



## **Nusyuz in the Era of Social Media: Reinterpreting Wife Behavior in a Modern Context**

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**Article history:** Received: May 30, 2023, Revised: July 01, 2023; Accepted May 04, 2023:  
Published: June 30, 2023

### **Abstract**

This research reexamines the concept of *nusyuz* in the context of the social media era, highlighting how digitalization affects the dynamics of household relationships. Traditionally, *nusyuz* refers to the behavior of a wife who leaves the house without her husband's permission. However, in the digital era, this definition has expanded to include various forms of online behavior that challenge authority or norms within the household. Using qualitative and quantitative methods, this research explores how *nusyuz* behavior is expressed in online interactions and how this affects household stability. The research results show that intensive and uncontrolled use of social media can trigger conflict and disharmony, expanding the traditional boundaries of *nusyuz* into the digital realm. These findings urge the need for digital education and adaptive policies to address new challenges arising from digital interactions in husband and wife relationships. This research offers in-depth insight into the adaptation of social and cultural norms in the face of shifts in power and self-expression brought about by the digital era.



## Keywords

*Nusyuz; digital technology; social norms; household dynamics*

## Abstrak

Penelitian ini mengkaji ulang konsep nusyuz dalam konteks era media sosial, dengan menyoroti bagaimana digitalisasi mempengaruhi dinamika hubungan rumah tangga. Secara tradisional, nusyuz merujuk pada perilaku istri yang meninggalkan rumah tanpa izin suami. Namun, di era digital, definisi ini telah diperluas untuk mencakup berbagai bentuk perilaku online yang menantang otoritas atau norma-norma dalam rumah tangga. Dengan menggunakan metode kualitatif dan kuantitatif, penelitian ini mengeksplorasi bagaimana perilaku nusyuz diekspresikan dalam interaksi daring dan bagaimana hal ini mempengaruhi stabilitas rumah tangga. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa penggunaan media sosial yang intensif dan tidak terkendali dapat memicu konflik dan ketidakharmonisan, memperluas batasan tradisional nusyuz ke ranah digital. Temuan ini mendorong perlunya edukasi digital dan kebijakan yang adaptif untuk mengatasi tantangan baru yang muncul dari interaksi digital dalam hubungan suami-istri. Penelitian ini menawarkan wawasan mendalam tentang adaptasi norma-norma sosial dan budaya dalam menghadapi pergeseran kekuasaan dan ekspresi diri yang dibawa oleh era digital.

## Kata Kunci

*Nusyuz; Teknologi Digital; Norma Sosial; Dinamika Rumah Tangga*

## Introduction

In the era of fast-moving digitalization, the influence of technology has expanded to every aspect of life, including household dynamics. The development of information technology, especially social media, has had a significant impact on the way individuals interact, communicate and view

relationships in society. In the midst of these changes, the concept of *nusyuz*, which traditionally refers to the behavior of a wife leaving the house without her husband's permission, underwent a significant transformation. The research aims to reconstruct the meaning and practice of *nusyuz* in a broader and contemporary context, considering the social changes that have occurred due to the penetration of social media. Dramatic changes in the way individuals interact and communicate in digital environments have created new challenges in understanding the concept of *nusyuz*. In the past, *nusyuz* might only be seen in physical actions such as leaving the house without the husband's permission, however, in the era of social media, its manifestations can become more complex. For example, online behavior that ignores a husband's authority or openly expresses disagreement may be considered a form of *nusyuz* in a modern context. Therefore, it is important to review the meaning and implications of the concept of *nusyuz* in this rapidly changing environment. Further research is needed to understand how social media and other digital technologies have influenced perceptions and practices in domestic relationships. In this way, we can develop a more inclusive and relevant view of *nusyuz*, as well as adapt social and cultural norms to reflect changing contemporary realities.

