

Research Article

Interpersonal Closeness in the Digital Age: Aligning Telepresence With Islamic Law Principles in Long-distance Relationship and Family Harmony

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Abstract.

The advent of telepresence technology has revolutionized how people maintain interpersonal closeness in long-distance relationships. This paper explores the role of telepresence in fostering harmony in long-distance marriages, particularly in the context of Islamic law principles. It examines how the use of telepresence technology can help couples maintain emotional connections and spiritual bonds despite physical distance and how Islamic law principles can guide the development of effective communication strategies in these situations. The study focuses on the strategies used by long-distance married couples to maintain family harmony, including strategies for commitment, effective communication, inner comfort, economic fulfilment, spiritual improvement, and mutual understanding. To conduct a systematic and bibliometric analysis of the sources provided, we gathered all relevant peer-reviewed articles and studies on “telepresence,” “long-distance marriage,” “Islamic law,” “family harmony,” and “interpersonal closeness. We also calculated author productivity from Scopus Database, Taylor & Francis, Sage, and Google Scholar to analyze journal and conference trends and visualized the results by using VOSviewer to create interactive maps illustrating author, journal, and keyword relationships. Telepresence technology, aligned with the Islamic principles of privacy, modesty, and ethical interaction, can significantly enhance interpersonal closeness and family harmony in long-distance marriages. The integration of telepresence with Islamic law principles can help couples maintain their emotional connections, spiritual bonds, and family harmony despite physical distance. The study’s findings have significant implications for the development of effective strategies for maintaining long-distance marriages and can provide a sense of security and stability for couples.

Keywords: interpersonal closeness, telepresence, long-distance marriage, Islamic law, family

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1. Introduction

In the contemporary digital age, telepresence technology has revolutionized long-distance communication, enabling couples to maintain emotional connections despite physical distance.(1) This technology can be used to facilitate regular video calls, virtual dates, and shared activities, fostering a sense of closeness and intimacy.(2) Telepresence technology has become a crucial tool for maintaining interpersonal relationships, particularly in contexts where physical proximity is not possible.(3) This is especially relevant in the case of long-distance marriages (LDMs), where spouses are separated by geographical distances but seek to maintain a close and supportive relationship.(4) The rise of telepresence technologies, such as video calls, virtual reality, and other digital communication platforms,(5) offers a promising solution to bridge this gap. Understanding how these technologies can be effectively utilized to foster interpersonal closeness and family harmony is essential,(6) particularly when considering cultural and religious frameworks such as Islamic law.(7)

Islamic law, or Sharia, places a significant emphasis on the importance of family, marital bonds, and interpersonal relationships.

Principles such as *tauhid* (the oneness of God), *amr bi al-ma'ruf wa nahy 'an al-munkar* (enjoining good and forbidding evil), *umma* (the community of believers), *taqwa* (piety), and *amana* (trustworthiness) guide communication practices within Islamic societies.(8) The principles derived from the Quran, Hadith (prophetic traditions), and other Islamic jurisprudential sources advocate for strong family ties, mutual respect, and ethical conduct within relationships.(2) Long-distance relationships (LDRs) present unique challenges, but some LDR families in Indonesia have successfully maintained harmony through strategies such as commitment, effective communication, inner comfort, economic fulfillment, spiritual improvement, and mutual understanding.(8) In a long-distance marriage, adhering to these principles can be challenging but is not insurmountable with the aid of modern telepresence technology. Long-distance relationships (LDRs) present unique challenges, but some LDR families in Indonesia have successfully maintained harmony through strategies such as commitment, effective communication, inner comfort, economic fulfillment, spiritual improvement, and mutual understanding.(8) By examining how these technologies can align with Islamic values, couples can ensure that their relationships remain strong and harmonious, despite physical separation.

Long-distance marriages are becoming increasingly common due to various factors such as work commitments, educational pursuits, and other personal reasons.(9) These

marriages, while challenging, can benefit immensely from the strategic use of telepresence technologies.(10) Regular communication through video calls, (11) virtual shared activities, and real-time emotional support are some of the ways in which couples can maintain a sense of togetherness.(9) This review seeks to systematically explore the existing literature on telepresence technology in long-distance marriages, focusing on its effectiveness in enhancing interpersonal closeness and ensuring adherence to Islamic law principles.

