

## The Need for Sexual Education in the Contemporary Era: An Islamic Perspective

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**Abstract:** This research study examines the growing need for sexual education in the modern era and its significance in the light of Islamic teachings. Rapid social, cultural and technological changes have exposed young people to various sources of information, many of which are inaccurate and misleading. Consequently, misconceptions about sexuality often lead to confusion, risky behavior and moral challenges. The study emphasizes that sexual education is not limited to biological awareness; rather, it includes psychological, social, ethical and spiritual dimensions. From an Islamic perspective, sexual education is an essential part of human development. The Qur'an and Sunnah provide guidance regarding modesty, privacy, gender interaction and moral responsibility, promoting dignity, self-discipline and respect. The research argues that combining Islamic principles with modern scientific knowledge can establish a balanced and effective model of sexual education. It also highlights the role of parents, educational institutions, religious scholars, and media in promoting responsible and value-based awareness. The study concludes that a balanced integration of contemporary knowledge and Islamic values is necessary for developing informed, responsible, and ethically conscious individuals.

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## 1. Introduction

Sexual education has become an important topic in the contemporary era due to rapid social, cultural, and technological changes. Young people today are exposed to a wide range of information through the internet, social media, and peer interactions, which often provide incomplete or misleading knowledge about sexuality. This situation creates confusion, misconceptions, and sometimes harmful behaviors among youth. Therefore, there is a strong need for structured and value-based sexual education that not only provides accurate knowledge but also promotes ethical responsibility.<sup>1</sup> In many societies, sexual education is either ignored or considered a sensitive issue, which leads to a lack of proper guidance for young individuals. As a result, they may rely on unreliable sources, which increases the risk of moral and social problems.

From an Islamic perspective, education is not limited to religious rituals but includes all aspects of human life, including personal behavior and social interactions. Islam provides comprehensive guidance on modesty, relationships, and moral conduct, which can serve as a strong foundation for sexual education.<sup>2</sup> The teachings of the Qur'an and the Sunnah emphasize dignity, respect, and responsibility in human relationships. Therefore, integrating Islamic principles into sexual education can help young people understand their roles and responsibilities in a morally sound way. This research study aims to explore the need for sexual education in the contemporary era and analyze how Islamic guidance can contribute to developing a balanced and ethical approach.

## 2. Concept of Sexual Education

Sexual education refers to the process of acquiring knowledge about human body, relationships, emotions, and ethical boundaries related to sexuality. It is not limited to biological aspects but also includes psychological, social, and moral dimensions. In modern education systems, sexual education is often

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<sup>1</sup> World Health Organization, *International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education* (Paris: UNESCO, 2018), 12.

<sup>2</sup> Abdullah Yusuf Ali, *The Holy Qur'an: Translation and Commentary* (Lahore: Sh. Muhammad Ashraf, 1934), 24.

presented as a scientific subject, focusing mainly on physical development and health issues. However, such an approach may ignore the moral and spiritual aspects, which are equally important for the overall development of individuals.<sup>3</sup> Without proper ethical guidance, knowledge alone may not lead to responsible behavior, and this creates a gap between information and practice.

Islam offers a holistic concept of sexual education that combines knowledge with morality. The Qur'an and Hadith provide clear instructions about modesty (ḥayā'), gender interaction, and family life. For example, the Qur'an instructs believers to lower their gaze and guard their modesty, which is a fundamental principle of sexual ethics.<sup>4</sup> This teaching not only prevents immoral behavior but also promotes self-discipline and respect for others. In addition, Islamic teachings encourage parents to educate their children about privacy, boundaries, and appropriate behavior from an early age. Therefore, sexual education in Islam is not a separate subject but an integrated part of moral and social upbringing.

### 3. Importance of Sexual Education for Youth

The importance of sexual education for youth cannot be ignored in the modern world. Adolescence is a critical stage of life where individuals experience physical, emotional, and psychological changes. During this period, young people develop curiosity about their bodies and relationships, which requires proper guidance. Without accurate information, they may develop misconceptions that can lead to risky behaviors and emotional distress.<sup>5</sup> Sexual education helps them understand these changes in a healthy and respectful way, which contributes to their overall well-being.