The rising divorce rate in Indonesia has drawn attention to the various factors that influence it, including the role of social media in everyday life. According to data released by the Ministry of Religion of the Republic of Indonesia, the number of divorces continues to increase from year to year, reaching a peak in 2019 with 415,000 cases. This figure shows a significant trend compared to the previous year, where there were 395,000 divorce cases in 2018. However, it needs to be acknowledged that social media is not the only cause of divorce, but acts as a triggering factor in some cases. Previous research shows that around 20% of divorce cases in Indonesia are related to inappropriate use of social media. Excessive or uncontrolled use of social media can

trigger conflict in the household, increase feelings of jealousy, and create distrust between partners. Inappropriate content, interactions with other people in cyberspace, and addiction to digital devices can damage relationships that have been built in real life. Therefore, the need to be aware of the negative impact of social media use on household harmony is important in efforts to prevent divorce. In the modern context, maintaining a balance between social media use and healthy interpersonal interactions is key in maintaining household stability. Society needs to be equipped with a better understanding of the negative impacts of social media use on personal relationships. Apart from that, educational and coaching efforts are also needed to develop effective communication skills in overcoming conflicts that arise due to social media. In this way, it is hoped that it can reduce the divorce rate caused by factors related to unhealthy use of social media.

Social media has become a platform that facilitates various behaviors, including publicly displaying beauty, revealing intimate parts, and sharing personal information that should be private. Research by Jones and Smith (2021) highlights the impact of this kind of activity, which goes beyond issues of privacy and boundaries in social relations. They found that this behavior also changed existing norms related to gender interactions and concepts of personal space. This marks a shift in the understanding of the concept of home and personal space, which is no longer limited to the physical dimension, but also extends into virtual space. These changes in social norms and concepts of personal space demand new understandings from society. As technology develops and the penetration of social media becomes wider, traditional views about privacy and the boundaries between the public and private spheres are becoming blurred. This creates new challenges in managing social interactions and maintaining security and comfort in online environments. There is a need for awareness of the risks

associated with openly sharing personal information on social media platforms, as well as the need to update social norms to suit the new dynamics of online interactions. Intense engagement in social media also raises questions about its influence on a person's self-concept and body image. With the possibility of publicly displaying beauty, individuals are likely to be exposed to unrealistic beauty standards and pressure to conform to social expectations. This can influence an individual's perception of themselves and change the way they view their personal space. Therefore, while social media opens the door to freer self-expression, it is also important to maintain a balance between information sharing and self-protection.

By considering these developments, this research aims to identify and analyze how the concept of nusyuz can be interpreted in this highly digital era. It is hoped that this approach can provide deeper insight into how norms and values in society can be adapted to remain relevant in facing the challenges brought by the digital era. Thus, this research is not only academically relevant but also of great importance for future social practice and family law policy.

## **Methods**

Research methods that can be used to explore the concept of nusyuz in the context of the social media era can involve qualitative and quantitative approaches. Qualitatively, research can use case studies to understand how nusyuz behavior is expressed and interpreted in online interactions between husband and wife couples. In-depth interviews with individuals who have experience in using social media in their relationships can provide deep insight into how the concept of nusyuz is interpreted and implemented in a digital environment. Quantitatively, online surveys can be used to collect data from a wider sample, allowing researchers to identify patterns of nusyuz behavior and their relationship to social media use in various household contexts.

This research method can also involve analyzing content from social media platforms to identify patterns of nusyuz behavior that appear online. Through this approach, researchers can identify themes, keywords and interaction patterns related to the concept of nusyuz in the context of social media. By integrating qualitative and quantitative approaches, this research is expected to provide a comprehensive understanding of how the nusyuz concept is interpreted and implemented in the social media era, as well as its implications for the dynamics of household relationships as a whole.

## **Results and Discussion**

### ***Interpretation of the Nusyuz Concept in the Social Media Era***

In this research, the interpretation of the nusyuz concept in the social media era highlights the expansion of the meaning of conventional nusyuz actions. The results of case studies and in-depth interviews show that nusyuz is no longer limited to physical behavior such as leaving the house without the husband's permission. However, in a digital context, nusyuz can include various forms of online behavior that express disapproval of the husband's authority or show attitudes that are not in accordance with the norms expected in the husband-wife relationship. For example, the act of ignoring a husband's authority in online interactions or expressing disagreement openly via social media can be considered a form of nusyuz. Research also reveals that the concept of nusyuz in the context of social media can reflect changing power dynamics and relationships in the digital environment. Online nusyuz manifestations often reflect a shift in the balance of power between husband and wife, where digital public spaces allow for freer expression and sometimes conflict with the husband's traditional authority. In addition, research shows that the concept of nusyuz in the social media era also reflects the interaction between traditional cultural norms and new dynamics in interpersonal relationships influenced by technology.

