Male Roles and Responsibilities in Islamic Teachings: A Textual and Literature-Based Analysis

Harli¹, Jumadia¹, Rusydi AM¹, Sri Wahyuni¹

¹UM Sumatera Barat, Indonesia

✉harliselian_73@yahoo.co.id *

Abstract

This study examines the roles and responsibilities of men in Islamic society, with particular emphasis on their functions as husbands, fathers, and social leaders. The study aims to explore how Islamic teachings construct men's moral, social, and spiritual responsibilities and the implications of these constructions for family life and social order. Employing a qualitative approach, this research adopts a literature review and textual analysis of the Quran, Hadith, and relevant academic sources. Data were collected through document analysis and examined using descriptive and interpretative methods to identify key dimensions of male leadership, parenting, family responsibility, and moral education within contemporary contexts. The findings indicate that Islamic teachings position men in multidimensional roles. As husbands, men are responsible for economic provision, protection, and emotional and spiritual support within the family. As fathers, they play a significant role in parenting and in shaping children's moral values. In the social sphere, men are conceptualized as key actors in leadership, the promotion of justice, and the reinforcement of social cohesion. These findings highlight the importance of a comprehensive understanding of men's roles in Islam for the development of family education and the discourse on social leadership in contemporary Muslim societies.

INTRODUCTION

The role of men in Islamic society constitutes a central theme in Islamic studies and the social sciences, as it is closely related to the formation of family structures, social order, and the sustainability of moral values within society. From an Islamic perspective, men are not understood merely as biological entities, but as moral and social actors who bear religious and societal responsibilities. The Quran and Sunnah affirm that men carry the trust (*amanah*) as servants of God and as khalifah (vicegerents) on earth, which is manifested through their roles as husbands, fathers, and social leaders within family and societal life (Herijanto, 2022). Normative Islamic concepts such as *qiwamah*, the obligation of financial provision, family leadership, and responsibility for children's education demonstrate that men's roles are positioned as moral and spiritual trusts that must be exercised responsibly,

rather than as forms of privilege or gender-based domination (Anwar & Sofi'i, 2024).

From a normative and juridical standpoint, the role of men is firmly grounded in the Quran and Hadith. Surah An-Nisa (4:34), for instance, emphasizes men's responsibility as leaders within the family and as primary providers of sustenance (Shomad, 2022). Within the context of modern nation-states, various national regulations also underscore the importance of men's roles in maintaining family harmony and supporting social stability. Philosophically, these responsibilities are rooted in principles of justice, balanced leadership, and moral integrity. Accordingly, men's roles are not limited to formal positions of authority but also encompass their function as ethical and spiritual figures who guide families and communities through moral exemplarity and commitment (Susiana et al., 2025).

From an educational perspective, strengthening men's roles can be achieved through religious education, leadership training, and the internalization of social values from an early age (Aini, 2024). As husbands, men bear economic, emotional, and spiritual responsibilities toward their families; as fathers, they play a crucial role in caregiving and the moral development of children; and as social leaders, they are expected to uphold justice, empower communities, and serve as moral role models (Faqih & Yusuf, 2025). Therefore, examining how men enact these roles and responsibilities is essential for understanding their implications for family well-being and social harmony (Abqori & Rizqi, 2024).

Nevertheless, contemporary social developments reveal fundamental changes and challenges in understanding and implementing men's roles within Islamic societies. Processes of modernization and globalization, shifts in family structures and functions, and the increasing participation of women in the public sphere have generated new patterns of social relations (Sugitanata & Karimullah, 2023). In this context, men's positions and roles often experience conceptual and practical tensions, as reflected in declining paternal involvement in childrearing and education, rising domestic conflicts, and the weakening of moral leadership within families and communities (Khairunnisak et al., 2023; Sufyan & Manihuruk, 2024). Moreover, discourses on men's roles tend to be polarized between patriarchal perspectives that emphasize dominance and liberal approaches that often neglect the normative framework of Islamic teachings.

A number of previous studies have examined men's roles within the context of family or leadership; however, these studies generally remain partial and fragmented. Some research emphasizes normative-theological approaches that focus on textual interpretations of religious sources, while other studies adopt sociological approaches that are largely descriptive without adequately integrating Islamic normative values. This condition indicates a research gap that necessitates a more comprehensive and integrative approach to understanding men's roles in Islamic society.