Moreover, sexual education plays a vital role in preventing social problems such as harassment, abuse, and exploitation. When young people are aware of their rights and responsibilities, they are more likely to make informed decisions and

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<sup>3</sup> Jeffrey Weeks, *Sexuality* (London: Routledge, 2010), 45.

<sup>4</sup> Al-Qur'an, 24:30–31 .

<sup>5</sup> John Santrock, *Adolescence* (New York: McGraw-Hill, 2016), 112.

avoid harmful situations. From an Islamic perspective, protecting human dignity and preventing harm are essential objectives of the Sharī'ah.<sup>6</sup> Therefore, providing appropriate sexual education is not only a social necessity but also a religious responsibility. It enables young individuals to live a balanced life, guided by both knowledge and ethical values.

#### **4. Challenges in the Contemporary Era**

In the contemporary era, one of the major challenges related to sexual education is the uncontrolled spread of information through digital media. Young people today have easy access to the internet, where they encounter various types of content, including inappropriate and misleading material. This exposure often shapes their understanding of sexuality in a negative way, as much of the content available online lacks moral and educational value.<sup>7</sup>

Without proper guidance, youth may adopt unhealthy attitudes and behaviors which can affect their personal and social lives. Moreover, peer pressure and societal changes further complicate the situation, making it difficult for young individuals to distinguish between right and wrong. Another challenge is the cultural hesitation in discussing sexual education openly. In many societies, including Muslim communities, this topic is considered taboo, which prevents parents and educators from addressing it effectively.<sup>8</sup>

As a result, young people are left to explore these issues on their own, often relying on unreliable sources. This lack of communication creates a gap between generations and weakens the role of family as a primary source of guidance. From an Islamic perspective, avoiding necessary education due to cultural discomfort can lead to greater harm. Therefore, it is essential to address these challenges by promoting a balanced approach that combines modern knowledge with Islamic values.

#### **5. Role of Parents in Sexual Education**

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<sup>6</sup> Jasser Auda, *Maqasid al-Shariah as Philosophy of Islamic Law* (London: IIIT, 2008), 56.

<sup>7</sup> UNESCO, *International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education* (Paris: UNESCO, 2018), 18.

<sup>8</sup> Aisha Hamdan, "Sexuality in Islam," *Journal of Muslim Mental Health* 2, no. 1 (2007): 45.

Parents play a central role in providing sexual education to their children, especially in the early stages of development. They are the first source of knowledge and guidance, and their approach significantly influences the attitudes and behavior of their children. In the contemporary era, it is important for parents to develop open and honest communication with their children regarding sensitive topics, including sexuality.<sup>9</sup> When children feel comfortable discussing their questions and concerns, they are less likely to seek information from unreliable sources. However, many parents lack the knowledge or confidence to address these issues, which creates a gap in the educational process.

Islam places great emphasis on the responsibility of parents in the moral and social upbringing of their children. The teachings of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) highlight the importance of guiding children according to their age and level of understanding.<sup>10</sup> For example, children are taught about modesty, privacy, and appropriate behavior from an early age. These teachings form the foundation of sexual education in Islam. By adopting an Islamic approach, parents can provide age-appropriate guidance that is both informative and morally sound. Therefore, strengthening the role of parents is essential for effective sexual education in the modern world.

## **6. Role of Educational Institutions**

Educational institutions also play a significant role in shaping the knowledge and attitudes of young people regarding sexual education. Schools and colleges provide a structured environment where students can learn about various aspects of life, including health and relationships. In many countries, sexual education is included in the curriculum as part of health education. However, the content and approach of such programs often focus mainly on biological aspects, neglecting the moral and ethical dimensions.<sup>11</sup> This creates an incomplete understanding of sexuality, which may not lead to responsible behavior.

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<sup>9</sup> John W. Santrock, *Life-Span Development* (New York: McGraw-Hill, 2018), 210.

<sup>10</sup> Sunan Abī Dāwūd, Book of Prayer, Hadith no. 495 .