Implement family resilience strategies such as commitment, effective communication, inner comfort, economic fulfillment, spiritual improvement, and mutual understanding to maintain harmony in long-distance marriages.(8) Family harmony is another critical aspect that needs to be considered in the context of long-distance marriages. Family harmony is a central tenet of Islamic teachings. The concept of family in Islam extends beyond the nuclear family to include extended relatives, emphasizing the importance of maintaining strong ties and mutual support.(12) The Quran instructs believers to uphold the rights and duties towards family members, as seen in Surah An-Nisa (4:36). In the context of long-distance marriages, telepresence technology can play a crucial role in maintaining these family ties. Regular virtual interactions can involve not just the spouses but also their children and extended family members, fostering a sense of unity and belonging.(13)

Islamic teachings emphasize the importance of maintaining family harmony, involving all members in regular interactions, and fostering a supportive environment. The Quran and Hadith outline the importance of affection, mercy, and tranquility between spouses. The Quran states, “And among His signs is that He created for you from yourselves mates that you may find tranquility in them; and He placed between you affection and mercy. Indeed, in that are signs for a people who give thought”, in Quran Surah Ar Rum (30:21).(14)

This verse highlights the essential components of a successful marriage, which include love, compassion, and mutual support. (29) In long-distance marriages, maintaining these components becomes challenging but is not impossible with the aid of modern telepresence technology.

Telepresence technology can facilitate these interactions, ensuring that even children and extended family members feel connected and valued. By incorporating telepresence into family routines, long-distance couples can uphold Islamic values of kinship

and unity, creating a cohesive and supportive family structure despite the physical distances.(15)

While telepresence technology offers numerous benefits, it must be used in a manner that aligns with Islamic ethical guidelines. Islamic law places a strong emphasis on privacy (sitr) and modesty (haya), which must be upheld during virtual interactions.(16) This includes ensuring that conversations and visual interactions respect the privacy of both partners and adhere to the principles of modesty. Additionally, avoiding fitnah (temptation) and ensuring that telepresence technology strengthens rather than undermines the marital bond is crucial. Couples should be mindful of the content they share and the manner in which they interact, ensuring that it aligns with Islamic values.

2. Methods

This systematic literature review (SLR) aims to comprehensively analyze how telepresence technology can enhance interpersonal closeness and family harmony in long-distance marriages within the framework of Islamic law. By examining peer-reviewed articles, books, and conference papers, this review will provide a detailed understanding of the benefits, challenges, and ethical considerations involved. The findings will offer valuable insights for long-distance couples seeking to maintain strong relationships and family bonds in accordance with Islamic principles, highlighting the pivotal role of telepresence technology in achieving these goals. A comprehensive search of academic databases such as Scopus was conducted using keywords like “telepresence,” “long-distance marriage,” “Islamic law,” “family harmony,” and “interpersonal closeness.”

TABLE 1: Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria.

Inclusion Criteria	Exclusion Criteria
Peer-reviewed articles, books, and conference papers published within the last 10 years.	Studies not available in English or Arabic.
Research examining the role of Islamic principles in marital and family relationships	Research not directly related to Islamic law or telepresence.
Studies focusing on the use of telepresence in long-distance marriages	Non-academic articles.

