



**PORNOGRAPHY, FAMILY VULNERABILITY, AND *HIFZ AL-NASL*: A
MAQASID AL-SHARI'AH SYNTHESIS**

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Abstract

Digital access to pornography has intensified concerns about adolescent sexual behavior, aggression, caregiving, and broader family vulnerability. This study examines how these empirically documented vulnerabilities may be interpreted through *hifz al-nasl* within the framework of *maqāsid al-sharī'ah*. Using a qualitative conceptual literature synthesis, seven purposively selected empirical sources on pornography exposure and problematic use, sexual behavior and violence, postpartum bonding following sexual violence, and intergenerational neglect and victimization were analyzed alongside classical and contemporary *maqāsid* scholarship. The synthesis identifies three empirical domains: pornography-related behavioral and sexual vulnerabilities, reproductive and caregiving adversity associated with sexual violence, and intergenerational neglect and victimization. The evidence does not establish a linear causal pathway from pornography exposure to family dysfunction, and findings concerning pornography and aggression remain heterogeneous. Rather, the reviewed studies identify distinct but potentially intersecting vulnerabilities that may compromise caregiving and family protection. Interpreted normatively, these findings support an expanded understanding of *hifz al-nasl* that extends beyond lineage preservation to include child welfare, dignity, caregiving conditions, and social protection. The study contributes by integrating empirical psychosocial evidence with Islamic normative reasoning while preserving their distinct epistemological functions. This framework highlights pornography literacy, sexuality education, trauma-informed maternal support, protection from stigma, and intergenerational family support as potential areas for prevention and intervention that require further empirical evaluation.

Keywords: *Pornography; Family Vulnerability; Sexual Violence; Intergenerational Adversity; Maqāsid Al-Sharī'ah; Hifz Al-Nasl*

A. Introduction

Digital connectivity has fundamentally transformed access to sexually explicit material. Pornography, once constrained by physical modes of distribution, is now readily accessible through smartphones and other internet-enabled devices. Studies conducted in different national contexts indicate that first exposure frequently occurs before adulthood, often during early to mid-adolescence (Erdős et al., 2025; Harper & Hodgins, 2016). This development has generated sustained scholarly attention to patterns of pornography use and their behavioral and psychosocial correlates, particularly whether early and frequent

exposure is associated with problematic use and subsequent sexual behavior (Erdős et al., 2025; Harper & Hodgins, 2016).

Evidence concerning pornography exposure and adolescent sexual behavior remains complex. A systematic review of nineteen studies across thirteen countries found a comparatively consistent association between pornography exposure and earlier sexual debut, whereas evidence concerning condomless sex, multiple sexual partners, and forced or coercive sex was less consistent (Pathmendra et al., 2023). Broader evidence similarly associates exposure to sexual content with problematic sexual behaviors among children and adolescents, particularly where violent or live sexual content is involved (Mori et al., 2023). Longitudinal research has also identified reciprocal associations between pornography viewing and sexual harassment perpetration and some prospective associations with sexual assault perpetration (Waterman et al., 2022). However, meta-analytic evidence found no clear association between nonviolent pornography and sexual aggression and only weak associations involving violent pornography, with causal direction remaining unresolved (Ferguson & Hartley, 2022). Cross-sectional evidence from Mexico likewise associates problematic pornography use with several dimensions of violence, anger, and hostility (Rueda-Bello et al., 2023). Indonesian research provides relevant contextual evidence: pornography exposure and problematic use have been associated with risky sexual behavior among adolescents, while parental roles, religiosity, media exposure, and educational environments also appear relevant (Yunengsih & Setiawan, 2021; Wijayanti et al., 2020; Idawati et al., 2023). Together, these findings locate pornography exposure within broader behavioral, familial, educational, and social contexts rather than supporting a simple causal explanation of sexual aggression.