<sup>11</sup> UNESCO, *Emerging Evidence, Lessons and Practice in Comprehensive Sexuality Education* (Paris: UNESCO, 2015), 25 .

From an Islamic perspective, education should address both the intellectual and moral development of individuals. Therefore, educational institutions in Muslim societies should integrate Islamic teachings into their curriculum to provide a balanced approach.<sup>12</sup> This includes teaching students about modesty, respect, and responsibility, along with scientific knowledge. Teachers should be properly trained to handle sensitive topics in a respectful and effective manner. By combining modern educational methods with Islamic values, institutions can play a vital role in guiding young people toward a healthy and ethical lifestyle.

### **7. Islamic Concept of Modesty (Ḥayā')**

Modesty (ḥayā') is a fundamental concept in Islam that plays a central role in shaping human behavior, especially in matters related to sexuality. It refers to a sense of shame, humility, and moral consciousness that prevents individuals from engaging in inappropriate actions. In the contemporary era, where exposure to immodest content is increasing, the importance of ḥayā' has become even more significant.<sup>13</sup> It acts as an internal control mechanism that guides individuals to behave in a respectful and dignified manner. Without such values, knowledge alone may not be sufficient to ensure ethical conduct.

The teachings of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) emphasize that modesty is a part of faith.<sup>14</sup> This indicates that ḥayā' is not just a social value but a spiritual quality that reflects a person's ایمان (faith). In the context of sexual education, promoting modesty helps young people understand the limits of acceptable behavior and develop self-discipline. It also encourages respect for others and prevents harmful actions such as harassment and exploitation. Therefore, incorporating the concept of ḥayā' into sexual education can provide a strong moral foundation for individuals in the modern world.

### **8. Gender Interaction in Islam**

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<sup>12</sup> Syed Muhammad Naquib al-Attas, *Islam and Secularism* (Kuala Lumpur: ISTAC, 1993), 89.

<sup>13</sup> Tariq Ramadan, *Islam: The Essentials* (London: Penguin, 2017), 102.

<sup>14</sup> Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī, Book of Faith, Hadith No:9.

Gender interaction is an important aspect of sexual education that requires clear understanding and guidance. In the contemporary era, men and women interact in various settings such as educational institutions, workplaces, and social environments. While such interactions are necessary, they also require certain boundaries to maintain respect and dignity.<sup>15</sup> Without proper guidelines, these interactions may lead to misunderstandings and inappropriate behavior. Therefore, it is important to educate young people about the principles of respectful and responsible interaction between genders.

Islam provides clear guidelines regarding gender interaction, which aim to protect individuals and maintain social harmony. The Qur'an instructs both men and women to lower their gaze and observe modesty in their behavior. These instructions are not meant to restrict freedom but to promote احترام (respect) and prevent harm. In addition, Islamic teachings emphasize the importance of intention and اخلاق (character) in all interactions. By following these principles, individuals can engage in healthy and respectful relationships. Therefore, integrating Islamic guidelines into sexual education can help address the challenges of gender interaction in the modern world.

### **9. Privacy and Personal Boundaries in Islam**

Privacy and personal boundaries are essential components of sexual education, especially in the context of modern society where personal space is often overlooked. Young people need to understand the importance of respecting their own privacy as well as the privacy of others. In the contemporary era, the misuse of technology, such as sharing personal images or messages, has created serious ethical and social issues.<sup>16</sup> Without proper awareness, individuals may unknowingly violate boundaries, leading to harmful consequences for themselves and others. Therefore, educating youth about privacy is a crucial part of developing responsible behavior.

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<sup>15</sup> Karen Armstrong, *Islam: A Short History* (New York: Modern Library, 2002), 91.

<sup>16</sup> Sonia Livingstone, *Children and the Internet* (Cambridge: Polity Press, 2009), 67.

Islam provides clear guidance on the concept of privacy and personal boundaries. The Qur'an instructs believers not to enter others' homes without permission and to respect private spaces.<sup>17</sup> This principle extends beyond physical space to include personal information and relationships. Islamic teachings also emphasize modesty in speech and behavior, which helps maintain healthy boundaries between individuals. Parents are encouraged to teach children about privacy from an early age, such as knocking before entering a room.<sup>18</sup> These teachings form a comprehensive framework that can guide modern sexual education. By incorporating Islamic values, young people can develop a strong sense of respect and responsibility in their interactions.

