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The Use of Humanoid Robotic as Assistive Rehabilitation Treatment for Children with Autism According to Objectives of Shariah in Islam.

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Abstract

The increasing rate of the number of children with Autism showed the importance to focus on ways to reduce the symptoms faced by the children with Autism. Noting the scarcity of research focusing on this area, this paper aims to review the use of humanoid robotics as an assistive rehabilitation treatment for children with Autism according to objectives of shariah in Islam. Content analyses through literature search from the online database were used as a basis for this review paper write-up from main sub-fields of humanoid robotics, assistive rehabilitation treatment for children with Autism and objectives of shariah in Islam. The researchers also follow the four-step process model derived from Mayring (2008), forming the process model of (qualitative) content analysis. Based on the paper, it was found that the framework of objectives of shariah in Islam which includes the Islamic Principles in treatment and rehabilitation are tailored according to Shariah Law to moderate and tolerate the balances between the new technology and the help from the therapists through the potential behavioural and cognitive changes associated with a single exposure to the humanoid. This paper believes that upon incorporating the protection of the five necessary intents of objectives of shariah in Islam, the humanoid will be able to help those children with autism to gain a better life.

Keywords: Autism, Humanoid, Rehabilitation.

Introduction

Many people out there might not be even aware of the earlier signal of those with peculiar behaviour within themselves if the medical expert has not diagnosed it. Tantrum behaviour that might seem

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reasonable at an early age when in turns become uncontrollable could lead to average deficit growth. Autism Symptom Disorders (ASD) is a formative issue that influences communication and behaviour. Even though mental imbalance can be analyzed at any age, it is said to be a "development disorder" since the symptoms show up in the initial two years of life.

The circumstances of individuals diagnosed with an ASD may be particularly important to consider when examining purpose development (Brandy *et al.* 2019). Two areas which may relate to the purpose development are either ASD children could frustrate or enhance their development of purpose. Some of the ASD children may have different ability and challenge. One may lose the ability to stay focus for an extended period, one may have a challenge in taking perspective. As it were, the reason may look both comparative and different among those people determined to have an ASD when contrasted with existing findings about reason among neurotypical people. Children with ASD too are facing difficulty learning social rules. Another study that examined trust-building in adults with ASD confirmed difficulty in social learning, mainly encoding incoming social information and applying it to update social expectations (Maurer *et al.* 2017).

It is essential to understand the experiences of individuals with ASD; it is also essential to understand how the presence of an ASD impacts others C.M. Shivers (2019). Degree of the difficulty may differ among themselves when it involves impairment not only in mental but impairment in emotional state attribution.

Literature Review

Defining Autism Spectrum Disorder

Autism spectrum disorder is an increasingly common diagnosis which is currently at an all-time high of 1 in 59 children in the United States (Baio *et al.* 2018; Centres for Disease Control and Prevention 2018), with about 47000 children suffering from it in Malaysia alone (Rofiza *et al.* 2018). ASD is defined in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 5th edition (DSM-5), as "persistent deficits in social communication and social interaction across contexts" (American Psychiatric Association, 2013). Children with ASD may have (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5), 2013):

- (1) difficulty with communication and interaction;
- (2) restricted interests and repetitive behaviors; and
- (3) the ability to function properly in school, work, and other areas of life

Autistic children suffer from multifaceted deficiencies in social interaction, communication skills and physical skills (American Psychiatric Association, 2000) besides showing disruptive behaviours (Ozdemir, 2008), having unique obsessions (American Psychiatric Association, 2000), hyperactive, behaviours of self-injury, disparities of mood and in eating, and also compulsions (Sitimin, et al., 2017).

According to Tordjman *et al.* (2019), ASD shares social communication impairments that may rely partly on self-consciousness disorders. Self-consciousness can be a significant factor and a cause of a lack of self-confidence. In this relation, it justifies children with ASD who are only comfortable with an awareness of one's own identity. Children with ASD associated with the inability to function and slow growth in maturity. Abnormal functional activation and maturation of ventromedial prefrontal cortex during temporal discounting were reported in ASD (Murphy *et al.* 2017). The other abnormal symptom is also can be seen in their signal gating. A study by (Chantel *et al.* 2016; Prat *et*

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al. 2016) found an abnormal signal gating to prefrontal cortex has also been reported in ASD with basal ganglia impairments.

