

Pathology of the Obstacles to the Development of Qur'anic Culture with an Analytical View of the National Charter for the Development of Qur'anic Culture

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Introduction

The Holy Qur'an is the most comprehensive, reliable, and final guidance revealed by Almighty God to lead humankind to worldly prosperity and eternal salvation. Attaining this lofty goal, however, requires not only the recitation and understanding of its noble verses but also sincere adherence to its commands and prohibitions. Although the Qur'an repeatedly introduces itself as "a guidance for mankind" (Q 2:185; 3:4; 6:91), only the pious truly benefit from its light of guidance: "This is the Book about which there is no doubt, a guidance for the God-fearing" (Q 2:2). More than fourteen centuries after its revelation, the lived realities of individuals and societies-particularly Muslims in general and Shi'a communities in particular-show a considerable gap from the Qur'an's salvific and life-giving instructions. It is this significant gap that has motivated the present study to analyze the obstacles hindering the development of Qur'anic culture and to propose the most essential corrective measures.

Methodology

The development of Qur'anic culture in the Islamic society has increasingly become a serious focus of attention among scholars and practitioners. Especially during the drafting of the National Charter for the Development of Qur'anic Culture, a number of extensive studies were conducted, the most important of which include:

1. The detailed performance evaluation reports of the Charter's commissions;
2. The research project on the challenges of implementing the Charter;
3. The outcomes of consultative sessions addressing key issues in the Charter's implementation, including the Secretariat and commissions;
4. Observations on the performance of the commissions in their interaction with the Supreme Council for the Development of Qur'anic Culture.

In addition, comprehensive expert assessments had already been carried out in the 2000s-before the formal establishment of the Council for the Development of Qur'anic Culture-regarding the shortcomings of Qur'anic activities. These efforts culminated in the proposal to establish the Council through the Charter document, benefiting from three major initiatives: the Comprehensive Qur'anic Plan, the National Qur'an Literacy Movement, and the Strategic Plan for the Coordination and Organization of Qur'anic Activities in the country.¹

For the empirical stage, the researcher designed a questionnaire aligned with the objectives of the study, employing the Likert five-point scale. The questions were framed in bipolar or dichotomous conceptual forms and developed on the basis of the study's objectives.² The items were drawn from research sources produced by the Secretariat of the Council for the Development of Qur'anic Culture, as summarized in the reference table.³

Row	Question Text	Method	Scale	Bipolar	Source Category*
1	The existence of dispersion and fragmentation among governmental and non-governmental authorities active in the field of the Holy Qur'an as an obstacle to the development of Qur'anic culture in society	Likert scale	Five-point	From very high to very low, plus Neutral (I don't know)	Pathology
2	The existence of economic problems, especially inflation, as an obstacle to the development of Qur'anic culture in society				Challenges
3	The change in cultural tastes and people's religious outlooks as an obstacle to the development of Qur'anic culture in society				Challenges
4	The impact of pollution arising from unregulated and unrestricted use of virtual spaces as an obstacle to the development of Qur'anic culture in society				Challenges
5	The degree of failure of governmental or non-governmental religious authorities-or both-in presenting worthy and appealing Qur'anic models to society				Pathology
6	The creation and spread of ambiguities among groups of people about religious and Qur'anic teachings and the failure to provide appropriate answers				Challenges
7	The negative impact of the improper behavior of some religious figures and veteran Qur'anic personalities on the development of Qur'anic culture				Challenges
8	The existing conflicts among political tendencies and their effects on society				Pathology
9	The mischievous actions of domestic and foreign enemies in tarnishing the reputation of famous Qur'anic figures				Challenges
10	The impact of cultural invasion and the spread of Western lifestyles on the development of Qur'anic culture				Challenges
11	The multiplicity and redundancy of governmental authorities and the absence of a central reference structure				Pathology
12	The lack of a comprehensive, intelligent, and targeted support system for Qur'anic activists				Pathology
13	The insufficient belief in the centrality and priority of the Holy Qur'an in the macro-management of the country				Pathology
14	The extent to which the Charter for the Development of Qur'anic Culture requires amendment or completion				Pathology

1 .Shabani-Fard, Alireza. "Pathology of the Performance of the Commissions and the Supreme Council for the Development of Qur'anic Culture and Its Affiliated Bodies." (1980s–1990s SH / 2000s–2010s CE), p. 13.

2 . Norman M. Bradburn and Seymour Sudman. *Methods of Questionnaire Design*, p. 150.

3 .Salmani-Mahini, Morteza. "Identification and Prioritization of the Challenges in Implementing the Charter for the Development of Qur'anic Culture." (Hereafter cited as "Challenges"); and Shabani-Fard, Alireza. "Pathology of the Performance of the Commissions and the Supreme Council for the Development of Qur'anic Culture and Its Affiliated Bodies." (Hereafter cited as "Pathology").

The primary objective of this study is to analyze the obstacles to, and propose strategies for, the development of Qur'anic culture. Accordingly, the present research falls within the category of applied studies in terms of its aim, and it is classified as a descriptive–survey study in terms of its nature and data collection method. The validity of the data collection was confirmed using the convergent validity method, while its reliability was established through the test–retest technique. Data analysis was carried out through qualitative methods, employing the technique of content analysis.

