BUILDING SUSTAINABLE DIGITAL BUSINESS ECOSYSTEMS THROUGH ISLAMIC ECONOMIC LAW PRINCIPLES

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Abstrak: *The rapid expansion of the digital economy has transformed traditional business structures into interconnected digital business ecosystems characterized by innovation, platform-based interactions, and data-driven value creation. Despite creating significant opportunities, digitalization also raises concerns regarding ethical governance, information asymmetry, unfair competition, data security, and the sustainability of economic activities. Existing studies have predominantly examined digital transformation from technological and managerial perspectives, while the normative contribution of Islamic Economic Law to sustainable digital ecosystems remains relatively underexplored. This study aims to analyze how the principles of Islamic Economic Law can contribute to the development of sustainable digital business ecosystems. Employing a qualitative approach through library research, the study draws upon contemporary literature, scientific journals, classical and contemporary Islamic legal sources, and conceptual analyses related to digital economy and maqāṣid al-sharī'ah. Data were analyzed using descriptive and thematic approaches to identify the relevance of Islamic legal principles within contemporary digital business environments. The findings indicate that the principles of justice ('adl), transparency (shafāfiyyah), trustworthiness (amānah), prohibition of riba and gharar, and the realization of maslahah provide a normative foundation for promoting responsible digital governance and sustainable economic growth. Furthermore, the maqāṣid al-sharī'ah framework strengthens the protection of wealth, intellect, human welfare, and social justice, thereby aligning Islamic Economic Law with environmental, social, and governance (ESG) values and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This study proposes that Islamic Economic Law serves not only as a regulatory framework but also as an ethical paradigm capable of fostering resilient, inclusive, and sustainable digital business ecosystems in the era of digital transformation.*

Key Words: *Digital Business Ecosystem; Islamic Economic Law; Sustainability; Maqasid al-Shariah; Digital Economy; ESG.*

INTRODUCTION

The rapid advancement of digital technologies has transformed the global economic landscape and reshaped traditional business models into interconnected digital business ecosystems. The integration of digital platforms, artificial intelligence, cloud computing, big data analytics, blockchain, and financial technologies has created a highly collaborative environment in which multiple stakeholders—including businesses, consumers, governments, and financial institutions—interact and exchange value through digital networks. These digital ecosystems have significantly increased efficiency, expanded market accessibility, and accelerated innovation across various sectors. The digital economy has become one of the major drivers of economic growth and competitiveness in both developed and developing countries. According to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), digital transformation contributes substantially to productivity enhancement, financial inclusion, and sustainable economic development by fostering innovation and facilitating cross-border economic interactions (Gal, 2019).

Despite its enormous potential, the development of digital business ecosystems is accompanied by numerous challenges related to sustainability and ethical governance. The increasing dependence on digital technologies raises concerns regarding market concentration, monopoly practices, cybercrime, privacy violations, data security, information asymmetry, and the exploitation of consumers. Platform-based businesses often prioritize efficiency and profit maximization, leading to inequalities in value distribution among stakeholders and undermining long-term sustainability. Furthermore, the rapid evolution of digital technologies has outpaced regulatory frameworks in many jurisdictions, creating gaps in legal protection and governance mechanisms. These challenges highlight the need for comprehensive frameworks capable of balancing economic growth with ethical values, social responsibility, and sustainable development objectives (Hein et al., 2020).

The concept of sustainability has therefore emerged as a fundamental concern in contemporary business discourse. Sustainable business ecosystems emphasize the creation of long-term value that simultaneously addresses economic, social, environmental, and governance dimensions. This perspective is closely associated with Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which encourage responsible business practices and inclusive economic growth. In the context of the digital economy, sustainability extends beyond technological innovation and financial performance to encompass ethical considerations, transparency, accountability, stakeholder welfare, and social justice. Consequently, there is a growing recognition that sustainable digital transformation requires not only technological capabilities but also normative and legal foundations that promote fairness and societal well-being (Bouvet, 2017a).

Islamic Economic Law offers a comprehensive ethical and legal framework that can contribute significantly to the development of sustainable digital business ecosystems. Rooted in the principles of justice ('adl), trustworthiness (amanah), transparency (shafafiyyah), mutual consent (taradhi), and public welfare (maslahah), Islamic Economic Law seeks to ensure that economic activities generate benefits while preventing exploitation and social harm. Moreover, Islamic law prohibits practices involving riba (usury), gharar (excessive uncertainty), fraud, and monopoly, all of which are increasingly relevant in addressing contemporary challenges arising from digital business practices. These principles provide a normative foundation for fostering trust, reducing information asymmetry, and promoting ethical governance in digital economic interactions. Therefore, Islamic Economic Law possesses the potential to function not merely as a regulatory instrument but also as an ethical paradigm capable of guiding sustainable digital transformation (Labbe et al., 2023a).