The concerns examined here also extend to sexual violence, reproductive vulnerability, and caregiving. Childhood sexual violence is a documented child-protection problem in Indonesia, although the available evidence remains uneven across populations and settings (Rumble et al., 2020). In Aceh, research has documented legal, institutional, familial, and religious dimensions of responses to sexual violence against women and children (Febriandi et al., 2021; Nashriyah et al., 2021; Salami et al., 2020). Within this broader context, Istasyafitri et al. (2024) reported the postpartum bonding experience of a woman who became pregnant following rape, illustrating how trauma, family rejection, social stigma, and economic hardship may complicate maternal-infant bonding and caregiving decisions. The evidentiary value of this single case is necessarily limited, but broader research supports the relevance of trauma to early caregiving relationships. Childbirth-related post-traumatic stress symptoms have been associated with poorer mother-infant bonding (Prado & Camprecios, 2026), while intimate partner violence has been associated with less secure child attachment (Noonan & Pilkington, 2020).

Caregiving vulnerability also has an intergenerational dimension. Sari et al. (2024), using a three-generation Norwegian cohort, found that parental neglect was associated with depression in adult grandchildren and identified an indirect pathway involving maternal grandparental neglect through subsequent parental neglect. Robboy

and Anderson (2011) likewise found higher poly-victimization among adolescent female survivors of child sexual abuse whose mothers had histories of childhood sexual abuse. Indonesian evidence does not establish an equivalent three-generation mechanism, but nationally representative research shows that child neglect is embedded in individual and household conditions, including socioeconomic disadvantage, parental characteristics, and household composition (Berliana et al., 2019). Although these studies examine different forms of adversity and cannot establish a uniform intergenerational mechanism, they indicate that family histories of abuse, neglect, and caregiving difficulties may have consequences extending beyond a single generation.

These empirical concerns intersect with a longstanding normative concern in Islamic legal and ethical thought: the protection of family continuity and progeny. Within *maqāṣid al-sharī'ah*, *ḥifẓ al-nasl* is conventionally recognized among the essential objectives of Islamic law alongside the protection of religion, life, intellect, and property (Ibn Ashur, 2006; Kamali, 2008). Contemporary *maqāṣid* approaches have emphasized multidimensional and purpose-oriented interpretations that connect legal norms with broader considerations of welfare and human well-being (Auda, 2008). In Indonesian scholarship, this orientation is reflected in discussions of children's lineage, legal identity, welfare, dignity, and protection from discrimination (Zakyyah, 2016; Hafis et al., 2026; Nurjanah et al., 2025; Thariq et al., 2026), as well as in attempts to apply *maqāṣid* to institutional child-protection governance (Marluwi et al., 2025).

The empirical and normative literatures therefore address related dimensions of family protection but operate within different disciplinary and epistemological frameworks. Research on pornography exposure, sexual behavior and aggression, maternal bonding, and intergenerational neglect primarily identifies psychosocial associations and vulnerabilities, whereas *maqāṣid al-sharī'ah* provides an ethical and legal framework for evaluating threats to family welfare. Rather than construing these bodies of evidence as a single causal sequence, this study brings them into conceptual dialogue. It examines how pornography-related behavioral vulnerabilities, reproductive and maternal adversity associated with sexual violence, and intergenerational caregiving problems may be interpreted through an expanded understanding of *ḥifẓ al-nasl*. Its principal contribution lies in positioning *ḥifẓ al-nasl* as an integrative normative framework for connecting these otherwise separately discussed dimensions of family vulnerability and identifying potential points of prevention and support.

B. Methods

This study employed a qualitative conceptual literature synthesis to integrate empirical evidence on pornography-related behavioral vulnerabilities, sexual and reproductive adversity, maternal caregiving, and intergenerational family vulnerability with the normative framework of *maqāṣid al-sharī'ah*, particularly *ḥifẓ al-nasl*. The study was designed as a conceptual rather than systematic review because its primary purpose was interpretive integration rather than exhaustive retrieval or quantitative synthesis of

the available literature. Seven empirical sources were purposively included on the basis of their direct relevance to the domains examined in the conceptual synthesis.

