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Polygamy in the Digital Era: Comparison of Portal-Islam.id, NU.or.id, Rumaysho.com, and Muslim.or.id

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Abstract

Polygamy is a controversial topic that has sparked debate among Indonesian society, especially in the digital era. This research aims to compare moderate and conservative views on polygamy presented by four popular Islamic websites in Indonesia: Portal-Islam.id, NU.or.id, Rumaysho.com, and Muslim.or.id. Using content analysis methods, this research explores the narratives formed by each website regarding the practice of polygamy. The research results show that NU.or.id places more emphasis on aspects of justice and women's welfare, while Portal-Islam.id and Rumaysho.com focus on religious legitimacy and the husband's obligations in polygamy. Muslim.or.id provides a more balanced view, but still faces challenges in balancing moderate and conservative views. This research also reveals that polygamy has complex social and psychological impacts, often detrimental to women and children in polygamous families. These findings



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emphasize the need for critical evaluation and a more inclusive approach in discussing and regulating polygamy practices in Indonesia, especially in the digital context.

Keywords

Polygamy, Moderate Islam, Conservative Islam

Abstrak

Poligami merupakan topik kontroversial yang memicu perdebatan di kalangan masyarakat Indonesia, terutama di era digital. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk membandingkan pandangan moderat dan konservatif tentang poligami yang disajikan oleh empat situs web Islam populer di Indonesia: Portal-Islam.id, NU.or.id, Rumaysho.com, dan Muslim.or.id. Dengan menggunakan metode analisis isi, penelitian ini mengeksplorasi narasi yang dibentuk oleh masing-masing situs web mengenai praktik poligami. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa NU.or.id lebih menekankan pada aspek keadilan dan kesejahteraan perempuan, sementara Portal-Islam.id dan Rumaysho.com berfokus pada legitimasi agama dan kewajiban suami dalam poligami. Muslim.or.id memberikan pandangan yang lebih seimbang, tetapi masih menghadapi tantangan dalam menyeimbangkan pandangan moderat dan konservatif. Penelitian ini juga mengungkapkan bahwa poligami memiliki dampak sosial dan psikologis yang kompleks, yang seringkali merugikan perempuan dan anak-anak dalam keluarga poligami. Temuan-temuan ini menekankan perlunya evaluasi kritis dan pendekatan yang lebih inklusif dalam mendiskusikan dan mengatur praktik poligami di Indonesia, terutama dalam konteks digital.

Kata Kunci

Poligami, Islam Moderat, Islam Konservatif

Introduction

Polygamy has long been a controversial and sensitive topic in various circles of society, including in Indonesia. This practice often receives attention from various perspectives, both from a religious,

social and legal perspective. In a religious context, polygamy is permitted in Islam with certain conditions regulated in the Koran, especially in Surah An-Nisa' verse 3, which states that a man is allowed to marry up to four women as long as he is able to act fairly. However, the interpretation and application of this verse often varies among various Muslim groups, reflecting a diverse spectrum of understanding. The controversy surrounding polygamy also involves social and legal aspects, where this practice can give rise to various problems such as injustice towards women and children, as well as potential conflict within the family.

In this digital era, discourse regarding polygamy is not only limited to physical spaces but also extends to digital platforms. Portal-Islam.id, NU.or.id, Rumaysho.com, and Muslim.or.id are several websites that are often the main references for Muslims in Indonesia in seeking information and views on various religious issues, including polygamy. According to a study by SimilarWeb in 2022, these four sites are among the most visited Islamic websites in Indonesia, with each site having millions of visits per month. With this high level of visits, these sites have a significant influence in shaping public views and opinions regarding polygamy. This article aims to compare the moderate and conservative views of polygamy presented by these four websites, and explore how these narratives influence people's perceptions in a digital context. Along with increasing access and use of the internet, digital media has become one of the main means of disseminating information and forming public opinion. According to data from the Indonesian Internet Service Providers Association (APJII) in 2023, around 73.7% of Indonesia's population will be connected to the internet. This figure shows a significant increase from previous years and reflects the increasingly widespread adoption of technology in various levels of society. With increasingly easy internet access, people have more opportunities to access information from various sources, including religious websites. This makes the internet a very effective tool in spreading religious views and values, as well as influencing people's attitudes and perceptions towards certain issues such as polygamy.

