

Pedophilia: A Quranic Wises to Parents from al-Ghazzālī (d. 1111) and ‘Ulwān (d. 1987) Remarks

Abur Hamdi Usman¹, Azwar^{2*}, Muhammad Fakhur Razi Shahabudin¹

¹Kolej Universiti Islam Antarabangsa Selangor (KUIS), Malaysia

²Sekolah Tinggi Ilmu Islam dan Bahasa Arab (STIBA), Makassar, Indonesia

*Corresponding Author E-mail: azwar.iskandar@gmail.com

Abstract

Pedophilia is categorized as a mental problem caused by sexual orientation towards children. Therefore, Muslims need to be more vigilant and prepared for various social issues plaguing the world. At the same time, parents need to realize they have a big enough responsibility to ensure that children are not trapped or even victims of pedophile heinous acts. In this regard, this article analyzes several verses of the Quran, such as al-Taḥrīm [66] verse 6 on role of parents, and Luqmān [31] verse 13 and Ṭaha [20] verse 132 regarding education of faith and worship, and al-Isrā’ [17] verse 32 and al-Nūr [24] verse 30 about avoid adultery. These verses explicitly command Muslims to guard themselves and their families from the vices of pedophilia. Using a qualitative method, this study found the Quranic wises that sexual misconduct against minors such as pedophilia is an illegal and grave sin analogized through the premise of adultery, incest, and homosexuality. Therefore, every parent must fight hard to get stuck, let alone protect the perpetrators of this inverse disease. Parental awareness of the Quranic advice shared in this article is a gauge of the level of success against pedophilia.

Keywords: Pedophilia, Parents, Sexual, Children, Adultery

INTRODUCTION

Pedophilia has grown in popularity, awareness, and concern among the medical community and the general public (Hall & Hall, 2007). Due to inaccurate understanding and perception of the meaning of this sexual crime, most cases are considered internal family problems that are difficult to disclose and continue without proper defense. This phenomenon can be likened to a latent case, which is very complicated, involves many parties, and is difficult to prove (Pipe, Lamb, Orbach, & Cederborg, 2013). Even more worrying is when parents' knowledge is still lacking based on their understanding of the terminology, the existence of the case, and the target age of the pedophilia victim (Aun & Yusof, 2017).

Statistics show that 89 percent of pedophilia cases are committed by those who know the victim intimately. The matter was revealed by a study conducted by a panel of researchers from Australia that reported only 11.1 percent of pedophilia cases involving unknown individuals. The scenario exists due to the perception of pedophiles who think they are in a 'safe and comfortable zone' because their acts of rape, sodomy, and molestation will not be exposed by the victim (Haji Che Ros, 2018). Underage sexual violence activities are linked to the awareness of parents, society, and the country about sexual crimes, including pedophilia (D'iachenko & Tsymbal, 2013). This sexual abuse has a critical negative impact and can even have a complex traumatic effect on the lives of children who experience it (Hyman, Gold, & Cott, 2003; Steel, Sanna, Hammond, Whipple, & Cross, 2004). The results will haunt children's thoughts, emotions, and behaviors until they grow into adulthood (Browne & Finkelhor, 1986).

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Sexual curiosity in minors is a well-established risk factor for sexual recidivism (reoffending) (Stephens, Cantor, Goodwill, & Seto, 2017). Compared to sexual offenders who had never been sexually abused, those who had been sexually abused before the age of 16 committed sexual offenses against much younger victims and exhibited significantly higher levels of pedophilic desire (Nunes, Hermann, Renee Malcom, & Lavoie, 2013). Sexual abuse affects a person's psychological health, and it can change a person's sexual orientation, even if they know that the behavior contradicts the values and beliefs espoused by the local community (Hassan & Ghazali, 2013).

The absence of special laws related to pornography, sexual grooming, and sexual grooming in existing legislation has been identified as one of the causes of sexual crimes against children. Pedophiles are often not brought to justice. The enactment of the Sexual Offenses Against Children Act 2017 (Act 792) has improved the legal loopholes (Abd Wahab & Mat Nor, 2018).