### **10. Prevention of Sexual Abuse and Exploitation**

One of the most important objectives of sexual education is the prevention of abuse and exploitation. In the contemporary era, cases of harassment, abuse, and exploitation have increased due to a lack of awareness and weak protective measures. Young people, especially children and adolescents, are often vulnerable because they may not fully understand their rights or recognize inappropriate behavior.<sup>19</sup> Sexual education helps them identify harmful situations, understand consent, and seek help when needed. Without such education, victims may remain silent due to fear or confusion, which allows abuse to continue.

Islam strongly condemns all forms of ظلم (injustice) and exploitation. The protection of human dignity is one of the primary objectives of Islamic law.<sup>20</sup> The teachings of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) emphasize kindness, respect, and the prohibition of harming others. In the context of sexual education, Islamic principles can help create awareness about personal safety and ethical behavior. Parents and educators have a responsibility to educate children about their rights and provide a safe environment where they can express their

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<sup>17</sup> Al-Qur'an, 24:27.

<sup>18</sup> Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī, Book of Manners, Hadith no. 6241.

<sup>19</sup> World Health Organization, *Responding to Children and Adolescents Who Have Been Sexually Abused* (Geneva: WHO, 2017), 14 .

<sup>20</sup> Jasser Auda, *Maqasid al-Shariah as Philosophy of Islamic Law* (London: IIIT, 2008), 67.

concerns.<sup>21</sup> By combining modern awareness strategies with Islamic teachings, society can effectively address the issue of abuse and protect vulnerable individuals.

### 11. The Role of Media and Technology

Media and technology have become powerful influences in shaping the attitudes and behaviors of young people regarding sexuality. In the contemporary era, social media platforms, television, and online content provide easy access to information, but not all of it is accurate or beneficial. Many forms of media promote unrealistic or inappropriate representations of relationships and sexuality, which can negatively affect the perceptions of youth.<sup>22</sup>

Continuous exposure to such content may normalize harmful behaviors and reduce sensitivity to moral values. Therefore, it is important to critically evaluate the role of media in sexual education. From an Islamic perspective, the use of media should be guided by ethical principles and responsibility. Islam encourages individuals to seek knowledge that is beneficial and to avoid harmful influences.<sup>23</sup>

The Qur'an advises believers to protect their hearts and minds from فساد (corruption) by being mindful of what they see and hear. In the context of sexual education, this means promoting content that is educational and morally appropriate while discouraging harmful material. Parents and educators should guide young people in the responsible use of technology and help them develop critical thinking skills.<sup>24</sup> By doing so, media can be used as a positive tool for education rather than a source of harm.

### 12. Marriage as a Framework for Sexual Relations

In Islam, marriage is considered the proper and lawful framework for sexual relations. It provides a structured and ethical context in which human

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<sup>21</sup> Aisha Hamdan, "Sexuality in Islam," *Journal of Muslim Mental Health* 2, no. 1 (2007): 52.

<sup>22</sup> Neil Postman, *Amusing Ourselves to Death* (New York: Penguin, 1985), 78.

<sup>23</sup> Al-Qur'an, 17:36.

<sup>24</sup> Sonia Livingstone, *Media Regulation and Children's Rights* (London: Sage, 2014), 103.

desires can be fulfilled in a responsible manner. In the contemporary era, where casual relationships are becoming more common, the concept of marriage as a moral institution is often weakened.<sup>25</sup> This shift has led to various social and emotional problems, including instability in relationships and a lack of commitment. Therefore, sexual education should emphasize the importance of marriage as a means of maintaining social order and personal dignity.