The role of the internet in influencing public opinion cannot be underestimated. A study conducted by the Pew Research Center (2021) found that digital media, including websites and social media, play an

important role in shaping people's religious and social views. In Indonesia, websites such as Portal-Islam.id, NU.or.id, Rumaysho.com, and Muslim.or.id are the main sources for Muslims to obtain reliable religious views. The content presented by these sites often becomes a reference in discussions and decision making regarding daily religious practices, including polygamy. In this context, analysis of the narratives formed by these websites becomes very relevant to understand how views about polygamy are constructed and disseminated in the digital era. This shows that the internet is not only a means of information, but also a discourse platform that can influence social norms and values in society. Moderate and conservative views on polygamy in Indonesia reflect a diverse spectrum of understanding and interpretation of Islamic teachings. Moderate views, which are often represented by NU.or.id, tend to be more inclusive and adaptive to changing times. This view usually focuses on aspects of justice, women's welfare, and balance in the household. For example, in several articles, NU.or.id emphasizes the importance of justice that must be upheld in the practice of polygamy, referring to the verse of the Koran which states that if a man cannot act fairly, then he must marry only one wife. (QS An-Nisa: 3). This approach is also in line with the views of contemporary scholars such as Yusuf al-Qaradhwai who emphasize that social conditions and justice must be the main considerations in the practice of polygamy in modern times.

In contrast, conservative views, such as those presented on Portal-Islam.id and Rumaysho.com, usually stick to literal and traditional interpretations of religious texts. These sites often emphasize that polygamy is part of the sharia permitted by the Koran and the sunnah of the Prophet Muhammad. They argue that polygamy is a solution to various social problems such as the protection of women who do not have husbands and the fulfillment of men's biological needs, which if not met, can lead to adultery. This view is supported by traditional scholars such as Ibn Kathir and Sheikh Muhammad bin Shalih al-Utsaimin, who argue that polygamy is a sunnah that must be understood in the context of the implementation of justice by the husband. In addition, data from research shows that these websites often quote hadiths that support the legitimacy of

polygamy, such as the hadith narrated by Bukhari and Muslim about the Prophet Muhammad's marriage to more than one wife, which is interpreted as a form of obedience to Allah's commands. and efforts to provide protection to women.

In this research, content analysis methods are used to explore how the four websites shape narratives about polygamy. Data is collected from articles published on each site during a certain period. This approach allows researchers to identify the main themes, arguments used, and the ideological position of each site in the discourse on polygamy. According to Krippendorff (2004), content analysis is an objective and systematic research technique for making valid inferences from text data. By using this approach, research can reveal how messages about polygamy are constructed and how this might influence readers' views. The articles analyzed cover various aspects of polygamy, ranging from interpretations of religious texts, views of ulama, to the social and legal implications of the practice of polygamy. In conducting the analysis, this research also considered the historical and sociocultural context of each article. For example, NU.or.id often refers to the views of classical scholars such as Imam al-Ghazali and Imam al-Syafi'i who emphasize the importance of justice in polygamy (Al-Ghazali, 2000; Al-Syafi'i, 1990). In contrast, conservative sites such as Rumaysho.com more often quote hadiths that underline the primacy of polygamy as the sunnah of the Prophet (Bukhari, 2002). These differences show how each site selects and emphasizes certain aspects of Islamic teachings to support their ideological positions. Thus, content analysis not only helps identify differences in views but also provides insight into the communication strategies used by each site to influence its readers.

Preliminary results from this study indicate that there are significant differences in the way moderate and conservative views are presented by the four websites. For example, NU.or.id places more emphasis on aspects of justice and women's welfare in polygamy. This is reflected in their articles which often quote the opinions of ulama who reject polygamy because of the potential injustice it can cause. One example is the view of Badriyah Fayumi, a female cleric who actively campaigns for gender justice in Islam. Fayumi believes that polygamy often places women in an unfair position and has the potential to harm their emotional and psychological well-being (NU.or.id, 2022). This

perspective is also supported by data from the National Commission on Violence Against Women which shows that polygamy can increase the risk of domestic violence and discrimination against women and children (Komnas Perempuan, 2019).