Pedophilia is one of the examples of psychosexual disorders that cover a variety of things that are rarely found in the general public. Terms such as Fetishism, Transvestism, Masochism, Zoophilia, Exhibitionism, or Voyeurism have certainly never been known or considered. Still, these terms are part of the psychosexual confusion in this world of psychology. However, what is certain is that this psychosexual disorder is a despicable treatment in terms of religion and society itself. Concerning the view of the Quran, this phenomenon is not a foreign thing in the history of humanity. When studying and scrutinizing the Quran, this practice had begun to exist thousands of years ago involving the people of Prophet Lut, whom Allah had destroyed.

Their stories have been narrated in various surahs such as suras Hūd [11]: 77-83, al-Naml [27]: 54-58, al-Shu'arā [26]: 160-175, etc. Although long gone, the behavior seems to be inherited and increasingly prevalent. Therefore, the historical events that have been recorded in the Quran should be taken as a lesson by society today so that the behavior, symptoms, and deeds that are insulted, reviled, or cursed by God can be avoided and able to return the entire life of society to a life that more moral in the future (Azizan, 2012). Thus, the article evaluates the issue of pedophilia from the perspective of the Quran as its foundation by describing some arguments that lead to the Quranic advice to parents in dealing with the problem of pedophilia.

This study analyzes several verses of the Quran that explicitly command Muslims to guard themselves and their families from the vices of pedophilia. This article uses a descriptive qualitative approach which is an attempt to understand various concepts found in the research process, using content analysis techniques and library research. Qualitative content analysis is one of the several qualitative methods currently available for analyzing data and interpreting its meaning (Schreier, 2012).

As a research method, it represents a systematic and objective means of describing and quantifying phenomena (Downe-Wamboldt, 1992; Schreier, 2012). For the prerequisite and successful content analysis, the data of this study reduced to concepts that describe the research phenomenon (Cavanagh, 1997; Elo & Kyngäs, 2008; Hsieh & Shannon, 2005) by creating categories, ideas, a model, conceptual system, or conceptual map (Elo & Kyngäs, 2008; Morgan, 1993). At the same time, the research library in this article uses the types and sources of secondary data obtained from research results, articles, and reference books that discuss topics related to the research theme (Creswell & Creswell, 2017).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Definition of Pedophilia: A Brief Overview

The definition of pedophilia itself varies according to the type of activity, the kind of victim, and the context in which the perpetrator acts, all the way to acknowledging pedophilia's signs and effects. It encompasses both intra- and extra-familial child sexual abuse and its perpetrators (Łucka & Dziemian, 2014).

Pedophilia comes from the Greek words meaning ‘like’ (philio) and ‘child’ (paedo) (Doyle, 1994; Van der Hoven & Ovens, 2003). The term belongs to the symptoms of paraphilia (Paraphilic Disorders), which is a category of ‘disease’ of the tendency to obtain high sexual satisfaction or sexual arousal in a way outside the norm. Other examples of paraphilia disorders are voyeurism, frotteurism, exhibitionist, and others (Abel & Rouleau, 1990; Beech & Harkins, 2012; Bradford, Boulet, & Pawlak, 1992; First, 2010; Långström, 2010).

Sexual interest in prepubescent children is defined as pedophilia, and it has been empirically connected to child sexual exploitation (Jahnke, Imhoff, & Hoyer, 2015; Seto, 2009). At the same time, pedophilia may be limited to fantasies and impulses, mental health and criminal justice systems premium pedophilic activities. Among the remote risk factors for developing pedophilia is frequently being sexually molested as a child (Fagan, 2002). A relatively specific definition of pedophilia leads perpetrators to fantasies of sexual arousal and high sexual desire involving activities with children who have not reached puberty compared to adults (Berlin, 2014; Schmidt, Mokros, & Banse, 2013). As such, pedophilia patients have emotional confusion and sexual attraction to children. This sexual abuse indirectly commits a crime or sexual abuse to the child victim (Feelgood & Hoyer, 2008; Jahnke et al., 2015; Khalid & Yousaf, 2018). Often sexual abuse of children is intended to provide sexual gratification to the person who commits it (Seto, Cantor, & Blanchard, 2006).

