

Navigating the Challenges of Technological Advancement: Iqbal's Philosophical Insights on Moderation and Humanity in the Digital Age

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Abstract

This research investigates the philosophical perspectives of Muhammad Iqbal with respect to the interplay between humanity, moderation, and technology within the context of the digital epoch. Iqbal's *khudi* alongside his ethical paradigms offers a significant framework for examining contemporary issues pertinent to digital identity construction, the moral ramifications of artificial intelligence, and the assimilation of technology into modern societal structures. Employing a qualitative research methodology, this investigation engages in a textual analysis of Iqbal's original manuscripts and current interpretations to elucidate how his philosophical tenets can enhance ethical digital practices. Through thematic analysis and philosophical hermeneutics, the study elucidates three principal insights: the transformative impact of technology on self-awareness, the ethical quandaries that emerge from technological progress, and the imperative of harmonizing technology with human values such as moderation and equity. The results highlight the pertinence of Iqbal's ideas in steering individuals and collectives toward responsible and ethical digital engagements. Ultimately, this inquiry enriches the expanding dialogue surrounding digital ethics by proffering a comprehensive framework anchored in Iqbal's timeless philosophical doctrines. Future research prospects are proposed to integrate Iqbal's teachings into practical applications for promoting digital moderation, equity, and ethical responsibility.

Keywords: Muhammad Iqbal, humanity, moderation, digital age.

Introduction

Iqbal's insights on human identity are particularly relevant to forming contemporary online identities, highlighting the distinction between digital personas and physical selves, which raises important questions about authenticity and self-perception. The digital realm significantly influences how individuals view themselves and construct their online identities, necessitating careful consideration of ethical implications related to technology use, such as responsible behavior and privacy (Blühdorn, 2013; Majeed, 2020). Iqbal's emphasis on morality guides fostering a digital environment rooted in justice, compassion, and empathy (Umar, 2006; Nix, 2015). Additionally, the rapid spread of information online presents challenges (Odgers & Jensen, 2020), like misinformation, hate speech, and cyberbullying, making critical thinking and societal responsibility essential for navigating the complexities of the digital landscape (Butt & Aijaz, 2023;

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Roslan & Ahmad, 2023). Digital moderation should promote justice, equity, and human dignity rather than mere control (Ali et al., 2023; Zhu et al., 2024). As the boundaries between physical and digital realms blur, preserving cultural and ethical values becomes increasingly challenging (Todd, 2015). Still, Iqbal's philosophy offers a robust foundation for societies to maintain core principles amidst rapid technological advancements.

Previous research has explored the digital era's complex relationship between technology, humanity, and moderation. Ashok et al. (2022) investigate the ethical implications of artificial intelligence across various digital technology archetypes, identifying 14 critical ethical considerations related to intelligibility, accountability, fairness, autonomy, and privacy, with governance implications that apply broadly. In contrast, Kawangung (2019) highlights challenges to religious tolerance in the Technology 4.0 era, suggesting the need to promote religious moderation to address social conflicts among millennials. Gray (1988) discusses the ethical dilemma of balancing technological advancement with human values. Buhaychuk et al. (2022) examine the political aspects of digital interactions, aiming to create a flexible digital society by modeling key variables like politics and social dynamics. Although these studies provide valuable insights, they need a more nuanced understanding of how technology, ethics, and societal values interact, particularly from the perspective of Iqbal's philosophy.

Current research often addresses separate ethical issues, such as AI and religious tolerance, without a cohesive framework that connects them. While existing studies by Ashok et al. (2022) and Kawangung (2019) examine ethical implications and social conflicts in the digital era, there is a need for more research that integrates Iqbal's philosophical perspectives on balance and moderation in technology use. Exploring Iqbal's ideas could enhance the ethical discourse on artificial intelligence and digital technology. Additionally, Kawangung discusses religious moderation but needs to consider how technology affects this process, leaving a gap in understanding the role of digital platforms. Gray (1988) identifies a significant ethical dilemma but lacks contemporary examples linking technology to societal values. Furthermore, Buhaychuk et al. (2022) focus on political variables without fully exploring their interactions with ethical considerations and social behaviors. Comprehensive studies should investigate these intersections in real-world contexts to promote ethical behavior and social harmony in the digital age.

Therefore, this research aims to delve into Iqbal's thoughts on balance and moderation in the utilization of technology in the digital era, adding a unique dimension to our understanding of the challenges and opportunities faced by humanity today. The research drives into the depths of Iqbal's philosophical legacy and unveils a treasure trove of insights that resonate profoundly in the context of the digital era. His thoughts on identity formation, ethical dimensions of existence, and individual societal roles provide the required guidance for navigating the complexities of the digital age. As we grapple with rapid technological advancements, Iqbal's ideas propose the enduring principles that should underpin our interactions in the digital sphere.