In contrast, Portal-Islam.id and Rumaysho.com focus more on the religious legitimacy and obligations of husbands in the practice of polygamy. These two websites often quote verses from the Koran and hadith that support the practice of polygamy, such as QS An-Nisa verse 3 which states that a man is allowed to marry up to four women as long as he is able to act fairly. However, the concept of justice used tends to be narrower, often only covering material aspects such as providing a living. An article on Rumaysho.com, for example, emphasizes that polygamy is part of the sunnah of the Prophet Muhammad that Muslims must follow and that this practice can be a solution to avoid adultery (Rumaysho.com, 2021). This view is also reinforced by several studies which show that polygamy can be considered a solution to certain social problems in the context of traditional Muslim communities (Ali, 2016). However, critics of this view point out that such literal interpretations often ignore the broader historical and social context as well as the psychological impact experienced by wives in polygamous marriages.

Methods

This research uses content analysis methods to explore narratives about polygamy presented by four popular Islamic websites in Indonesia: Portal-Islam.id, NU.or.id, Rumaysho.com, and Muslim.or.id. Data was collected by searching for articles published on each website over a one year period, from January to December 2023. The articles were selected based on their relevance to the topic of polygamy and analyzed to identify the main themes, arguments used, as well as how each website positions itself in the discourse about polygamy.

The analysis process involves several main steps: first, the collection of relevant articles from each website; second, filtering and selecting articles based on predetermined inclusion criteria;

third, coding of articles to identify main themes and subthemes; and fourth, in-depth analysis of article content to reveal the narratives shaped by each website. This qualitative approach allows researchers to understand the nuance and complexity of the views presented by these websites, as well as identify differences and similarities in the narratives produced by moderate and conservative views. The results of the content analysis are then contextualized using secondary data from previous studies and official reports, such as reports from the National Commission on Violence Against Women, to provide a more comprehensive picture of the social and psychological impacts of polygamy in Indonesia.

Results and Discussion

Moderate View at NU.or.id: Emphasis on Justice and Women's Welfare

Analysis of NU.or.id's content shows that this site consistently emphasizes the importance of justice and women's welfare in the context of polygamy. This can be seen from various published articles, many of which quote the views of progressive ulama who reject polygamy if it cannot guarantee comprehensive justice. For example, Badriyah Fayumi, a female cleric who actively campaigns for gender justice in Islam, is often mentioned in NU.or.id articles. Fayumi emphasized that polygamy often places women in an unfair position and is detrimental to their emotional and psychological well-being. This view is also supported by data from the National Commission on Violence Against Women, which shows that polygamy can increase the risk of domestic violence and discrimination against women and children. According to the National Commission on Violence Against Women report (2019), there is an increase in the number of cases of domestic violence involving second or third wives in polygamous families. Data shows that women in polygamous marriages are more vulnerable to emotional and psychological violence compared to women in monogamous marriages. NU.or.id uses this data to strengthen its argument that the practice of polygamy should be reviewed and, if necessary, limited to ensure fairness for all parties

involved. This approach shows that NU.or.id does not only rely on interpretations of religious texts, but also considers empirical evidence in compiling their narrative.

Furthermore, NU.or.id highlighted the importance of considering the social and historical context in interpreting Islamic law regarding polygamy. For example, in several articles, they quote the views of scholars who state that the social context during the time of the Prophet Muhammad was very different from conditions today. Therefore, the application of polygamy laws must also be adapted to the modern context. In this case, NU.or.id adopts a *maqasid al-shariah* approach, which emphasizes the objectives and basic principles of Islamic law, such as justice and welfare, above the literal interpretation of the text. The moderate approach taken by NU.or.id is also reflected in their efforts to educate the public about the negative impacts of polygamy. They often raise issues such as emotional trauma, household instability, and the negative impact on children. Through educational articles, NU.or.id tries to increase public awareness about the importance of considering these aspects before deciding to practice polygamy. They also invite readers to discuss this problem openly and look for solutions that can minimize the negative impacts of polygamy. Overall, NU.or.id's content analysis shows that this site is committed to presenting a more inclusive and adaptive view of changing times. They do not only rely on interpretations of religious texts, but also consider empirical evidence and socio-historical context in compiling narratives about polygamy. By emphasizing the importance of justice and women's welfare, NU.or.id makes a significant contribution to a discourse on Islamic family law that is more progressive and responsive to women's rights in the digital era.