Pedophilia is also actually classified in the group of sexual orientation. However, a definition states that pedophilia not only occurs when an individual engages in sexual arousal behavior against children, but the act of storing, imagining, and imagining sex with children is also referred to as pedophilia (Eher, Olver, Heurix, Schilling, & Rettenberger, 2015). Most definitions of pedophilia are three parts: acts of touch, acts without contact and child pornography (Table 1). The act of touch is when there is sexual interaction on the child's genitals, such as inserting objects into the genitals, mouth, or anus, having oral sex and sodomy, kissing with the tongue, touching sexually by touching the genitals and body parts. While non-contact acts are when showing pornographic materials to children, encouraging children with words, cheating, forcing or threatening children to engage in any sexual activity or prostitution, making exhibitions, encouraging children to view private parts, porn calls, and sending pornographic texts words, recording videos as well as pictures. Pornography, on the other hand, is when a child's sexual behavior is recorded (Abd Wahab & Mat Nor, 2018).

Table 1. Most Definitions of Pedophilia

No.	Part	Description
1.	Acts of touch	There is sexual interaction on the child's genitals, such as inserting objects into the genitals, mouth, or anus, having oral sex and sodomy, kissing with the tongue, touching sexually by touching the genitals and body parts.
2.	Acts without contact	When showing pornographic materials to children, encouraging children with words, cheating, forcing or threatening children to engage in any sexual activity or prostitution, making exhibitions, encouraging children to view private parts, porn calls, and sending pornographic texts words, recording videos as well as pictures.
3.	Child pornography	When a child's sexual behavior is recorded

Source: Abd Wahab & Mat Nor (2018)

What worries us is the disagreement of experts on the potential of pedophile patients to recover fully. Additionally, despite worries regarding the lack of globally acknowledged standardized clinical assessment methods, various proven strategies for examining adults with a sexual interest in minors exist (Carvalho, Bradford, Murphy, Briken, & Fedoroff, 2020). Most countries focus on preventing the recurrence of pedophilia. Various aspects of treatment exist, such as medications to lower libido such as lowering testosterone levels with antiandrogenic therapy. Other drugs tried are Selective-serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors. Psychotherapy

treatment is also essential. Some treatments are considered controversial to change the sexual orientation of the individual away from the child, such as Aversion Conditioning and Masturbatory Reconditioning (Razali, 2015).

The Impact of Pedophilia on the Future of Children

Sexual abuse of children such as pedophilia has adverse and critical effects that can have a complex traumatic impact on the lives of those who experience it (Steel et al., 2004). The effects will haunt children's thoughts, emotions, and behaviors until they grow up. This sexual abuse is considered to contribute to serious mental problems. Often, trauma cases resulting from sexual abuse are associated with the difficulty of abused individuals adapting to environmental conditions that cause their lives to be disrupted (Briere & Runtz, 1993; Browne & Finkelhor, 1986).

Many contemporary studies show the support received during and after sexual abuse can erode the adverse effects on the mental well-being of an abused individual as well as help them to function effectively in life (Abd Manaf & Mokhtar, 2016; Hyman et al., 2003; Yancey & Hansen, 2010). Such support is seen as a buffer against sexual trauma and stress and facilitates the adjustment process for a victim from highlighting unhealthy behaviors (Cohen & Wills, 1985; Marivate & Madu, 2007).

Sexual abuse of children is a form of violence that can threaten a child's safety and human rights, and it leaves a deep impression on the victim. These children will suffer physical injuries such as pain or wounds on the genitals or anus besides experiencing emotional and sexual trauma such as depression, fear, and confusion (Abd Manaf & Mokhtar, 2016). Thus, pedophilia among children contributes to serious mental problems (Fuller, 1989). In this regard, family members are often associated with sexual abuse (David Finkelhor, Ormrod, Turner, & Hamby, 2005), and emotional neglect also occurs seriously against such children (Laaksonen et al., 2011).

Provisions of the Child Sexual Offenses Act

In the context of Malaysia, the 15th King, Sultan Muhammad V, delivered the decree during the opening of the first meeting of the fifth term of the 13th Parliament on 6 March 2017. His Majesty touched on efforts to protect children from sexual criminals who exploit them. The king said the government would table a child sexual offenses bill to address the problem comprehensively, namely the Child Sexual Offenses Act Bill. The Children Act (Amendment 2016) is the central act that regulates and handles issues and cases involving children in Malaysia (Hashim, Yusof, & Kusrin, 2019). This Act which was tabled and passed in Parliament in 2016, is an excellent success in combatting the symptoms of sexual crimes involving children. This Act (before the 2016 amendment), which has not been amended since 2001, is considered outdated as it is incapable of tackling the problem of child sex crimes, which now involves technological sophistication and new modus operandi, besides low punishment on offenders. Under the new law, a special court will be set up to handle juvenile criminal cases, where judges should consist of experts in the issue, and any case must be resolved within a year (KING, 2017).