Data Analysis and Reporting

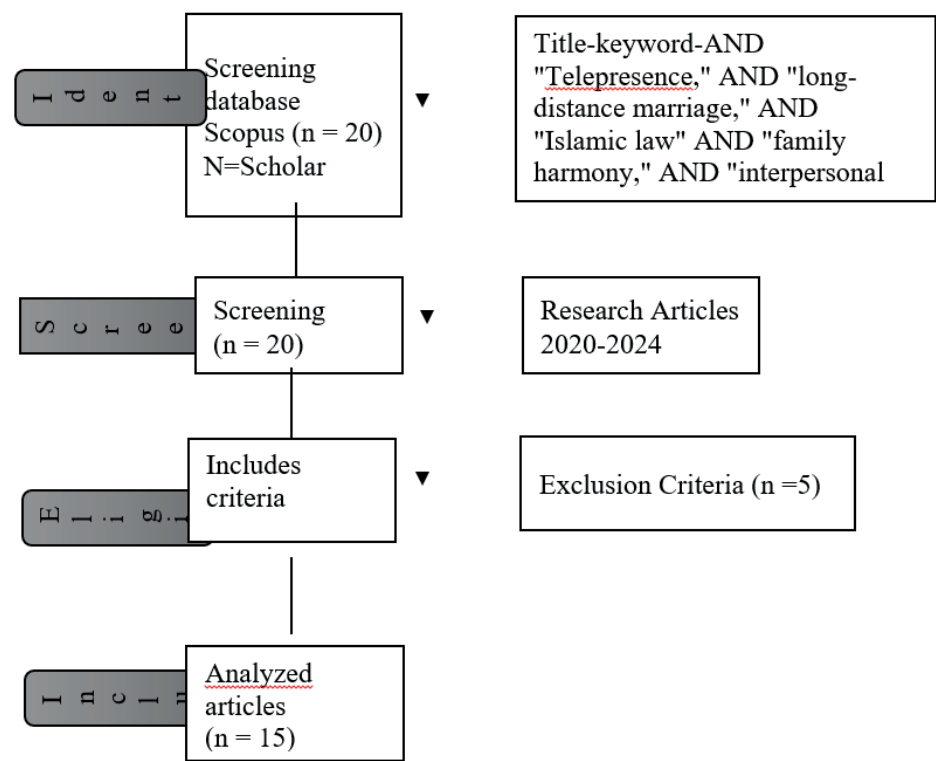


Figure 1: PRISMA Stages.

3. Results and Discussion

The study highlights the importance of telepresence technology in maintaining interpersonal closeness in long-distance marriages. The findings suggest that telepresence can facilitate regular communication, shared activities, and emotional connections, which are essential for maintaining a strong and healthy relationship. Additionally, the integration of telepresence with Islamic law principles can help couples maintain their spiritual bonds and ensure that their relationship is guided by Islamic values.

In this study, the Systemic Literature Review (SLR) method was used using data sources, namely Google Scholar and Scopus. By using the intended criteria and found 20 articles with a time span ranging from 2015-2023. Articles are adjusted to the research topic, namely like Telepresence long-distance marriage Islamic law family harmony interpersonal closeness. The final result of the article to be analyzed is 15. The data network visualization display on Scopus data related to the keyword “Interpersonal Closeness” AND “Long Distance Relationship” AND “Family Harmony” AND “Islamic Law” that has been refined in search can be seen in Figure 3.1

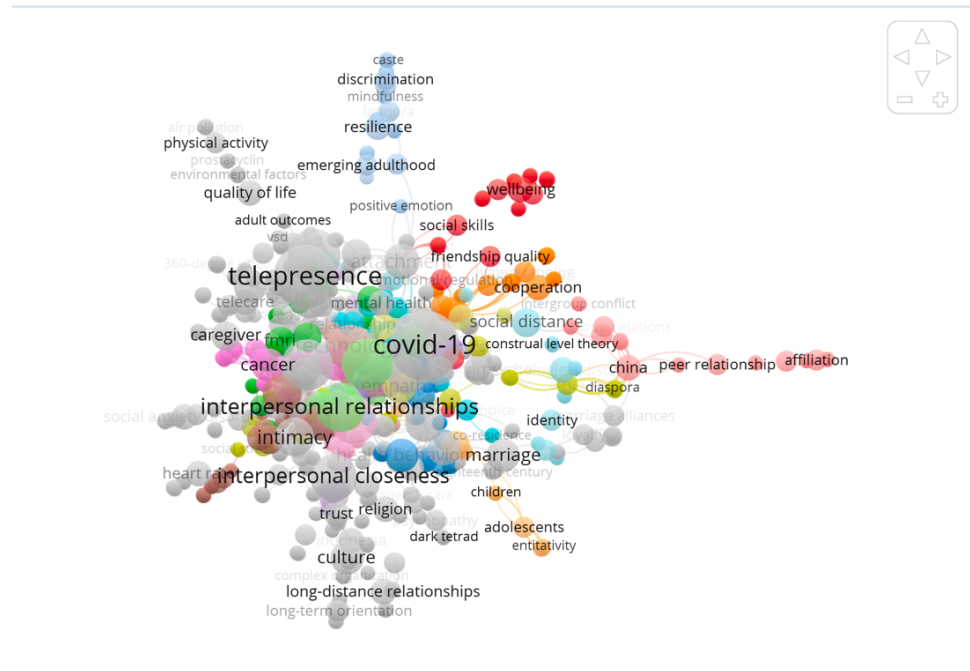


Figure 2: Network Visualization from VoS Viewer Application.