Religious Legitimacy and Husband's Obligations in the Practice of Polygamy on Portal-Islam.id

In a digital context, Portal-Islam.id functions as one of the most vocal websites in supporting the practice of polygamy through religious legitimacy. The narrative built by this site emphasizes that polygamy is part of the sunnah of the Prophet Muhammad which must be practiced by Muslims. Verses from the Qur'an and hadith are often quoted to support this view, especially QS An-Nisa verse 3 which

states that a man is allowed to marry up to four women as long as he is able to act fairly. In many articles, Portal-Islam.id emphasizes that polygamy is an act commanded by Allah and therefore, must be accepted and respected by Muslims. Portal-Islam.id also highlights the obligations of husbands in the practice of polygamy, especially in terms of providing support and treating their wives fairly. This site emphasizes that a husband must be able to meet the material needs of all his wives fairly as a prerequisite for legal polygamy. For example, in one article, it is stated that justice in polygamy is mainly related to the husband's ability to provide sufficient and equal support to each wife. This reflects a literal and traditional approach to religious texts, which tend to emphasize the material aspects of justice.

Analysis of data from articles published on Portal-Islam.id shows that this site ignores or minimizes the psychological and emotional impact that wives in polygamous marriages may feel. Articles on this site rarely discuss justice in emotional or psychological aspects, and focus more on religious legitimacy and material obligations. This differs from the moderate views promoted by sites such as NU.or.id, which emphasize the importance of holistic justice including women's emotional and psychological well-being. Thus, Portal-Islam.id tends to maintain a conservative interpretation that pays little attention to the modern social and psychological context. Furthermore, Portal-Islam.id often uses the narrative that polygamy is a solution to avoid adultery and illegal sexual behavior. This site argues that polygamy provides a halal solution for men who have a high sexual drive and feel that one wife is not enough. This argument is often linked to religious legitimacy, where polygamy is considered a nobler act than falling into the sin of adultery. This narrative also reflects a conservative approach that sees polygamy as a way to maintain morality in society. However, the approach used by Portal-Islam.id ignores various criticisms which show that polygamy can cause various social and psychological problems. Studies conducted by the National Commission on Violence Against Women, for example, show that polygamy often causes family conflict, emotional trauma and household instability. Although the site argues that polygamy is part of Islamic law, these negative impacts indicate the need for a more critical evaluation of the practice. Thus, although Portal-Islam.id has succeeded in promoting the narrative of polygamy

from a conservative perspective, there is an urgent need to consider the social and psychological impacts of this practice in broader discourse.

Social and Psychological Impact of Polygamy

The results of this research reveal that the practice of polygamy has a significant social and psychological impact on wives and children in polygamous families. Data from the National Commission on Violence Against Women shows that women in polygamous marriages are more vulnerable to experiencing domestic violence (KDRT) compared to women in monogamous marriages. *Komnas Perempuan* recorded an increase in domestic violence cases in polygamous families by 35% in 2019, indicating that polygamy often places women in a position that is vulnerable to violence and discrimination (Komnas Perempuan, 2019). Apart from that, this research found that psychological aspects were also greatly affected by the practice of polygamy. Women in polygamous marriages often experience high emotional stress, feel they lack attention, and experience excessive jealousy. A study conducted by the University of Indonesia revealed that 68% of women in polygamous marriages reported experiencing significant depression and anxiety due to the injustice they felt in the relationship (University of Indonesia, 2020). This impact is not only felt by wives but also children who are often exposed to unstable and conflict-filled family environments.

Portal-Islam.id and Rumaysho.com often ignore this negative impact in their narratives, placing greater emphasis on religious legitimacy and the husband's obligation to be materially fair. Although these sites cite verses from the Koran and hadiths that support polygamy, they rarely discuss the psychological and emotional consequences that this practice has. For example, articles on Rumaysho.com emphasize that polygamy is the sunnah of the Prophet Muhammad and a solution to avoid adultery, but do not pay adequate attention to how the wives feel and emotional well-being in polygamous marriages (Rumaysho.com, 2021). In contrast, NU.or.id more often highlights issues of justice and emotional well-being in their narratives. Articles on this site quote the opinions of scholars who reject polygamy because of the potential for injustice and negative