The theoretical foundation of Islamic Economic Law is further strengthened by the concept of maqāṣid al-sharī‘ah, which aims to preserve religion (hifz al-din), life (hifz al-nafs), intellect (hifz al-'aql), lineage (hifz al-nasl), and wealth (hifz al-mal). Contemporary scholars such as Jasser Auda have expanded the maqāṣid framework to incorporate broader dimensions of human development, social justice, and sustainability. Within the digital economy, the protection of wealth may encompass digital assets and financial security, while the protection of intellect relates to digital literacy and knowledge development. Likewise, the preservation of life and social welfare is reflected in consumer protection, equitable access to technology, and inclusive economic participation. Consequently, maqāṣid al-sharī‘ah provides a holistic framework for integrating ethical values with economic development and technological innovation (Oladapo & Ab Rahman, 2017).

Recent studies have highlighted the increasing relevance of Islamic economic principles in responding to the challenges of digital transformation. Achmad Bashori et al., (2024) proposed a maqāṣid-based digital economy model that integrates sustainability and economic transformation. Albar et al., (2025) demonstrated that the incorporation of maqāṣid al-sharī‘ah strengthens the sustainability of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) operating within the digital economy. Emphasized the importance of sharia-based digital economic policies in supporting sustainable development. The reconstruction of halal industry governance in the digital economy through a maqāṣid-oriented legal framework. These studies collectively indicate that Islamic values have considerable potential in promoting ethical and sustainable economic systems (Wahab & Mahdiya, 2026).

However, previous studies predominantly focus on specific aspects such as Islamic fintech, halal industries, MSMEs, or digital economic policies. The discussion concerning how Islamic Economic Law as a whole contributes to the formation of sustainable digital business ecosystems remains relatively limited. Most existing studies emphasize economic instruments and maqāṣid perspectives without comprehensively analyzing the role of Islamic legal principles in shaping digital governance, stakeholder relationships, value creation, and sustainability. Consequently, a theoretical gap exists regarding the integration of Islamic Economic Law into the broader framework of digital business ecosystems and sustainable development (Labbe et al., 2023b).

In addition to the theoretical gap, there is also a practical gap associated with the increasing demand for ethical governance in digital markets. The rapid emergence of artificial intelligence, digital platforms, decentralized finance, and data-driven business models requires legal and ethical mechanisms capable of ensuring fairness, accountability, and inclusivity. Conventional governance approaches often emphasize efficiency and profitability but pay insufficient attention to moral values and social welfare. In this regard, Islamic Economic Law offers an alternative paradigm that harmonizes economic interests with ethical considerations and public welfare. Therefore, examining the contribution of Islamic Economic Law to sustainable digital business ecosystems is both academically significant and practically relevant.

Based on these considerations, this study aims to analyze the role of Islamic Economic Law principles in building sustainable digital business ecosystems. Specifically, the study seeks to examine how the principles of justice, transparency, trustworthiness, prohibition of unlawful practices, and maqāṣid al-sharī‘ah can support ethical governance, stakeholder trust, and long-term sustainability within digital economic environments. By doing so, this article intends to provide a conceptual framework that bridges Islamic Economic Law, digital transformation, and sustainability, thereby contributing to the growing discourse on Islamic economics and digital governance in the contemporary era.

RESEARCH METHODS

This study employed a qualitative research design using a library research approach to investigate the contribution of Islamic Economic Law principles to the development of sustainable digital business ecosystems. Qualitative research was considered appropriate because the study aimed to explore normative concepts, theoretical perspectives, and the interrelationship between Islamic legal principles and contemporary digital economic phenomena. Rather than measuring variables quantitatively, this research sought to develop a conceptual understanding of how Islamic Economic Law can serve as an ethical and legal foundation for sustainability within digital business environments. The library research approach enabled the researcher to collect and synthesize relevant literature, providing a comprehensive analysis of contemporary issues associated with digital transformation and sustainable development.