These comprised a systematic review of pornography exposure and adolescent sexual behavior (Pathmendra et al., 2023); two cross-sectional studies examining problematic pornography use and its behavioral or psychosocial correlates (Erdős et al., 2025; Harper & Hodgins, 2016); a cross-sectional study examining associations between problematic pornography use and dimensions of youth violence (Rueda-Bello et al., 2023); a clinical case report of postpartum bonding following pregnancy resulting from sexual violence (Istasyafitri et al., 2024); a three-generation cohort study of grandparental and parental neglect and adult grandchildren's mental health (Sarı et al., 2024); and a study of intergenerational child sexual abuse, poly-victimization, and coping among adolescent female survivors (Robboy & Anderson, 2011).

The empirical literature was interpreted alongside normative works on *maqāṣid al-sharī'ah*. Ibn Ashur (2006) and Kamali (2008) were used to establish the broader conceptual position of *ḥifẓ al-nasl* within the essential objectives of Islamic law, while Hafis et al. (2026) provided a contemporary Indonesian discussion of *ḥifẓ al-nasl* in relation to the welfare and legal position of children born outside marriage. Analysis proceeded through thematic-conceptual mapping. Rather than treating the included studies as evidence of a single causal sequence, findings were organized into four related analytical domains: (1) pornography exposure and problematic behavioral or sexual outcomes; (2) sexual violence, reproductive vulnerability, and maternal caregiving; (3) neglect, victimization, and intergenerational family vulnerability; and (4) the normative implications of these vulnerabilities for an expanded understanding of *ḥifẓ al-nasl*. Findings within each domain were first examined according to what the original studies directly reported and were subsequently brought into conceptual dialogue with the normative literature. Particular attention was given to distinctions between association and causation, differences in study design and population, and the evidentiary limits of individual studies, especially cross-sectional research and the single clinical case report.

C. Results and Discussion

1. Results

The findings are organized according to the four analytical domains established in the conceptual synthesis: (1) pornography exposure and problematic behavioral or sexual outcomes; (2) sexual violence, reproductive vulnerability, and maternal caregiving; (3) neglect, victimization, and intergenerational family vulnerability; and (4) the normative framework of *maqāṣid al-sharī'ah* and *ḥifẓ al-nasl*.

1) Pornography Exposure and Problematic Behavioral or Sexual Outcomes

Evidence from the included studies indicates that pornography exposure is associated with several patterns of problematic use and sexual behavior, although the strength and consistency of these associations vary across outcomes. In a cross-sectional study of young adults, Erdős et al. (2025) identified a clinically meaningful minority

whose pornography use met the study's criteria for pornography-watching disorder. Daily use, earlier age of first exposure, male sex, paraphilic interests, dissatisfaction with sexual life, difficulty forming personal relationships, and stronger adherence to religious norms were associated with higher risk, whereas adequate sexual education and residence in the capital city were identified as protective factors.

Harper and Hodgins (2016), in a study of 191 Canadian university students, similarly found that problematic pornography use was more closely associated with psychosocial difficulties than frequency of use alone. The relationship between frequency of internet pornography use and addictive-use scores was curvilinear: scores remained relatively stable at moderate levels of use but increased among daily users. Higher addictive-use scores were associated with greater general distress and lower life and relationship satisfaction. Earlier age of first exposure was also associated with more frequent and more problematic subsequent use, while a longer period of exposure was associated with greater frequency of pornography consumption.

Evidence concerning adolescent sexual behavior was more heterogeneous. Pathmendra et al. (2023), in a systematic review of nineteen studies across thirteen countries involving adolescents aged 10–19 years, reported that five of eight studies examining early sexual debut found a statistically significant positive association between pornography exposure and first sexual intercourse before the age of 16. Evidence for other sexual outcomes, however, was less consistent. For forced or coercive penetrative sex, two of three cross-sectional studies reported significant positive associations among male adolescents, including adjusted odds ratios of 3.34 in a United States sample and 2.46 in a five-country European sample. The review nevertheless emphasized that evidence concerning coercive sexual behavior remained limited and that violent pornographic content appeared more relevant than pornography exposure in general.

