Pioneering Jurisprudential Convergence: A KPI-Based Framework for Shia-Hanafi Rapprochement in Islamic Law

SeyyedAbdolHojjat MoghadasNian

University of Religions and Denominations

S14110213@Gmail.com

Ebrahim Qasemi

University of Religions and Denominations

E.Qasemi@urd.ac.ir

SeyyedMohammadAli MoghadasNian

Ferdowsi University of Mashhad

SMA.MoghaddasNian@Gmail.com

SeyedMehdi AlizadehMousavi

University of Religions and Denominations

SMA.Moosavi@urd.ac.ir

1

Abstract

This study introduces an innovative KPI-based framework for assessing doctrinal convergence and divergence between the Hanafi and Shia (Jaʿfarī) legal schools, aiming to advance practical strategies for inter-sectarian rapprochement in Islamic law. Anchored in the Twelve-Pillar Framework for Comparative Jurisprudence (TPF-CJ), the model operationalizes 240 key performance indicators (KPIs) across diverse doctrinal domains including legal reasoning, ritual practices, civil law, and digital transformation. Employing an exploratory sequential mixed-methods design, the research integrates qualitative doctrinal analysis with quantitative validation via Delphi surveys, regression, and principal component analysis. The findings reveal that, while both schools share a common scriptural foundation, the Shia tradition exhibits greater

flexibility by emphasizing rational deduction (ʿaql) and the integration of maqāṣid al-Sharīʿah, and demonstrates a higher readiness for digital innovations (e.g., AI-driven analytics and blockchain) compared to the more traditional Hanafi approach. Drawing on the seminal works of MoghadasNian (2022, 2023, 2024, 2025; MoghadasNian et al., 2024; MoghadasNian et al., 2025), this framework not only bridges classical fiqh analysis with modern evaluative practices but also provides actionable insights for policy reforms, institutional efficiency, and sustainable inter-sectarian dialogue. Moreover, the model's applications extend to sectors such as airline management and tourism, where digital transformation is integral to operational excellence.

Keywords: Jurisprudential Convergence; KPI Framework; Hanafi–Shia Rapprochement; Comparative Fiqh; Digital Transformation; Institutional Innovation; Modern Fiqh

2

Introduction

Background

The convergence of jurisprudential methodologies in Islamic legal studies has long been a subject of both theoretical inquiry and practical reform. This study introduces a pioneering KPI-based framework that quantitatively assesses doctrinal convergence and divergence between the Hanafi and Shia (Jaʿfarī) legal schools. Central to this research is the Twelve-Pillar Framework for Comparative Jurisprudence (TPF-CJ) of the Five Canonical Islamic Schools, a model developed for the first time that systematically operationalizes 240 key performance indicators (KPIs) across diverse doctrinal domains. Rooted in classical principles such as ʿaql (rational deduction) versus qiyās (analogical reasoning) the framework uniquely integrates traditional fiqh methodologies with cutting-edge digital evaluation tools, including AI-driven analytics and blockchain technology for verification. Mirroring performance measurement practices found in airline management (using metrics such as RPK, ASK, load factor, and DOC) and health tourism, this innovative approach not only advances legal scholarship but also supports practical reforms for inter-sectarian rapprochement. The Iranian context, where these jurisprudential debates are notably significant, further enriches the relevance and applicability of this transformative model.

Statement of the Problem

Despite the widespread reliance on shared canonical texts such as the Qur'an and Sunnah, fundamental methodological differences persist between the Hanafi and Shia legal traditions. For instance, where the Shia perspective prioritizes a flexible, rational deduction process guided by the wisdom of the Infallible

Imams, the Hanafi school traditionally relies on extensive analogical reasoning. This divergence presents a pressing problem: existing evaluative models in comparative fiqh are predominantly qualitative and lack a standardized, quantitative metric. Consequently, policymakers and scholars face challenges in aligning doctrinal interpretations with the demands of modern digital transformation and in designing targeted initiatives for inter-sectarian rapprochement.

Research Questions and Objectives

This study addresses these challenges through the following objectives:

- Objective 1: To develop a robust KPI-based framework that measures both convergence and divergence in jurisprudential methodologies between the Hanafi and Shia schools.
- Objective 2: To identify and rigorously validate critical KPIs that capture doctrinal alignment, methodological adaptability, and responsiveness to contemporary challenges.
- Objective 3: To employ a sequential exploratory mixed-methods design including qualitative doctrinal analysis and quantitative validation via Delphi surveys, regression, and principal component analysis to ensure that the KPIs are both theoretically robust and empirically sound.

Guiding research questions include:

- What are the key KPIs for assessing the convergence between Hanafi and Shia legal methodologies?
- How can a KPI-based framework inform targeted policy reforms and promote inter-sectarian cooperation in a manner analogous to performance monitoring systems in sectors like airline management and health tourism?

Significance of the Study

The dual contributions of this research lie in both scholarly innovation and practical application:
The significance of this research is twofold:

- Academic Contribution: By integrating quantitative methods with classical fiqh analysis, the TPF-CJ model introduces a groundbreaking, data-driven approach to comparative jurisprudence. This pioneering framework expands traditional debates by providing a replicable, transparent tool for evaluating doctrinal convergence and divergence, much like the Balanced Scorecard applied in modern digital transformation initiatives.
- Practical Contribution: The insights derived from this framework offer actionable strategies for policymakers, religious institutions, and educational authorities. For example, similar to how airlines utilize digital dashboards for route optimization and yield management, institutions can implement real-time analytics to enhance fatwa issuance, curricular reform, and inter-sect dialogue thereby promoting both sustainability and social justice in legal governance.

Outline of the Article Structure

The remainder of this paper is organized as follows:

- Literature Review: An in-depth synthesis of existing research in comparative fiqh, taqrīb (rapprochement), and quantitative performance evaluation methods, drawing parallels with digital transformation practices in airline management and tourism.
- Methodology: A detailed exposition of the sequential exploratory mixed-methods design employed to extract, refine, and validate the 240 KPIs. This section highlights the integration of

qualitative doctrinal analysis with quantitative techniques (including Delphi surveys and AI-driven semantic analysis) to support a rigorous, replicable framework.

- Findings and Results: Presentation of the KPI scores alongside comparative visualizations such as radar charts, solar graphs, and heatmaps that illustrate areas of convergence and divergence between the Hanafi and Shia schools.
- Discussion: Interpretation of the quantitative results in relation to longstanding doctrinal debates and modern digital transformation imperatives, while outlining potential policy reforms to bridge doctrinal gaps. Examples from airline management and health tourism further contextualize these findings.
- Conclusion: A summary of the key contributions of this pioneering KPI-based framework, along with targeted recommendations for scholars, policymakers, and practitioners to facilitate sustainable legal reform and enhance inter-sectarian dialogue.

