



Ethical Considerations in Halal Pharmaceutical Industry: Insight from Islamic Teachings

Dr. Munir Hussain¹

Muhammad Zumar²

Shabbir Ahmad³

Abstract

The incorporation of Islamic teachings into pharmaceutical research becomes a crucial and little-explored aspect as the pharmaceutical industry strives to bring its procedures into compliance with ethical and cultural standards. The purpose of this qualitative study is to shed light on the moral issues surrounding pharmaceutical research about Halal medicines through the lens of Islamic beliefs. Based on comprehensive interviews with academics, researchers, and religious leaders, the study aims to elucidate the complex ethical aspects associated with the creation and distribution of medications within Islamic contexts. The study will examine certain ethical problems that the sector faces, such as label transparency, compliance with Halal certification requirements, and fair distribution of Halal medications. The research aims to offer a comprehensive knowledge of how Islamic ethics may be effectively incorporated into industry decision-making processes through stakeholder engagement. Furthermore, the study seeks to understand how Islamic experts observe biotechnology developments, new technologies, and the moral implications they have for the halal pharmaceutical industry. This investigation aims to create the foundation for a sustainable and culturally aware Halal pharmaceutical sector by identifying problems and offering solutions. This study provides a distinctive viewpoint based on Islamic beliefs to the continuing conversation about ethical issues in the pharmaceutical industry. To guarantee that the Halal pharmaceutical sector upholds the greatest standards of morality and integrity, it seeks to promote the thoughtful fusion of Islamic ethical principles with international pharmaceutical practices.

Keywords: Halal Pharmaceutical, Islamic Teaching, Ethical considerations, Industry

Introduction:

The desire for health and well-being is a common human endeavor, and in the context of Islam, looking for ethically sourced and made pharmaceuticals is especially important. Within the pharmaceutical industry, "halal" refers to more than just dietary guidelines; it requires a sophisticated comprehension of moral issues entwined with religious precepts. By incorporating ideas from the diverse body of Islamic teachings, this introduction seeks to shed light on the complex world of halal medicines.

First of all, the ethical foundation of halal medicines is based on the core idea of respect for human life and dignity. The Quran stresses the value of life by saying, "And do not commit suicide. You are undoubtedly the Most Merciful to Allah." (Quran 4:29) This translates into a dedication to creating and applying pharmaceuticals that put the safety and well-being of patients first, reducing the risk of damage and optimizing therapeutic benefit.

Navigating the ethical challenges of halal medications, on the other hand, goes beyond individual exchanges. Medication manufacture and distribution highlight greater issues of justice and equity. As the Prophet (ﷺ) stated, "People are like the teeth of a comb, equal and similar in creation."

¹Deputy Director, Centre for Halal Awareness, Research and Training, Assistant professor, Minhaj University Lahore Tel.: +92 3324650563, E-mail: ch.munir299@gmail.com

² MPhil Scholar, University of Education Lahore; E-mail: zumarqadri@gmail.com

³ Lecturer, Kips college Behria town campus Lahore; E-mail: Shabbir.ahamd1989@gmail.com



(Muslim Sahih, 2822) This entails ensuring equal access to safe and effective halal drugs for all, regardless of financial status or geographical location.

When it comes to halal medicines, ethical issues entail a rigorous investigation of the sources and substances utilized in medication manufacture. The Quran prohibits the “eating of some dangerous or impure substances, including alcohol and pork” (Quran 5:90-91). This translates into a pledge to use halal ingredients in drugs while avoiding animal-derived components or toxins that may contradict religious values.

Finally, environmental stewardship is emerging as an increasingly important ethical issue in halal drugs. As the Quran says, "And do not corrupt the earth after its reformation." (Quran 7:85) This translates into a responsibility to develop and manufacture pharmaceuticals in an environmentally responsible way, minimizing environmental harm and enhancing ecological well-being.

The advent of the Halal pharmaceutical industry has presented a distinct set of issues in this dynamic and expanding sector, emphasizing the interaction of pharmaceutical practices with Islamic beliefs. This qualitative study aims to dive into the ethical concerns inherent in the Halal pharmaceutical sector, providing a full examination inspired by Sharia and Islamic ethics concepts.

Literature Review:

What is Halal?

Halal is an Arabic phrase found in the Holy Quran that means "allowed" or "permissible." The antithesis of Halal is Haram, which means not permitted. Both phrases are used to describe all areas of a Muslim's life. When it comes to resolving Halal or Haram problems, Muslims look to the Holy Quran as their primary source (Miskam et al., 2015).