Literature Review

This literature review discusses Muhammad Iqbal's philosophical insights, particularly his concept of *khudi* (selfhood), as they relate to the ethical challenges of digital identity, technological advancements, and the interplay between humanity and technology. The exploration of digital ethics, self-awareness, and technological moderation within Iqbal's framework is situated within existing scholarship on ethical technology use and identity in digital spaces. Iqbal's concept of *khudi*, which emphasizes self-realization and individual potential, is a critical lens for examining digital identity formation and authenticity. In today's digital landscape, online personas often blur distinctions between virtual and real-life identities, raising questions about the integrity of self-presentation (Blühdorn, 2013; Majeed, 2020). This challenge is further compounded by privacy issues and the performative nature of social media, where users may feel pressure to construct idealized versions of themselves. Research shows that Iqbal's call for genuine self-awareness and introspection may guide navigating these complexities, aligning with contemporary concerns about digital authenticity and identity preservation (Umar, 2006; Nix, 2015). Studies by Butt & Aijaz (2023) and Roslan & Ahmad (2023) on online behavior and misinformation highlight the need for a grounded sense of self to combat issues such as misinformation and cyberbullying, suggesting that Iqbal's emphasis on personal integrity could foster resilience against these issues.

The relevance of Iqbal's *khudi* in the context of digital identity is significant, as it offers a profound perspective on authentic self-awareness amid the rising phenomenon of self-presentation in digital spaces. In an era where individuals often feel compelled to construct idealized images on social media, Iqbal's philosophy emphasizes the importance of genuine self-consciousness. This helps individuals resist the pressure to portray a perfect persona and strengthens the authenticity of identity in digital spaces. Therefore, the concept of *khudi* serves as a guide for avoiding identity crises and maintaining a true sense of self, which is especially relevant to modern digital issues like cyberbullying and misinformation.

Iqbal's emphasis on ethical responsibility and moderation resonates with current debates on digital ethics and the responsible use of technology. His philosophy advocates for an ethical framework that balances personal freedom with social responsibility, an approach that is increasingly relevant in a digital era marked by issues like data privacy, misinformation, and the ethical challenges posed by artificial intelligence (Ashok et al., 2022; Odgers & Jensen, 2020). Digital moderation, in Iqbal's view, should not solely seek control but promote justice, equity, and human dignity (Ali et al., 2023; Zhu et al., 2024). Previous studies, such as those by Kawangung (2019) on religious tolerance in the context of technology and Gray (1988) on the ethical implications of technological progress, underscore the importance of frameworks that promote societal welfare and respect for cultural values—concepts that are inherent in Iqbal's advocacy for justice and ethical behavior.

Digital moderation grounded in justice and human dignity, as Iqbal advocates, is crucial for addressing ethical issues in technology use. Rapid technological advances require a robust ethical framework that focuses on control and promotes values of justice and equality. Iqbal's views on social responsibility and ethics can shape digital practices that consider the humane aspects, turning technology into a tool that supports social welfare rather than merely enabling control and power. This is particularly relevant for preventing the misuse of technology that could harm users, including privacy and data security.

The ethical concerns surrounding artificial intelligence (AI) and automation reflect Iqbal's cautionary stance on the dehumanizing potential of technology. Ashok et al. (2022) identify significant ethical concerns in AI, such as fairness, accountability, and privacy, echoing Iqbal's assertion that technology must be developed with ethical considerations. Iqbal's philosophy calls for a moral compass that ensures technology serves human welfare. It upholds dignity, a sentiment supported by recent work by Ul-Haq (2022) and Khan and Koshul (2011) on the social and ethical responsibilities inherent in AI applications. Furthermore, Buhaychuk et al. (2022) analyze the political dimensions of digital interactions, proposing that the societal impact of technology requires a balanced approach to foster social harmony. However, these studies often lack a cohesive framework for integrating ethics and societal values—gaps that Iqbal's principles of selfhood and moderation may address.

Iqbal's caution about the potential dehumanizing impact of technology is highly relevant amid the increasing developments in artificial intelligence (AI). Ethical quandaries concerning equity, responsibility, and privacy are increasingly intricate in the advancement of artificial intelligence and automation. Iqbal's assertion regarding the necessity of a moral framework in each technological progression is essential to guarantee that artificial intelligence is employed with rigorous ethical standards, honoring human dignity and not merely emphasizing operational efficiency. This relevance is further strengthened by the need to develop an AI ethical framework that considers social welfare and justice for all segments of society.