Islamic teachings present marriage not only as a social contract but also as a spiritual bond based on love, mercy, and mutual respect. The Qur'an describes the relationship between spouses as a source of comfort and tranquility.<sup>26</sup> This perspective highlights the emotional and ethical dimensions of marriage, which are often neglected in modern discussions of sexuality. By teaching young people about the significance of marriage, sexual education can promote long-term commitment and responsibility.<sup>27</sup> It also helps individuals understand the purpose and limits of sexual relationships within an *شريعة* framework. Therefore, integrating the concept of marriage into sexual education is essential for building a balanced and morally grounded society.

### **13. Moral and Spiritual Dimensions of Sexual Education**

Sexual education is not only about physical knowledge but also about moral and spiritual development. In the contemporary era, many educational programs focus mainly on the biological aspects of sexuality, ignoring the deeper ethical and spiritual dimensions. This approach may provide information but does not necessarily guide individuals toward responsible and meaningful behavior. Without moral values, knowledge alone can be misused, leading to harmful consequences for individuals and society. Therefore, it is essential to include ethical and spiritual teachings in sexual education.

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<sup>25</sup> Anthony Giddens, *The Transformation of Intimacy* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1992), 145.

<sup>26</sup> Al-Qur'an, 30:21.

<sup>27</sup> Jamal J. Nasir, *The Islamic Law of Personal Status* (Leiden: Brill, 2009), 34.

Islam provides a comprehensive framework that integrates both moral and spiritual dimensions into human behavior. Concepts such as *تقوى* (God-consciousness), accountability, and self-control play a crucial role in guiding individuals.<sup>28</sup> These values encourage individuals to act responsibly and avoid actions that may harm themselves or others. In the context of sexual education, Islamic teachings help individuals understand the importance of purity, intention, and *اخلاق* (character). By combining scientific knowledge with spiritual guidance, sexual education can become more effective and meaningful.<sup>29</sup> This balanced approach not only addresses physical needs but also nurtures the inner character of individuals, leading to a more ethical and harmonious society.

#### 14. The Role of Religious Scholars and Community Leaders

Religious scholars and community leaders have an important role in addressing the issue of sexual education in the contemporary era. In many Muslim societies, people look to religious authorities for guidance on moral and social matters. However, the topic of sexual education is often avoided in public discussions due to cultural sensitivity and fear of controversy.<sup>30</sup> This silence creates a gap in guidance, leaving young people without proper direction. Therefore, it is necessary for scholars and community leaders to address this issue in a responsible and constructive manner, using language that is appropriate and respectful.

From an Islamic perspective, providing guidance on all aspects of life is part of the responsibility of scholars. The Qur'an encourages those with knowledge to educate others and not to conceal beneficial information.<sup>31</sup> By discussing topics such as modesty, relationships, and personal responsibility, scholars can help clarify misconceptions and provide authentic Islamic guidance. Community programs, lectures, and workshops can be used as platforms to

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<sup>28</sup> Al-Qur'an, 91:9–10 .

<sup>29</sup> Tariq Ramadan, *Islam: The Essentials* (London: Penguin, 2017), 120.

<sup>30</sup> Aisha Hamdan, "Sexuality in Islam," *Journal of Muslim Mental Health* 2, no. 1 (2007): 60.

<sup>31</sup> Al-Qur'an, 16:43.

educate both youth and parents.<sup>32</sup> When religious leaders actively engage in this field, they can bridge the gap between traditional values and modern challenges. This approach can help create a balanced understanding of sexual education within an Islamic framework.

### **15. Psychological Well-being and Sexual Education**

Sexual education plays a significant role in the psychological well-being of individuals, especially during adolescence. This stage of life is marked by emotional changes, identity formation, and increased curiosity about relationships. Without proper guidance, young people may experience confusion, anxiety, and insecurity. Misunderstandings about sexuality can also lead to feelings of guilt or shame, which negatively affect mental health. Therefore, providing accurate and age-appropriate sexual education is essential for supporting the emotional development of youth.

Islamic teachings offer a balanced approach that supports both emotional and spiritual well-being. Concepts such as self-control, patience, and modesty help individuals manage their desires in a healthy way.<sup>33</sup> The teachings of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) emphasize kindness, understanding, and moderation in all aspects of life. In the context of sexual education, these values can help reduce anxiety and promote a positive self-image.<sup>34</sup> By integrating psychological insights with Islamic principles, sexual education can address both the emotional and moral needs of individuals. This holistic approach contributes to the development of a confident and balanced personality.