Consistent with this need for caution, Rueda-Bello et al. (2023) reported cross-sectional associations between problematic pornography use and several dimensions of violence among 1,399 young people aged 12–25 years in Veracruz, Mexico. Pornography addiction, as defined in that study, was identified in 35.3% of participants and was associated with moderate-or-higher physical violence (OR = 1.4), verbal violence (OR = 1.3), general violence (OR = 1.3), anger (OR = 1.3), hostility (OR = 1.4), and severe physical violence (OR = 1.3), with all reported associations reaching $p < .05$. These findings demonstrate associations between problematic pornography use and violent or aggressive outcomes within the sampled population but do not establish a causal effect of pornography exposure on violence.

2) Sexual Violence, Reproductive Vulnerability, and Maternal Caregiving

Evidence concerning reproductive and caregiving vulnerability in the corpus is primarily represented by the clinical case reported by Istasyafitri et al. (2024). The study documented a 37-year-old postpartum woman who became pregnant following rape by an unknown assailant. Maternal-infant bonding was assessed using the Postpartum Bonding Questionnaire. The mother's score improved from 36, indicating poor bonding,

on the first postpartum day to 14, indicating good bonding, by the sixth day following continued rooming-in, nursing support, and improvement in the infant's health.

Despite this improvement, the case documented several continuing psychosocial and economic difficulties. The mother concealed the birth from her parents, initially declined breastfeeding, experienced rejection from her family after disclosure, and expressed an intention to relinquish the infant to state social services because of economic hardship and responsibility for two children from a previous marriage (Istasyafitri et al., 2024). The case therefore illustrates the simultaneous relevance of trauma, family support, economic conditions, and health-care intervention to postpartum bonding and caregiving decisions. As a single case report, however, it does not establish the prevalence of bonding difficulties or caregiving disruption among women who become pregnant following sexual violence.

3) Neglect, Victimization, and Intergenerational Family Vulnerability

Evidence of intergenerational vulnerability was identified in studies examining neglect and victimization across generations. Sari et al. (2024), using data from 1,361 participants in the three-generation Tromsø7 Study in Norway, found that parental neglect in the second generation was significantly associated with depression in adult grandchildren. The estimated association was significant in both ordinary least squares analysis ($\beta = 0.202, p < .01$) and probit analysis (marginal effect = 0.204, $p < .01$).

Grandparental neglect alone was not significantly associated with depression in the third generation. However, the interaction between maternal grandparental neglect and parental neglect was statistically significant ($\beta = 0.379, p < .05$), whereas the equivalent paternal interaction was not. Structural equation modeling also indicated an indirect association between maternal grandparental neglect and depression in adult grandchildren through parental neglect (indirect effect = 0.032, $p < .10$), while the direct association between parental neglect and third-generation depression was stronger ($\beta = 0.263, p < .01$) (Sari et al., 2024). These results indicate an intergenerational association involving maternal grandparental neglect within this particular cohort, rather than a universal maternal transmission mechanism.

Related evidence was reported by Robboy and Anderson (2011) in a study of 139 adolescent female survivors of child sexual abuse. Participants whose mothers also had histories of childhood sexual abuse experienced significantly higher levels of poly-victimization than those whose mothers did not report such histories. However, maladaptive coping behaviors did not significantly differ between the groups. The findings therefore support an intergenerational association in victimization risk within the study population while also demonstrating that not all proposed psychosocial mechanisms differed across generations.

Taken together, these studies show that neglect and victimization may extend beyond a single generation, although the forms of adversity, populations, and outcomes examined differ substantially. The evidence does not establish one uniform mechanism

of intergenerational family dysfunction but identifies family histories of neglect and abuse as relevant contexts for subsequent mental-health and victimization outcomes.

4) *Maqāṣid al-Sharī'ah and Ḥifẓ al-Nasl*

The normative literature identifies *ḥifẓ al-nasl*, or the protection of progeny and lineage, as one of the essential objectives traditionally associated with the *maqāṣid al-sharī'ah*, alongside the protection of religion, life, intellect, and property (Ibn Ashur, 2006; Kamali, 2008). Within this framework, protection of progeny concerns the preservation of family continuity and the regulation of social and legal conditions affecting lineage and family life.