TABLE 2: Results of Journal Analysis that Meet Inclusion Criteria.

Author, Year	Variable	Level	Results/Conclusions
Kholifatun Qorifah, Taufik Kurohman, and Mat Sahroni, 2023)	The Impact of Long-Distance Marriage	community of Trimodadi Village, South Abung Sub-district, North Lampung District	The conclusion that can be drawn is that participants consider the experience of living a long-distance marriage as a challenge full of difficulties. In this context, commitment, religious beliefs, and love for children are decisive factors in maintaining the sustainability of long-distance marriages, even though couples face a number of challenges.
Subhan Afif and Basuki Agus Suparno, 2023	Principles of Interpersonal Communication in Islam	Primary sources such as the Qur'an and Hadith	It is important to recognize that the principles discussed in this article represent only a fraction of the principles of interpersonal communication in Islam, which can be explored extensively. Nevertheless, this research significantly contributes to Islamic communication and communication theory of Islamic communication, paving the way for further exploration and practical application.
Ahmad Fikrul Islam and Arif Sugitanata, 2023	Geographical Distance Challenges in Families	fundamental beliefs of Islam	The cooperation and active participation of each family member remains important in maintaining the integrity and well-being of the family, even though they live separately in different locations.

TABLE 2: Continued.

Author, Year	Variable	Level	Results/Conclusions
Saini, 2024	Family Harmony Perspective of Islamic Family Law	village clerics as non-litigation mediators in syiqaq and nusyuz conflict resolution	Results show that the village kiyai was chosen as a non-litigation mediator based on community beliefs. In practice, he provides direction and helps reach an agreement. Furthermore, the principles of Islamic law state that it does not contradict Islamic sharia, even qualifying as hakim
Arbanur Rasyid, 2023	Efforts To Build A Harmonious Family Based On Islamic Law And Feminism	the people of Padangsidimpuan	The results of this study show that the concept used in building an ideal family is that every family must meet physiological needs, a sense of comfort or protection, a sense of affection, mutual respect and meet the needs of self-actualization (for husband and wife). These five needs cannot be implemented ideally, due to difficulties in dividing time in carrying out roles (being double), and ultimately cannot provide offspring (hifz nasl). Therefore, maqasid sharia views that to avoid the occurrence of dual roles in the household, husbands and wives must work together in any case, including fulfilling nafkah (hifz mal) in the family, children's education costs, and caring for children (hadhanah).
Renaldi Saputra, Bambang Iswanto, and Wahdatun Nisa, 2024	Problematics Long Distance Marriage	Crew members' households	The research uncovered factors affecting long-distance marriages, including communication constraints at sea, jealousy, family longing, unfulfilled obligations and toxic work environments. However, the resilience of a crew member's household depends on the couple's commitment, honesty, conflict management and emotional control.
Qurratul Uyun and M. Sabiq Rohmatullo, 2022	Family Harmonization	commuter marriage	The results show that to maintain marital commuter family harmony, it is necessary to fulfill several aspects such as financial aspects, biological aspects and psychological aspects, but to fulfill these aspects, additional steps are needed in order to create a harmonious family. These steps obtained by using Bourdieu's theory, namely social capital, charismatic and habitus.
Umi Rohmawati and Ika Rusdiana, 2021	Family Harmony	a family of migrant workers in Gajah Ponorogo Village	The results showed that the communication pattern in the family of TKW in Gajah Village is in accordance with the Qur'an about communication ethics, namely: trustworthiness, not lying and fairness. Conflict resolution in realizing a harmonious family in the family of migrant workers in Gajah Village uses 4 conflict resolutions contained in QS an-Nisa>'verse 35, namely: al-Ma'ru>f (gentleness and harmony between husband and wife), al-Sabru (patience), Tah}ammul al-Ada (freedom in conveying and accepting the partner's opinion) and al-Wa'z{u (advice).

TABLE 2: Continued.