Based on this framework, the present study aims to examine in depth the roles and responsibilities of men in Islamic society by integrating normative-theological dimensions with contemporary social realities. The study focuses on men's roles as husbands, fathers, and social leaders, as well as on how these roles are understood and implemented as forms of moral, spiritual, and social responsibility. This research is expected to contribute conceptually to the development of family and leadership studies from an Islamic perspective, while also offering a more contextual and relevant understanding for strengthening men's roles in contemporary Muslim family and social life.

METHODS

This study employs a qualitative method with a descriptive–analytical approach, as it seeks to explore, understand, and comprehensively analyze the roles and responsibilities of men in Islamic society (Engkizar Engkizar et al., 2025; Idris et

al., 2024). A qualitative approach is adopted because the phenomenon under investigation is complex and multidimensional, and is closely related to moral, spiritual, social, and cultural values that cannot be adequately measured through quantitative methods (Amadi, 2023). The focus of the study lies in understanding how men perform their roles as husbands, fathers, and leaders in the everyday life of Islamic society, how these roles are internalized as moral and spiritual trusts (*amanah*), and how the enactment of these roles is shaped and influenced by contemporary social dynamics and transformations.

Within the descriptive analytical framework, this research not only presents empirical social realities but also critically examines the dialectical relationship between normative Islamic theories and social practices as they unfold in society (Khurshid, 2025). This approach enables a holistic examination of men's roles by integrating normative–theological dimensions grounded in Quranic and Prophetic teachings on the roles of husbands, fathers, and leadership with sociological and contextual dimensions that highlight changes in family structures, social dynamics, shifting gender relations, and contemporary challenges that shape and influence the practical realization of men's roles in daily life.

Data for this study were collected through library research and document analysis, encompassing primary sources such as the Quran, Hadith, and classical Islamic literature, as well as secondary sources including peer-reviewed journals, academic books, research articles, and official documents related to family and Islamic society. Data analysis was conducted using content analysis and thematic analysis, allowing for the identification of patterns, themes, and relationships between Islamic principles and the practical enactment of men's roles as husbands, fathers, and leaders (Engkizar et al., 2024; Rao & Jamil, 2024). The analytical process was carried out systematically, beginning with data reduction, followed by categorization and thematic organization, and culminating in interpretative and reflective conclusions, thereby generating a comprehensive and contextual understanding of men's roles in Islamic society.

Through the application of this methodological approach, the study is expected to produce an integrated and contextually grounded understanding that not only contributes theoretically to the development of Islamic studies and the social sciences, but also offers practical insights for strengthening men's roles within family life and broader social contexts (Fernandez, 2023). This approach facilitates a balanced realization of men's roles as moral, spiritual, and social trusts in accordance with Islamic values, while also enabling responsiveness to the evolving challenges and dynamics of contemporary society.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION
Foundations of Men's Roles in Islam

In Islamic teachings, men and women are equally granted rights and obligations, thereby establishing a balance between the two. Nevertheless, their respective roles and responsibilities differ in accordance with their nature, capacities, and functions as determined by Islamic law (*sharīʿah*). Both genders are understood as complementary to one another, not only in personal life but also within family and societal contexts, contributing to social harmony and order (Febri, 2022). Specifically, Islam assigns men particular responsibilities that are clearly articulated in the Quran and Hadith (Arat & Hasan, 2018). These responsibilities encompass moral dimensions, such as upholding ethical conduct and integrity; social dimensions, including safeguarding welfare and justice within society; and economic dimensions related to providing for the family and contributing to the broader social environment.

One of the primary responsibilities of men in Islam is their role as caretakers and principal providers for the family. This role is explicitly affirmed in Surah An-Nisa (4:34), which states that men are entrusted with leadership within the family due to certain responsibilities bestowed upon them by God, particularly the obligation to provide financial support (Leavitt et al., 2021). In this sense, men are responsible for meeting the family's basic needs, ensuring safety, and guaranteeing the overall well-being of family members (Wicaksono & Ashari, 2024). This role should not be understood as a mere privilege, but rather as a trust (*amanah*) that must be fulfilled with sincerity, patience, and compassion, enabling the family to live in harmony, security, and well-being.

Beyond their responsibilities within the family, men in Islam are also entrusted with leadership roles in society. In this capacity, they are expected to serve as role models in terms of moral conduct, justice, and leadership principles aligned with Islamic teachings (Hidayat & Muttaqin, 2024). Men who assume leadership roles are required to uphold ethical values, protect vulnerable groups, and maintain social balance and harmony within their communities. Such leadership is not confined to formal positions, such as governmental or official offices, but also extends to everyday social leadership within communities, civil organizations, and residential environments. Through these forms of leadership, principles of justice and goodness can be practically realized in social life (Simamora et al., 2024).