In the contemporary Indonesian context, Hafis et al. (2026) examine the legal position of children born outside marriage and argue that a narrow emphasis on lineage regulation may produce consequences for children who bear no responsibility for the circumstances of their conception. Drawing on Indonesian Constitutional Court Decision No. 46/PUU-VIII/2010, they argue for an interpretation of *ḥifẓ al-nasl* that also encompasses children's civil relationship with their biological fathers, identity, maintenance, welfare, and social protection. Their analysis further connects *ḥifẓ al-nasl* with *ḥifẓ al-'ird*, or the protection of honor and dignity, particularly in relation to discrimination against children born outside marriage.

These normative findings provide the conceptual basis for examining whether the empirical vulnerabilities identified in the preceding domains—problematic pornography use and sexual behavior, violence-related reproductive and caregiving adversity, and intergenerational neglect and victimization—can be interpreted within a broader family-protection orientation of *ḥifẓ al-nasl*. The nature and limits of this conceptual integration are addressed in the discussion.

2. Discussion

The findings of this synthesis suggest that pornography-related behavioral vulnerabilities, violence-related reproductive and caregiving adversity, and intergenerational neglect or victimization represent distinct but potentially intersecting challenges to family protection. Their significance does not lie in demonstrating a linear progression from pornography exposure to family dysfunction, because the available studies do not establish such a pathway. Rather, the findings identify several points at which individual behavior, interpersonal violence, caregiving conditions, and intergenerational adversity may compromise the capacity of families to provide protection, care, and continuity. Read through *ḥifẓ al-nasl*, these domains broaden the question from whether lineage is formally preserved to whether the social and relational conditions necessary for the welfare of children and families are also protected.

The first implication concerns the interpretation of pornography exposure itself. The findings do not support treating pornography as a uniform or sufficient cause of sexual aggression. Pathmendra et al. (2023) reported a comparatively consistent association with earlier sexual debut, but evidence for other sexual outcomes was

heterogeneous. This distinction is reinforced by broader evidence. Mori et al. (2023) found associations between exposure to sexual content and problematic sexual behaviors among children and adolescents, with stronger associations for violent or live sexual content, while Waterman et al. (2022) identified reciprocal longitudinal associations between pornography viewing and sexual harassment perpetration and some prospective associations with sexual assault perpetration. However, Ferguson and Hartley (2022) reached a more cautious conclusion: their meta-analysis found little evidence linking nonviolent pornography to sexual aggression and only weak associations involving violent pornography, with causal direction remaining unresolved. The apparent tension between these findings is theoretically important. It suggests that associations between pornography exposure and harmful behavioral outcomes may vary according to content type, frequency, developmental stage, prior behavioral dispositions, and broader psychosocial contexts. The relevant question for family protection is therefore not simply whether pornography is harmful, but under what conditions particular patterns of exposure become associated with harmful behavioral outcomes.

This qualification also changes how a *maqāṣid*-informed response should be formulated. A framework centered exclusively on prohibition risks reducing a multidimensional behavioral issue to moral compliance, whereas the empirical evidence points to differentiated vulnerabilities. Erdős et al. (2025), for example, identified early exposure, daily use, dissatisfaction with sexual life, relational difficulties, and paraphilic interests among the factors associated with pornography-watching disorder, while adequate sexual education was associated with lower risk. The same study reported a positive association between stronger adherence to religious norms and pornography-watching disorder. This finding should not be generalized beyond the population studied, nor does it demonstrate that religiosity increases problematic pornography use. It nevertheless cautions against assuming that normative commitment alone necessarily prevents problematic behavior. Within *ḥifẓ al-nasl*, prevention may therefore be more coherent when moral guidance is accompanied by age-appropriate sexuality education, pornography and media literacy, relational competence, and non-stigmatizing access to psychosocial support. This preventive orientation also finds contextual support in Indonesian research, where pornography exposure, parental involvement, religiosity, media exposure, and access to social or educational guidance have been associated with adolescent sexual behavior (Yunengsih & Setiawan, 2021; Wijayanti et al., 2020; Idawati et al., 2023). These findings do not establish the effectiveness of any single preventive intervention, but they reinforce the need to address adolescent vulnerability within interconnected family, educational, and digital environments. Such an approach does not displace the normative function of Islamic ethics; rather, it translates the protective purpose of the norm into preventive capacities relevant to contemporary digital environments.