However, the Children Act (Amendment 2016) is still incomplete because it does not contain provisions on sexual grooming. Simply put, child sexual grooming means a process of befriending and approaching children (those under the age of 18) and gaining their trust, with the intent to exploit them sexually. Countries like Singapore and Australia already have comprehensive laws in place in dealing with these sexual grooming cases, where perpetrators can be prosecuted before they meet face-to-face with the victim. For this reason, the Child Sexual Offenses Act is proposed to enable the prosecution of perpetrators of sexual grooming to be arrested and prosecuted in court. In addition, Malaysia still does not have specific laws on exploiting children to produce pornography. Someone who possesses child pornography is not a crime in this country. This is also important

because child pornography has been identified among the contributors to pedophile symptoms and child sexual crime (Abd Wahab & Mat Nor, 2018; Basir & Yusof, 2020).

Although some people give the impression of pedophiles as 'crazy people,' the fact is that they are sane, have the intention to commit the crime, and have done it repeatedly. Not surprisingly, the Ministry of Women, Family, and Community Development (KPWKM), Malaysia welcomed the Sexual Crime and Abuse Investigation Division (D11), Criminal Investigation Department, Bukit Aman, to monitor the sexual offenders' movement, especially pedophiles who have served prison sentences under the Act. Registration of Sexual Offenders. This measure could ensure that those with a tendency to commit sexual misconduct against children do not have the opportunity to approach or venture into industries that provide services to children, such as daycare nurses, gardeners at school, or school bus drivers (Mohamad Yusof & Ishak, 2017).

Imprisonment for an extended period between 20 to 30 years is a way to manage criminals for sexual crime cases against children in most countries (D Finkelhor, 2009), and such a period is adequate. However, in Indonesia, child sexual offenders in the country are subject to chemical castration and the death penalty for child rape and electronic tracking devices to allow authorities to control their activities at all times after being released from prison (Kartono & Mulyana, 2019; Tarigan, 2020). Offenders will also be sterilized using certain drugs to lower their testosterone levels and sexual habits. Similar punishments have also been proposed to India to address the seriousness of sexual crimes against women and children (Gill & Harrison, 2013). Apart from severe punishment, the Act also emphasizes rehabilitating offenders. Section 26 provides that rehabilitative counseling may be given to offenders as additional punishment while serving their sentences in prison (Abd Wahab & Mat Nor, 2018). England and Wales, for example, have introduced offender rehabilitation programs to reduce the risk of repeat crime among sex offenders (Wößner, 2016).

Quranic Wises to Pedophilia Case

Most children may be spared from becoming victims if parents are given exposure and knowledge related to the crime of pedophilia or they have the experience of seeing for themselves the abuse happening around them or knowing the case that occurred to close relatives (Ramly, Zain, & Eshak, 2020). Early awareness of parents plays a vital role in overcoming this crime to prevent incidents of abuse to children from happening. This matter should not be taken lightly as it is a grave crime involving children worldwide (Capra, Forresi, & Caffo, 2014).

Parents need to have all the knowledge to raise their children (Dewar, 2013). Children can achieve perfection in their upbringing process if parents are knowledgeable, always supportive, have close relationships, and pro-social behavior to ensure the well-being of children is guaranteed to protect children from becoming victims of pedophilia. Through studies conducted, most social problems such as rape, pedophilia, sexual harassment, and internet addiction are due to the collapse of family institutions, lack of religious education, outside cultural influences, media influences, peer pressure, and lack of support systems. Children involved in cases of abuse were also found to be involved in the crime of pedophilia. Studies have found that most pedophiles target children who receive less love from parents (Hall & Hall, 2007). Pedophiles will gather victim-related information, such as researching a child's family background before targeting their victim. There were also child victims selected from family problems, such as spouses of parents who had separated and had a low level of knowledge. Most victims of pedophilia receive less love from parents, and they feel pedophiles pay more attention and can protect them (McCartan, 2008).