The study relied on both primary and secondary sources of data. Primary data consisted of scientific articles published in reputable international and national journals indexed by Scopus, Web of Science, DOAJ, and SINTA, particularly those discussing digital business ecosystems, digital economy, Islamic economics, Islamic Economic Law, sustainability, Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles, and maqāṣid al-sharī'ah. In addition, books written by classical and contemporary scholars, including Al-Ghazali, Al-Shatibi, Ibn Ashur, and Jasser Auda, were utilized to establish the theoretical foundations of Islamic legal principles and their objectives. Secondary sources included reports published by international organizations such as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the World Bank, and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), as well as relevant regulations, fatwas issued by the National Sharia Council of the Indonesian Ulema Council (DSN-MUI), conference proceedings, and other scholarly publications related to digital transformation and sustainable development.

Data collection was conducted through documentation techniques, which involved identifying, selecting, and reviewing relevant literature based on predetermined themes and research objectives. The selection of sources emphasized recent publications from 2022 to 2026 to ensure that the analysis reflected current developments in digital business ecosystems and Islamic economic studies. Keywords used in the literature search included "digital business ecosystem," "digital economy," "Islamic Economic Law," "maqāṣid al-sharī'ah," "sustainability," "Islamic fintech," "ESG," and "digital governance." The collected data were subsequently organized according to thematic categories to facilitate systematic analysis and interpretation.

The data analysis process employed descriptive-analytical and thematic analysis approaches. The descriptive-analytical method was used to explain the characteristics of digital business ecosystems and the normative principles contained in Islamic Economic Law. Meanwhile, thematic analysis was applied to identify patterns and relationships among concepts derived from the literature. The analysis process followed the interactive model proposed by Miles, Huberman, and Saldaña, consisting of four stages: data collection, data condensation, data display, and conclusion drawing. During the data condensation stage, relevant information was selected and categorized based on themes such as sustainability challenges, Islamic legal principles, maqāṣid al-sharī'ah, and digital governance. Data display involved organizing the findings into conceptual frameworks and thematic discussions, while conclusion drawing aimed to formulate propositions regarding the role of Islamic Economic Law in fostering sustainable digital business ecosystems.

To ensure the validity and credibility of the findings, this study applied source triangulation by comparing information from various types of references, including journal articles, books, institutional reports, and legal documents. In addition, conceptual triangulation was conducted by integrating perspectives from Islamic jurisprudence, digital economy studies, sustainability theories, and business ecosystem frameworks. Such an approach enabled the study to produce a comprehensive and holistic understanding of the relationship between Islamic Economic Law and sustainable digital transformation.

Ultimately, this study adopted a normative and conceptual perspective to formulate a theoretical framework for sustainable digital business ecosystems based on Islamic Economic Law principles. Through this approach, the research is expected to contribute to the development of contemporary Islamic economic discourse and provide a foundation for future empirical studies concerning the implementation of Islamic legal values in digital business practices

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The analysis examines the conceptual relationship between Islamic economic law principles and the development of a sustainable digital business ecosystem. It extends beyond a normative legal approach by incorporating Maqāṣid al-Sharī'ah as an evaluative framework for assessing the ethical and sustainability dimensions of digital economic transformation. In addition, it outlines a conceptual model that demonstrates the hierarchical linkage between Islamic economic law principles, Maqāṣid al-Sharī'ah objectives, ethical digital governance, ESG implementation, and the formation of a sustainable digital business ecosystem, as illustrated in the following figure:

Figure 1. Conceptual framework linking Islamic economic law principles, Maqāṣid al-Sharīʿah, ethical digital governance, ESG implementation, and the development of a sustainable digital business ecosystem

1. Digital Business Ecosystems and Sustainability Challenges

The thematic analysis of the reviewed literature reveals that digital business ecosystems have fundamentally reshaped the structure of contemporary economic activities by integrating businesses, consumers, governments, financial institutions, and technology providers into interconnected digital networks. Digital technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), blockchain, cloud computing, the Internet of Things (IoT), big data analytics, and financial technology (fintech) have accelerated innovation, reduced transaction costs, expanded market accessibility, and enabled the emergence of new digital business models. These developments have transformed traditional value chains into collaborative ecosystems where value is co-created among multiple stakeholders rather than generated by individual firms alone. This finding confirms that digital transformation has become one of the primary drivers of sustainable economic competitiveness in the global economy (Bouvet, 2017b).

However, the analysis also indicates that the rapid expansion of digital business ecosystems generates significant sustainability challenges. The reviewed studies consistently identify issues including information asymmetry, cybercrime, personal data misuse, digital fraud, platform monopolization, algorithmic bias, and unequal distribution of economic benefits among ecosystem participants. These challenges are exacerbated by the increasing concentration of market power within a limited number of digital platforms that possess extensive control over user data, digital infrastructure, and market access. Consequently, although digital ecosystems improve economic efficiency, they simultaneously increase the risk of social inequality and weaken stakeholder trust when appropriate governance mechanisms are absent (Coskun-Setirek et al., 2024).