The second implication concerns the transition from behavioral risk to questions of reproductive and caregiving vulnerability. The case reported by Istasyafitri et al. (2024) demonstrates how pregnancy resulting from sexual violence may place maternal bonding

within a complex configuration of trauma, family rejection, economic hardship, and limited social support. Its value for the present synthesis is illustrative rather than epidemiological: one case cannot establish that women who experience such pregnancies generally develop impaired bonding or neglect their children. Broader evidence nonetheless indicates that trauma-related psychological distress can affect early caregiving relationships. Prado and Camprecios (2026) found a consistent association between childbirth-related post-traumatic stress symptoms and poorer mother-infant bonding across most studies included in their systematic review, while Noonan and Pilkington (2020) found an overall association between intimate partner violence and less secure child attachment. These findings suggest that caregiving vulnerability should not be interpreted primarily as maternal failure. It is more appropriately understood as an outcome that may be shaped by trauma, psychological distress, family relations, socioeconomic constraints, and the availability of institutional support. Evidence from Aceh reinforces the importance of these surrounding support structures. Studies have documented the role of parental religious support, government and service institutions, legal and psychosocial assistance, and culturally grounded religious approaches in responses to sexual violence and trauma (Salami et al., 2020; Nashriyah et al., 2021; Juanda et al., 2023; Husna & Fitri, 2023). These studies differ in design and population, but collectively illustrate that recovery and protection extend beyond the individual victim to family, institutional, legal, and community environments.

This distinction has particular importance for the interpretation of *ḥifẓ al-nasl*. If the protection of progeny is understood only through regulation of lawful sexual relations and certainty of lineage, it offers only a partial response once a child has already been conceived or born under adverse circumstances. Hafis et al. (2026) address this limitation by arguing that children born outside marriage should not bear legal and social disadvantages arising from circumstances for which they are not responsible, and by relating *ḥifẓ al-nasl* to substantive rights involving identity, maintenance, welfare, and protection from discrimination. The empirical evidence considered here extends the relevance of that argument from legal status to caregiving conditions. A child-centered interpretation of *ḥifẓ al-nasl* therefore requires attention not only to the preservation of lineage but also to the conditions under which children receive legal identity, dignity, secure care, and social protection (Zakyyah, 2016; Nurjanah et al., 2025; Thariq et al., 2026). Accordingly, the argument advanced here is an interpretive extension of *ḥifẓ al-nasl*, rather than a historical claim that classical jurisprudence articulated a contemporary psychosocial theory of child welfare.

The intergenerational evidence further strengthens the case for viewing family protection as an ongoing rather than one-time responsibility. Sarı et al. (2024) found that parental neglect was associated with depression in adult grandchildren and that maternal grandparental neglect showed an indirect association through subsequent parental neglect in the cohort examined. Robboy and Anderson (2011), working with a different population and form of adversity, reported higher poly-victimization among adolescent survivors whose mothers also had histories of childhood sexual abuse. The maternal

pathways observed in these studies are specific to their respective populations and do not establish maternal transmission as a universal pattern of intergenerational adversity. Rather, the findings indicate that parental histories and caregiving environments can constitute important contexts through which vulnerability persists across generations. Intergenerational vulnerability must therefore be understood within broader family, social, economic, and institutional conditions rather than attributed disproportionately to mothers.

From a *maqāṣid al-sharī'ah* perspective, this intergenerational dimension gives *ḥifẓ al-nasl* a temporal as well as genealogical significance. Ibn Ashur (2006) and Kamali (2008) locate the protection of progeny among the essential interests served by Islamic law. In contemporary application, protecting progeny can therefore be interpreted not merely as ensuring identifiable lineage but also as preventing conditions that undermine the capacity of one generation to care adequately for the next. The evidence reviewed here supports such an extension only at the level of conceptual plausibility; it does not demonstrate that pornography exposure itself produces intergenerational neglect. What it does show is that different domains of risk—problematic sexual behavior, violence and trauma, disrupted caregiving, and histories of neglect—can each become relevant to the broader objective of preserving family welfare across generations. This distinction is central to the contribution of the present study.