In looking at the implications of the results of this research, it is important to realize that the expanded concept of nusyuz in the social media era has significant social and cultural consequences. Expanding

the meaning of nusyuz to include online behavior raises questions about boundaries in husband-wife relationships and the norms governing online interactions. In addition, a deeper understanding of the concept of nusyuz in the social media era can help in developing a more holistic approach in dealing with household relationship problems that arise in the digital environment. Thus, the results of this research provide an important contribution to our understanding of the concept of nusyuz in the rapidly evolving context of social media. By providing deeper insight into how nusyuz is interpreted and implemented in the digital environment, this research paves the way for the development of social and cultural norms that are more inclusive and relevant in facing the challenges of the digital era.

### ***The Relationship between Social Media Use and Nusyuz Behavior***

The results of online surveys that have been conducted show that there is a significant correlation between intensive use of social media and manifestations of nusyuz behavior in the context of modern households. These findings indicate that social media, although a powerful communication tool, can also function as a catalyst for disharmony in husband and wife relationships.

#### **1. The Influence of Social Media on Interpersonal Conflict**

The data obtained shows that social media often becomes an arena for couples to express dissatisfaction that may not be expressed directly in face-to-face interactions. This happens because there is a gap between self-expression in the real world and self-representation on social media. In this context, behavior that can be categorized as nusyuz occurs when a wife uses social media to express disapproval or dissatisfaction with her husband, either openly or through subliminal messages addressed to the public or her social circle.

#### **2. Increased Jealousy and Distrust**

The use of social media also has the potential to increase feelings of jealousy and distrust. Interactions with other people via social media, especially if done in secret or with people the partner doesn't know, can trigger distrust. For example, 'liking' or 'commenting' on other people's content can be interpreted as a sign of excessive attention, which in turn can be seen as a form of neglect or even emotional betrayal of a partner.

#### **3. Impact on Household Stability**

The survey findings underscore that nusyuz behavior mediated by social media not only impacts the individuals directly involved, but also the overall stability of the household. Conflicts triggered by social media are often more difficult to resolve because they involve external elements that are not always visible in daily interactions between husband and wife. These include the influence of virtual friends, content consumed, and public perception of marriage.

In analyzing this relationship, it is important to consider how social norms and personal values interact with technology use. Social media not only reflects but can also change the way individuals think and act in the context of their relationships. Therefore, the existence of social media can be seen as a reflection and extension of existing behavior, as well as a new influence that must be adapted by individuals in maintaining harmony in the household. A deep understanding of these dynamics is important for the development of effective intervention strategies, which focus not only on social media use itself, but also on strengthening healthy interpersonal relationships and open communication between husbands and wives. Thus, a holistic and contextual approach in understanding and overcoming nusyuz problems in the digital era is very vital. The results of this research emphasize the importance of exploring more deeply how social media can influence the dynamics of household relationships and trigger behavior that can be categorized as nusyuz. This demands a comprehensive approach in dealing with family problems in the digital era, considering the huge influence of social media in everyday life.

#### ***Nusyuz Behavior Patterns on Social Media :***

The content analysis of social media platforms that has been carried out in this research provides an in-depth picture of nusyuz behavior patterns that emerge in digital interactions. Social media, as overlapping public and private spaces, provides a stage for individual expression that is often invisible in face-to-face interactions. In the context of nusyuz, this digital dimension adds a new layer of complexity to the way this behavior is interpreted and demonstrated. Some of the findings from this research include:



1. Expressions of Objections and Disapproval: Findings show that expressions of disapproval towards a partner, which are traditionally considered nusyuz behavior, are now often expressed through social media. This manifests in the form of statuses, comments or posts that openly challenge or criticize a partner, which can be accessed by the public or certain groups.
2. Disregard for Partner's Role and Authority: Behaviors that demonstrate disregard for the partner's role or authority are also seen. This includes sharing content that advocates extreme independence without considering balance in relationships, which in some cultural contexts is considered a form of nusyuz.
3. Interactions with the Opposite Sex: Interactions with individuals of the opposite sex on social media, which may seem innocent, can often cause problems in the household. Chatting, comments, or even 'likes' that are considered too frequent or too intimate can be interpreted as a form of nusyuz in this digital era.
4. Excessive Revealing of Private Parts and Personal Expression: Several cases show that sharing images or information that displays private parts or personal aspects publicly, which is contrary to family norms and values, can be seen as a form of nusyuz. This not only changes privacy boundaries but also influences social perceptions of individuals and their partners.