Literature Review

Theoretical Background

Contemporary Islamic jurisprudence and the strategic pursuit of sectarian rapprochement are built upon centuries-old epistemologies and emerging evaluative frameworks. Traditional legal theories emphasize divine revelation (the Qur'an and Sunnah), consensus (ijmāʿ), analogical reasoning (qiyās), and rational deduction (ʿaql), with each Islamic school favoring different balances among these methodologies. For instance, the Hanafi school traditionally prioritizes qiyās and the integration of local custom (urf), while the Shia (Jaʿfarī) tradition emphasizes a flexible approach to ʿaql, guided by the authority of the Infallible Imams.

In recent decades, scholars have increasingly adopted performance evaluation methodologies from other domains to illuminate doctrinal convergence. Models such as the Balanced Scorecard (Kaplan & Norton, 1992) and Digital Maturity Models (Westerman et al., 2014) more recently refined within contexts such as Tourism 4.0 (Buhalis & Amaranggana, 2015) and airline route optimization through metrics like Revenue Passenger Kilometers (RPK), Available Seat Kilometers (ASK), and yield management offer quantifiable parameters for assessing systemic performance. These models have been crucial for measuring operational efficiency in sectors including airline management, where advanced tools such as digital dashboards monitor key performance indicators (KPIs) such as Direct Operating Cost (DOC) and Customer Relationship Management (CRM) effectiveness.

The Twelve-Pillar Framework for Comparative Jurisprudence (TPF-CJ) merges these modern evaluative tools with classical jurisprudential analysis. It provides a structured, KPI-based approach that incorporates dimensions ranging from legal reasoning and ritual practices to digital transformation mirroring the sophistication of frameworks used in digital transformation strategies (e.g., Digital Quotient assessments, Porter's Five Forces applied to technology adoption) and sustainability frameworks. By leveraging these interdisciplinary models, the TPF-CJ aims to systematically quantify convergence and divergence in Islamic legal traditions, thereby bridging the gap between theoretical fiqh analysis and the practical imperatives of modern digital transformation.

4

Furthermore, research by Widiyanto et al. (2021) on rapprochement between Sunnism and Shiism in Indonesia supports the viability of quantifying inter-sectarian differences in broader doctrinal contexts. Their work reinforces our approach, showing that similar convergence strategies can be applied to diverse cultural settings. This theoretical framework, therefore, not only grounds the current research in well-established performance evaluation models but also extends these models to the domain of comparative fiqh.

Critical Analysis of Existing Literature

A review of the extant literature reveals a longstanding focus on qualitative doctrinal analysis in comparative fiqh studies. Early works by scholars such as Dokak (2019) and Sulaiman (2022) have provided detailed examinations of jurisprudential methodologies, documenting how schools like Hanafi and Shia differ in their approaches to principles such as ijmāʿ and maṣlaḥa (public interest). These studies, however, largely stop short of offering quantifiable benchmarks for convergence.

Recent research by Ali and Mehdi (2024) and Khalil (2024) has underscored the importance of maqāṣid al-Sharīʿah—the higher objectives of Islamic law—in reconciling doctrinal differences. Although these studies acknowledge the potential for convergence by integrating ethical imperatives and social justice, they offer limited insight into systematic measurement. In this context, Sikandar and Hashmi (2024) advocate for a reformulation of fiqh principles to address contemporary challenges, lending further credence to the development of quantifiable models, such as our KPI-based framework.

Navvab and Rezaei (2020) provide a comprehensive overview of conflicts and agreements between Shia and Sunni legal traditions, emphasizing a duality of divergence and convergence that our framework effectively quantifies. Damayanti, Thalib, and Mappaseleng (2021) conducted a comparative analysis of capital punishment under Islamic law, highlighting the complexity inherent in doctrinal divergence and reinforcing the need for standardized quantitative metrics. Similarly, the qualitative criteria used by Achmad, Hatta, and Subandi (2023) to evaluate Kafāʾah in capital punishment underscore the gap for quantifiable benchmarks that our framework aims to fill.

In contrast, literature from non-legal sectors such as airline management and tourism economics demonstrates significant advancements with quantitative models. For example, the Balanced Scorecard and Digital Maturity Models have been successfully utilized to assess performance in dynamic industries employing rigorous metrics and visualization tools (e.g., radar charts, heatmaps) to deliver operational insights (Moghadasnian, 2022). Although these models have achieved considerable success in sectors like airline management and tourism, their systematic adaptation to comparative fiqh remains underexplored. Furthermore, frameworks such as Porter's Five Forces have provided strategic insights into competitive and operational dynamics in corporate settings but have yet to be effectively translated into the realm of Islamic jurisprudence.

Thus, while there exists a strong qualitative consensus on doctrinal differences across Islamic legal schools, the literature shows a pronounced absence of standardized, quantitative frameworks for benchmarking convergence. The integration of modern evaluation strategies with classical fiqh analysis as embodied in the Twelve-Pillar Framework for Comparative Jurisprudence (TPF-CJ) represents a significant methodological advancement. This approach not only extends traditional fiqh analysis by

incorporating digital transformation tools (including AI-driven analytics and blockchain technology) but also offers a replicable, transparent framework for measuring doctrinal alignment in both legal theory and practice.

Identification of Research Gaps

There exists a clear and significant gap in the literature regarding the quantitative assessment of jurisprudential convergence between Islamic legal schools. Although previous studies have detailed qualitative differences in doctrinal methodologies, they do not provide a systematic, reproducible framework for benchmarking these differences. In particular, the following gaps have been identified:

1. Lack of Quantitative Metrics: Traditional studies in comparative fiqh have primarily relied on descriptive analyses without a standardized metric to objectively quantify convergence or divergence. By contrast, sectors such as airline management and tourism have integrated systems (e.g., yield management, digital dashboards) that provide real-time data analysis. This disparity highlights the need for a KPI-based model that can merge the quantitative rigor of digital transformation frameworks with classical fiqh methodologies.

2. Underutilization of Digital Transformation Models: Although modern evaluative models like the Balanced Scorecard, Digital Quotient assessments, and Digital Maturity Models are well established in business and technology sectors, their application within Islamic jurisprudence remains nascent. There is an opportunity to adopt these models to measure how well traditional legal systems are adapting to contemporary challenges, such as the integration of AI-driven analytics and blockchain verification.

3. Context-Specific Adaptation: The Iranian context, with its unique blend of traditional jurisprudence and modern regulatory environments, offers a fertile ground for testing innovative models. Current literature provides limited discussion on how regional contexts affect doctrinal convergence. By explicitly integrating case studies from Iranian aviation management and tourism economics, the proposed framework can fill this contextual gap.