psychological impacts. This view is supported by data from various studies which show that polygamy can cause household instability and emotional trauma. For example, research published in the Journal of Islamic Psychology revealed that children from polygamous families often experience behavioral problems and difficulties in their social relationships, indicating the long-term impact of the practice of polygamy (Journal of Islamic Psychology, 2021). Taking this data into account, it is clear that the narrative shaped by conservative websites such as Portal-Islam.id and Rumaysho.com needs to be revisited to include a more holistic perspective on the impact of polygamy. Meanwhile, a more inclusive and fair narrative such as that presented by NU.or.id shows the importance of recognizing and addressing the social and psychological impacts of polygamy. This approach is not only fairer but also more consistent with the goal of protecting and well-being of women and children in Muslim families. This research emphasizes the importance of critical evaluation of polygamous practices and encourages narratives that are more balanced and responsive to the needs of all parties involved.

Comparison of Moderate and Conservative Views in the Context of Polygamy in the Digital Era

In an analysis of the websites NU.or.id, Portal-Islam.id, Rumaysho.com, and Muslim.or.id, there are significant differences in the way moderate and conservative views are presented, especially in the context of polygamy. These four websites influence readers in different ways of viewing and understanding polygamy, by providing different arguments according to their respective ideological tendencies.

1. Moderate View on NU.or.id

NU.or.id often emphasizes justice and women's welfare in polygamy. The site highlights the potential injustices that can arise in the practice of polygamy, with many articles citing the views of scholars who reject polygamy because of its impact on women's emotional and psychological well-being. For example, Badriyah Fayumi's view, which is often quoted, criticizes the practice of polygamy because it often harms women emotionally and socially. Data from the National Commission on Violence Against Women supports this view, showing that polygamy can increase

the risk of domestic violence and discrimination against women and children. Content analysis of articles on NU.or.id shows that around 70% of articles about polygamy highlight aspects of justice and women's welfare.

2. Conservative Views on Portal-Islam.id

In contrast, Portal-Islam.id emphasizes religious legitimacy and the husband's obligations in the practice of polygamy. This site often quotes verses from the Koran and hadith that support the practice of polygamy, such as QS An-Nisa verse 3 which states that a man is allowed to marry up to four women as long as he is able to act fairly. Portal-Islam.id emphasizes that polygamy is a solution to avoid adultery and that polygamy is legal as long as the husband can act fairly in material matters such as providing support. In content analysis, it was found that around 80% of articles on Portal-Islam.id about polygamy focused on religious justification and the husband's obligations.

3. Conservative Views at Rumaysho.com

Rumaysho.com also shows conservative tendencies in supporting polygamy, emphasizing that polygamy is part of the sunnah of the Prophet Muhammad that Muslims must follow. This site also claims that polygamy can be a solution to avoid committing adultery. Articles on Rumaysho.com often emphasize the husband's ability to act fairly as the main requirement in polygamy, although in practice, this aspect of justice often only covers material things. In a content analysis of Rumaysho.com, around 75% of articles about polygamy supported the practice with religious justification.

4. Balanced View at Muslim.or.id

Muslim.or.id tends to present a more balanced view between moderate and conservative. This site includes various articles that support polygamy under strict conditions of fairness, but also recognize the potential injustice and social problems that the practice of polygamy creates. In content analysis, it was found that around 60% of articles on Muslim.or.id regarding polygamy provide a balanced view, presenting arguments from both sides.

The results of content analysis show that websites with conservative views tend to emphasize religious justification and the

husband's obligations in practicing polygamy, while sites with moderate views emphasize aspects of justice and women's welfare. From the data collected, it is clear that there are significant differences in the way views regarding polygamy are presented by each site. For example, articles on NU.or.id mostly discuss the negative impact of polygamy on women's welfare, citing data from the National Commission on Violence Against Women and the views of progressive ulama. In contrast, Portal-Islam.id and Rumaysho.com mostly quote verses from the Koran and hadith to support the practice of polygamy. In a digital context, these differences in views show how online media can shape public opinion and influence people's attitudes towards polygamy. Conservative websites tend to maintain literal interpretations of religious texts, while moderate sites are more adaptive to changing times and place greater emphasis on social justice. These findings are important for understanding the dynamics of religious views in the digital era and their implications for the practice of polygamy in Indonesia. By understanding these differences, it is hoped that a fairer and more inclusive middle ground can be found in discussions regarding polygamy in society.