While many studies address aspects of digital ethics, such as AI (Ashok et al., 2022) or religious moderation (Kawangung, 2019), a notable gap in scholarship synthesizes these issues into a unified framework informed by Iqbal's philosophy. Integrating Iqbal's insights on moderation and ethical responsibility can enhance discourse around digital ethics by providing a holistic perspective that spans identity formation, AI ethics, and societal welfare. Studies by Gray (1988) on technological humanism and Abdullah & Iqbal (2023) on social justice in technology reinforce the need for balancing ethical frameworks that guide technology's role in society. Through thematic analysis and philosophical hermeneutics, this research aims to fill these gaps by applying Iqbal's enduring principles to contemporary digital challenges. In short, Iqbal's philosophical teachings provide a robust foundation for addressing ethical challenges in the digital age, emphasizing self-awareness, ethical responsibility, and societal welfare. By synthe-

sizing insights from existing literature on digital identity, AI ethics, and societal impact, this study proposes that Iqbal's concepts of *khudi* and moderation can form the basis of a comprehensive ethical framework. This framework could guide digital interactions, foster equitable technological integration, and promote a just and compassionate digital society.

Method

Investigating the interaction between humanity and moderation in the digital age requires a nuanced approach, which qualitative research offers. This methodological approach enables a thorough examination of intricate philosophical concepts, particularly those articulated by Muhammad Iqbal, whose oeuvre emphasizes the principles of equilibrium and temperance within the framework of human existence (Iqbal, 1930a; Iqbal, 2013c). In a period characterized by swift technological progress, it is imperative to comprehend how technology impacts human behavior and its ethical implications (Safi, 2017). A qualitative methodology facilitates the gathering and analyzing of subjective experiences and philosophical narratives, thereby permitting an in-depth exploration of how these interactions manifest within the digital landscape. This methodology is particularly well-suited for examining Iqbal's philosophical perspectives, which offer valuable insights into navigating the challenges of maintaining ethical balance in an increasingly digital world (Ansari, 1996).

In this study, qualitative research utilized textual analysis through philosophical inquiry, drawing primarily on Iqbal's original writings and contemporary interpretations (Iqbal, 1930a, 2013c). The data sources comprised his poetry, philosophical essays, and relevant academic literature addressing the intersection of humanity, technology, and moderation (Nasr, 2006). By engaging with various texts, the research aims to synthesize Iqbal's ideas with the current challenges of digital interactions (Parvez, 2014). This approach allows for an in-depth exploration of the ethical implications of technology, identity formation, and the role of moderation in digital spaces (Malik, 1971). The research methodology is designed to capture the intricacies of these themes, providing a rich interpretative analysis that reflects the complexity of ethical decision-making in the digital age (Palacios, 2001).

The data collection involved multiple techniques, including literature review, thematic analysis, and philosophical hermeneutics (Al-Attas, 1993). The literature review identified key texts and discussions crucial to understanding Iqbal's work on digital ethics (Safi, 2017). Thematic analysis was used to extract core themes from the literature, such as identity, ethical behavior, and technological influences (Nasr, 2006). Philosophical hermeneutics further enabled a deeper engagement with Iqbal's ideas, allowing for a critical examination of their relevance to modern issues like online behavior and digital identity (Iqbal, 1930a, 2013c). The analytical process of the data was executed through multiple phases, commencing with thematic categorization and advancing to interpretative analysis, wherein Iqbal's philosophical concepts were juxtaposed with

contemporary digital challenges (Parvez, 2014). This exhaustive methodology established a conceptual framework for elucidating the pertinence of Iqbal's philosophy in addressing ethical quandaries within the contemporary technology-centric milieu (Ansari, 1996); succinctly, the results were amalgamated to establish correlations between Iqbal's philosophical tenets and the present digital environment, culminating in a robust framework that underscores the significance of his insights.

Result and Discussion

Philosophical Analysis of Iqbal's Perspectives on Human-Technology Interaction

The findings of this investigation elucidate three pivotal insights regarding Muhammad Iqbal's viewpoints on the interplay between humanity and technology within the contemporary digital epoch. Initially, Iqbal's philosophical paradigm accentuates the transformative characteristics of technology, illuminating its dual capacity to either elevate or undermine human self-awareness and agency. His construct of *khudi*, or selfhood, emphasizes the imperative for individuals to acknowledge their inherent value, particularly in a time when digital instruments possess the potential to both empower and obfuscate personal identity. Iqbal (1930a) articulates the significance of self-awareness in modernity, positing that authentic selfhood necessitates proactive engagement with one's environment and the capability to transcend external influences. This inquiry provokes essential inquiries regarding the extent to which technology enhances the comprehension of individuality or engenders a sense of anonymity within the expansive digital milieu, as articulated by scholars such as Nix (2015) and Faneye (2014), who contend that the digital landscape can engender both avenues for personal expression and challenges concerning the preservation of identity.