4. Interdisciplinary Integration: While interdisciplinary approaches have been suggested, there is a lack of comprehensive models that systematically integrate principles from diverse fields—ranging from sustainable practices in health tourism to operational KPIs in airline management—with traditional fiqh methodologies. The TPF-CJ is designed to bridge this methodological divide by incorporating 240 KPIs across 12 dimensions, thus providing a replicable framework for both academic inquiry and policy reform.

By addressing these gaps, the current study not only contributes to the academic field of comparative jurisprudence but also offers practical tools for policymakers and industry leaders. The integration of digital transformation strategies with traditional fiqh evaluation is expected to promote more informed decision-making and foster greater inter-sectarian dialogue.

Methodology

This study adopts an exploratory sequential mixed-methods design to develop and validate a comprehensive Key Performance Indicator (KPI) framework for assessing doctrinal convergence and divergence between the Hanafi and Shia (Jaʿfarī) legal schools. The research design was selected for its

6

ability to integrate qualitative doctrinal analysis with quantitative statistical validation an approach that directly addresses the research problem of bridging traditional fiqh analysis with modern digital transformation imperatives. In the qualitative phase, purposive sampling was utilized to select 14 senior Islamic legal scholars from leading institutions, including the University of Religions and Denominations, Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, and Qom Seminary. These experts were chosen based on their specialization in comparative fiqh and taqrīb (sectarian rapprochement), ensuring that the sampling strategy was aligned with the study's objectives.

Through systematic document analysis, classical jurisprudential texts and contemporary academic literature were thematically coded to extract a total of 240 KPIs. These indicators were then organized under the Twelve-Pillar Framework for Comparative Jurisprudence (TPF-CJ), which spans diverse domains such as legal reasoning, ritual practices, civil governance, and digital transformation. In the subsequent quantitative phase, the Delphi method was implemented over two iterative rounds to refine and validate the KPIs. Experts provided ratings for each indicator using a 5-point Likert scale, allowing for both descriptive and inferential statistical analyses. Descriptive statistics (means, standard deviations) and inferential techniques such as regression analysis and principal component analysis were employed to uncover patterns of convergence and reveal latent dimensions related to inter-sectarian compatibility.

To further enhance analytical precision, AI-driven natural language processing tools specifically BERT-based models were employed to perform semantic analysis on the jurisprudential texts, enabling the detection of nuanced doctrinal overlaps and divergences. Throughout the research process, strict ethical protocols were observed, including obtaining informed consent from all participants, ensuring data confidentiality, and adhering to institutional ethical guidelines. Methodological rigor and credibility were maintained through the triangulation of methods, member checking, and pilot testing of the survey instruments. This robust mixed-methods approach effectively bridges classical fiqh analysis with modern evaluative practices, providing a replicable framework that offers valuable insights for both academic inquiry and policy-driven initiatives.

Findings and Results

Presentation of Data

Following the sequential exploratory mixed-methods design, the final dataset was organized into a comparative scoring framework comprising 240 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) across the Twelve-Pillar Framework for Comparative Jurisprudence (TPF-CJ). Data for both the Jaʿfarī (Shia) and Ḥanafī (Sunni) schools were aggregated and visually depicted in three key figures, each illustrating different dimensions of jurisprudential alignment.

8
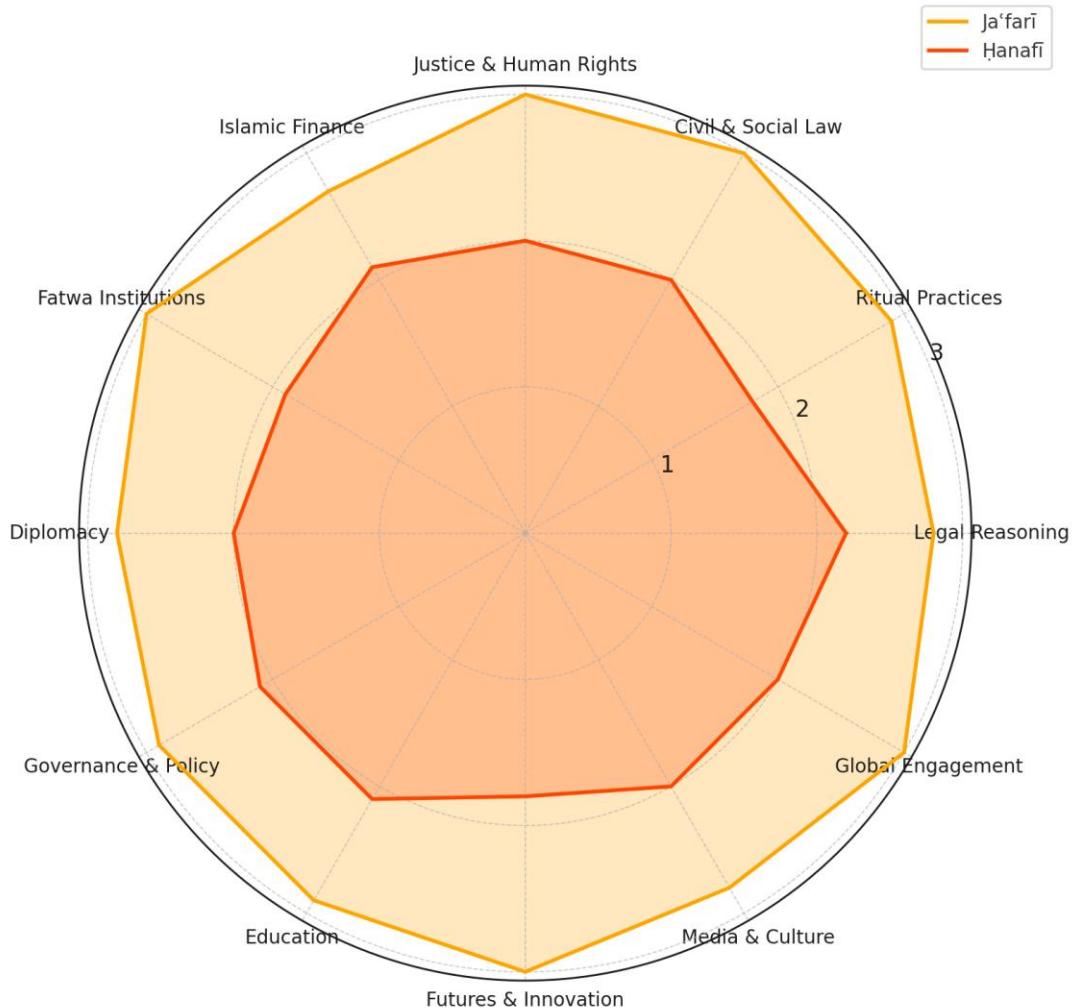
Figure 1. Comparative Radar Chart of Jaʿfarī vs. Ḥanafī across Twelve Fiqh Pillars