The literature further demonstrates that conventional governance approaches predominantly emphasize technological innovation, operational efficiency, and profitability, while ethical considerations often receive less attention. Sustainable digital business ecosystems therefore require governance models capable of balancing economic performance with transparency, accountability, consumer protection, and long-term societal welfare. In this regard, sustainability extends beyond environmental concerns to encompass economic resilience, social inclusion, institutional integrity, and responsible digital governance. This finding aligns with the concept of sustainable digital transformation, which argues that technological advancement should generate long-term value for all stakeholders rather than short-term financial gains (Bican & Brem, 2020).

Furthermore, the thematic synthesis reveals that sustainability challenges within digital ecosystems are increasingly associated with Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) performance. From the environmental perspective, digital infrastructure contributes to rising energy consumption and electronic waste. Socially, digital exclusion, unequal access to technology, and data privacy violations continue to hinder inclusive development. From the governance dimension, the absence of transparency in algorithmic decision-making, insufficient regulatory oversight, and weak accountability mechanisms undermine public trust in digital markets. These multidimensional challenges indicate that technological innovation alone cannot guarantee sustainable development without an accompanying ethical and legal governance framework (Han & Xie, 2023).

Based on these findings, this study argues that the sustainability of digital business ecosystems depends upon the integration of normative principles capable of regulating stakeholder relationships, protecting consumer rights, ensuring equitable value creation, and promoting responsible innovation. The identified governance gaps provide the rationale for examining Islamic Economic Law as an alternative framework capable of addressing ethical deficiencies within contemporary digital economies. Consequently, the subsequent discussion explores how Islamic legal principles contribute to establishing sustainable digital business ecosystems through justice, transparency, trustworthiness, and public welfare.

2. Foundations of Islamic Economic Law in Digital Business

The thematic analysis reveals that Islamic Economic Law provides a comprehensive normative foundation capable of addressing governance challenges within digital business ecosystems. Unlike conventional business regulations that primarily focus on legal compliance and economic efficiency, Islamic Economic Law integrates legal, ethical, and social dimensions into a unified framework. The reviewed literature consistently identifies several core principles—namely 'adl (justice), amanah (trustworthiness), shafafiyyah (transparency), tarāḍī (mutual consent), and maslahah (public welfare)—as essential elements for ensuring sustainable and responsible digital business practices. These principles are not merely moral recommendations but constitute legally binding norms derived from the Qur'an, Sunnah, and the broader objectives of Islamic jurisprudence (Ali et al., 2023).

The findings indicate that the principle of 'adl serves as the cornerstone of digital business governance by ensuring fairness in economic relationships among stakeholders. In digital ecosystems, where transactions are increasingly mediated through online platforms and algorithmic systems, unequal bargaining power frequently exists between platform providers, merchants, and consumers. Such imbalances may result in discriminatory pricing, unfair contractual terms, and unequal access to digital markets. Islamic Economic Law addresses these issues by requiring equitable treatment of all contracting parties and prohibiting any form of exploitation (ẓulm). Consequently, justice functions not only as an ethical ideal but also as a governance mechanism that enhances stakeholder confidence and contributes to long-term business sustainability (Sulistiyo et al., 2024).

Another significant finding concerns the growing importance of amanah and shafafiyyah in the context of digital governance. The literature demonstrates that digital transactions are highly dependent on institutional trust because most interactions occur without direct physical contact. Business actors therefore bear greater responsibility for protecting customer information, safeguarding digital assets, and ensuring the accuracy of information provided through digital platforms. The principle of amanah requires business entities to exercise honesty, accountability, and responsibility in managing financial resources and consumer data. Meanwhile, shafafiyyah requires transparent disclosure of contractual terms, pricing mechanisms, product specifications, digital service conditions, and potential transaction risks. These principles significantly reduce information asymmetry, strengthen consumer protection, and enhance the credibility of digital business platforms (Hasan et al., 2025).