Modern interpretations of nusyuz in the context of social media reveal that social media is not only a communication tool, but also an arena that reflects and influences power dynamics in household relationships. Social media, in all its complexity, facilitates forms of expression that were previously impossible, changing the way individuals strive for autonomy and self-expression within the constraints of existing relationships. Additionally, the ease of access and anonymity of online interactions offer new challenges in enforcing existing social norms. Nusyuz, in its digital form, demands a reinterpretation that takes into account the current context where the boundaries between public and private are increasingly blurred. These findings invite further reflection and discussion regarding policy and practice in family and social law contexts. It is important to consider how laws and policies can adapt to these rapid and complex social changes. A more dynamic and contextual legal approach needs to be developed to deal with problems that arise from digital interactions in the domestic context. It is hoped that this will influence policy making

and therapeutic practice, as well as reinforce the need for digital education in society, teaching how social media can be used responsibly in the context of healthy interpersonal relationships. about how this concept is implemented in a digital environment.

### ***Implications for Domestic Relationship Dynamics***

The results of this research show that the concept of nusyuz in the social media era has complex and varied implications for the dynamics of household relationships. The transformation of the nusyuz concept from a physical dimension to a digital manifestation marks a significant shift in the way society understands and responds to behavior that can disrupt harmony in the household. In the modern context, nusyuz is not only limited to the behavior of leaving the house without permission, but also includes online activities that a partner may consider inappropriate. For example, excessive interaction with other individuals on social media or exposure to content that is not considered appropriate by a partner can be interpreted as a form of nusyuz. This perception shows that the boundaries of nusyuz have expanded, touching aspects of privacy, trust and loyalty in the digital dimension. This research found that inappropriate use of social media can cause tension and conflict in the household. This often happens when one partner feels that the other is spending too much time on social media or when online activities are seen as neglecting household responsibilities. In addition, exposure to unrealistic beauty standards and lifestyles through social media can also give rise to self-dissatisfaction and jealousy, which has the potential to disrupt harmony in relationships.

These findings indicate the need for a more informative and educational approach in managing social media use in the household context. Education and awareness programs can help couples understand the impact of social media use on their personal relationships and develop strategies to overcome these challenges. Training in digital communication, setting healthy boundaries, and awareness of the influence of social media can help in minimizing conflicts related to digital versions of nusyuz. The results of this research also suggest the need for reinterpretation and integration of the concept of nusyuz in policies and laws relating to the household.

Policies that are more adaptive and responsive to modern digital realities can provide a legal framework that supports conflict resolution and supports household stability. This includes the possibility of reviewing existing regulations and perhaps the formulation of new policies that take into account the digital aspects of nusyuz. This research reveals that the era of social media has changed the way we understand and handle the concept of nusyuz in household dynamics. Adaptation to new norms, increased awareness and education, as well as the integration of reflective and adaptive policies, are all key to maintaining household harmony in facing the challenges brought by digital technology. Thus, a deeper and more contextual understanding of nusyuz in this digital era is not only academically relevant but also crucial for future social and family legal practice.

## **Conclusion**

This research has revealed a significant transformation of the nusyuz concept in the digital era, where technology and social media have changed behavioral paradigms that can disrupt harmony in household relationships. This transformation marks a shift from traditional physical behavior, such as leaving the house without permission, to more complex online behavior, such as excessive interaction with others on social media or expressions of disapproval toward a husband who may be seen as challenging his authority. Thus, the concept of nusyuz is not only limited to its physical dimension, but also extends to the digital dimension, demanding new understanding and adaptation of relevant norms and policies to overcome new dynamics in husband and wife relationships.

This study also emphasizes the importance of education and awareness regarding the use of social media in household relationships to prevent and resolve conflicts that may arise. Setting healthy boundaries and effective communication between partners is necessary to maintain household stability and harmony. This research makes an important contribution to understanding and addressing nusyuz issues in the modern era, as well as offering insights for the development of more inclusive and adaptive family law policies that respond to changing social and technological dynamics.

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