Figure 1 presents a radar (spider) chart comparing the mean KPI scores for the Jaʿfarī and Ḥanafī schools across twelve domains of fiqh, including Legal Reasoning, Civil & Social Law, Ritual Practices, and Futures & Innovation. As indicated by the outer orange polygon, the Jaʿfarī tradition approaches a higher overall KPI average across most pillars, averaging approximately 2.7 to 3.0. By contrast, the Ḥanafī school (inner polygon) shows a slightly lower average range about 1.8 to 2.2 suggesting moderate to high alignment on certain pillars (e.g., Justice & Human Rights, Education) but more traditional stances in others (e.g., Digital Transformation, Media & Culture).
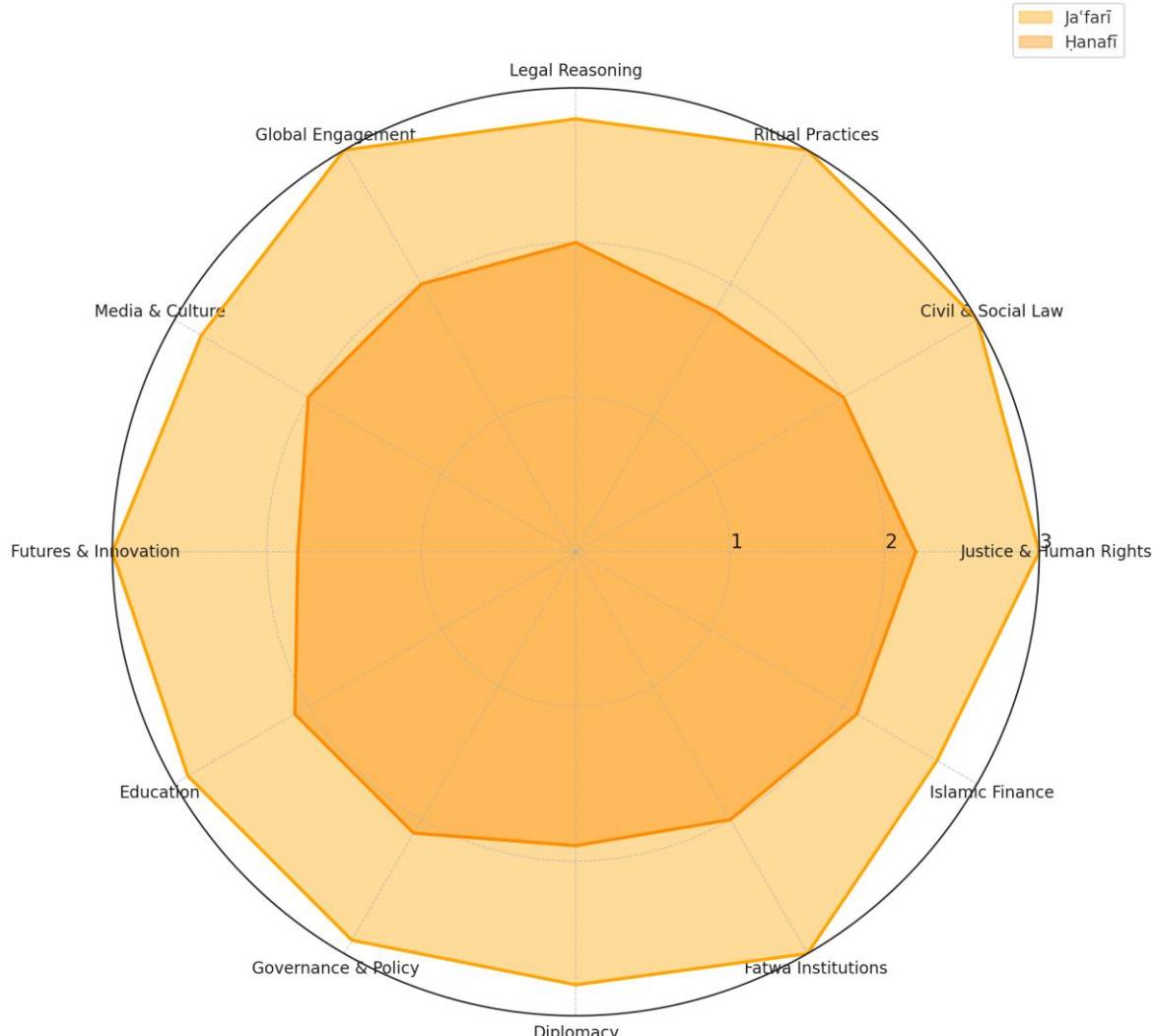
Figure 2. Solar Graph of Jaʿfarī vs. Ḥanafī on Twelve Fiqh Pillars