Author, Year	Variable	Level	Results/Conclusions
Kholifatun Ni'mah, 2024	Building a Sakinah Family for Long Distance Marriage Couples	influence and importance of long-distance married couples are caused by work factors	Efforts to build a sakinah family by long distance marriage couples because the couple works abroad or outside the city are by building good relationship patterns, such as asking for news, maintaining communication, encouraging partners, mutual understanding, openness to each other, deliberation regarding problems or challenges for the family's future, having quality time with husband or wife and family as well as increasing worship and increasing faith
M. Ilham Muchtar, Erfandi AM, Zainal Abidin, Aliman, Ramli, and Dahlan Lama Bawa, 2023	Analysis of Islamic Communication Principles in Building Harmonious Families According to the Qur'an	Muslim family according to the teachings of the Qur'an	Family harmony can be judged by the readiness of each family member to accept differences gracefully and respect each other's differences of opinion and views. The principles of communication that are important in fostering harmonious family relationships, among others; Honesty, softness of speech, mutual forgiveness, attentiveness, avoiding gossip, advising each other, keeping secrets, supporting and motivating each other.
Thoat Stiawan, Salman Al Farisi, and Nova Astri Prihatini, 2022	Family Resilience in Long Distance Relationship Couples	Long distance relationship couples in Brangsi Village, Laren District, Lamongan Regency	The results showed that family resilience in long distance relationship couples in Brangsi Village, Laren District, Lamongan Regency is said to be good, this is evidenced by the fulfillment of several aspects. Such as the aspect of legality and wholeness, there is only one informant who married betel. Aspects of physical resilience in food, nutrition and health. Aspects of economic security that are fulfilled. Harmonious socio-psychological aspects and socio-cultural aspects between humans and active religion.
Dwi Arini Zubaidah, 2022	Efforts to Maintain Household Harmony (Islamic Law Perspective)	love language couples and theory in the realm of Islamic law	The result of this study is that love language is an action or expression from husbands and wives towards their partners that can foster love between the two. There are five love languages, namely time (provision of time by the spouse), service (service needs from the spouse), statements (affirmation sentences from the spouse), physical touch (all expressions of affection in physical form) and gifts (gift giving by the spouse is associated with certain moments).
Yearza Wahdania Syahwalifa and Misbahuzzulam, 2023	Domestic Harmony in The Perspective of Muhammad Abduh Tuasikal	development of household harmony according to Muhammad Abduh Tuasikal	It is hoped that the results of this study can be useful to all readers, especially the people. Household Harmony Perspective Muhammad Abduh Tuasikal Muslims and as a consideration when there are problems in the household do not have to be ended or resolved by divorce.

TABLE 2: Continued.

Author, Year	Variable	Level	Results/Conclusions
Muhammad Aziz and Abdul Aziz Harahap, 2022	formation of a sakinah family	Sakinah Family in the View of K.H. Hasyim Asy'ari	The theoretical implications of this study show that the indicators of the formation of a sakinah family in the view of K.H. Hasyim Asyari have relevance and can be the basis for the development and reform of Islamic marriage law in Indonesia. The limitation of this study is that it has not examined the hermeneutical aspects of the construction of K.H. Hasyim's views regarding the indicators of a the formation of a sakinah family.
Aisyah Nur Afifah and Atie Rachmiate, 2024	Family Communication Patterns in Long Distance Relationships	communication in long-distance relationships between children and parents in maintaining family harmony	The findings of this study are that they conduct long-distance communication with parents to maintain harmony by conducting intense communication. The drivers of this communication are financial support, a sense of loss and longing, while the inhibiting motives are bad networks, and each other's busyness. Then the meaning gained from this experience is that it becomes more familiar, communication becomes more open, and more appreciates the time when they are together.