The synthesis consequently suggests a layered rather than sequential approach to prevention. At the level of early prevention, pornography and media literacy, age-appropriate sexuality education, and attention to problematic patterns of use may help address behavioral vulnerabilities without assuming that all exposure produces the same outcomes. At the level of reproductive and caregiving support, trauma-informed psychosocial services, maternal health support, economic assistance, and protection from stigma become particularly relevant where pregnancy or parenting occurs under conditions of sexual violence or severe social adversity. At the intergenerational level, families with histories of abuse or neglect may require sustained psychosocial assessment and family-based intervention rather than responses limited to a single generation. These levels should not be treated as direct equivalents of the classical hierarchy of *al-ḍarūriyyāt*, *al-ḥājjiyyāt*, and *al-taḥsīniyyāt*, because the present evidence does not establish such a mapping. They are better understood as practical intervention points derived from the empirical domains examined and normatively oriented toward the protective purpose of *ḥifẓ al-nasl*.

The theoretical contribution of this synthesis therefore lies less in establishing a new causal model than in repositioning *ḥifẓ al-nasl* as an integrative framework through which several contemporary threats to family welfare can be evaluated together. Such an integrative use of *maqāṣid* is consistent with systems-oriented approaches that emphasize wholeness, multidimensionality, and purposefulness in interpreting the objectives of Islamic law (Auda, 2008), as well as with recent Indonesian attempts to employ *maqāṣid* as a substantive framework for child-protection governance (Marluwi et al., 2025). Empirical psychosocial research describes associations, vulnerabilities, and possible

mechanisms, whereas *maqāṣid al-sharī'ah* provides a normative rationale for determining why these vulnerabilities matter and what forms of welfare warrant protection. The two forms of knowledge are complementary but not interchangeable. Empirical associations cannot by themselves establish Islamic normative judgments, just as normative principles cannot establish empirical causation. Their productive intersection lies in using empirical knowledge to clarify contemporary forms of harm while using *maqāṣid* reasoning to articulate the ethical significance of preventing those harms.

D. Conclusion

This study brings empirical research on pornography-related behavioral vulnerabilities, violence-related reproductive and caregiving adversity, and intergenerational neglect or victimization into conceptual dialogue with the *maqāṣid al-sharī'ah* principle of *ḥifẓ al-nasl*. The reviewed evidence does not establish a linear causal pathway from pornography exposure to intergenerational family dysfunction. Rather, it identifies several distinct domains in which behavioral risk, violence and trauma, caregiving difficulties, and histories of neglect may compromise family welfare and the protection of children. Interpreted through *ḥifẓ al-nasl*, these findings support a broader family-protection perspective in which preservation of progeny extends beyond the regulation and certainty of lineage to include the welfare, dignity, caregiving conditions, and social protection of children and families. The principal contribution of this study therefore lies not in proposing a new causal model, but in demonstrating how empirical psychosocial evidence and Islamic normative reasoning can be integrated without conflating their different epistemological functions.

This interpretation has practical implications for prevention and family support. A *ḥifẓ al-nasl*-oriented response may encompass age-appropriate pornography and media literacy, sexuality education, trauma-informed psychosocial and maternal support, protection from stigma, and sustained assistance for families affected by intergenerational abuse or neglect. These implications should nevertheless be treated as conceptually grounded rather than empirically validated interventions. The synthesis is limited by the heterogeneity of the core empirical studies, many of which were conducted outside Indonesia and Muslim-majority settings, contested findings regarding pornography and aggression, and the limited empirical base for some domains, particularly maternal caregiving following sexual violence. Future research should therefore examine these domains directly in Indonesian and Muslim-majority contexts using longitudinal, mixed-method, or other appropriately designed empirical studies and should evaluate whether an expanded *ḥifẓ al-nasl* framework can meaningfully inform measurable family- and child-protection interventions.

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