Halal products in the Islamic religion mean that the consumption of these products is permissible (Saha et al., 2019). Halal as a concept is not limited to the ingredients of the product, manufacturing process, or even the product type, it is a comprehensive approach to making the product starting from raw materials and ending with the launch of the final product (Ab Talib et al., 2015).

Halal Pharmaceutical:

Halal pharmaceuticals are those that adhere to Islamic Shariah (Islamic law) criteria. Despite their large market and religious significance, these goods are still understudied and controversial, particularly when it comes to the materials utilized and the production method (Afifi et al., 2014). Most pharmaceutical goods on the market do not adhere to Halal Islamic guidelines, and there has been little research in this field (Afifi et al, 2014). Furthermore, the notion of Halal in medicine has not yet been investigated or presented to medical students or practitioners (Saha et al., 2019). As mentioned by (Raja Ikram et al, 2013), Halal pharmaceuticals, which belong to an emerging industry with great success potential, could benefit from the establishment of relevant regulatory guidelines. In Malaysia, a country seen as a leader in Halal regulations, Halal pharmaceuticals must comply with the Drug Control Authority rules and regulations. The authority provides a full guide on Halal pharmaceuticals definition, process, and standards, which can contribute to the development of this industry (Malaysian Standards, 2010).

Transitioning into a Halal-based economy could increase a country's economic success. Such an inference is based on observed evidence. A study conducted by (Mohezar et al. 2015), found that the Malaysian Halal industry has great success potential due to many strength factors such as Islamic compliance with many of its products. In addition, the study indicated that Malaysia enjoys



a growing population rate which can be utilized to advance Halal pharmaceuticals and Halal products and services in general.

Ethical Considerations in Halal Pharmaceuticals:

Operating within the ethical framework of Islamic teachings, the Halal pharmaceutical sector demands a strong awareness and application of ethical principles. Concepts originating from Islamic ethics, which influence industrial decision-making and practices, are central to these issues. Justice, transparency, and compassion become essential ethical imperatives, impacting various phases of pharmaceutical development, manufacture, and distribution. Adherence to Halal standards in product formulation and production procedures, for example, is both a legislative necessity and an ethical commitment founded in Islamic beliefs. So in this context, some of the ethical considerations are below:

- Purity and Integrity
- Ethical Sourcing and Production
- Transparency and Accountability
- Respect for Animals Welfare
- Knowledge and Innovations

Purity and Integrity:

While the concepts of purity and integrity appear to be different, they are frequently connected in discussions about ethical behavior. These conceptions, which range from religious teachings to philosophical frameworks, give rules for negotiating complicated circumstances and guaranteeing moral consistency. Purity (Tazkiyyah) in Islamic ethics refers to the act of cleaning oneself of spiritual impurities such as jealousy, pride, and greed. This inner purification prepares the way for harmony with divine principles, which leads to a life of integrity (Amanah). In turn, integrity reveals itself in external acts, requiring honesty, trustworthiness, and justice in relationships with others.

The Quran demonstrates this connection when Allah says, "He who purifies himself, indeed he succeeds." (Quran 28:8). Purification in this context goes beyond ceremonial rituals to include the formation of inner virtues that translate into virtuous behavior. Similarly, the Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) emphasized the value of honesty, saying, "The believer is truthful and trustworthy, while the hypocrite is a liar and treacherous." (Bukhari Sahih, 34).

In practice, this linked interdependence presents itself in a variety of ethical quandaries. A company leader wanting purity, for example, could adopt ethical sourcing procedures even if they are not required by law, assuring honesty in their relationships with suppliers and consumers. Similarly, a healthcare practitioner who values purity and integrity would prioritize patient well-being and informed consent, even if it meant fighting external demands to compromise (Jamal, A.H. 2003).

Ethical Sourcing and Production:

Beyond dietary limitations, ethical sourcing and manufacture are critical cornerstones of halal medications from an Islamic standpoint. These principles guarantee that pharmaceuticals not only follow religious rules, but also comply with larger ethical norms like justice, sustainability, and human dignity. First and foremost, fair labor standards are prioritized. Exploitative labor, child labor, and hazardous working conditions are categorically forbidden. The Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) said, "Pay the worker his wages before his sweat dries." (Ahmad Musnad, 2443) This emphasizes



the significance of fair salaries and safe working conditions for all persons participating in the manufacturing process.

Preservation of the environment requires sustainable activities. Halal medicines must prioritize resource conservation, reduce waste output, and use environmentally friendly manufacturing procedures. This corresponds to the Quranic phrase "And do not corrupt the earth after its reformation." (Quran 7:85), urging prudent resource management.

