Maqasid al-Shariah Based Islamic Bioethics: A Comprehensive Approach

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Abstract Maqasid al-Shariah based Islamic bioethics is an Islamic bioethics concept which uses the objectives of the Shariah (maqasid al-Shariah) as its approach in analysing and assessing bioethical issues. Analysis based on maqasid al-Shariah based Islamic bioethics will examine any bioethical issues from three main aspects namely intention, method, and output or final goal of the studied issues. Then, the evaluation will be analysed from human interest hierarchy, inclusivity, and degree of certainty. The Islamic bioethics concept is a manifestation of dynamic Islamic jurisprudence which can overcome new complex and complicated bioethical issues such as tri-parent baby technology issues. Therefore, this article will introduce and explain the concept of maqasid al-Shariah based Islamic bioethics and outline a general guidance of maqasid al-Shariah based Islamic bioethics to determine a maqṣad (objective) based on standards of human good or well-being (maslahah) and harm (mafsadah).

Keywords Maqasid al-Shariah • Islamic bioethics • Bioethics • Malay Archipelago • Sunni

Introduction

The rapid development of science and technology in this age has led to the emergence of various new technologies across numerous fields and sectors such as medicine, industries, engineering, biotechnology, nanotechnology, and information technology. The emergence and development of technology has changed the way people live. Furthermore, these new technologies have changed the world view and thinking of people since the technologies also bring about impacts on values that forces mankind to adapt to them (Raquib 2015).

This phenomenon significantly affects all aspects of human life. The Muslims, being part of a global community, are not exempt from this current. As a result, multitudes of new religious-ethical issues and polemics surfaced. These new issues require comprehensive analyses and answers rather than just an analysis of the apparent regarding the new technologies. Answers to religious issues related to these new technologies need to include the underlying and implicit aspects of the observed technology (Raquib 2015).

This article intends to draw attention to an Islamic bioethics concept which uses maqasid al-Shariah (the objectives of the Shariah) as its approach, which is