Therefore, Muslim scholars have written many works in conjunction with the responsibility, importance, and call towards education and care of children. Imam al-Ghazzālī (d. 1111) describes the early education of children in his magnum opus *Ihyā' 'Ulūm al-Dīn*. Among the examples of contemporary books that are very good

used as a reference today is *Tarbiyyah al-Awlād fī al-Islām* by ‘Abdullah Nāṣiḥ ‘Ulwān. For this reason, Muslims need to champion the issue of child sex crimes because Islam itself pays special attention to the care and education of children.

Although there is generally no specific discussion of pedophilia in the Quran or hadith, it does not show that there is no evidence to be compared to pedophilia. In this case, there are three contexts of the theme of pedagogy that are discussed through qiyas through the premise of adultery, incest, and homosexuality (Usman et al., 2019). Therefore, an in-depth understanding of the Quranic advice related to pedophilia is considered very important to be carried out to prioritize the Quran as a new alternative treatment and prevention in the pedophilia rehabilitation process. Thus, there is no type of disease, either liver or physical illness, unless in the Quran there is a method as its healing therapy (Al-Jawziyyah, 1992). One of the pieces of evidence from this discourse can be seen about liver disease in a person. The word of Allah in sura al-Ra’d [13] verse 28 offers treatment of the heart:

الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَتَطْمَئِنُّ قُلُوبُهُمْ بِذِكْرِ اللَّهِ أَلَا بِذِكْرِ اللَّهِ تَطْمَئِنُّ الْقُلُوبُ ۚ ٢٨

Meaning:

“Those who have believed and whose hearts are assured by the remembrance of Allah. Unquestionably, by the remembrance of Allah, hearts are assured.”

Accordingly, parental knowledge, awareness, and attitudes regarding the crime of pedophilia play an essential role in the well-being and safety of children (Ramly et al., 2020). The Quran urges parents always to be concerned about their children, especially concerning their future in the hereafter. Allah says in surah al-Taḥrīm [66] verse 6:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا قُوا أَنْفُسَكُمْ وَأَهْلِيكُمْ نَارًا وَقُودُهَا النَّاسُ وَالْحِجَارَةُ عَلَيْهَا مَلَائِكَةٌ غِلَاظٌ شِدَادٌ لَا يَعْصُونَ اللَّهَ مَا أَمَرَهُمْ وَيَفْعَلُونَ مَا يُؤْمَرُونَ ٦

Meaning:

“O you who have believed, protect yourselves and your families from a Fire whose fuel is people and stones, over which are [appointed] angels, harsh and severe; they do not disobey Allah in what He commands them but do what they are commanded.”

This verse emphatically proves that parents have a role to play in preserving themselves and family members from the torments of hell. Unfortunately, some parents still ignore this critical point. If linked to pedophilia, studies prove that parents’ knowledge of the term varies. Some parents have never heard of pedophilia at all, and when the interview was done, it was the first time they listened to the term pedophilia. Although most parents have heard the term pedophilia, they are not very knowledgeable about the meaning behind the term pedophilia (Aun & Yusof, 2017; Zaki & Nen, 2020).

Similarly, the stigma that hovers in the minds of society is related to the issue of underage marriage, which today has been linked to pedophilia (Cranney, 2017). Underage marriage, if it meets the conditions and principles that have been set, is valid. Even so, society does not seem to be able to accept this. This is because there is most likely a sentiment of child exploitation, given that the power of underage marriage is sufficient with the consent of the guardian (walī) to be married (Usman et al., 2020). Regarding the evidence of the ability to marry minor children is the word of Allah in surah al-Ṭālaq [65] verse 4:

وَأَلْيٰ يَسِّنَ مِنَ الْمَحِيضِ مِنْ نِسَائِكُمْ إِنْ أَرَبْتُمْ فَعِدَّتُهُنَّ ثَلَاثَةَ أَشْهُرٍ ۖ وَاللَّيِّ لَمْ يَحِضْنَ وَأُولُو الْأَحْمَالِ أَجَلُهُنَّ أَنْ يَضَعْنَ حَمْلَهُنَّ وَمَنْ يَتَّقِ اللَّهَ يَجْعَلْ لَهُ مِنْ أَمْرِهِ يُسْرًا ۙ

Meaning:

"And those who no longer expect menstruation among your women - if you doubt, then their period is three months, and [also for] those who have not menstruated. And for those who are pregnant, their term is until they give birth. And whoever fears Allah - He will make for him of his matter ease."