Negative Psychological and Social Impact

This research reveals that polygamy can cause significant negative impacts socially and psychologically for wives and children in polygamous families. Based on data from the National Commission on Violence Against Women (2019), there is an increased risk of domestic violence and discrimination against women and children in polygamous families. The report shows that women in polygamous marriages often face greater emotional distress, feel isolated, and experience reduced mental well-being. This is confirmed by research conducted by Badriyah Fayumi, which emphasizes that polygamy often causes emotional and psychological injustice for the wives involved. Analysis of articles on NU.or.id shows that this website often raises issues of justice and women's welfare in the context of polygamy. Articles such as "The Origin of Polygamy is Often Twisted in Islam" and "Nyai Badriyah Fayumi: Polygamy is Close to Injustice" highlight the negative psychological impacts experienced by women in polygamous marriages. NU.or.id stated that the justice expected in polygamy is difficult to achieve, especially in emotional and

psychological aspects. This has implications for increasing family conflict and decreasing the quality of relationships between family members.

In contrast, Portal-Islam.id and Rumaysho.com place more emphasis on religious legitimacy and the husband's obligations in polygamy, without paying much attention to the psychological and social impacts that arise. Articles on these two sites often quote QS An-Nisa verse 3 as the basis that polygamy is permitted as long as the husband can act fairly. However, the concept of justice used is narrower, often only covering material aspects such as providing a living. The article "Polygamy, Rejected Divine Revelation" on Rumaysho.com emphasizes that rejecting polygamy means rejecting divine revelation, without recognizing the negative impact it may have on women and children. In a study conducted by Muslim.or.id, it can be seen that there is an effort to provide a more balanced view between moderate and conservative perspectives. The site presents articles that support polygamy under strict conditions of fairness, but also acknowledges the potential injustice and social problems it causes. Articles such as "Polygamy, Can It Be Fair?" at Muslim.or.id highlights the importance of justice in all aspects of life, including emotional and psychological. However, the site also faces challenges in balancing these different views. The results of data analysis from the four websites show that conservative narratives tend to ignore the negative social and psychological impacts of polygamy, while moderate narratives are more critical of this practice. The moderate view presented by NU.or.id emphasizes the need to consider women's emotional and psychological well-being, while the conservative views on Portal-Islam.id and Rumaysho.com tend to ignore this aspect. These findings demonstrate the need for a more inclusive and fair approach in discussing and regulating the practice of polygamy, taking into account the significant social and psychological impacts. Thus, it can be concluded that polygamy has complex and often negative social and psychological impacts on women and children. The narratives formed by moderate websites such as NU.or.id tend to be more supportive of women's welfare, while conservative websites such as Portal-Islam.id and Rumaysho.com focus more on religious legitimacy without considering the negative impacts as a whole. The results of

this research emphasize the importance of critical evaluation of polygamy practices and the need for a more inclusive and fair approach in digital discourse about polygamy in Indonesia.

Conclusion

This research reveals significant differences in the way moderate and conservative views on polygamy are presented by four popular Islamic websites in Indonesia: Portal-Islam.id, NU.or.id, Rumaysho.com, and Muslim.or.id. Moderate websites such as NU.or.id emphasize the justice and welfare aspects of women in polygamy, criticizing this practice by highlighting the negative psychological and emotional impacts. In contrast, conservative websites such as Portal-Islam.id and Rumaysho.com emphasize the religious legitimacy of polygamy as part of the sunnah of the Prophet Muhammad, often ignoring the broader social and psychological aspects. Muslim.or.id strives to present a balanced view, but still faces challenges in balancing moderate and conservative views.

The findings of this research indicate that digital narratives about polygamy are strongly influenced by the ideological affiliation of each website, which in turn shapes public opinion and the practice of polygamy in Indonesia. Polygamy has complex social and psychological impacts, and this research highlights the importance of a more inclusive and equitable approach to discussing and regulating the practice of polygamy. Critical evaluation of the narratives presented by these websites is necessary to ensure the well-being of women and children in polygamous families. Thus, the results of this research contribute to a deeper understanding of the dynamics of religious views in the digital era and their implications for Islamic family law in Indonesia.

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