The analysis further reveals that Islamic Economic Law establishes preventive mechanisms through the prohibition of riba (usury), gharar (excessive uncertainty), maysir (gambling or speculative transactions), fraud (tadlīs), and monopolistic practices (iḥtikār). Contemporary digital business models, particularly those involving financial technology, cryptocurrency, decentralized finance, and online investment platforms, frequently encounter legal and ethical concerns regarding speculative transactions and contractual uncertainty. The reviewed studies suggest that these Islamic legal prohibitions remain highly relevant in the digital economy because they encourage productive investment, contractual certainty, fair competition, and market stability while discouraging exploitative financial practices. Therefore, Islamic Economic Law functions not only as a reactive regulatory instrument but also as a preventive governance framework designed to minimize systemic risks within digital markets (Jamil, 2025).

The findings also demonstrate that the principle of maslahah provides a broader orientation toward public welfare within digital economic development. Rather than emphasizing profit maximization alone, Islamic Economic Law encourages business activities that generate social benefits, promote financial inclusion, protect vulnerable consumers, and support equitable access to digital technologies. This welfare-oriented perspective aligns closely with contemporary discussions on responsible innovation and stakeholder capitalism, both of which emphasize the creation of shared value rather than exclusive shareholder returns. As digital business ecosystems continue to evolve through artificial intelligence, big data, and platform economies, the principle of maslahah offers an important normative benchmark for evaluating whether technological innovation genuinely contributes to human well-being.

Overall, the thematic findings suggest that Islamic Economic Law offers a multidimensional governance framework that extends beyond contractual regulation toward ethical digital governance. By integrating justice, transparency, trustworthiness, public welfare, and the prohibition of exploitative practices, Islamic Economic Law provides a coherent foundation for sustainable digital business ecosystems. These findings also reveal that the normative strength of Islamic Economic Law becomes more comprehensive when interpreted through the framework of maqāṣid al-sharī'ah, which expands these legal principles into broader objectives of sustainable human development. Accordingly, the following section discusses how maqāṣid al-sharī'ah functions as a conceptual framework for promoting sustainability within contemporary digital ecosystems.

3. Maqāṣid al-Sharī'ah as a Framework for Sustainable Digital Ecosystems

The thematic analysis demonstrates that maqāṣid al-sharī'ah provides the most comprehensive conceptual framework for integrating Islamic Economic Law into sustainable digital business ecosystems. While the previous discussion established the normative foundations of Islamic Economic Law through principles such as justice ('adl), trustworthiness (amanah), transparency (shafafiyyah), and public welfare (maslahah), the findings reveal that maqāṣid al-sharī'ah functions as the overarching framework that aligns these principles with broader objectives of sustainable human development. Rather than focusing solely on legal compliance, the maqāṣid approach evaluates whether digital economic activities contribute to the realization of collective welfare while preventing social and economic harm (Muzarkosah & Sumpena, 2026).

The reviewed literature consistently indicates that the classical objectives of maqāṣid al-sharī'ah—namely the protection of religion (ḥifẓ al-dīn), life (ḥifẓ al-nafs), intellect (ḥifẓ al-'aql), lineage (ḥifẓ al-nasl), and wealth (ḥifẓ al-māl)—remain highly relevant within contemporary digital ecosystems. However, these objectives require contextual reinterpretation to address the complexities of digital transformation. The protection of wealth, for example, extends beyond safeguarding physical property to include digital financial assets, electronic payment systems, cybersecurity, blockchain-based transactions, and consumer protection against digital fraud. Likewise, the protection of intellect encompasses digital literacy, ethical artificial intelligence, information integrity, and the prevention of misinformation and cyber manipulation. These findings suggest that maqāṣid al-sharī'ah possesses the flexibility necessary to respond to technological developments while maintaining its normative objectives (Al Hadana et al., 2026).

The analysis further reveals that contemporary interpretations of maqāṣid al-sharī'ah, particularly the systems approach developed by Jasser Auda, significantly broaden the application of Islamic legal objectives within modern governance. Auda argues that maqāṣid should be understood as a dynamic and multidimensional framework emphasizing systems thinking, human rights, institutional development, social justice, and sustainability rather than merely preserving individual legal interests. This perspective enables Islamic Economic Law to address interconnected challenges within digital business ecosystems, including platform governance, responsible innovation, financial inclusion, and equitable access to digital technologies. The findings therefore indicate that the systems-based interpretation of maqāṣid provides greater analytical capacity for evaluating complex digital economic environments than traditional rule-based legal approaches (Syarifuddin, 2021).

