in managing the household. The second study by Sulaiman (2025) emphasized that Islamic family law provides a solid framework through the principle of justice in husband-wife relations, proportional distribution of responsibilities, and a mechanism for peaceful conflict resolution through mediation (*islah*) which avoids divorce. The third study by Putra (2024) in his thesis at IAIN Ponorogo on migrant worker families showed that a high understanding of the concept of a *sakinah* family—both in Islamic law and positive law (KHI and the Marriage Law)—correlates with the ability to maintain household integrity despite separation

by distance and time, with the application of a good understanding of gender and dual roles. The fourth study by Maghfiroh (2024) at IAIN Salatiga on the concept of *mu'asyarah bil ma'ruf* in Al-Maraghi's interpretation states that the balance of rights and obligations fulfilled simultaneously by husband and wife, as well as efforts to understand and fulfill each other's emotional needs, is the foundation of a harmonious family. These four studies together confirm that the implementation of Islamic family law values—from justice, role distribution, peaceful conflict resolution, to *mu'asyarah bil ma'ruf*—is the main determinant of household harmony.

Based on this description, this study aims to examine the role of Islamic family law in achieving household harmony through a library research approach. This study is important to understand how the principles of Islamic family law can be applied in modern family life and to what extent they contribute to creating harmonious, prosperous families based on Islamic values.

METHODS

This research employed a library research method with a descriptive qualitative approach. A library study is a research method that involves collecting, reviewing, and analyzing various literature sources relevant to the research topic to gain a comprehensive understanding of a problem (Moleong, 2014; Safrudin et al., 2023; Sugiyono, 2017). This method was chosen because the research focuses on a conceptual study of the role of Islamic family law in achieving household harmony, based on various published scientific sources.

The data sources used in this study consist of secondary data, namely library materials related to Islamic family law and household harmony. This data was obtained from Islamic family law books, national and international scientific journals, research articles, undergraduate theses, laws and regulations, and official documents relevant to the research theme. Some of the primary sources used include Law Number 1 of 1974 concerning Marriage, the Compilation of Islamic Law (KHI), and various academic literature discussing the concepts of a harmonious, peaceful, and compassionate family from an Islamic perspective.

Data collection techniques were carried out through documentation activities, namely identifying, collecting, reading, and recording information related to the research object from various literature sources. Next, the collected data was selected based on its level

of relevance, credibility, and connection to the research focus to obtain valid and academically accountable data (Creswell, 2013; Safrudin et al., 2023).

The data was analyzed using content analysis techniques, which analyze the contents of various collected literature to identify concepts, theories, and ideas related to the role of Islamic family law in building household harmony. The data obtained was then classified based on specific themes, such as the purpose of marriage in Islam, the rights and obligations of husband and wife, family conflict resolution, protection of family members, and the implementation of Islamic family law in community life. Through this approach, this study is expected to provide a systematic overview of the role of Islamic family law in creating harmonious families, while also explaining the relevance of applying Islamic family law principles in facing the various challenges of household life in the modern era (Hamzah, 2020).

RESULTS

The Role of Islam and Family Law

Islamic family law is a vital component of the Islamic legal system, governing relationships between family members, including marriage, the rights and obligations of husband and wife, childcare, and domestic conflict resolution. In Islam, the family is viewed as the primary foundation for a harmonious community (Riadi, 2024). Therefore, Islamic family law serves as a guideline that directs each family member to fulfill their roles and responsibilities in a balanced manner, in accordance with Islamic law.

Marriage in Islam is understood not only as a legal relationship between a man and a woman, but also as an act of worship aimed at forming a peaceful and loving family. This concept is explained in the Quran through the terms *sakinah*, *mawaddah*, and *rahmah*, which form the foundation of Islamic family life (Rahmadani et al., 2024). Harmony in the household does not automatically arise after the marriage contract but must be built through commitment, responsibility, and the application of Islamic family law values in daily life (Syarifuddin, 2014).

Islamic family law plays a crucial role in creating a balanced relationship between husband and wife. Islam clearly defines the rights and obligations of each partner, creating a mutually complementary relationship. The husband is responsible for providing sustenance, protection, and leadership within the family, while the wife plays a role in maintaining her

dignity, supporting the household, and raising the children alongside her husband (Adib et al., 2024). This division of roles is not intended to demonstrate superiority over either party, but rather to demonstrate mutual responsibility for creating a harmonious family.

In domestic life, many conflicts arise from a lack of understanding of the rights and obligations of partners. When one party fails to fulfill their responsibilities properly, the family relationship becomes vulnerable to conflict. Therefore, Islamic family law serves as a normative guideline that directs married couples to fulfill their obligations proportionally. A good understanding of these rules can help couples build a healthier, more open, and respectful relationship (Rofiq, 2017).

In addition to regulating the rights and obligations of husband and wife, Islamic family law also emphasizes the importance of the principle of justice in domestic life. Justice is one of the primary values that must be applied in family relationships, as each family member has rights that must be respected (Maneza et al., 2026). Islam teaches that marital relationships are built on cooperation and mutual respect, not on domination or arbitrary action. Applying this principle of justice can create a sense of security, comfort, and trust within the family, thus supporting domestic harmony.

The Role of Islamic Family Law in Maintaining Household Harmony

Islamic family law also plays a role in fostering good communication between family members. Communication is a crucial factor in maintaining marital harmony, as various family problems often arise from misunderstandings and a lack of openness between partners. From an Islamic perspective, deliberation is one of the recommended principles for resolving family issues. Through good communication and deliberation, couples can find wiser solutions to various problems without sacrificing family unity (Suma, 2019).