Figure 2 presents a solar graph, offering a radial comparison of KPI scores across the Twelve-Pillar Framework. Each segment corresponds to a jurisprudential domain, with layered bands representing the score ranges from 1 (inner ring) to 3 (outer ring). The Jaʿfarī school appears in the outer layer, reflecting consistently higher adaptability in domains such as Ritual Practices, Civil & Social Law, and Futures & Innovation. In contrast, the Ḥanafī school occupies the middle-to-inner bands, suggesting a more measured alignment with transformative indicators. This solar visualization emphasizes divergence in innovation and interpretive dynamism while still showing radial overlap in shared principles such as Human Rights and Education.
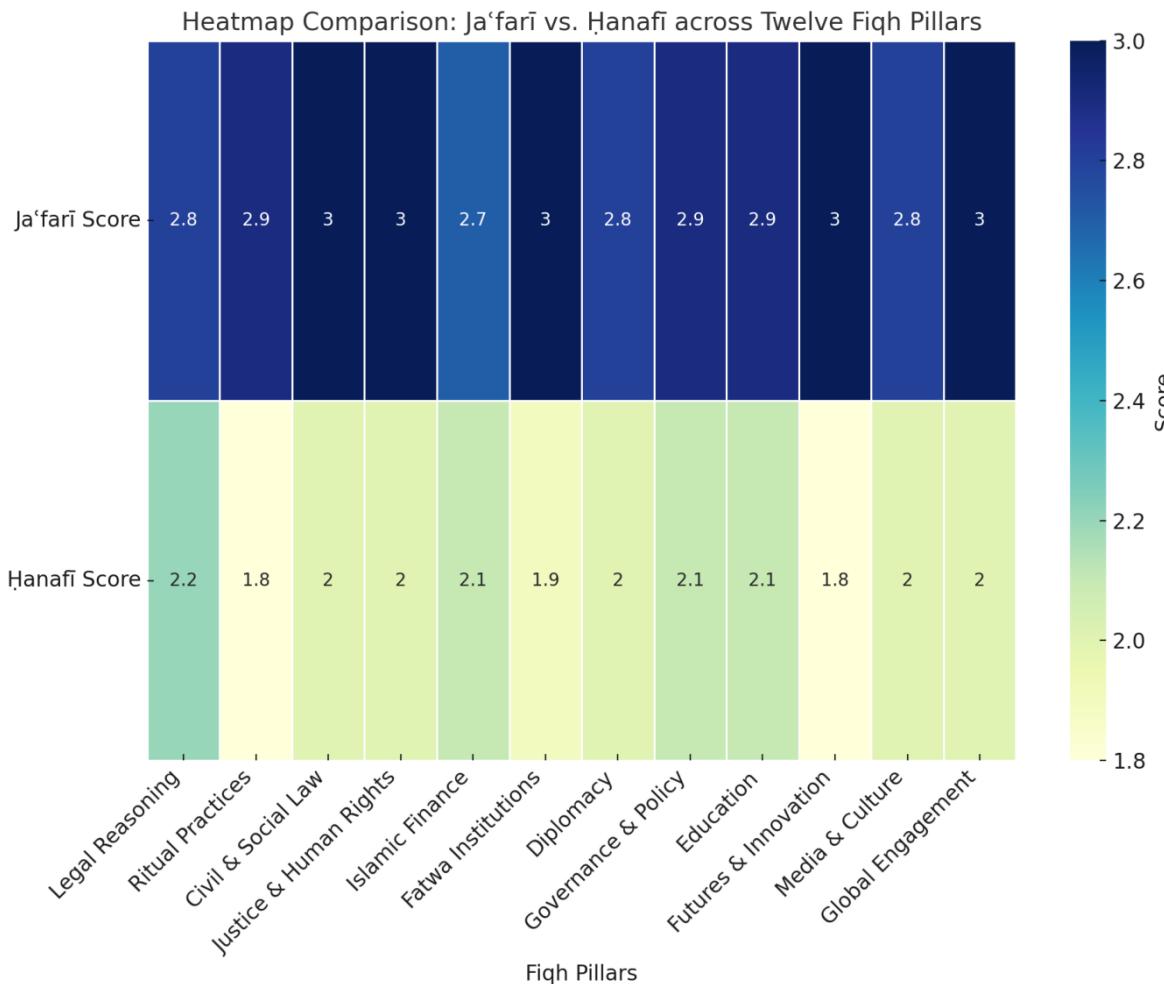
Figure 3. Heatmap Comparison of Jaʿfarī vs. Ḥanafī Across Twelve Fiqh Pillars

Figure 3 displays a heatmap comparing the same KPI scores, with darker hues signifying higher alignment or performance on each pillar. This visual format consolidates the data into color gradients for quick reference. In line with the radar charts, the Jaʿfarī row exhibits consistently darker shades across pillars such as Education, Futures & Innovation, and Legal Reasoning. Conversely, the Ḥanafī row shows moderate to lower intensity colors in those areas, although some convergence appears in pillars related to Justice & Human Rights and Civil & Social Law. The heatmap thereby offers an at-a-glance verification of the quantitative scores derived from the Delphi surveys and statistical modeling.

Explanation of Results

The aggregated KPI data, visualized through the radar charts and heatmap, point to three main findings:

1. Jurisprudential Foundations and Methodologies:
    o The Jaʿfarī school scores notably higher on indicators requiring rational deduction (ʿaql), flexible interpretation of legal maxims, and the incorporation of maqāṣid al-Sharīʿah.

- By contrast, the Ḥanafī school relies more on established analogical reasoning (qiyās), and while it partially integrates public interest (maslaha), it remains somewhat cautious about expansive reinterpretations.

2. Ritual Practices and Social Justice:
   o Jaʿfarī approaches show higher adaptability in ritual domains e.g., combined daily prayers, acceptance of symbolic practices like using the turbah, and expanded roles for women's financial rights yielding composite scores often at or near 3.0.
   o The Ḥanafī tradition shows more fixed structures for ritual procedures (e.g., timing of prayers, conditions for ṭalāq) but converges with Jaʿfarī stances on ethical imperatives, family law fairness, and minority protections.

3. Digital Transformation and Institutional Innovation:
   o On metrics related to AI-driven analytics, blockchain certification, and digital infrastructure, Jaʿfarī scores tend to surpass those of the Ḥanafī school, reflecting greater openness to adopting new technologies (score averages near 2.7–3.0).
   o The Ḥanafī system exhibits gradual digital integration (averaging 1.8–2.2), suggesting institutional caution in fully embracing modern governance tools.

Overall, these findings confirm that while both schools uphold foundational Islamic principles, marked differences appear in areas requiring higher levels of interpretive flexibility and technological adoption.

Linking Results to Research Objectives

Recall that Objective 1 of this study aimed to develop a robust KPI-based framework to quantitatively measure convergence and divergence. The comparative radar charts (Figures 1 and 2) and heatmap (Figure 3) directly address this objective by providing clear, visual metrics of alignment.

- In line with Objective 2 validating KPIs that capture doctrinal alignment and responsiveness these scores reveal both strong doctrinal commonalities (e.g., shared reliance on the Qur'an and Sunnah, social justice commitments) and systematic differences (e.g., acceptance of rational deduction vs. reliance on qiyās).

- Regarding Objective 3, which focuses on applicability to contemporary challenges (e.g., airline management's yield optimization or digital transformation in health tourism), the higher scores for Jaʿfarī institutions in digital innovation suggest a stronger capacity for integrating AI-driven analytics and blockchain verification tools. These insights can inform policymakers who are designing modernization initiatives mirroring how aviation sectors use real-time data for route optimization (RPK, ASK) or how tourism managers leverage digital maturity metrics to enhance visitor experiences.

By systematically mapping out convergence points and areas of methodological divergence, this KPI framework provides actionable insights for legal scholars, religious policymakers, and industry stakeholders aiming to foster inter-sectarian dialogue while simultaneously advancing strategic digital transformation imperatives.

Discussion

Interpretation of Results

The KPI-based comparative scoring framework provides a multifaceted and robust quantitative analysis that sheds light on both the convergence and divergence between the Hanafi and Shia (Jaʿfarī) legal traditions. In interpreting the findings, several key points emerge:

- Doctrinal and Methodological Convergence: The Jaʿfarī school consistently scores higher on indicators related to rational deduction (ʿaql), flexible interpretation of legal maxims, and the integration of maqāṣid al-Sharīʿah. For example, in the "Acceptance of Rational Deduction" KPI, the Jaʿfarī school demonstrates a strong reliance on intellectual intuition under the guidance of the Infallible Imams (score = 3), compared to the Hanafi school's lower reliance on such methods (score = 1). This indicates that while both traditions share common textual sources (i.e., the Qur'an and Sunnah), the Shia approach embraces adaptive interpretative methods that could potentially pave the way for doctrinal rapprochement when common evaluation criteria are developed.