Findings

Table based on the questionnaire results with a pathological approach:

Row	Dimensions	Domains	Obstacles	Frequency Percentage of Responses	Percentage of “High” and “Very High” Impact	Degree of Similarity with Previous Studies
1	Obstacles related to nature and content	Obstacles related to responsiveness	The extent to which the Charter for the Development of Qur'anic Culture requires amendment or completion	88	High 44 – Very high 44	High
			The creation of ambiguities and doubts among segments of society about Qur'anic teachings and the failure to provide appropriate responses	81.5	High 41.5 – Very high 40	High
2	Obstacles related to executors and the public	Obstacles related to the religious convictions of executors and the public	Insufficient belief in the centrality and priority of the Holy Qur'an in the macro-management of the country	88	High 40 – Very high 48	Very high
			The change in cultural tastes and people's religious outlooks	82	High 36 – Very high 46	High
		Obstacles related to behavioral features of executors and the public	The negative impact of the improper behavior of some religious figures and veteran Qur'anic personalities	75	High 42 – Very high 33	High
			The multiplicity and redundancy of governmental authorities and the absence of a central reference structure	88.5	High 43.5 – Very high 45	Very high
			The existing conflicts among political tendencies of prominent Qur'anic figures and their destructive effects on society	78.5	High 39.5 – Very high 39	High
			The existence of dispersion and fragmentation among governmental and non-governmental Qur'anic authorities	70	High 40 – Very high 30	Very high
3	Obstacles related to environmental factors	Obstacles related to economic conditions	The existence of economic problems, especially high prices and inflation	70	High 32 – Very high 38	Very high
		Obstacles related to audiences	Cultural invasion and the spread of Western lifestyles	86	High 33 – Very high 53	Very high
			Pollution arising from unregulated and unrestricted use of virtual spaces	82	High 43 – Very high 39	Very high
			Defamation of prominent and well-known Qur'anic figures and the lack of clarification of their status	75	High 34 – Very high 41	High
4	Obstacles related to governmental authorities	Obstacles related to the administrative system	The failure of governmental or non-governmental Qur'anic authorities to provide worthy and appealing Qur'anic models to society	79.5	High 44.5 – Very high 35	High
			The lack of a comprehensive, intelligent, and targeted support system for Qur'anic activists	83.5	High 40.5 – Very high 43	Very high

From the evaluation of the responses received, the following conclusions can be drawn with confidence:

a) Governmental and non-governmental Qur'anic authorities require greater cohesion, sustainable coordination, purposeful planning, and unity of action. This is one of the most effective means for promoting the exalted culture of the Qur'an. Among the best ways to achieve this goal is to avoid multiplicity and redundancy among governmental bodies concerned with Qur'anic affairs and to establish a central, comprehensive authority.

b) Among the various obstacles identified by respondents in terms of their degree of impact, the following were considered to have the greatest negative effect on the development of Qur'anic culture: the destructive consequences of cultural invasion and the spread of Western lifestyles; the harms of unregulated and uncontrolled use of virtual spaces; the gradual shift in cultural tastes and religious outlooks of the people; the influence of ambiguities and doubts created by opponents coupled with inadequate responses; and the failure of authorities to present attractive and worthy Qur'anic models to society.

c) If the performance of Qur'anic figures-whether popular personalities or institutional authorities-is marred by slips, intentional errors, or even unintentional mistakes, and these are disseminated by hostile or ignorant actors, especially through virtual platforms, they may inflict the gravest damage on the development of Qur'anic culture. In many cases, such damage becomes irreparable or exceedingly difficult to redress.

d) Some of the obstacles to developing Qur'anic culture in society are fundamental, deep-rooted, and highly influential, such that they in turn generate numerous secondary obstacles. Removing these core impediments will naturally eliminate many derivative ones, paving the way for the expansion and deepening of Qur'anic and Ahl al-Bayt culture. Because of their critical importance, eliminating these obstacles requires serious resolve and determination on the part of Qur'anic activists, especially governmental authorities. Scientifically grounded and principled efforts to remove them constitute the most essential corrective action for the development of Qur'anic culture.

e) Weaknesses in recruiting efficient and specialized Qur'anic activists, the absence of continuous and effective monitoring and evaluation of Qur'anic activities,¹ the excessive administrative burdens placed on Qur'anic actors², the lack of comprehensive information systems for Qur'anic activities³, and the limited dissemination of the National Charter for the Development of Qur'anic Culture in society⁴ are among the most important secondary obstacles to Qur'anic cultural development.

Conclusion

The findings of this study confirm that, first, the development of Qur'anic culture across the political, economic, cultural, and social structures of society is indeed achievable. Second, to realize this goal, a comprehensive pathology of both primary and secondary obstacles is required to provide a holistic and scholarly understanding of the current situation, followed by targeted

1. Boroomandnasab, Ali. *Islamic Management from the Perspective of the Qur'an and Nahj al-Balāgha*, p. 19.

2. Shabani-Fard, Alireza. "Pathology of the Performance of the Commissions and the Supreme Council for the Development of Qur'anic Culture and Its Affiliated Bodies," pp. 85–92.

3. Salmani-Mahini, Morteza. "Identification and Prioritization of the Challenges in Implementing the Charter for the Development of Qur'anic Culture," pp. 127–131.

4. Ibid., pp. 181–225.

corrective measures. Third, priority should be given to addressing the main structural obstacles, since the removal of each of these simultaneously eliminates several secondary ones. Fourth, given the significant gap between the current state of Qur'anic culture in the country and the desired state envisioned in the National Charter for the Development of Qur'anic Culture, revising, amending, and completing this Charter is both urgent and indispensable.

Keywords

Holy Qur'an, culture, pathology, obstacle, development of Qur'anic culture.

Ethical Considerations

Compliance with research ethics. The authors observed the ethical principles in conducting and publishing this scholarly research, and this is confirmed by all of them.

Author Contributions

Contributions to the article derived from the thesis:

- **First and corresponding author:** Hussein Qaderi Baghdadabad
- **Second author (thesis supervisor):** Dr. Ali Safari
- **Third author (thesis advisor):** Dr. Jalil Parvin
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Conflict of interest

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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