ASD shows a decreased growth in development and difficulties in social communication with restricted and repetitive behaviour (RRB). RRB comes from a different area. Apart from having difficulties to function, the ASD children tend to have reducing external stimuli and to avoid communication. They do not know how to cope with stress, distress, and excitement. Nevertheless, social and communication skills, too at jeopardize when dealing with ASD children. According to Manor-Binyamini and Schreiber Divon (2019) in their study, abnormal processing mechanisms cause emotional-cognitive-sensory imbalances and an internal sense of chaos, leading to the need for external order and control of the body and environment. Thus, by having RRBs helps ADS children cope with internal chaos. In other research suggests that RRBs, in particular, can vary across cultures and that cultural norms may play a significant role in how parents perceive the atypicality and severity of RRB (Matson *et al.* 2017).

Defining Humanoid Robotic and its use in Rehabilitation Treatment

Zooming to the use of humanoid robotic as rehabilitation assistive treatment, there are two main categories of rehabilitation robot system, namely therapy robots (being subdivided into physical therapy and emotional therapy robot) and assistive robots (being described as physical/social interaction robots) (Yakub *et al.* 2014). In assistive robots, i.e. physical/social interaction robots, one of the examples of social interaction robots is the helper robot which may take on the form of a machine-like device (such as an auto vacuum) or human-like robots (such as humanoid).

Various type of humanoid robots with different attribute and appearance, advancement in method and system has been invented recently in various field such as education, medicine and rehabilitation (Hashim et al. 2017; Gunawan et al. 2018). Linert and Kopacek (2018) categorized humanoid robots in four categories; Robotainment (Fluffy), Infosistance (Buddy), Rescue (Hero) and Intelligent robots (Mr Brain) with which each of the categories performed different functions. For instance, Mr Brain robots that combine human mobility and artificial intelligence has been used for autism treatment (Robot NAO (developed by Aldebaran Robotic) and Alice (manufactured by Robokind)) (Taheri et al. 2015; Zhang et al. 2019) and robots with essential self awareness (Popsci.com, 2015) and implementation of bioinspired decision making system (DMS) to improve the Human-robot interaction (HRI) (Pe'rula-Martinez et al. 2019).

According to Zhang et al. (2019), humanoid robots known as social robots that have a human-like appearance with fabrication of a human body and behavioral characteristics that mimicking the human behavior (Raffard et al. 2016) which include verbal and non-verbal behavioral cues such as gazing and gestures, body postures, facial emotions and proxemics (Tapus et al. 2019). There are three main features of humanoid robots; biped walking, voice communication/ speech recognition and facial communication (Linert et al. 2018).

In another research, humanoid robots have been recognized as ecology robots (Tapus *et al.* 2019), and a new term is known as "Robotainment" has been introduced to named it (Linert *et al.* 2018). Meanwhile, in rehabilitation, humanoid robots also referred to as Socially Assistive Robots (SARs) that assists patients via social interaction and providing innovative tools for rehabilitation (Langer *et al.* 2019).

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Humanoid Robots and Its use in Rehabilitation

Zooming to the use of humanoid robots in rehabilitation, humanoid robots are believed to ease and assist society in the present future. Humanoid robots play a substantial role in our society to make life more convenient (Gonzalez-Jimenez, 2018). Such as in education, healthcare and in the rehabilitation of elderly and children to aid in tasks for disabled people such as Cerebral Palsy (CP), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) (Syamimi et al. 2012; Zhang et.al 2019; Anzalone et al. 2019), patients with schizophrenia (Raffard et al. 2016) and people who suffer from speech or cognitive impairments (Langer et al. 2019).

Moreover, humanoid robots also have been mentioned as one of the tools to aid children with multiple disabilities such as movement disabilities, sensory loss and behaviour or emotional disorder (Wang *et al.* 2016) and children with the oncological disorder (Meyns et al.2019). Humanoid robots assist children in a clinical population in teaching and therapy session (Anzalone et al., 2019), give motivation (Meyns et al., 2019) as well as to support improvements in social skills (Zhang *et al.* 2019).

Autism Spectrum Disorder and Humanoid Robotic Therapy

Several types of treatments have been used to reduce the symptoms faced by these children with autism, ranging from medical consumption and non-medical attempts such as acupuncture (Chen *et al.* 2019), horse therapy (Grandin, 2019) and humanoid robotic as rehabilitation assistive treatment (Robins *et al.* 2005; Lorenzo *et al.* 2018; Shamsudin *et al.* 2012; Wood *et al.* 2019).