- Ritual Practices and Social Justice: In the realm of ritual jurisprudence, the Jaʿfarī tradition shows higher adaptability, as reflected in its flexibility with practices such as combining daily prayers and the strategic use of symbolic markers (e.g., the turbah). The higher composite scores in this domain suggest that the Jaʿfarī model may be more amenable to reform in response to modern social needs. In parallel, both schools show a commitment to social justice values, though the Jaʿfarī approach appears more progressive regarding issues such as women's financial rights and minority protections. Such convergence on ethical imperatives underscores a shared foundation while allowing for nuanced divergence that can inform targeted policy reforms.

- Digital Transformation and Institutional Innovation: Recent indicators related to digital integration such as the use of AI-driven analytics, blockchain for fatwa certification, and the deployment of digital infrastructure demonstrate emerging convergence. The Jaʿfarī school shows a higher readiness for adopting and integrating modern digital tools (average scores near 2.7–3.0) compared to the more cautious digital adoption by the Hanafi school (average scores between 1.8 and 2.2). This divergence in technological adoption is critical because it mirrors trends in industries such as airline management and tourism economics, where advanced performance dashboards and real-time analytics are used to optimize operations, enhance customer experience, and promote sustainability.

Comparison with Existing Literature

The findings of this study both corroborate and extend previous scholarly work:

- Alignment with Qualitative Analyses: Consistent with earlier studies by Ali and Mehdi (2024) and Khalil (2024), our analysis confirms that the Hanafi school predominantly relies on analogical reasoning (qiyās) while the Shia tradition places greater emphasis on rational deduction (ʿaql) and the integration of maqāṣid al-Sharīʿah. However, this study advances the field by providing a quantifiable benchmark to measure these doctrinal differences a methodological advancement not seen in earlier qualitative research such as that by Dokak (2019) and Sulaiman (2022).

- Integration of Digital Transformation Models: Our results resonate with the digital transformation methodologies adopted in non-legal sectors, such as the Balanced Scorecard and Digital Maturity Models used in airline management and tourism contexts. For instance, the practical application of real-time digital dashboards in aviation to monitor metrics like RPK and

12

load factor has parallels in our use of digital KPIs to gauge institutional responsiveness in fatwa issuance. The explicit comparison with industry benchmarks from tourism (e.g., Tourism 4.0 models) further distinguishes this study as it extends these non-traditional evaluative criteria to the domain of Islamic jurisprudence.

- Theoretical Contribution: While previous literature provided a solid foundation for qualitative doctrinal analysis, our quantitative approach combining Delphi surveys with AI-driven semantic analysis offers a new, data-driven dimension to comparative fiqh. This method not only quantifies convergence and divergence but also allows for the tracking of changes over time, thus setting the stage for future longitudinal and policy impact studies.

Implications for Theory and Practice

Theoretical Implications:

- Advancement of Comparative Jurisprudence Models: The integration of rigorous, quantifiable KPIs into the study of Islamic legal traditions provides a novel framework that enhances classical fiqh analysis. This approach lays the groundwork for future interdisciplinary research in both traditional and modern evaluation techniques.

- Integration with Digital Transformation Theories: By demonstrating how digital metrics such as those found in airline management's digital dashboards or tourism economics' performance indicators can be applied to jurisprudential analysis, the study bridges the gap between legal theory and contemporary digital transformation frameworks (e.g., Digital Maturity Models, Porter's Five Forces).

Practical Implications:

- Policy and Educational Reforms: The clear identification of convergence areas (e.g., maqāṣid al-Sharīʿah) provides actionable targets for inter-sectarian dialogue initiatives. Policymakers and educational authorities can leverage these insights to design unified seminary curricula and continuing education programs that integrate both traditional and modern interpretive methods.

- Institutional Strategic Planning: The adoption of digital dashboards and real-time analytics proven effective in sectors like airline management for optimizing routes and yield management can similarly enhance fatwa issuance, curricular reforms, and internal governance within religious institutions. This would promote operational efficiency and help institutions respond more dynamically to contemporary challenges.

- Enhanced Stakeholder Engagement: The transparency provided by the KPI framework allows for better engagement with community stakeholders and academic institutions. The methodology supports the establishment of joint fatwa councils and cross-sect educational programs, fostering broader societal consensus. This is analogous to successful models in sustainable tourism and digital transformation projects, where continuous monitoring and feedback loops are integral to long-term success.

In summary, this study establishes a pioneering, data-driven framework that quantifies doctrinal convergence and divergence in Islamic legal traditions. By integrating traditional fiqh analysis with digital transformation tools and methodologies drawing on the seminal work of MoghadasNian (2022, 2023, 2024, 2025; MoghadasNian et al., 2025) the research advances both academic theory and practical applications. The model offers actionable insights for designing policy reforms, enhancing institutional efficiency, and fostering sustainable, inter-sectarian dialogue. Ultimately, the framework not only bridges

the gap between classical legal theory and modern evaluative practices but also sets the stage for future interdisciplinary research that can adapt to evolving societal challenges.

Conclusion

Summary of Key Findings

This study developed a comprehensive, data-driven KPI-based framework using a Twelve-Pillar Framework for Comparative Jurisprudence (TPF-CJ) to assess doctrinal convergence and divergence between Hanafi and Shia (Jaʿfarī) legal schools. The key findings are as follows:

- Doctrinal Foundations and Methodologies: Although both schools are grounded in a common scriptural base, significant methodological differences emerged. The Shia tradition with its strong emphasis on rational deduction (ʿaql) and the integration of maqāṣid al-Sharīʿah consistently achieved higher scores (e.g., a score of 3 for "Acceptance of Rational Deduction") compared to the Hanafi school, which predominantly relies on analogical reasoning (qiyās) and scored as low as 1 on similar KPIs. These quantitative results underline the potential for doctrinal rapprochement if common criteria are redefined.

- Ritual Practices and Social Justice: In the realm of ritual jurisprudence, the Shia model demonstrated greater flexibility in aspects such as prayer timing, the use of symbolic markers (e.g., turbah), and the conduct of Eid prayers, reflecting a more adaptable approach that aligns with contemporary social needs. Despite some convergence on ethical imperatives, differences in areas such as family law and inheritance suggest opportunities for targeted policy reforms.