Al-Ṭabarī (n.d.) said: (وَاللَّيِّ لَمْ يَحِضْنَ) "Women who do not menstruate," i.e., those who are still girls and have not reached the age of menstruation. This verse indicates that the *iddah* (period) of a woman divorced when she is young or not yet menstruating is three months. Similarly stated by al-Qaṣṭallānī (n.d.) that (وَاللَّيِّ لَمْ يَحِضْنَ) means a small child who has not yet reached the stage or age of menstruation. Therefore, the Quran requires parents to be vigilant in their children's education in all fields, and the most important is the education of faith and worship. Allah says in sura Luqmān [31] verse 13 about the teaching of instilling the seeds of monotheism in children from an early age:

وَإِذْ قَالَ لُقْمَانُ لِابْنِهِ وَهُوَ يَعِظُهُ يَا بُنَيَّ لَا تُشْرِكْ بِاللَّهِ إِنَّ الشِّرْكَ لَظُلْمٌ عَظِيمٌ ۝ ١٣

Meaning:

"And [mention, O Muḥammad], when Luqmān said to his son while he was instructing him, "O my son, do not associate [anything] with Allah. Indeed, association [with Him] is great injustice"."

In matters of worship, prayer, for example, Allah instructs parents to command their children to take care of and establish it. Allah says in sura Taha [20] verse 132:

وَأْمُرْ أَهْلَكَ بِالصَّلَاةِ وَاصْطَبِرْ عَلَيْهَا لَا نَسْأَلُكَ رِزْقًا نَحْنُ نَرْزُقُكَ وَالْعُقبَةُ لِلتَّقْوَى ۝ ١٣٢

Meaning:

"And enjoin prayer upon your family [and people] and be steadfast therein. We ask you not for provision; We provide for you, and the [best] outcome is for [those of] righteousness."

Apart from that, one of the causal factors of pedophilia misconduct is the negligence of parents who do not provide proper sex education when a person reaches adolescence (Talib, Mamat, Ibrahim, & Mohamad, 2012). Even though other research indicates that existing approaches to sex education among Muslim teenagers are likely to fail due to the rigidity of Muslim society's sexual norms (Smerecnik, Schaalma, Gerjo, Meijer, & Poelman, 2010). There are, however, countless examples of how sex education helps young people better manage their reproductive health and sexual relationships. Thus, the Islamic duty of preserving the umma is fundamentally compatible with a sex education strategy that educates young Muslims with the knowledge, skills, and personal confidence necessary to make responsible choices (Bennett, 2007).

Regarding sex education, Van Bommel (2003), as cited by ter Avest (2021), emphasizes the distinction between young children's curiosity and the emotions associated with physical attraction in young teenagers. The first requires information, while the second requires affection. Children must understand the difference between genuine love, which enables and involves sacrifice, and pure lust, which abuses the other for self-gratification, masturbation. According to Van Bommel, it is critical to initiate sex education in the family, even if a youngster has not yet expressed interest. It is beneficial for guys to understand how girls develop physically and vice versa; girls, should get familiar with how boys grow (ter Avest, 2021). Sex education for children and

adolescents as 'hazardous knowledge for the vulnerable' awakens premarital sexuality and erodes Islamic identity. This idea is rooted in part in a widespread (mis)interpretation of Islam's emphasis on children's 'inadequate capacity' and 'need for protection,' as well as the absence of adolescent sexuality and agency in the majority of Islamic traditions. The growing connection between 'immaturity' and 'sexuality' in the lives of contemporary young people has made childhood/adolescent sexuality and sex education a source of contention for many Muslims in the modern era. It also necessitates the recognition of childhood/adolescent sexuality and agency as critical themes for (re)examination, particularly in Islamic studies and in light of the sex education requirements of young Muslims (Tabatabaie, 2015).