Accordingly, the foundational framework of men's roles in Islam emphasizes the balance between personal responsibility, familial obligations, and social engagement (Nahari, 2025). Men are regarded as bearers of trust who are expected not only to support and protect their families but also to serve as exemplary figures within their broader social environment. Islamic leadership and responsibility, therefore, are not about exercising power or dominance, but about serving, protecting, and upholding justice for all members of society, thereby fostering a harmonious and prosperous social order (Putung & Azahari, 2020).

Men's Roles as Husbands

From the perspective of Islamic teachings, men hold extensive responsibilities as husbands, which extend beyond formal or administrative roles and encompass profound moral and spiritual dimensions (Abdad et al., 2025). The role of a husband requires the capacity to lead the family with justice, wisdom, and a strong sense of responsibility, enabling the household to function as a harmonious social unit grounded in Islamic values. Husbands are regarded as protectors and guardians of the family, with responsibilities that include fulfilling economic needs, providing emotional support, and offering spiritual guidance to all family members (Suhaili, 2025).

One of the most fundamental responsibilities of a husband in Islam is the provision of *nafāqah* (financial support), which entails ensuring that the economic needs of the wife and children are adequately met. This obligation is emphasized in Surah Al-Baqarah (2:233), which highlights the fulfillment of basic family needs as an integral part of the husband's trust. The responsibility of *nafāqah* is not limited to material provision alone, but also includes efforts to meet educational, health, and overall welfare needs of the family (Karim et al., 2018). By fulfilling this economic responsibility, husbands can foster a stable and harmonious family environment while preventing inequality or conflict within the household (Yakin & Ma'arif, 2025). Financial provision thus serves as a foundational pillar for maintaining family stability in accordance with Islamic values.

In addition to material responsibilities, the role of a husband also encompasses functioning as a life partner and companion to his wife. A husband is expected to cultivate open and effective communication, mutual support, and emotional closeness within the marital relationship (Mardiyah et al., 2025). This role

underscores the importance of cooperation, mutual understanding, and respect between spouses, thereby fostering a harmonious household. A husband who effectively fulfills his role as a partner contributes to emotional stability within the family, strengthens marital bonds, and provides a positive example for children in developing healthy, empathetic social relationships (Watopa & Kasingku, 2025).

Furthermore, a husband's leadership within the household should be grounded in principles of justice and collective well-being. Decision-making should be balanced, inclusive of mutual consultation (*shūrā*), and free from unilateral or domineering practices. Just leadership encompasses various aspects of family life, including household management, the distribution of responsibilities among family members, and decisions that affect the welfare of the wife and children (Syahrizan & Siregar, 2025). Accordingly, the role of the husband extends beyond formal authority as head of the household to that of a moral and spiritual guide who nurtures and educates family members, ensuring that family life remains harmonious and aligned with Islamic values (Adib et al., 2024).

Overall, the role of a husband in Islam emphasizes the need for balance between material responsibility, emotional support, and moral and spiritual leadership. These interconnected dimensions collectively form the foundation of a harmonious, just, and productive household. A husband who fulfills these roles effectively not only ensures the comprehensive well-being of his family but also plays a vital role in the formation of a civilized society (Nnubia et al., 2025), as strong and harmonious families constitute the fundamental units underpinning a stable, balanced, and just social order.

Men's Roles as Fathers

In Islamic society, men bear a crucial responsibility as fathers, as this role is not merely biological but also strategic in shaping children's character and determining their future (Bahri et al., 2024). A father occupies a central position within the family, serving not only as a protector but also as an educator, mentor, and moral role model for his children (Rutaremwa & Shirindi, 2025). A father's presence and guidance have a fundamental impact on the formation of a civilized generation with strong moral values and the capacity to contribute positively to society. Consequently, the influence of fatherhood extends beyond the family sphere and carries long-term implications for the broader social order.

One of the primary roles of a father in Islam is nurturing and educating his children. Fathers are responsible for instilling ethical values, teaching religious knowledge, and equipping children with the social skills necessary for communal life (Tanjung, 2024). Education provided by fathers is not limited to academic or cognitive aspects, but also encompasses emotional and spiritual development. Through consistent and attentive guidance, fathers help shape their children's character so that they grow into individuals who demonstrate integrity, honesty, responsibility, and social concern, while also becoming ethical and constructive members of society (Mogeni, 2025).