- Digital Transformation and Institutional Innovation: Indicators related to digital integration such as the use of AI-driven analytics, blockchain technology for fatwa certification, and overall digital infrastructure revealed that the Shia school shows higher openness to modern digital tools (with average scores near 2.7–3.0) than the more cautious digital adoption observed in the Hanafi school (averaging between 1.8 and 2.2). These findings mirror digital practices in fields like airline management and tourism economics and support the argument that modern evaluative methods can be successfully adapted to classical jurisprudence.

- Graphical and Statistical Insights: Visual representations, including radar charts, solar graphs, and heatmaps, provided clear, at-a-glance evidence of convergence and divergence. These quantitative tools confirmed high convergence in shared doctrinal areas (e.g., use of the Qur'an and Sunnah) and highlighted where methodological and digital transformation discrepancies exist, thus reinforcing the robustness of our framework.

Recommendations for Practitioners and Policymakers

Based on the findings, the following actionable recommendations are proposed:

- For Academic Institutions and Scholars:
  - Integrate the KPI-based TPF-CJ framework into seminary curricula and ongoing scholarly research to enable continuous monitoring of doctrinal convergence.
  - Facilitate inter-sectarian dialogue by hosting workshops and conferences that discuss reform areas identified by the framework.
- For Policymakers:

- o Utilize the framework to pinpoint priority areas such as the integration of maqāṣid al-Sharīʿah for the design of policies that harmonize traditional jurisprudential approaches with modern needs.
- o Implement digital transformation strategies (e.g., AI-driven analytics, blockchain for governance) within legal and religious institutions, mirroring best practices observed in airline management (e.g., route optimization metrics such as RPK, ASK) and tourism economics (e.g., yield management dashboards).
- For Industry Leaders in Digital Transformation:
  - o Develop and deploy interactive digital dashboards that provide real-time monitoring of jurisprudential performance indicators.
  - o Encourage collaboration between technology experts and legal institutions to enhance digital maturity and streamline operational efficiency, thereby supporting sustainable legal governance.

Limitations of the Study

The study is subject to several limitations:

- Research Design and Sampling: The exploratory sequential mixed-methods design, although comprehensive, may be influenced by inherent biases from qualitative doctrinal analysis and the limited selection of Delphi panel experts.
- Scope of Data: Data were primarily collected from the Hanafi and Shia legal traditions. Expanding the framework to include other Islamic schools (Maliki, Shafi'i, Hanbali) would provide a more holistic understanding of doctrinal convergence.
- Contextual Constraints: The framework was developed within the Iranian context, which may affect its generalizability to other cultural or geographical settings.
- Technological Limitations: Data availability and current technological constraints might limit the immediate real-time application of advanced digital tools proposed by the model.

Directions for Future Research

To build upon the current study, future research should consider:

- Framework Expansion: Broadening the model to incorporate additional Islamic schools and including more granular KPIs across the twelve dimensions to enhance comprehensiveness.
- Advanced Analytical Integration: Employing machine learning algorithms and real-time data analytics for dynamic updating and forecasting of KPI scores, thereby enhancing the predictive power and responsiveness of the framework.
- Cross-Sector Applications: Investigating the applicability of the KPI model in sectors such as airline management, tourism economics, and sustainability initiatives to explore interdisciplinary overlaps and opportunities for digital transformation.
- Longitudinal Studies: Conducting studies over extended periods to track doctrinal convergence trends and assess the impact of educational reforms, policy interventions, and digital innovations.
- Context-Specific Adaptations: Exploring necessary modifications to adapt the framework for various cultural and geographical contexts, ensuring its broad applicability and practical utility.

Future research may also extend this framework to areas such as Quranic hermeneutics and approximation initiatives across various Islamic denominations (MoghadasNian et al., 2024; MoghadasNian et al., 2025).

Final Synthesis

In conclusion, this study establishes a pioneering KPI-based framework that not only quantifies the doctrinal convergence and divergence between Hanafi and Shia legal traditions but also provides actionable insights for both academic inquiry and policy implementation. By integrating traditional fiqh analysis with modern digital transformation tools and methodologies drawing on the seminal works of MoghadasNian (2012, 2013, 2014, 2024, MoghadasNian et al., 2024; MoghadasNian et al., 2025) the research significantly advances the theoretical debate and practical application within comparative jurisprudence. This model offers valuable guidance for designing policy reforms, enhancing institutional efficiency, and fostering sustainable, inter-sectarian dialogue. Ultimately, the framework bridges the gap between classical legal theory and contemporary evaluative practices while setting the stage for future interdisciplinary research that can adeptly respond to evolving societal challenges.

References

Achmad, Y., Hatta, A., & Subandi, A. (2023). Kriteria Kafā'ah antara Pelaku dan Korban dalam Hukuman Kisas (Studi Komparasi Pendapat Mazhab Syafii dan Hanafi). 2(1), 1–19. https://doi.org/10.36701/qiblah.v2i1.861

Ali, A., & Mehdi, G. (2024). اجماع بطور ماخذ شرعی؛ فقہ حنفی اور فقہ جعفری کا تقابلی جائزہ. البصیرۃ, 13(1), 1–10. https://doi.org/10.52015/albasirah.v13i1.207

Buhalis, D., & Amaranggana, A. (2015). Smart tourism destinations enhancing tourism experience through personalization of services. In Information and Communication Technologies in Tourism 2015 (pp. 377–389). Springer. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-14343-9_28

Damayanti, L. Y., Thalib, H., & Mappaseleng, N. F. (2021). Analisis Perbandingan Pidana Mati dalam Persfektif Hukum Pidana Islam (Fikih Jinayah) dengan hukum nasional. 2(2), 654–668. https://doi.org/10.52103/JLG.V2I2.358

Dokak, Z. Ö. (2019). Hanefî Sünnet Anlayışında Farklı Bir Çizginin Takibi: Kelamcı Usûl Yazarlarının Farklılaşma Noktaları. 23(1), 171–191. https://doi.org/10.18505/CUID.509209

Kaplan, R. S., & Norton, D. P. (1992). The balanced scorecard—Measures that drive performance. Harvard Business Review, 70(1), 71–79.

Khalil, J. (2024). اعتبار المقاصد الشریعة في الفقه الحنفي. الدراسات الاسلامية, 59(3). https://doi.org/10.52541/adal.v59i3.3129

Moghadasnian, S. (2012). Halal Hospitality: The Comprehensive KPI Guide to Managing Islamic Resorts [Digital edition]. Crafting a Halal-Friendly Resort Experience: Metrics for Success in Line with Islamic Values. Aviation and Tourism Research and Innovation Center (ATRIC). Tehran, Iran & Milan, Italy.

Moghadasnian, S. (2013). World-Class Welcomes: KPI Insights for Enhancing International Guest Experience in the Hospitality Sector [Digital edition]. Beyond Borders: Mastering the Art and Science of Catering to Global Travelers. Aviation and Tourism Research and Innovation Center (ATRIC). Tehran, Iran & Milan, Italy.