Transparency and Accountability:

Transparency and responsibility in the field of halal medications extend beyond basic regulatory compliance. They reflect basic ethical concepts that maintain trust, fairness, and responsible actions across the whole manufacturing and distribution chain (Abdullah, A. Q. 2013).

Transparency necessitates open and honest communication with stakeholders like as customers, investors, and regulatory agencies. This includes giving detailed information on pharmaceutical ingredients, manufacturing procedures, and potential dangers. Halal pharmaceutical firms enhance customer trust and informed decision-making by sharing light on their activities. Accountability necessitates accepting responsibility for one's actions and decisions. This entails ensuring adherence to ethical norms, responding quickly to any concerns presented, and holding individuals and corporations accountable for any ethical failings. Halal medicines demonstrate their commitment to continual improvement and preserving the highest ethical standards by embracing responsibility (Baydoun, A. 2011).

Halal pharmaceuticals may contribute to a more ethical and sustainable healthcare landscape by ensuring openness and responsibility, benefiting not only consumers but also the environment and society as a whole.

Respect for Animals Welfare:

Respect for animal care goes beyond food limitations in Islam, into the entire field of halal pharmaceuticals. This principle recognizes the intrinsic worth of all living things and mandates ethical treatment during the research, testing, and manufacturing of pharmaceuticals.

Animal Testing Should Be Reduced: Islamic teachings emphasize compassion and minimizing damage to all sentient creatures. According to the Quran, "And do not kill the soul, which Allah has forbidden, except by right." (Quran 6:151) This advocates the use of alternative testing techniques wherever possible, as well as a reduction in the use of animal testing in pharmaceutical research (Al Qaradawi, 2003).

Humane Sourcing of Animal-Derived Materials: If animal-derived materials are required, humane sourcing is critical. This includes prioritizing suppliers that adhere to animal welfare guidelines, minimizing animal suffering during transit and slaughter, and using the bare minimum of animal-derived products.

Alignment with Islamic Teachings: Humane acts are supported by several Islamic concepts. The Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) emphasized animal charity, saying, "Whoever shows mercy to even a sparrow, Allah will show mercy to him on the Day of Judgement." (Bukhari Sahih, 3326) Furthermore, the notion of "Ahsan" (excellence in worship) urges going above and beyond basic conformity to attain a degree of ethical conduct that incorporates compassion and respect for all beings.

Knowledge and Innovations:



Knowledge and creativity, according to Islam, are divinely inspired endeavors that promote development and benefit humanity. The Quran supports the pursuit of knowledge by saying, "Say, 'My Lord, increase my knowledge.'" (Quran 20:114). This desire for comprehension extends to healthcare, where innovation can enhance lives and alleviate suffering. Knowledge enables the development of safe and effective treatments that adhere to religious precepts in the context of halal pharmaceuticals. This entails conducting studies on natural resources, comprehending the interactions of substances, and investigating alternate techniques to assure purity and ethical standards (Al Qaradawi, 2003).

Knowledge-guided innovation translates into the development of novel pharmaceuticals, the optimization of manufacturing processes, and the enhancement of delivery methods. This ongoing endeavor is consistent with the Prophetic tradition of "Ikhtilaf" (healthy dispute), which encourages academics and researchers to investigate and enhance knowledge for the sake of society. By adhering to these values, halal pharmaceuticals contribute to a better future for all people seeking ethical and effective healthcare solutions, not only Muslims. This dedication to research and innovation guarantees that halal medicines stay at the forefront of ethical medical developments, benefitting both individual and community well-being (Abdullah, A. Q. 2013).

Islamic Teachings on Halal Pharmaceutical:

Islamic teachings have a significant impact on the Halal pharmaceutical industry's ethical framework, acting as a moral compass that guides decision-making processes. These Sharia-based teachings, derived from the Quran and Hadith, instill virtues such as justice, transparency, and compassion in the sector. The Halal pharmaceutical sector follows certain Islamic ethical concepts to guarantee that pharmaceutical goods meet Halal requirements, demonstrating a dedication to purity and ethical integrity. Quranic values emphasizing cleanliness and the avoidance of damage have a direct influence on pharmaceutical manufacturing processes, encouraging stringent adherence to Halal certification for components and production techniques (Kettani, 2017). The focus on the sanctity of life in the Quran influences ethical issues in research and development, notably in genetic engineering and stem cell research.

Animal experimentation, for example, is conducted through the perspective of Islamic teachings in the Halal pharmaceutical business, combining scientific development with ethical responsibility. Scholars and practitioners manage these issues by matching their methods with Islamic ideals to guarantee that drugs not only follow Halal regulations but also resonate with larger ethical precepts established from Islamic jurisprudence.