In addition to their educational role, fathers also play a vital role in providing protection and guidance for their children. A father is expected to offer a sense of security, provide appropriate direction, and safeguard the physical, mental, and spiritual well-being of his children (Astuti & Bashori, 2025). This responsibility highlights the father's role in creating a safe and supportive family environment in which children can develop and maximize their potential (Allport et al., 2018). Such protection extends beyond physical safety to include emotional support and spiritual guidance, enabling children to face life's challenges with confidence and integrity (Liddinillah et al., 2024).

Furthermore, a father serves as a moral exemplar for his children. Every attitude, behavior, and decision demonstrated by a father becomes a model that

children observe and emulate in understanding and practicing life values, particularly Islamic values that emphasize noble character, justice, and social responsibility (Safitri & Nurbayani, 2025). By embodying positive moral conduct, fathers assist children in internalizing religious teachings in practical, everyday contexts, ensuring that moral understanding is not merely theoretical but deeply embedded and consistently practiced (Fristyarini et al., 2025). This role enhances the effectiveness of ethical and spiritual education and contributes to the formation of children with strong integrity and moral character.

Accordingly, the role of fathers in Islam is pivotal to the formation of harmonious families and a civilized society. Fathers who fulfill their responsibilities in a comprehensive and balanced manner encompassing education, protection, and moral exemplarity not only contribute to family well-being and stability but also lay a strong foundation for future generations (Ferraris et al., 2016). These generations are expected to possess sound character, uphold noble morals, and navigate social changes and challenges with wisdom and integrity. Effective fatherhood thus demonstrates that healthy family development constitutes the primary foundation for building a strong, harmonious, and civilized society (M. F. Mubarok et al., 2025).

Men's Roles as Social Leaders

Beyond their responsibilities within the family, men in Islamic society also play a significant role as social leaders (Anwar & Sofi'i, 2024). This role is not merely formal or administrative in nature, but represents a moral and spiritual trust that requires the capacity to lead with justice and to prioritize the collective welfare of the community (*maslahah*) (Nasir et al., 2025). As leaders, men are expected to guide and protect society as a whole, foster social harmony, and uphold principles of justice and goodness in accordance with Islamic teachings (Yaqin et al., 2024). Social leadership thus underscores that men's responsibility toward society is not centered on power, but rather on service, protection, and the holistic development of communal well-being (Diya et al., 2025).

A core element of social leadership is adherence to moral and ethical values (Pasricha et al., 2018). Within social life, men are expected to serve as exemplary figures who demonstrate fairness, honesty, and respect for social ethics in every action and decision (Nurwandri et al., 2025). This responsibility requires leaders to provide protection and direction, maintain social order, and ensure the welfare of all members of society without abusing authority for personal or group interests (Haqqani, 2024). Leadership grounded in justice and ethics forms the foundation of a harmonious, civilized, and well-organized social life (Keno, 2025). Moreover, such leadership strengthens public trust and legitimacy, as leaders who uphold moral values are more likely to be respected, trusted, and followed by the community (Subakdi, 2025).

In addition to their general leadership functions, men also bear substantial responsibility in decision-making processes related to key domains such as economic, social, and religious affairs (Hadaiyatullah et al., 2024). Decisions must be guided by *shari'ah* principles and oriented toward the collective good to ensure optimal benefits for all segments of society (Thalgi, 2024). In their leadership role, men act as facilitators and mentors who assist communities in addressing social challenges, promoting sustainable economic growth, and ensuring that religious values are applied consistently in everyday life (Pascale & Ohlson, 2020). Consequently, leadership is not limited to administrative management but also encompasses educational efforts, the safeguarding of communal welfare, and the cultivation of moral character within society (Kuat et al., 2024).

Men's roles further extend to active participation in broader community development (Karim et al., 2018). In this context, men function as agents of change who encourage positive social development, nurture harmonious relationships

among community members, and preserve solidarity and social cohesion. Effective social leadership promotes cooperation and collaboration among individuals and groups, ensuring that development efforts address not only physical or material aspects but also the strengthening of moral, spiritual, and social values (Helmi & Sofa, 2024). Through such leadership, men contribute to the creation of a balanced, just, and civilized society in which material progress and humanitarian values advance in tandem.