3.1. Interpersonal Closeness and Emotional Support from Telepresence

Regular and meaningful in interpersonal communication is critical for sustaining marital bonds, as emphasized in Islamic teachings. (30) Telepresence technologies facilitate this by allowing couples to see and hear each other, share daily experiences, and provide emotional support. This continuous interaction helps in maintaining the affection, mercy, and tranquility that are essential components of a successful marriage according to Islamic principles. In society, the family is the smallest social institution social institution that exists in society. The presence of the family is very important in society because in the family, the socialization process occurs. (17) Family harmony is not something that can be achieved easily, but is the result of a joint effort and commitment from each family member to build healthy and sustainable relationships. When family harmony is realized, it can bring happiness, well-being and support to all family members.(18)

To create a harmonious and happy family, effective and meaningful communication plays a very important role. (31) From the perspective of the Qur'an, as the source of Islamic religious teachings, there are principles of Muslim communication principles that can guide each family member to achieve a deeper, more loving and understanding

relationship. (26) The principles of Islamic communication principles are taken from the teachings of the Qur'an, which are guidelines for all Muslims. (27) Through the approach of the Qur'an, communication within the family becomes deeper and more direct, not just an exchange of words, but also a way to pour out love, support each other, and grow together in goodness. (28) The principles of Islamic communication teach the importance of listening attentively, speaking with gentleness, and avoiding hurtful and degrading words.(19)

3.2. Family Involvement and Harmony

The role of family in Islam extends beyond the nuclear family, emphasizing strong ties and mutual support among extended relatives. Telepresence technology can support this by enabling regular virtual interactions involving children and extended family members. These interactions foster a sense of unity and belonging, crucial for family harmony and cohesion. By incorporating telepresence into family routines, long-distance couples can uphold Islamic values of kinship and create a cohesive and supportive family structure. The importance of balancing physical and nonphysical resources in maintaining family harmony. The findings suggest that couples should prioritize emotional connections, trust, and commitment in their relationship, and that telepresence technology can play a crucial role in achieving these goals.

The study's findings have significant implications for the development of effective strategies for maintaining long-distance marriages. The integration of telepresence with Islamic law principles can help couples maintain their relationship despite physical distance, and can also provide a sense of security and stability. Additionally, the study's findings highlight the importance of balancing physical and nonphysical resources in maintaining family harmony, which can help couples prioritize their emotional connections and spiritual bonds.

Building a family is the beginning of the next generation. Family as the smallest scale in society is a place to educate and form morals and train togetherness as a provision for social life. morals and train togetherness as a provision for social life. Prospective fathers and need to determine the family model that is their dream, choice, and hope and need to have sufficient knowledge to become parents for their children.need to have sufficient knowledge to become parents for their children. The role of parents as good role models for children affects the internal family environment and gives a

significant color to the family. internal family environment and gives considerable color to the community in the environment.

By Therefore, parents must have external control over their children's attitudes and behavior in daily life. in daily life. Parents should always pay attention to their children's habits in good behavior by fostering the love of doing good (loving the good). This aspect of love is what Piaget calls a source of energy that effectively makes a child's character consistent between knowledge (moral) and behavior (moral), a child's character consistent between knowledge (moral knowing) and action (moral action), (moral action). Parents must carry out their role as external control because external control is necessary and important to be given, especially when it comes to moral action. External control is necessary and important to provide, especially in providing a conducive environment for children to familiarize themselves with morals. conducive to children to familiarize themselves with good behavior.(20)

Parents are expected to be able to further develop harmonious relationships because this has an impact on children's future planning by choosing to get married or not and has an impact on the selection of children's future life partners. Especially for fathers, it is expected to be able to establish active communication and good closeness to daughters so that girls have guidelines in choosing a good man to be a life partner.(21)

3.3. Privacy, Modesty, and Ethical Use AI in long-distance marriages from an Islamic Law perspective

The ethical use of telepresence technology is paramount in ensuring that it aligns with Islamic principles. Privacy and modesty must be maintained in all virtual interactions, with couples being mindful of the content and context of their conversations. Using secure communication channels and respecting each other's privacy are essential to upholding these values. Additionally, avoiding fitnah and ensuring that telepresence technology strengthens rather than undermines the marital bond is crucial. Couples should focus on building their relationship through ethical and respectful interactions. The incorporation of courtyards in traditional Muslim homes in the Middle East ensures sufficient separation to prevent direct views into neighbors' private spaces, while also addressing climate-related issues specific to the region.(22)

The Ethical considerations of using AI in long-distance marriages from an Islamic perspective, Islamic teachings emphasize the importance of maintaining privacy and modesty in relationships. AI technology should be used in a way that respects these