In addition, Islamic family law emphasizes the protection of children's rights within the family. Children are a trust that must be protected and their needs met by both parents. Islam stipulates that children have the right to love, education, protection, and a positive environment to support their growth and development. Domestic harmony has a significant impact on a child's psychological and social well-being. Children who grow up in harmonious families tend to have more stable emotional development than those who live in conflict-ridden families (Az-Zuhaili, 2011).

The role of Islamic family law in maintaining household harmony is also evident through the conflict resolution mechanisms stipulated in sharia. Islam recognizes that

differences of opinion and disputes are part of domestic life. Nevertheless, Islam encourages conflict resolution through peaceful means and prioritizes deliberation. Even when conflicts become more serious, Islam recognizes the concept of hakam, or mediators, whose task is to help reconcile married couples to avoid divorce (Nasution, 2018).

Divorce is permitted in Islam, but it is a last resort if all other reconciliation efforts fail. This provision demonstrates that Islamic family law prioritizes maintaining the integrity of the household over ending the marriage. Thus, Islamic family law serves not only as a formal legal regulation but also as a social instrument that plays a role in maintaining family stability and community resilience. The development of modern life also presents new challenges for Muslim families. Changing lifestyles, technological advancements, increasing economic demands, and shifting social values often impact the quality of relationships within the household. This situation demands a deeper understanding of Islamic family law so that its values remain relevant in today's society.

Several studies have shown that couples who have a good understanding of Islamic family law tend to be better able to resolve conflicts maturely and maintain quality marital relationships. Understanding the concepts of responsibility, deliberation, justice, and compassion has been shown to positively contribute to building a harmonious family (Obizue et al., 2025). Conversely, a poor understanding of Islamic family law is often a contributing factor to increased family conflict, leading to divorce.

DISCUSSION

Based on a literature review of various books, scientific journals, and regulations related to Islamic family law, it was found that Islamic family law plays a significant role in achieving household harmony (Ubaidilah & Husna, 2023). This role is evident in regulating the rights and obligations of husband and wife, establishing a harmonious, loving, and compassionate family, resolving family conflicts, and protecting the rights of children and other family members. The study results show that an understanding of Islamic family law influences the quality of relationships within the household. Couples who understand and apply the principles of Islamic family law tend to have better communication, a higher level of responsibility, and a better ability to resolve conflicts through deliberation. These conditions contribute to creating harmonious and stable family relationships (Halim et al., 2024).

Furthermore, various literature explains that the concept of a harmonious family is not only oriented towards fulfilling material needs, but also encompasses the emotional, spiritual, and social aspects of family life. Household harmony is formed through mutual respect, affection, trust, and an awareness of fulfilling each person's rights and obligations in accordance with Islamic teachings (Rofiq, 2025). This study also found that one factor frequently causing marital disharmony is a couple's lack of understanding of their roles and responsibilities within the family. This imbalance in the exercise of husband and wife's rights and obligations often leads to disputes that can lead to prolonged conflict and even divorce. Therefore, Islamic family law serves as a guideline to help couples build a more just and balanced relationship (Rofiq, 2017).

On the other hand, Islamic family law provides a conflict resolution mechanism that prioritizes deliberation and peace. Several sources indicate that implementing the principle of deliberation in families can reduce the level of conflict because each family member is given the opportunity to express their opinions and find solutions together. This approach aligns with the goal of Islamic family law, which prioritizes maintaining the integrity of the household over divorce (Suma, 2019). The study also shows that families that consistently apply Islamic family law values tend to have stronger family resilience. This resilience is evident in the ability of family members to face various life challenges, such as economic problems, social change, and environmental pressures. Values such as responsibility, patience, justice, and compassion are important factors supporting the sustainability of household life (Uzoagu, 2025).

Islamic family law plays a strategic role in the protection and education of children by regulating parental responsibilities, assigning roles, and establishing clear rights and obligations. With a normative framework that emphasizes the obligation to care for, educate, and fulfill children's material and emotional needs, these rules foster a stable household environment. The literature shows that family stability—achieved through equitable distribution of responsibilities, open communication, and conflict resolution based on principles of justice—is positively correlated with children's emotional development, such as a sense of security, emotional regulation, and interpersonal skills. Therefore, the consistent implementation of Islamic family law not only resolves disputes but also prevents role uncertainty, which is often the root of child developmental problems (Ubaidilah & Husna, 2023).

Furthermore, Islamic family law serves as a moral and social guideline that shapes family culture, thus supporting the quality of the next generation. Values such as compassion (*mawaddab*), mutual respect, trustworthiness, and consultation (*shura*) enshrined in the principles of family law foster responsive and responsible parenting (Shahlalay & Jaweria, 2025). Such parenting enhances parents' capacity to shape their children's character, ethics, and religious identity—critical factors in the formation of a community's social and moral capital. Therefore, when these principles are consistently applied in family practice, their impact extends beyond marital relations. They influence the quality of values education, children's psychosocial resilience, and ultimately the contribution of the new generation to the socio-religious sustainability of the community (Ichsan, 2019; Ichsan et al., 2023, 2026; Ichsan & Samsudin, 2019; Rustam & Ichsan, 2020; Wijaksono & Ichsan, 2022).

CONCLUSION

Based on the literature review, Islamic family law plays a crucial role in realizing household harmony because it functions not only as a set of relational rules between husband, wife, and children, but also as a normative guideline that instills the values of justice, responsibility, compassion, and deliberation. The application of these principles—including effective communication, peaceful conflict resolution, and protection of family members' rights—encourages a better understanding of the rights and obligations of couples, thus creating a balanced and complementary relationship, while the study evidence shows that in addition to economic conditions, the level of understanding and implementation of Islamic family law values significantly influences the chances of forming a *sakinah*, *mawaddab*, and *rahmah* family, so that Islamic family law remains relevant and important in maintaining family resilience in facing the challenges of modern life.

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