Subsequently, the analysis explores the ethical quandaries that emerge from technological progress, revealing a dichotomy between technology's potential benefits and its dehumanizing effects. Iqbal's literary works exhibit a profound awareness of the ethical implications of technological advancement, positing that although technology can enhance human existence, it simultaneously risks estranging individuals from their core principles and communal ties (Iqbal, 2013a). This dichotomy is particularly salient in discourses surrounding artificial intelligence and automation, wherein the equilibrium between efficiency and ethical accountability is perpetually scrutinized. Ul-Haq (2022) and Khan and Koshul (2011) emphasize the urgency of these deliberations and underscore the necessity for ethical frameworks to navigate technological advancements. Iqbal accentuates the imperative of a moral compass in traversing these advancements, contending that ethical considerations must underpin the development and implementation of technology, ensuring that innovations serve the collective good rather than intensify pre-existing disparities.

Finally, the ramifications of Iqbal's contemplations advocate for a judicious approach to integrating technology within society. His focus on justice, equality, and collective welfare establishes a framework for evaluating whether technological

advancements contribute to or detract from these principles (Abdullah & Iqbal, 2023). Iqbal (1996b) articulates the necessity of social justice concerning individual development, proposing that technological integration should advance the common good rather than exacerbate the chasm between disparate societal factions. This advocacy for equity reverberates within the contemporary discourse regarding technology's societal role, illuminating the significance of preserving authenticity and ethical accountability while navigating the complexities of the digital epoch (Faulkner, 2021). Iqbal's philosophical tenets serve as a guiding principle for fostering a society that esteems mutual respect and comprehension by endorsing a conscientious approach to technological integration. Ultimately, Iqbal's reflections underscore the necessity of fostering a digital environment that aligns technological progress with essential human principles, thus facilitating the emergence of a more equitable and just society. In this regard, Iqbal's body of work remains relevant, offering a philosophical foundation for confronting the dilemmas of an ever-evolving digitized landscape.

Figure 1. The Main Insights from Iqbal's Philosophy Regarding Humanity and Technology

Key Insight	Description	Implications	References
1. Transformative Nature of Technology	Iqbal's framework highlights technology's dual potential to enhance or diminish self-awareness (khudi).	Raises questions about individuality: Does technology empower selfhood or contribute to anonymity in the digital age?	Nix (2015), Faneye (2014)
2. Ethical Considerations	Examines the tension between technology's benefits and dehumanizing effects.	Emphasizes the need for ethical boundaries in technological advancement, advocating for a moral compass.	Ul-Haq (2022), Khan & Koshul (2011)
3. Balance and Integration	Advocates for a balanced approach to integrating technology in society.	Promotes justice, equality, and collective welfare, highlighting the importance of authenticity and ethical responsibility.	Abdullah & Iqbal (2023), Faulkner (2021)

Discussion:

This discourse elucidates how individuals can preserve equilibrium and temperance in the face of technology's profound influence on human conduct. Through the analytical framework provided by Iqbal's viewpoint, we articulate Iqbal's philosophical contributions, which are intricately entwined with South Asian intellectual traditions and yield significant insights into modern digital ethics that surpass temporal and geographic confines. In a period characterized by swift technological progress and an escalating dependence on digital forms of communication, Iqbal's doctrines offer a novel perspective that contests the preeminence of Western ethical paradigms. As society navigates the intricacies of virtual interactions, Iqbal's philosophical tenets underscore the importance of self-awareness, personal integrity, and moderation—essential components in the contemporary digital milieu. His teachings encourage individuals to reflect critically on their digital conduct, nurturing a more compassionate and accountable online community.

Iqbal's philosophy centers on the concept of *khudi*, which represents self-awareness and the safeguarding of one's integrity. This principle holds special importance in the digital world, where anonymity often undermines moral principles (Mokyr, 2010). The internet often provides a shield behind which individuals may engage in deceptive practices, cyberbullying, and hate speech without facing immediate consequences. Iqbal's focus on personal responsibility cultivates an environment where individuals can resist various temptations, encouraging them to maintain their principles of moderation in digital interactions. By nurturing a profound sense of self, *khudi* equips individuals to address ethical quandaries with greater efficacy, fostering a milieu of empathy and comprehension instead of animosity. In an era where miscommunications can rapidly escalate, adopting the tenets of *khudi* can facilitate more productive discussions and promote healthier online communities.