Another important finding concerns the close relationship between maqāṣid al-sharī'ah and sustainable development. The reviewed studies demonstrate that the objectives of maqāṣid are substantially aligned with internationally recognized sustainability agendas, particularly the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The promotion of financial inclusion contributes to poverty reduction and economic equality, while ethical digital governance strengthens institutional accountability and public trust. Similarly, responsible technological innovation supports quality education, decent work, and sustainable economic growth. These areas of convergence indicate that Islamic Economic Law and global sustainability frameworks share common objectives despite emerging from different normative traditions. Consequently, maqāṣid al-sharī'ah serves as an effective bridge between Islamic legal philosophy and contemporary sustainability discourse (Harahap et al., 2023).

Furthermore, the thematic synthesis identifies maslahah (public welfare) as the operational objective through which maqāṣid al-sharī'ah is implemented within digital business ecosystems. Rather than evaluating business performance exclusively through financial profitability, the maqāṣid framework encourages the assessment of digital innovation according to its contribution to social welfare, consumer protection, ethical governance, and long-term economic resilience. This perspective supports stakeholder-oriented business models in which value creation is measured by its positive impact on society rather than by shareholder returns alone. Accordingly, sustainable digital transformation should prioritize technologies that enhance human well-being, reduce inequality, strengthen institutional trust, and encourage inclusive participation in digital markets.

Overall, the findings demonstrate that maqāṣid al-sharī'ah transforms Islamic Economic Law from a collection of legal norms into a comprehensive governance framework capable of guiding sustainable digital transformation. Its multidimensional orientation enables the integration of ethical values, technological innovation, social justice, and economic sustainability within a coherent conceptual model. Consequently, maqāṣid al-sharī'ah provides the philosophical and normative foundation for constructing resilient digital business ecosystems that balance economic competitiveness with public welfare. This finding further supports the subsequent discussion regarding the convergence between Islamic Economic Law and Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles as complementary approaches to sustainable business governance.

4. Islamic Economic Law and ESG-Based Sustainable Business

The thematic analysis reveals a significant convergence between the normative principles of Islamic Economic Law and the Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) framework, which has become a globally recognized standard for sustainable business practices. Although ESG originates from contemporary corporate governance and sustainability discourse, the findings indicate that many of its core values are consistent with the objectives and ethical principles of Islamic Economic Law. This convergence suggests that Islamic Economic Law not only complements existing sustainability frameworks but also strengthens them by providing a moral and jurisprudential foundation for responsible business conduct (Awalia et al., 2025).

From the environmental perspective, the reviewed literature demonstrates that Islamic Economic Law promotes environmental stewardship through the concept of khalīfah (vicegerency), which emphasizes humanity's responsibility to preserve natural resources and maintain ecological balance. Sustainable resource utilization, waste reduction, and environmental protection are viewed not merely as corporate responsibilities but as religious and ethical obligations. As digital technologies continue to expand through cloud computing, artificial intelligence, blockchain, and data centers, concerns regarding energy consumption, electronic waste, and carbon emissions have become increasingly important. The findings suggest that integrating Islamic environmental ethics into digital business governance encourages organizations to adopt environmentally responsible innovation while supporting long-term ecological sustainability (Basri et al., 2024).

The analysis further indicates a strong alignment between the social dimension of ESG and the principles of Islamic Economic Law. The literature consistently emphasizes that Islamic business activities should promote justice ('adl), public welfare (maslahah), financial inclusion, consumer protection, and equitable wealth distribution. Within digital business ecosystems, these principles translate into fair access to digital platforms, protection of user rights, transparent digital services, and the reduction of digital inequality. Moreover, Islamic Economic Law encourages business organizations to prioritize stakeholder welfare rather than focusing exclusively on shareholder value. This stakeholder-oriented perspective strengthens social sustainability by fostering inclusive economic participation, protecting vulnerable consumers, and enhancing public trust in digital markets (Herman & A Edeth Fuari Anatasya, 2025).

Regarding governance, the thematic synthesis identifies the strongest convergence between ESG principles and Islamic Economic Law. Good governance within Islamic jurisprudence is founded upon amanah (trustworthiness), shafafiyyah (transparency), accountability, shūrā (consultative decision-making), and compliance with ethical legal norms. These principles correspond closely with internationally accepted governance standards emphasizing institutional integrity, responsible leadership, risk management, and transparent decision-making. The reviewed studies demonstrate that organizations implementing governance structures consistent with both ESG and Islamic principles tend to achieve higher levels of stakeholder confidence and long-term organizational resilience. In digital business ecosystems, these governance principles become increasingly important in addressing challenges related to data protection, artificial intelligence governance, cybersecurity, and algorithmic accountability (Lestari et al., 2025).