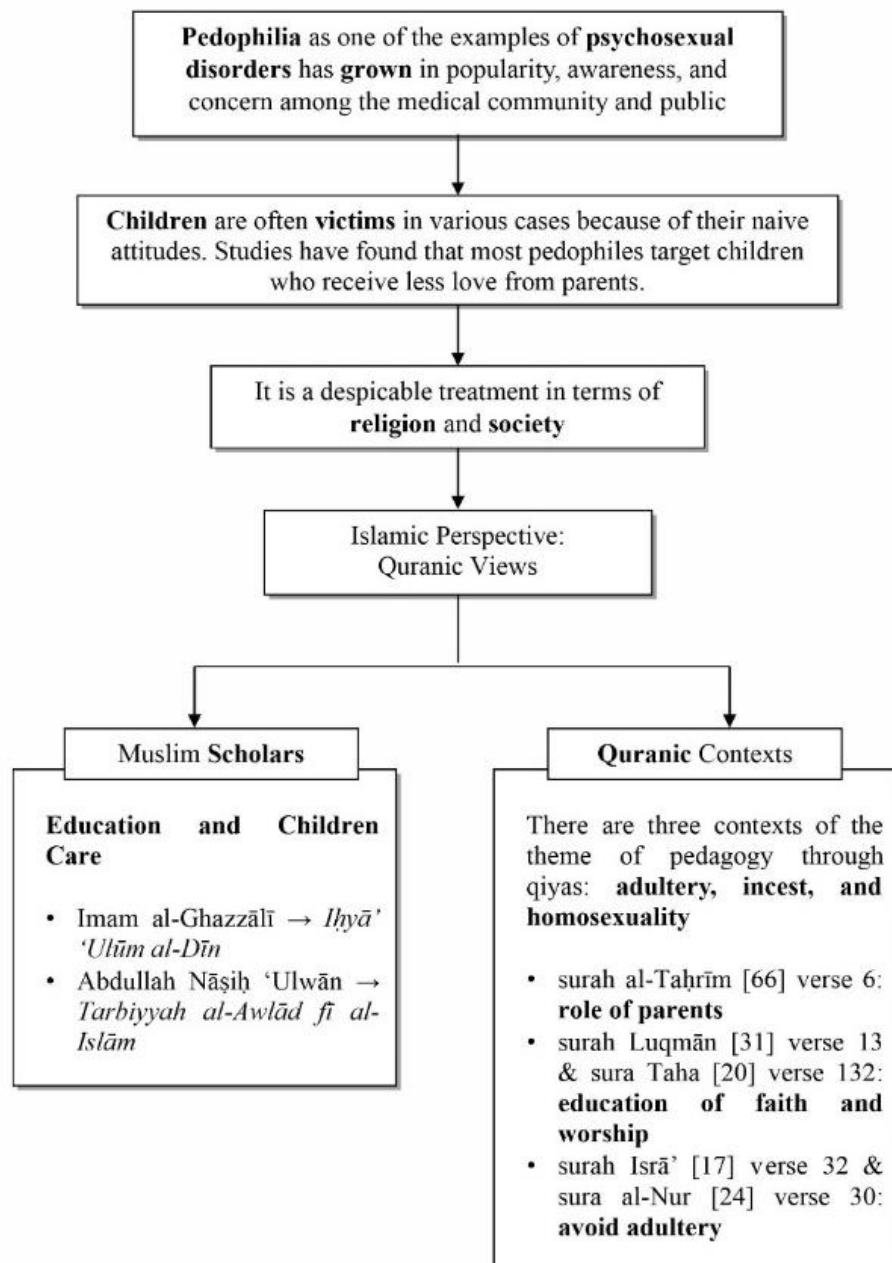


Figure 1. The Framework of Quranic Wises to Pedophilia Case

From here, the Quran also advises parents to educate their children to avoid adultery or things that can lead to adultery, such as not covering the aurat, dressing sexy, free association of men and women without limits (ikhtilāṭ), excess in displaying jewelry (tabarruj), etc. (Honkasalo, 2018; Sulaiman, Yusoff, Zainuddin, Hisham, & Long, 2017). Allah says in surah Isrā’ [17] verse 32:

وَلَا تَقْرَبُوا الزَّوْجَ إِنَّهُ كَانَ فَحِشَةً وَسَاءَ سَبِيلًا ۝ ٣٢

Meaning:

“And do not approach unlawful sexual intercourse. Indeed, it is ever an immorality and is evil as a way.”