The Balance between Material Progress and Spirituality

Another critical dimension of Iqbal's philosophical framework is his admonition against the excessive valorization of material progress, a motif that resonates profoundly in the context of swift technological evolution (Lodi, 1995). Although the digital epoch has introduced extraordinary innovations, it has concurrently precipitated an intensified preoccupation with consumerism and immediate satisfaction. Iqbal advocates for a judicious synthesis that harmonizes spirituality with material endeavors, thereby reminding individuals of the imperative to preserve a connection with profound human values. In an era where the digital milieu may frequently evoke feelings of alienation, Iqbal's exhortation for a comprehensive conception of progress functions as a significant reminder. By elevating spiritual development in conjunction with technological progress, individuals can foster a more substantive existence that underscores moderation and comprehension amidst the tumult of the digital arena. This equilibrium is crucial for adeptly addressing the ethical ramifications of technological decisions and promoting mindfulness regarding the principles that inform interactions within online environments.

Social Justice and Individual Liberty

Iqbal's emphasis on social justice and individual liberty aligns closely with contemporary data privacy concerns, algorithmic bias, and online censorship (Rahnema, 1994). His vision of a "Brotherhood of Humanity" invites reflection on the societal implications of online actions. As technology evolves, inequality and injustice in digital spaces become increasingly prominent. Iqbal challenges individuals to consider how their online behaviors contribute to or mitigate these disparities. He promotes technology that amplifies marginalized voices, urging society to fulfill its shared duty of crafting fair digital spaces rooted in moderation. In our highly connected world, where digital disparities remain, engaging with Iqbal's ideas can inspire meaningful efforts to address these issues and encourage a more inclusive online community.

Imagination and Critical Thinking

Iqbal's focus on imagination and critical analysis gains new importance in today's digital landscape, where misinformation abounds. The concept of "Ijtihad," or independent thought, motivates individuals to critically assess online content, confronting biases and nurturing productive conversations amid echo chambers and filter bubbles (Hussain, 2019). Iqbal's philosophy underscores the need for moderation and discernment in digital exchanges in an age where misinformation can spread quickly. By championing critical thinking, Iqbal calls for a well-informed and actively engaged public equipped to navigate the complexities of the information era. This approach deepens issue comprehension and empowers individuals to counter harmful narratives and foster healthier online interactions.

Responsible Communication

Mastering language as a tool for social commentary, Iqbal's stance on responsible communication holds significant weight in the digital realm (Hussain, 2019). Iqbal's advocacy for respectful dialogue aligns with efforts to curb online toxicity by promoting moderation, empathy, and understanding over hostility and hate speech. In a digital space where conversations can swiftly turn contentious, Iqbal's approach highlights the influence of language and the need to uphold civility. Encouraging respect can lead to more meaningful exchanges, nurturing a culture of dialogue and cooperation. This dedication to responsible communication is vital for fostering a digital environment that values moderation, constructive interaction, and shared well-being.

While recognizing the importance of reinterpreting Iqbal's concepts within today's cultural and historical landscape, his core ideas are invaluable for addressing modern digital challenges. His emphasis on self-awareness, balanced technological growth, moderation, critical thinking, and responsible communication offers a holistic guide for navigating the ethical nuances of online interactions. Engaging with Iqbal's philosophy supports an ethical online realm based on human dignity and mutual respect and advances both individual and collective well-being. His vision encourages a digital world that supports innovation and progress and strengthens the values that connect humanity, shaping interactions and decisions with purpose. Integrating Iqbal's teachings into digital practices can help society strive toward a more ethical, equitable, and compassionate online community.

Practical Implications for Individuals and Societies

Navigating the complexities of digital ethics offers individuals a chance to embody Iqbal's enduring principles of moderation through concrete actions. A key aspect of Iqbal's philosophy is cultivating *khudi*, which extends beyond a simple understanding of one's identity to encompass practicing moderation and ethics in online spaces (Arif, 2011). In digital interactions, this self-awareness is a valuable defense against behaviors often fueled by online anonymity, such as cyberbullying and trolling. The anonymity

of the internet can create a disconnect between one's actions and their consequences, enabling harmful conduct without accountability. Iqbal's focus on integrity, respect, and moderation can guide digital engagement, promoting empathy and understanding in online behavior.

To reinforce this moderation, individuals should actively reflect on their online actions, considering how their words and behaviors impact others. Practices like mindfulness and digital detoxes can support users in assessing their digital habits, encouraging a pause to evaluate their online conduct. These practices help individuals develop a stronger sense of self-anchoring in ethical values rather than fleeting online trends. Fostering *khudi* also involves setting personal boundaries and recognizing when online interactions turn negative or threaten one's mental well-being. This mindfulness cultivates a more compassionate online environment, empowering users to advocate for respectful, balanced discussions.