### **16. Addressing Misconceptions about Sexual Education in Islam**

One of the major barriers to effective sexual education in Muslim societies is the presence of misconceptions about its compatibility with Islamic teachings.

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<sup>32</sup> Sherman A. Jackson, *Islam and the Black American*, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005), 112.

<sup>33</sup> Al-Qur'an, 2:286.

<sup>34</sup> Malik Badri, *Contemplation: An Islamic Psychospiritual Study* (Herndon: IIIT, 2000), 74.

Some people believe that discussing sexuality openly may promote immorality or go against cultural values. However, this assumption is not supported by Islamic sources, which provide clear and practical guidance on matters related to human behavior and relationships.<sup>35</sup> Avoiding the topic does not prevent problems; rather, it increases the likelihood of misinformation and harmful practices.

Islam encourages seeking knowledge in all areas that benefit human life. The Qur'an and Hadith include discussions about family life, relationships, and personal conduct, which indicate that such topics are not prohibited. The key is to approach them with modesty, respect, and proper intention. By clarifying these misconceptions, scholars and educators can create a more open and informed environment where sexual education is understood as a necessary and beneficial aspect of learning.<sup>36</sup> This understanding can help remove unnecessary barriers and promote a balanced approach that aligns with Islamic values.

### **17. Integration of Modern Knowledge and Islamic Values**

In the contemporary era, it is important to integrate modern scientific knowledge with Islamic values in order to provide effective sexual education. Modern research offers valuable insights into human development, health, and behavior, which can enhance understanding. However, without ethical guidance, this knowledge may not lead to positive outcomes.<sup>37</sup> Therefore, combining scientific information with moral principles is essential for achieving a balanced approach.

Islam provides a comprehensive ethical framework that can guide the application of modern knowledge. The principles of justice, responsibility, and respect for human dignity are central to Islamic teachings. By integrating these values into educational programs, it is possible to create a system that addresses both the physical and moral aspects of sexuality. Educators should design curricula

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<sup>35</sup> Kecia Ali, *Sexual Ethics and Islam* (Oxford: Oneworld, 2006), 22.

<sup>36</sup> Abdullah Nasir, *Islamic Studies and Modern Challenges* (Karachi: Oxford University Press, 2015), 58.

<sup>37</sup> World Health Organization, *Developing Sexual Health Programmes*, (Geneva: WHO, 2010), 33.

that reflect this integration, ensuring that students receive accurate information while also developing strong ethical values.<sup>38</sup> This approach not only improves knowledge but also promotes responsible behavior and social harmony.

### **18. Toward a Balanced Model of Sexual Education**

A balanced model of sexual education is essential for addressing the challenges of the contemporary era. Such a model should combine accurate knowledge, ethical values, and cultural sensitivity. In many cases, existing approaches either focus too much on biological aspects or avoid the topic altogether. Both extremes are ineffective and fail to meet the needs of young people. Therefore, a comprehensive approach is required that provides clear information while also promoting moral responsibility.

Islamic teachings offer a strong foundation for developing such a balanced model. By emphasizing modesty, respect, and accountability, Islam provides guidelines that can shape positive behavior.<sup>39</sup> At the same time, modern educational methods can be used to present information in a clear and engaging way. Collaboration between parents, educators, and community leaders is also essential for the success of this model.<sup>40</sup> When all stakeholders work together, it becomes possible to create an environment where young people can learn and grow in a healthy and responsible manner. This balanced approach can help address contemporary challenges while remaining true to Islamic values.

### **19. Conclusion**

In conclusion, the need for sexual education in the contemporary era has become more critical than ever due to rapid social changes, technological advancement, and the widespread availability of information. Young people today face complex challenges related to identity, relationships, and ethical decision-making, which require proper guidance and understanding. Without structured and value-based education, they are more likely to rely on unreliable sources, leading

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<sup>38</sup> Syed Muhammad Naquib al-Attas, *Islam and Secularism* (Kuala Lumpur: ISTAC, 1993), 102.