Another important finding concerns the complementary relationship between ESG implementation and the objectives of maqāṣid al-sharī'ah. While ESG provides measurable sustainability indicators for corporate performance, maqāṣid al-sharī'ah contributes a broader normative framework that evaluates whether business activities genuinely promote human welfare and prevent social harm. The integration of these two approaches enables organizations to assess sustainability not only through environmental performance or financial disclosure but also through ethical responsibility, social justice, and long-term societal benefits. Consequently, Islamic Economic Law extends the scope of ESG by incorporating spiritual and moral accountability into corporate governance without diminishing its practical applicability within global business environments (Wardiman et al., 2024).

The findings therefore suggest that Islamic Economic Law should not be regarded as an alternative to ESG but rather as a complementary framework capable of reinforcing sustainable business governance. The integration of Islamic legal principles with ESG standards offers a more holistic governance model that combines ethical values, legal certainty, stakeholder responsibility, and sustainability objectives. Such integration is particularly relevant for digital business ecosystems, where rapid technological innovation frequently outpaces regulatory development and raises complex ethical challenges. By embedding the principles of justice, transparency, trustworthiness, and public welfare into ESG-oriented governance, organizations can develop more resilient, inclusive, and sustainable digital business models.

Overall, this study demonstrates that the convergence between Islamic Economic Law and ESG provides a robust conceptual foundation for sustainable digital transformation. Rather than treating sustainability solely as a corporate reporting obligation, this integrated framework positions sustainability as a comprehensive governance philosophy that harmonizes economic growth, technological innovation, environmental responsibility, and societal welfare. This finding serves as the basis for the final proposed framework, which conceptualizes a Sustainable Digital Business Ecosystem grounded in the principles of Islamic Economic Law.

5. Proposed Framework: Sustainable Digital Business Ecosystem Based on Islamic Economic Law

The thematic synthesis conducted in this study proposes a conceptual framework that positions Islamic Economic Law as the normative foundation for developing sustainable digital business ecosystems. The preceding analysis demonstrates that the sustainability of digital ecosystems cannot be achieved solely through technological innovation or regulatory compliance. Instead, sustainable digital transformation requires the integration of ethical principles, legal certainty, stakeholder responsibility, and sustainability objectives into digital governance. Based on the reviewed literature, this study argues that Islamic Economic Law offers a comprehensive governance model capable of addressing these multidimensional challenges while supporting long-term economic resilience (Wahdini, 2025).

The proposed framework is structured around five interrelated normative principles derived from Islamic Economic Law: justice ('adl), trustworthiness (amanah), transparency (shafafiyyah), public welfare (maslahah), and the objectives of maqāṣid al-sharī'ah. These principles collectively function as the ethical foundation for digital governance by guiding business decision-making, contractual relationships, technological innovation, and stakeholder engagement. Rather than operating independently, these principles interact dynamically to ensure that digital economic activities generate value without compromising fairness, accountability, or social responsibility (Alfaqiih, 2017).

The analysis further indicates that these normative principles should be translated into concrete governance mechanisms within digital business ecosystems. The principle of justice requires equitable access to digital markets, fair competition, and balanced contractual relationships among platform providers, businesses, and consumers. Trustworthiness emphasizes responsible management of digital assets, cybersecurity, data privacy, and institutional accountability. Transparency requires clear disclosure of digital contracts, pricing mechanisms, algorithmic decision-making processes, and consumer rights. Meanwhile, maslahah encourages business organizations to evaluate technological innovation according to its contribution to public welfare, financial inclusion, and social development rather than financial performance alone. These governance mechanisms collectively support ethical digital transformation while reducing risks associated with information asymmetry, cyber fraud, and market concentration (Singh et al., 2019).

The framework also integrates maqāṣid al-sharī'ah as the strategic objective that aligns digital governance with sustainable development. Within this perspective, the protection of wealth (ḥifẓ al-māl) extends to digital financial security and responsible fintech innovation; the protection of intellect (ḥifẓ al-'aql) promotes digital literacy, ethical artificial intelligence, and information integrity; the protection of life (ḥifẓ al-nafs) is reflected in cybersecurity, consumer safety, and secure digital infrastructure; while the broader objective of public welfare encourages inclusive participation in the digital economy. This multidimensional orientation enables Islamic Economic Law to respond effectively to the complexities of contemporary digital transformation while remaining consistent with its normative foundations.