Furthermore, balancing technology and spirituality is essential in today's hyper-connected era. Iqbal advocated using technology for personal growth rather than simple consumption (Palange, 2022). Striking this balance helps individuals maintain a healthy relationship with digital devices and platforms. They are encouraged to spend time on offline pursuits that nourish their inner life, like reading, meditation, or community service. Such activities improve well-being and strengthen connections to values and spiritual depth, fostering a more comprehensive approach to life. Integrating technology and spirituality calls for a critical look at how digital tools can encourage personal and collective moderation. For instance, social media can serve as a platform for entertainment, knowledge sharing, and fostering meaningful connections, creating a sense of community beyond geographic limits. Through intentional, moderate tech use, individuals transform from passive content consumers into active contributors to a larger narrative of growth and learning.

Moreover, the role of education in promoting moderation is vital. Educational institutions can significantly influence students by teaching values around balanced tech use and personal development. Digital ethics, critical thinking, and emotional intelligence are all incorporated into curricula to provide students with the tools they need to use the internet ethically. People who receive this educational foundation develop into knowledgeable, ethical, and tech-savvy digital citizens. By embracing Iqbal's vision of self-awareness, integrity, and moderation, individuals collectively contribute to a digital society that values compassion and responsibility. This path of personal growth aligns with societal objectives of promoting inclusivity, justice, and ethical tech use. By prioritizing *khudi* and staying alert to the negative impacts of digital life, individuals can help shape an online space that reflects Iqbal's ideals of harmony and respect.

Promoting Justice and Responsibility at the Individual Level

On a personal level, encouraging justice and responsibility in digital spaces is essential to creating a fairer, more ethical online environment rooted in moderation. This

calls for individuals to promote the balanced use of technology and take action against injustices perpetuated on digital platforms. A significant issue in today's digital world is the digital divide, highlighting the gap between those with limited access to the internet and modern technology. Individuals can take proactive measures to close this gap by supporting initiatives that enhance technology access for marginalized groups. Advocacy can manifest in various ways, such as volunteering with organizations that improve digital literacy for underserved communities or using one's online influence to raise awareness about issues of access and equity. Individuals contribute to a more inclusive narrative that emphasizes social justice through moderation by elevating the voices of those often marginalized in digital spaces. Additionally, individuals can use their platforms to support fair access to information, resist censorship, and demand transparency from corporations and governments, ensuring that technology empowers rather than oppresses.

Beyond access issues, promoting responsible and ethical behavior in digital interactions encourages individuals to reflect on their online behavior. This self-awareness enhances understanding of the impact of one's words and actions on others. Engaging respectfully and constructively in online discussions is critical to building a culture of accountability. Individuals model positive interactions by approaching others thoughtfully and with moderation, making them the standard rather than the exception. Furthermore, individuals should actively challenge biases encountered in digital environments. The online world often mirrors societal prejudices, reinforcing harmful stereotypes and discrimination. Confronting these biases requires vigilance and critical examination of the content consumed and shared, questioning mainstream media narratives, and seeking diverse perspectives that broaden one's understanding. Engaging with varied voices fosters empathy, leading to more moderate, informed online discussions.

As Iqbal highlights, the idea of "responsible expression" underscores the importance of using language thoughtfully and moderately. This means avoiding harmful rhetoric, hate speech, and negativity while nurturing meaningful online communities based on shared values (Jamil & Appiah-Adjei, 2023). Recognizing the power of language to shape attitudes and behavior, individuals are responsible for communicating in ways that uplift and empower others. By prioritizing empathy and moderation, individuals contribute to a healthier digital space where constructive dialogue flourishes. In conclusion, fostering justice, responsibility, and moderation in the digital era requires individuals to engage ethically and advocate for equity. Through efforts to close the digital divide, address biases, and encourage responsible expression, individuals can create a ripple effect that improves online interactions. This collective dedication to justice and moderation enhances personal connections and contributes to a broader societal shift toward ethical technology use, which aligns with Iqbal's vision of a harmonious and just world.

Societal-Level Moderation in Ethical Technology Design and Development

Emphasizing changes at the societal level and promoting moderation in technology design and development is essential to ensure digital tools benefit humanity. As technology becomes deeply integrated into everyday life, motivating technology creators to embed moderation in their work is critical. This involves guiding developers, companies, and governments to adopt practices for responsible data management and equitable algorithm application. By focusing on moderate design, society can align technology with human values rather than detract from them.