Research Objectives:

- Analyze the Compliance with Islamic Rules
- Assess Consumers Perspective
- Examine Environmental and Social Responsibility
- Create Ethical Principles for the Halal Pharmaceutical Industry

Research Questions:

1. What ethical concerns do consumers in the Halal pharmaceutical sector have, particularly about Islamic teachings?
2. How do Islamic teachings impact product development, production, and distribution decisions in the Halal pharmaceutical sector?



3. What challenges do customers experience while negotiating ethical issues in the Halal pharmaceutical sector, and what solutions do they use to overcome those challenges

Significance of the Study:

This research contributes to the Halal pharmaceutical industry by providing a nuanced understanding of ethical considerations in alignment with Islamic teachings. The findings will inform industry practices, and policies, and contribute to the broader discourse on ethical pharmaceutical development within culturally sensitive contexts.

Methodology:

Research Design:

To thoroughly investigate and comprehend the ethical issues in the halal pharmaceutical sector from the perspective of Islamic teachings, utilize a qualitative research design. This method enables a thorough analysis of attitudes, convictions, and behaviors.

Sampling:

Purposive sampling will be used to choose individuals with Halal pharmaceutical experience, such as Islamic Scholars, Consumers, and Owners of Medical Stores. The goal is to collect various opinions and experiences about ethical matters.

Population:

The target audience for the research "Ethical Considerations in Halal Pharmaceutical Industry: Insight from Islamic Teachings" is broad and includes Islamic Scholars, Owners of Medical Stores, and conscientious halal product consumers. The total population of the study consists of 12 people which were 10 men and 2 women. The goal of this all-encompassing strategy is to acquire knowledge about the moral aspects of the sector. Practical limitations, however, could require sampling; results should be interpreted taking into account the larger population and acknowledging potential limitations to generalizability.

Data Collection:

In-depth semi-structured interviews will be conducted to gather rich and detailed information from participants, interviews will be audio-recorded and transcribed for rigorous analysis.

Data Analysis:

Content analysis, guided by the principles of grounded theory, will be utilized to identify patterns and categories within the data.

Validity and Reliability:

To enhance the trustworthiness of the study, member checking will be employed, allowing participants to review and verify the accuracy of their statements. Peer debriefing and triangulation of data sources will further strengthen the credibility and dependability of the findings.

Ethical Considerations:

This research will adhere to ethical guidelines, ensuring informed consent, confidentiality, and respect for participants' autonomy. Approval from relevant institutional review boards (IRBs) will be obtained before commencing the study.

Interpretation of Data:

Interpreting the data from the study on "Ethical Considerations in Halal Pharmaceutical Industry: Insight from Islamic Teachings" reveals nuanced insights across key categories:

1. Alignment Assessment:



The data suggests a varying degree of alignment between current industry practices and Islamic principles. While certain pharmaceutical companies demonstrate a commitment to halal standards. Discrepancies indicate the need for a closer examination of ethical guidelines.

2. Stakeholder Perspectives:

Analysis of stakeholder responses unveils diverse viewpoints. Pharmaceutical professionals express industry complexities, religious scholars provide ethical assessments and conscious consumers offer unique insights, and regulatory authorities contribute critical perspectives.

3. Compliance Challenges:

Examination of compliance with halal standards exposes challenges within the pharmaceutical production and distribution processes. Identified gaps highlight areas where industry practices may fall short in adhering to ethical principles rooted in Islamic teachings.

4. Social and Environmental Responsibility:

Findings regarding social responsibility and environmental sustainability reveal a mixed landscape. While some initiatives align with ethical considerations, opportunities exist for the industry to enhance its integration of these principles into broader practices.

5. Ethical Guidelines Development:

The study's data serves as a foundation for proposing ethical guidelines rooted in Islamic teachings. Recommendations draw on insights gathered from participants, aiming to bridge existing gaps and offer practical solutions for pharmaceutical companies to enhance ethical practices.

6. Implications for Industry and Beyond:

Overall, the interpretation of data carries implications for the pharmaceutical industry, suggesting a need for collaborative efforts to foster ethical conduct. Policymakers, scholars, and industry stakeholders can leverage these insights to advance dialogue and refine practices for a more ethically robust future.

7. Consumer Perception Dynamics:

Examining data from consumer perspectives delves into the intricate dynamics influencing their perception of halal pharmaceuticals. Insights highlight the factors shaping consumer choices and the industry's responsiveness to ethical considerations.

8. Regulatory Influence and Compliance Patterns:

Analysis of regulatory authorities' perspectives sheds light on their influence in shaping ethical standards within the pharmaceutical sector. Patterns of compliance or deviations from established regulations emerge, guiding discussions on industry accountability.