<sup>39</sup> Al-Qur'an, 24:33.

<sup>40</sup> Tariq Ramadan, *Islam: The Essentials* (London: Penguin, 2017), 140.

to confusion, misconceptions, and potentially harmful behavior. Therefore, sexual education should not be ignored or treated as a taboo subject, but rather addressed in a responsible and constructive manner.

From an Islamic perspective, sexual education is not separate from moral and spiritual development; instead, it is an integrated part of human upbringing. The teachings of the Qur'an and the Sunnah provide clear guidance on modesty, privacy, relationships, and personal responsibility. These principles offer a strong ethical foundation that can guide individuals in managing their desires and interactions in a respectful and balanced way. By incorporating Islamic values such as *ḥayā'* (modesty), *taqwā* (God-consciousness), and accountability, sexual education can go beyond the mere transfer of knowledge and contribute to character building.

Furthermore, the role of parents, educators, religious scholars, and community leaders is essential in delivering effective sexual education. Each of these stakeholders has a responsibility to provide accurate information, create a supportive environment, and address the needs of young people in a manner that is both culturally sensitive and educationally sound. Collaboration among these groups can help bridge the gap between traditional values and modern realities, ensuring that youth receive guidance that is relevant and meaningful.

In addition, integrating modern scientific knowledge with Islamic ethical teachings can create a balanced model of sexual education. Such an approach ensures that individuals are not only informed about physical and biological aspects but are also guided by moral principles that promote dignity and responsibility. This integration is necessary to address contemporary challenges such as media influence, abuse, and changing social norms. A well-structured and comprehensive model can empower young people to make informed decisions while maintaining their moral integrity.

Ultimately, sexual education, when guided by Islamic principles, can play a vital role in developing a healthy, respectful, and ethically conscious society. It helps individuals understand their responsibilities, protect their dignity, and

contribute positively to their communities. Therefore, it is essential to promote a balanced and informed approach to sexual education that aligns with both contemporary needs and Islamic values.

## **20. Recommendations**

In the light of the discussion on the need for sexual education in the contemporary era and its alignment with Islamic guidance, several practical and research-based recommendations can be proposed to improve understanding, implementation, and effectiveness of this important area:

1. It is recommended that sexual education be introduced in a structured and age-appropriate manner within educational systems. Curriculum developers should design programs that gradually address physical, emotional, and ethical aspects of sexuality according to the maturity level of students. This approach ensures that learners receive relevant knowledge at the right time, reducing confusion and misinformation. At the same time, the content should be carefully reviewed to align with cultural and religious values, particularly in Muslim societies.
2. Islamic principles should be integrated into sexual education programs to provide moral and spiritual guidance alongside scientific knowledge. Concepts such as modesty (*ḥayā'*), responsibility, respect, and accountability should be emphasized to help students develop ethical behavior. This integration can make sexual education more acceptable in conservative societies and ensure that it contributes to character building rather than more information.
3. Parents should be empowered and trained to play an active role in the sexual education of their children. Workshops, seminars, and guidance materials can help parents develop the skills and confidence needed to discuss sensitive topics openly and appropriately. Strengthening parent-child communication can reduce reliance on unreliable sources and create a supportive environment for learning.

4. Teachers and educators should receive specialized training to handle the subject of sexual education in a professional and respectful manner. Many educators feel uncomfortable discussing such topics due to a lack of training or fear of criticism. Providing them with proper knowledge, teaching methods, and ethical guidelines can improve the quality of instruction and ensure that students receive accurate and balanced information.
5. Religious scholars and community leaders should actively participate in promoting awareness about the importance of sexual education within an Islamic framework. Through sermons, lectures, and community programs, they can address misconceptions and provide authentic guidance based on the Qur'an and Sunnah. Their involvement can increase public acceptance and reduce resistance to the topic.
6. The role of media and technology should be carefully managed to support positive and educational content. Governments and institutions should encourage the development of digital resources that provide accurate, ethical, and culturally sensitive information about sexuality. At the same time, awareness campaigns should be launched to educate youth about the responsible use of media and the risks associated with harmful content.

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