A significant obstacle to advancing moderate design is achieving transparency in technology companies' operations. Consumers need clarity on how their data is gathered, used, and shared, enabling informed choices about their online activities. Regulations requiring companies to reveal their data practices can facilitate this transparency. Furthermore, fostering public discourse around moderate technology use can build a culture of accountability, encouraging organizations to assess their practices thoughtfully.

Education also plays a crucial role in promoting moderate design in technology. Schools and universities can integrate moderation principles into technology curricula, stressing the importance of responsible and balanced design and development. By educating students on the impact of moderation in technology, institutions can nurture a generation of developers and engineers who prioritize ethical aspects in their work. This forward-thinking approach ensures that future tech leaders are technically adept and dedicated to creating products that serve the public interest.

Promoting Digital Literacy and Moderation

Enhancing digital literacy and education is essential to empowering individuals with the skills to navigate the digital world wisely and responsibly. Integrating moderation into educational courses promotes critical thinking and responsible online conduct from a young age. By giving people a solid basis in digital moderation, society may empower them to interact with technology in ways that reflect ethical principles and promote communal well-being. This educational emphasis on moderation has the potential to generate a more informed citizenry capable of holding firms accountable for their behavior.

Fostering Inclusive and Moderate Digital Spaces

Creating inclusive and equitable digital spaces focusing on moderation is another critical component of societal development. Addressing digital gaps with infrastructure development guarantees everyone access to technology and the internet. Initiatives aimed at increasing internet connection in marginalized places have the potential to improve social fairness and economic opportunities significantly. Furthermore, fostering cultural diversity on internet platforms improves the digital experience of all users. Diverse representation in digital places encourages a sense of belonging and

enables sharing a broader range of opinions, resulting in more dynamic and moderate online communities.

Encouraging Global Dialogue in Moderation

Fostering a collaborative global discourse additionally assumes a crucial function in navigating the ethical intricacies characteristic of the digital era. Employing technology to bridge cultural divides stimulates international collaboration on pressing matters such as online safety, cybercrime, and the moral development of artificial intelligence. By facilitating dialogues that transcend geographical and cultural frontiers, societies can unite to confront common challenges and formulate solutions that prioritize moderation and the well-being of humanity. This collaborative framework cultivates a worldwide comprehension of moderate standards and practices, thereby nurturing a collective sense of accountability within the digital realm.

Reframing the Relationship between Technology and Moderation

Lastly, rethinking the relationship between technology and humanity requires prioritizing moderate use and human values over unbridled technological progress. Encouraging moral reflections on technology use can help individuals and societies assess whether their digital practices align with their ethical beliefs and principles of moderation. By emphasizing human dignity and ethics, technology is returned to its original function, becoming an instrument of empowerment rather than a catalyst for alienation. This philosophical shift calls for a collective commitment to ensure that technological advancements serve the common good, fostering a digital environment that reflects the principles of justice, equity, and compassion inherent in Iqbal's vision. In summary, promoting moderate design, digital literacy, and inclusive practices at the societal level is essential for addressing the challenges posed by technology in the modern world. By advocating for transparency, accountability, and collaboration, society can work toward a digital landscape that aligns with the principles of moderation articulated by Iqbal, ultimately fostering a more just and equitable world.

Figure 2. *Iqbal's Principles for Ethical Digital Engagement*

Principle	Description
Cultivating <i>Khudi</i>	Emphasizing self-awareness and ethical behavior online.
Balancing Technology	Using technology as a tool for personal growth while nurturing spirituality.
Promoting Justice	Advocating for ethical tech use and empowering marginalized communities.
Adopting Critical Thinking	Distinguishing facts from misinformation and engaging in diverse dialogues.
Responsible Expression	Using language empathetically to foster meaningful online communities.
Ethical Design	Encouraging tech creators to prioritize ethics in development.

Principle	Description
Strengthening Digital Literacy	Equipping individuals with skills for safe and ethical digital navigation.
Creating Inclusive Spaces	Addressing digital divides and promoting cultural diversity online.
Fostering Global Dialogue	Utilizing technology for international cooperation on ethical issues.
Rethinking Technology	Prioritizing human values and spiritual needs over mere technological progress.

By translating Iqbal's ideas into the practice of moderation in the digital realm, individuals and society can contribute more ethically and meaningfully. This involves empowering individuals and developing technology's potential while upholding human values. The digital world, far from being a mere virtual space, reflects collective values, creating a digital future aligned with the best of our humanity, as envisioned by Iqbal.