Furthermore, the proposed framework demonstrates that Islamic Economic Law and Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles are mutually reinforcing rather than mutually exclusive. The environmental dimension is strengthened through the Islamic concept of stewardship (khalīfah), encouraging responsible utilization of digital infrastructure and sustainable resource management. The social dimension is reinforced through justice, consumer protection, financial inclusion, and equitable distribution of digital opportunities. The governance dimension is supported by amanah, shafafiyyah, accountability, and shūrā, thereby promoting transparent, participatory, and ethically responsible corporate governance. Consequently, the framework establishes a holistic relationship between Islamic legal values, ESG implementation, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), positioning sustainability as both a legal obligation and an ethical commitment.

Based on these findings, this study proposes that a sustainable digital business ecosystem should be understood as an integrated system in which technological innovation is governed by Islamic legal principles and directed toward long-term societal welfare. The proposed framework therefore consists of four interconnected components: (1) Islamic Economic Law principles as the normative foundation; (2) ethical digital governance as the implementation mechanism; (3) ESG and Sustainable Development Goals as sustainability benchmarks; and (4) sustainable digital business ecosystems as the expected outcome. Through this integrated model, digital transformation is expected to generate innovation, institutional trust, inclusive economic growth, environmental responsibility, and long-term resilience.

The primary contribution of this framework lies in its integration of Islamic Economic Law, maqāṣid al-sharī'ah, and contemporary sustainability governance into a unified conceptual model for digital business ecosystems. While previous studies have generally examined Islamic fintech, halal industries, or digital economic policies separately, this study offers a broader governance perspective that links Islamic legal principles with ESG-oriented digital transformation. Accordingly, the proposed framework contributes to the growing discourse on Islamic economic governance by demonstrating that Islamic Economic Law functions not only as a regulatory framework but also as a strategic paradigm for building resilient, inclusive, and sustainable digital business ecosystems in the era of digital transformation

CONCLUSION

This study examined the role of Islamic Economic Law in developing sustainable digital business ecosystems through a qualitative library research approach. The thematic analysis demonstrates that Islamic Economic Law provides a comprehensive normative framework that extends beyond legal compliance to encompass ethical governance, social responsibility, and sustainable economic development. The principles of justice ('adl), trustworthiness (amanah), transparency (shafafiyyah), public welfare (maslahah), and the prohibition of riba, gharar, and other exploitative practices collectively establish a governance model capable of addressing the ethical and institutional challenges arising from digital transformation.

The findings further indicate that maqāṣid al-sharīʾah serves as a strategic framework for aligning technological innovation with broader objectives of human welfare and sustainable development. By contextualizing the protection of wealth, intellect, life, and social welfare within digital environments, maqāṣid al-sharīʾah enables Islamic Economic Law to respond effectively to contemporary issues such as data governance, financial technology, cybersecurity, digital inclusion, and responsible artificial intelligence. Moreover, the study identifies a strong convergence between Islamic Economic Law and the Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) framework, demonstrating that Islamic legal principles reinforce sustainability through ethical leadership, stakeholder accountability, environmental stewardship, and equitable value creation.

The primary contribution of this study lies in the proposed conceptual framework that integrates Islamic Economic Law, maqāṣid al-sharīʾah, ethical digital governance, and ESG principles into a unified model for sustainable digital business ecosystems. Unlike previous studies that focused primarily on specific sectors such as Islamic fintech, halal industries, or digital economic policies, this research offers a broader governance perspective that positions Islamic Economic Law as both a legal and ethical paradigm for digital transformation. The proposed framework contributes to the advancement of Islamic economic scholarship by demonstrating the continued relevance of Islamic legal principles in addressing contemporary sustainability challenges within increasingly complex digital economies.

Despite these contributions, this study is limited by its conceptual and normative nature, relying exclusively on secondary data obtained through library research. Consequently, the proposed framework has not yet been empirically validated in real-world digital business environments. Future research is therefore encouraged to employ qualitative case studies, quantitative surveys, or mixed-method approaches to examine the practical implementation of Islamic Economic Law principles across digital platforms, Islamic financial technology, e-commerce, and other emerging digital business sectors. Comparative studies involving different jurisdictions and regulatory environments may also provide deeper insights into the applicability of this framework within the global digital economy.

Overall, this study concludes that sustainable digital transformation requires not only technological innovation but also a robust ethical and legal foundation that promotes justice, transparency, accountability, and public welfare. In this regard, Islamic Economic Law offers a holistic governance paradigm capable of fostering resilient, inclusive, and sustainable digital business ecosystems while supporting the achievement of global sustainability agendas, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

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