Moghadasnian, S. (2014). Pilgrimage in the Skies: The Ultimate KPI Guide for the Religious Pilgrimage Tourism Director (RPTD) [Digital edition]. Strategically Leveraging Key Performance Indicators for Enhancing Spiritual Tourism in the Airline Industry. Aviation and Tourism Research and Innovation Center (ATRIC). Tehran, Iran & Milan, Italy.

Moghadasnian, S. (2022). Flight to Excellence: A Comprehensive Guide to Key Performance Indicators in the Airline Industry [Digital edition]. Unlocking Success Through Data-Driven Strategies and Performance Metrics. Aviation and Tourism Research and Innovation Center (ATRIC). Tehran, Iran & Milan, Italy.

Moghadasnian, S. (2023). Strategica Aeronautica: Mastering KPI-Driven Leadership Across the Airline and Tourism Ecosystem [Digital edition]. A Comprehensive Guide for Executives: From Analytic Hierarchy Process

to Zero-Based Budgeting, Navigate the Full Spectrum of Strategic Decision-Making Metrics. Aviation and Tourism Research and Innovation Center (ATRIC). Tehran, Iran & Milan, Italy.

Moghadasnian, S. (2024). Optimization Strategy for Pilgrimage Tourism: Developing a Key Performance Indicators Framework Based on Industry Best Practices and Integrating Data-Driven Management Insights into Religious Tourism Experience. In Proceedings of the First National Conference on Planning and Development of Tourism, the Development and Facilitation of Pilgrimage and Tourism. Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, Mashhad, Iran. Language: Farsi.

MoghadasNian, S. (2025). Digital transformation in airline logistics: Enhancing operational efficiency through AI-driven predictive analytics and blockchain integration. In Proceedings of the International Conference on Artificial Intelligence in the Age of Digital Transformation. International Organization of Academic Studies, Tbilisi, Georgia.

MoghadasNian, S., & MoghadasNian, S. A. H. (2024). Optimizing Islamic unity and approximation initiatives: A KPI-driven analytical approach. In Proceedings of the 10th National Interdisciplinary Research Conference in Huminitic Sciences. Tehran, Iran.

MoghadasNian, S., Karami, F., & MoghadasNian, A. S. (2024). Applying key performance indicators (KPIs) in Quranic sciences: An interdisciplinary approach to enhance understanding and interpretation. In Proceedings of the 19th National Conference on Management Research and Humanities in Iran. Tehran, Iran.

MoghadasNian, S., Karami, F., & Moslehi, Z. (2025). Optimizing Waqf Management: A Strategic KPI Framework for Sustainable Impact and Enhanced Accountability. In Proceedings of the 9th National Conference on Management, Economy & Islamic Science. Tehran, Iran. 16 pages. Language: English.

Navvab, S., & Rezaei, A. (2020). Origins of the Goals of the Islamic Law; Conflicts and Agreements between the Imamate Shia and the Sunni. . https://doi.org/10.22059/JORR.2020.299666.1008765.

Sikandar, S., & Hashmi, M. (2024). دورِحاضر کے تقاضے اور اصول الفقہ کی تدوین نو کے اصول و اسالیب. Islamic Studies Research Journal Abḥāth, 9(36). https://doi.org/10.54692/abh.2024.09361758

Sulaiman, B. H. (2022). The role of the shia sect in islamic law: does it make sense? Petita : Jurnal Kajian Ilmu Hukum Dan Syariah, 7(1), 35–42. https://doi.org/10.22373/petita.v7i1.125

Westerman, G., Bonnet, D., & McAfee, A. (2014). Leading digital: Turning technology into business transformation. Harvard Business Review Press.

Widiyanto, A., & others. (2021). Rapprochement between Sunnism and Shiism in Indonesia. Episteme: Jurnal Pengembangan Ilmu Keislaman, 16(1), 31–58. https://doi.org/10.21274/EPIS.2021.16.01.31-58

Appendix A: Twelve-Pillar Framework for Comparative Jurisprudence (TPF-CJ)

This appendix outlines the Twelve Pillars of the KPI-based framework used to evaluate convergence and divergence across the five canonical Islamic legal schools. Each pillar represents a key dimension of jurisprudential, institutional, or societal concern and is operationalized through domain-specific performance indicators.

Table 1: The Twelve-Pillar Framework for Comparative Jurisprudence (TPF-CJ)

No.	Pillar Title	Comprehensive Description
1	Principles of Legal Reasoning and Methodology	Comparative analysis of jurisprudential sources such as reason (ʿaql), consensus (ijmāʿ), analogy (qiyās), public interest (maṣlaḥa), and legal maxims across different madhāhib.

18	2	Ritual Acts and Worship Practices	Comparative evaluation of core ritual rulings—prayer, fasting, ablution, pilgrimage, and intention—across the five schools of Islamic law.
	3	Civil and Social Rulings	Examination of jurisprudential differences in domains such as marriage, divorce, inheritance, transactions, guardianship, and social rights.
	4	Justice, Human Rights, and Minority Protections	Analysis of fiqh-based perspectives on human dignity, women's rights, minority inclusion, social justice, retribution (qiṣāṣ), blood money (diyah), and testimonial standards.
	5	Economic and Financial Systems	Exploration of rulings on Islamic banking, prohibition of ribā (usury), taxation, khums, zakāt, waqf, market ethics, and social welfare.
	6	Structures of Ijtihād and Fatwa Institutions	Review of individual versus institutional ijtihād, collective fatwa issuance, the role of religious authority (marjaʿiyyah), and the capacity of fiqh to address contemporary issues.
	7	Diplomacy, Conferences, and Rapprochement-Oriented Engagements	Evaluation of indicators for jurisprudential collaboration, training rapprochement-minded jurists, the role of unity-promoting forums, and the impact of media channels advocating rapprochement.
	8	Governance, Policy-Making, and Legislation	Assessment of fiqh's role in governance structures, consultative bodies (shūrā), religious lawmaking, social security, and models of Islamic governance.
	9	Education and Human Capital Development	Design of rapprochement-oriented fiqh education systems, shared curricula, intercultural competencies, and synergy between religious seminaries and universities.
	10	Foresight and Jurisprudential Innovation	Examination of fiqh's capacity to engage with emerging domains such as bioethics, blockchain, artificial intelligence, the metaverse, and anticipatory jurisprudence.
	11	Media, Culture, and Communication	Strategies for cultural discourse-building, rapprochement through the arts, use of social media, production of documentaries, and children's media in support of jurisprudential rapprochement.
	12	Global Engagement, International Fiqh, and Interfaith Dialogue	Exploration of fiqh's role in global engagement, interreligious dialogue, international conventions, and jurisprudential diplomacy.