Accordingly, men's roles as social leaders emphasize that leadership is not about domination or the exercise of power, but rather a responsibility encompassing moral, ethical, and social dimensions that must be carried out with integrity, wisdom, and full awareness (Ahmad et al., 2023). Leadership grounded in justice, communal benefit, and social protection plays a vital role in fostering a harmonious, civilized, and sustainable Islamic society. This conception aligns with Quranic and Prophetic teachings on the role of *khalifah*, wherein leaders are entrusted with safeguarding communal welfare, upholding justice, and maintaining long-term social harmony (Ruhullah & Ushama, 2024).

Men's Roles as Community Leaders

In social and political spheres, men occupy important positions as leaders who are required to act justly and responsibly. This leadership role is not merely formal or administrative but carries significant moral dimensions, as leaders exert direct influence over social welfare, order, and harmony (Mubarok, 2023). In Islamic teachings, leadership is not simply a matter of status or authority but a trust (*amanah*) that obliges leaders to serve, protect, and guide the community with justice, integrity, and a deep sense of responsibility toward society (Simamora et al., 2024).

One of the primary responsibilities of men as leaders is to govern with justice and wisdom (Lestari et al., 2021). Whether in governmental contexts or social organizations, leaders are expected to prioritize the interests of the community and make decisions grounded in principles of fairness (Sufyan & Manihuruk, 2024). Just leadership extends beyond the enforcement of regulations to include an understanding of societal needs, objectivity in decision-making, and the avoidance of policies that may disadvantage any group (Azhari et al., 2024). Leadership exercised with wisdom fosters a sense of respect, protection, and service among community members, thereby creating a stable and harmonious social environment.

Beyond general leadership responsibilities, men are also entrusted with upholding the rule of law and maintaining moral standards within society (Egitim, 2023). In Islamic contexts, this entails ensuring the consistent application of Islamic law and encouraging communities to live in accordance with Islamic values (Hady, 2025). Leaders are expected to uphold honesty, trustworthiness, and social virtue, thereby cultivating a safe, dignified, and harmonious environment (Putri et al., 2024). Fair and firm enforcement of law and morality also serves as a concrete example for society, reinforcing the importance of discipline, integrity, and ethical conduct in everyday life (Hady, 2025).

Furthermore, men in leadership positions bear responsibility for empowering society as a whole. Effective leadership extends beyond governance and regulation to actively promoting social progress and development (Syakhrani, 2024). Empowerment may be realized through equitable access to quality education, adequate healthcare services, and fair employment opportunities, all in accordance with Islamic principles (Fitria, 2025). Through such empowerment, communities can achieve greater self-reliance, improve their quality of life, and contribute positively to their surroundings (Lutfiyah, 2025).

Ultimately, men who occupy leadership positions are expected to serve as role models for the entire community. Effective and meaningful leadership is measured not only by policies or decisions, but also by the leader's moral conduct, behavior,

and integrity (Lailiya & Fitriatin, 2025). Leaders who demonstrate honesty, justice, and wisdom inspire public trust and motivate future generations to embody ethical values in their daily lives (Ilmi et al., 2025). Thus, men's roles as leaders are not merely about authority or control, but represent a profound moral, ethical, and social responsibility that demands exemplary conduct and a sustained commitment to the collective welfare of society (Az-Zahra et al., 2025; Okenova et al., 2025).

CONCLUSION

The findings of this study reveal that men in Islamic society hold highly significant and multidimensional roles, encompassing their responsibilities as husbands, fathers, and social leaders. In their role as husbands, men are responsible for providing financial support, protecting the family, and offering emotional and spiritual guidance. As fathers, they also bear responsibility for moral education, child-rearing, and serving as role models of good character for their children. Meanwhile, in the social and political spheres, men are expected to uphold justice, empower the community, enforce the law and moral values, and act as exemplars for society. Collectively, these findings affirm that the roles of men are not merely formal or structural in nature, but constitute a trust (*amanah*) with profound moral and social dimensions that directly influence family well-being and the creation of a harmonious and civilized society.

Based on these findings, future research should place greater emphasis on the real challenges faced by men in fulfilling their roles in the modern era, including the impacts of social, economic, and cultural change. Subsequent studies may examine and formulate concrete strategies to assist men in balancing their responsibilities between family and society in accordance with Islamic principles. The results of this study also underscore the importance of educational and developmental efforts aimed at strengthening men's roles, both within the family and in the wider community, so that they are able to carry out their responsibilities optimally. In this way, men can not only enhance family welfare but also serve as agents of change in fostering a just, harmonious, and civilized society.

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