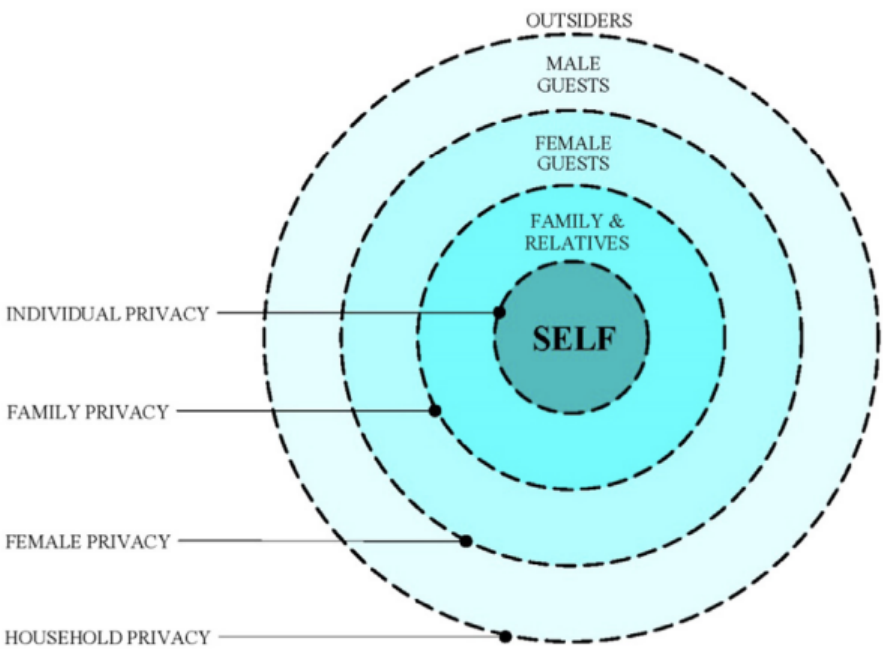


Figure 3: Layers of privacy in traditional Muslim’s home (23).

values, ensuring that personal boundaries are not breached and that individuals are not exposed unnecessarily to others.(23)

Islamic law principles, such as the protection of human faith (*hifz al-din*), life (*hifz al-nafs*), lineage (*hifz al-nasl*), intellect (*hifz al-‘aql*), and property (*hifz al-mal*), should guide the development and use of AI in long-distance marriages. This ensures that AI is used in a way that is compatible with Islamic values and principles.(23)

The key to practicing etiquette is to show courtesy respect for other people’s existence and abide by the manners that apply to the environment in which we live. manners that apply to the environment in which we live. As social beings, it is undeniable that humans cannot be separated from other humans. This means that he absolutely needs other people in his life. This is where humans cannot be separated from neighborly and social life.(19)

The issues facing families are getting bigger and more complex, making the implementation of privacy management indispensable. These range from how to handle personal information when children use the Internet, family divorce, establishing new relationships in stepfamilies, and how parents disclose information to their children about sexuality. For this reason, managing personal information is a challenge. The high complexity of privacy management arrangements requires a systematic way of understanding how privacy management operates in families. The existence of risk in

a relationship, makes individuals set privacy boundaries around themselves to control which information can be made public and which should remain private. around them to control which information can be made public and which should remain private. kept private.(24)

A wife as the owner of personal information provides restrictions on the private information.(9) She has so that the husband's access to this information is not the same in every discussion, this is done to reduce the potential for conflict and the relationship. Reduce the potential for conflict and make the relationship more stable. However, often wives unconsciously violate the privacy limits of their husbands to confirm the information that their wives get through unverified third parties, this is due to the urge to eliminate potential conflicts. A wife chooses to respect her husband's privacy by not finding out more about the personal information is considered one of the efforts to stabilize her marriage relationship.(25)

4. Conclusion

In the digital age, telepresence technology has become essential for maintaining interpersonal closeness and family harmony in long-distance marriages, aligning effectively with Islamic law principles. By enabling regular, meaningful communication and shared virtual activities, telepresence fosters emotional support and presence, critical for sustaining marital bonds and family unity. Islamic teachings emphasize the importance of affection, mercy, and privacy, all of which can be upheld through ethical use of telepresence. This technology allows couples to maintain strong relationships and cohesive family structures despite physical separation, ensuring their bonds remain resilient and deeply connected in accordance with Islamic values.

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