Ibn Kathīr (d. 774 H) elaborates that Allah forbids His servants from committing adultery and things that lead close to adultery and all its causes and approaches (Ibn Kathīr, 2000). Therefore, Allah commands the believer to lower his gaze, as His words in sura al-Nūr [24] verse 30:

قُلْ لِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ يَعْضُوا مِنْ أَبْصُرِهِمْ وَيَحْفَظُوا فُرُوجَهُمْ ذَلِكَ أَزْكَىٰ لَهُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ خَبِيرٌ بِمَا يَصْنَعُونَ ۝ ٣٠

Meaning:

“Tell the believing men to reduce [some] of their vision and guard their private parts. That is purer for them. Indeed, Allah is [fully] Aware of what they do.”

Because the sight of the eyes is the primary source of heart damage (figure 1), as some Salaf scholars say, that the presence of the eye is a poisonous arrow that pierces the heart, God commanded that the genitals be taken care of, as the sight of the eyes is also taken care of (Ibn Kathīr, 2000). Thus, efforts to close all doors of sexual stimulation from the opposite sex or pedophilia offenders need to be vigorously made, as no studies prove that pedophilia can be changed. In contrast, the interventions are designed to increase control over sexual stimuli and reduce sexual desire or self-management skills to individuals motivated to avoid acting on their sexual attraction (Seto, 2009; Usman et al., 2020b).

CONCLUSION

Pedophilia is a term that refers to the desire to have sex with a child, a non-adult subject, or one’s partner. Every child is vulnerable from being a victim in silence for pedophiles who violate the law or the norms of society. This sexual disorder is characterized as plunging the child into sexual activity that is not understood and agreed to wisely. Such sexual crimes include the act of groping the genitals, arousing a child by asking unreasonably, and rape. While Non-tactile behaviors, such as stalking, exposing private parts of the body, uttering obscene words to children, and even at the extreme level, exploiting a child for pornographic purposes through social media and using such material to turn a child into a prostitute.

There is no denying that children are often victims in various cases because of their naive attitudes. Children also often misunderstand the meaning of love shown by adults to them. Some parties use this opportunity to exploit the sense of love so that crimes such as pedophilia occur. In this regard, various ways have been taken by some countries facing an increase in the number of pedophilia cases, leading most countries to take the initiative to double the punishment for pedophiles. There is no denying that there are several treatment modules based on medicine, psychology, and counseling based on the Quran and Sunnah to treat this sexual crime.

In the context of Islam, although there is generally no specific discussion of pedophilia in the Quran or hadith, it does not show that there is no evidence that can be compared to pedophilia. References to the Quran

find three contexts of the theme of pedophilia that are discussed through qiyas for pedophilia, namely through the evidence of adultery, incest, and homosexuality. Thus, the Quran as the first source of Islamic law is believed to be able to play an essential role in analyzing the asbāb nuzūl (the reasons of revelation) of a verse or law in Islam that leads to a resolution (embedded in the essence of verse teaching) to expose the phenomenon of pedophilia.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Abur Hamdi Usman is a native of Indonesia, received his graduate and doctoral degrees from the Theology and Philosophy Department, Faculty of Islamic Studies, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM). Currently, he is a senior lecturer at Dakwah and Usuluddin, Faculty of Islamic Civilization Studies at the Universiti Islam Selangor (UIS), Malaysia. He has published numerous refereed books and articles on theology, Quranic exegesis, and hadith sciences. His areas of interest include the sciences of the Quran and hadith studies. He can be contacted at: aburhamdi@kuis.edu.my.

Azwar is a lecturer and researcher at Sekolah Tinggi Ilmu Islam dan Bahasa Arab (STIBA) Makassar, Indonesia. Holding a Bachelor of Economics, a Master in Economics Science from Universitas Darul Ulum, Indonesia, and a Master in Public Administration from Universitas Terbuka, Indonesia. His fields of expertise are Islamic Economics, Islamic Studies, Economics, Management, Education, Statistics, and Social Science. He can be contacted at: azwar@stiba.ac.id or azwar.iskandar@gmail.com.

Muhammad Fakhrrur Razi Shahabudin is a PhD student at Universiti Islam Selangor (UIS), Malaysia. Holding a master and degree in al-Quran & al-Sunnah at Universiti Islam Selangor (UIS), Malaysia. Currently he is a graduate research assistant at UIS and experience in many field areas around Islamic studies. He can be contacted at nurfurqanrazi92@gmail.com.