Future Prospects and the Evolving Dynamics of Moderation in Human-Technology Relations

In the ever-evolving landscape of human-technology relations, the insights of Muhammad Iqbal hold timeless relevance. His philosophical framework offers a lens through which the complexities of the digital age can be understood, particularly regarding *khudi* and moderation. This term is a guiding principle for individuals navigating their roles in shaping the future. In a world where technology increasingly intertwines with daily life, nurturing *khudi* becomes essential for human flourishing, with moderation as a foundation for ethical engagement with technology (Hillier, 2015). Cultivating *khudi* is not merely an introspective exercise but a proactive stance in the face of technological advancement. Iqbal's optimism regarding technology's role in cultivating *khudi* underscores its potential to enhance human capabilities, broaden horizons, and foster meaningful connections among individuals. However, his perspective is not uncritical; he emphasizes the necessity of moderation and wisdom in wielding technological tools. Iqbal states that technology is not just a neutral instrument but a powerful force that can elevate or diminish humanity's inherent qualities. For Iqbal, the crux lies in aligning technology with moderate values, ensuring that it serves as a catalyst for human flourishing rather than a means of enslavement (Hassan & Buaben, 2015).

This alignment requires a conscious effort to responsibly use technological and humanitarian advances because the relationship between human beings and technology is symbiotic. The imperative to harness technology for the greater good becomes evident, as does the need for individuals and societies to engage critically with the tools at their disposal. As society projects into the future, Iqbal's insights guide the navigation of a delicate equilibrium between embracing technology's transformative potential and guarding against its potential pitfalls through moderation. The dichotomy of opportunities and risks demands a nuanced approach to ensure harmonious coexistence.

Embracing technology has the potential to revolutionize education, improve healthcare, and address global challenges. Personalized learning experiences, improved healthcare efficiency, and innovative solutions to pressing issues like climate change exemplify the positive transformations that technology can facilitate.

However, the flip side of this rapid technological growth reveals potential risks that demand vigilance and moderation. For instance, technology can exacerbate societal inequalities, erode privacy through pervasive surveillance, and perpetuate biases that threaten social harmony. Recognizing these risks is crucial for steering the trajectory of technological advancements toward positive outcomes. A collective sense of responsible stewardship must be fostered to harness technology's potential for the greater good. This responsibility includes directing the development of guidelines for the moderate development and use of technology while ensuring that it aligns with the values of human dignity. Public awareness and education about how technology can empower and undermine human dignity are essential so individuals can make informed decisions and navigate the digital landscape with awareness and moderation. Drawing inspiration from Iqbal's profound philosophy, society can forge a future where technology becomes a force for human betterment. Through a conscientious approach, it can be ensured that technology promotes human flourishing, safeguarding the essence of *khudi* amid unprecedented advancements.

Conclusion

In examining Iqbal's perspectives on humanity, moderation, and technology in the digital age, several essential findings resonate deeply with contemporary issues. Iqbal's *khudi* serves as a critical lens for navigating the transformative power of technology. This dual potential of technology to either enhance or diminish self-awareness emphasizes individuals' need to cultivate their intrinsic worth in a rapidly changing digital landscape. Furthermore, Iqbal's caution regarding the ethical implications of technological advancements serves as a reminder of the importance of responsible usage. This interplay between empowerment and moderation highlights the complexities inherent in navigating the digital realm, reinforcing the relevance of Iqbal's thought in contemporary discussions about technology's impact on human identity and agency.

The conceptual significance of this research lies in its contribution to the discourse on digital ethics and human values. The study bridges historical perspectives and modern dilemmas by integrating Iqbal's philosophical framework with current technological challenges. This study uses methods, including a comprehensive analysis of Iqbal's writings and their application to digital moderation, to provide critical direction for examining human-technology interactions. Thus, it not only enriches the understanding of Iqbal's thought contributions but also builds a framework for evaluating the role of technology in directing human experiences and values. It underscores the necessity of balancing innovation with ethical considerations, allowing for a more moderate approach to technological integration.

Despite these contributions, this research has its limitations. The primary focus on Iqbal's philosophical insights may overlook empirical data that illustrates the practical implications of these ideas in real-world scenarios. Future research could explore case studies demonstrating how Iqbal's philosophy can inform moderate technology practices in various contexts. Additionally, examining diverse cultural interpretations of *khudi* and their relevance to digital interactions could further enhance understanding of the subject. Addressing these deficiencies has the potential to broaden the discourse concerning the interplay between technology and humanity, thereby guaranteeing that Iqbal's enduring tenets of moderation persist in guiding society as it grapples with the intricacies of the digital epoch. By cultivating an inclusive dialogue that integrates a multitude of viewpoints, prospective research endeavors may facilitate a more profound comprehension of how technology can reinforce human dignity and ethical principles within an ever-more interconnected global landscape.

Statement of Interest

All authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

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