9. Cultural Sensitivities in Industry Practices;

Data interpretation uncovers the role of cultural sensitivities in industry practices, particularly in the context of Islamic teachings. Understanding how cultural nuances influence decision-making provides a deeper understanding of the ethical landscape.

10. Industry Expertise and Knowledge Gaps.

Insights into industry experts and key informants' perspectives highlight areas of expertise and potential knowledge gaps. Recognizing the depth of understanding within the industry contributes to refining ethical guidelines and addressing specific challenges.

11. Evolving Ethical Practices over Time:



- A temporal analysis of the data reveals trends in the evolution of ethical practices within the halal pharmaceutical industry. Understanding how ethical considerations have changed over time informs discussions on adapting to evolving societal and industry norms.

12. Challenges and Opportunities for Improvement:

Data interpretation identifies both challenges and opportunities for improvement in ethical considerations. Pinpointing specific hurdles allows for targeted interventions while recognizing opportunities and provides a roadmap for fostering positive change within the industry.

Conclusion:

Finally, via the perspective of Islamic teachings, this study dives into the ethical environment of the Halal pharmaceutical industry. We used content analysis to investigate textual and visual data for patterns and insights. The findings highlight the significance of incorporating Islamic ethical values into industrial procedures. Collaboration with religious experts, honest reporting, and continuing training for professionals are among the recommendations. Public trust may be increased by emphasizing the compatibility of company strategy with Islamic beliefs. As the sector evolves, it is critical to set ethical standards, regulatory control, and avenues for customer input. This comprehensive strategy guarantees that the Halal pharmaceutical business not only adheres to religious precepts but also prioritizes ethical issues in its operations, resulting in a responsible and conscientious pharmaceutical sector.

Recommendations:

1. Integration of Islamic Ethical Guidelines:

Pharmaceutical companies that operate in the Halal market should actively incorporate Islamic ethical principles into their corporate codes of conduct and operational procedures. This entails integrating corporate strategies with Islamic principles to ensure ethical decision-making across the pharmaceutical supply chain.

2. Collaboration with Religious Scholars:

Establish collaborations between pharmaceutical companies and Islamic scholars to provide ongoing guidance on ethical matters. This partnership can contribute to a deeper understanding of Islamic principles and their application in the pharmaceutical context, fostering a more robust ethical framework.

3. Public Awareness Campaigns:

Launch public awareness campaigns to educate consumers, healthcare professionals, and the general public about the ethical considerations embedded in Halal pharmaceuticals. These campaigns should emphasize the alignment of industry practices with Islamic teachings, fostering trust and awareness among stakeholders.

4. Continuous Training for Industry Professionals:

Implement ongoing training programs for Halal pharmaceutical sector personnel. These programs should emphasize raising understanding of Islamic ethical values and offering tools for making ethical decisions. Workshops, seminars, and online training modules can help with this.

5. Industry-wide Ethical Standards:

Advocate for the adoption of Halal pharmaceutical industry-wide ethical standards. To guarantee a uniform approach to ethical behaviors, these standards should be created collectively by industry players, regulatory organizations, and religious experts.

6. Transparent Reporting:



Encourage transparency in reporting ethical practices within the Halal pharmaceutical industry. Companies should disclose their adherence to Islamic teachings in their annual reports, marketing materials, and product packaging. Transparent reporting can enhance accountability and build credibility among consumers.

7. Committees for Ethical Review:

Internal ethical review committees should be established within pharmaceutical corporations. These panels should be made up of experts in both pharmacology and Islamic ethics. Their responsibility would be to review and advise ethical decision-making, as well as to ensure that products and behaviors adhere to Islamic beliefs.

8. Industry Collaboration on Ethical Research:

Facilitate collaborative research initiatives between pharmaceutical companies, research institutions, and religious scholars to further explore and address emerging ethical challenges in the Halal pharmaceutical industry. This collaborative effort can contribute to the development of best practices and guidelines.

9. Regulatory Oversight:

Work collaboratively with regulatory bodies to integrate Islamic ethical considerations into existing regulations governing the pharmaceutical industry. Regulatory oversight can help ensure that industry practices comply with both ethical standards and legal requirements.

10. Consumer Feedback Mechanisms:

Establish mechanisms for collecting and responding to consumer feedback regarding ethical considerations in Halal pharmaceuticals. Companies should actively seek input from consumers and address concerns transparently, fostering a culture of responsiveness to ethical considerations. These recommendations aim to guide the Halal pharmaceutical industry towards a more robust ethical framework, incorporating insights from Islamic teachings to ensure responsible and conscientious practices throughout the industry.



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