Researchers have been focusing on using humanoid robotics as an assistive rehabilitation treatment for children with ASD starting from the late 1990s (Wood *et al.* 2019). These humanoid robots are used as social mediators to help facilitate and promote social communication, interaction for children with ASD (Wood *et al.* 2019) and behavioural skills thus improving symptoms of patients with ASD. Humanoid robots are being used as an assistive rehabilitation treatment for ASD due to user acceptance and trust towards the robots. The user acceptance also differs according to the individual due to the factor of age, gender and health condition of the user himself. For example, children with ASD prefer to interact with a humanoid robot as compared to human himself since these humanoid robotic is being treated like a toy or friend to them (Choudury, 2018).

The first robot being used is a doll-like robot called Robota and later on followed by Kaspar. Other humanoid robots that have been used as part of assistive rehabilitation treatment for children with ASD are NAO, PROBO and Zeno (Wood *et al.* 2019). Although humanoid robot has been used as part of assistive rehabilitation treatment for children with ASD, one must not ignore the human assistance such as parents of ASD child, therapist and or teachers who act as a mediator in using a humanoid robot to treat these ASD children (Wood *et al.* 2019).

Religiosity and Spiritual Aspects of Humanoid Robotic Therapy

The use of humanoid robotics as part of the rehabilitation therapy (or the so-called Rehabilitation Robot System) for children with Autism has been vastly studied (Robins *et al.* 2005; Lorenzo *et al.* 2018; Shamsudin *et al.* 2012; Wood *et al.* 2019). Past studies such as Kimura (2015) were focusing on the Buddhist philosophy of robot and its ethical design while the study of Mahamood *et al.* (2017) focusing on the use of humanoid robotic for brain impairment in accordance to Islamic Principles, thus partially related to the research at hand. In another, Hashim *et al.* (2016) reviewed the perceptions on the use of robots for spiritual augmentation of special-needs children within the

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context of the Islamic faith and discovered that humanoid robotics could not replace human beings. The religious teaching and spiritual enhancement need to perform by a human being, and cannot rely on humanoid robotic to do so. Weng *et al.* (2019) focused on the impact of Taoist religion towards ethically aligned design in future human-robot interaction.

Looking at the impact of religiosity or spiritual aspects therapy in Indonesia, Liem (2019) found that ASD children and adolescent clients would be more effectively treated with conventional medicine rather than spiritual, religious therapy such as *dukun* or spiritual healer. The research conducted by Liem (2019) only covered on spiritual aspects on ASD but did not touch on humanoid robotics, thus it is only partially related to research at hand. Tanhan (2019) highlights the use of Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) amongst Muslims and parents with ASD child, but the research does not relate with humanoid robotic thus only partially related to the research at hand.

According to Deuraseh (2012), it is necessary to accept 'the protection of human health' as a fundamental value in objectives of shariah in Islam, or the so-called Maqasid Shariah. As we know, health is one of God's greatest blessing, bestows to humankind. Surely, worship cannot be achieved without good health and well-being. Abu al-Darda' r.a voiced to the Prophet says: 'To be healthy and grateful is much better than to be ill and endure patiently', the Prophet saw answered him by saying: "Allah loves healthy people, as you do" (Ibn al-Qayyim, 1988). In order to support this, Ibn al-Qayyim (d. 750 A.H/ 1350 C.E), in his book al-Tibb al-Nabawi, mentions and stresses that: good health, strength, and well-being are the most prized, precious, and generous gifts.

Islam provides a law of dos and don'ts called Shariah. Scholars who examined Shariah rules observed that essentially all dos and don'ts that are in Shariah are for protection and continuity of human society. They found that these rules are there for the protection of five aspects of objectives of shariah in Islam. Protections mentioned here are not for one-time protection. They are also not restricted to protection against degradation from the current level of each dimension, for example, the dimension of life in whatever way it is measured, but they are also about enhancement and improvement. In figh terminology, it is about *daf al-mafasid* (removal of degrading factors and constraints) *jalb al-masaleh* (attainment and enhancement of benefits) (Ali *et al.* 2011). Thus, for example, protection of self (or life) can include protection against the attack of life, disease, unhealthy living conditions, loss of dignity, hunger, poverty or others.

Objectives of Shariah in Islam and Humanoid Robotic Therapy

The use of humanoid robotics for assistive treatment for children with Autism following objectives of shariah in Islam is very scarce. Thus this research aims to review the use of humanoid robotics as an assistive rehabilitation treatment for children with Autism according to objectives of shariah in Islam. According to Abdullah S. (2012), objectives of shariah in Islam is vitally necessary to be delineated to provide an understanding of the rationale of the Shariah guidelines for the humankind to live in this world according to the Islamic way of life. Indeed, objectives of shariah in Islam enables a better appreciation of Islam as well as a comprehensive appreciation of the Almighty's rules and regulation. objectives of shariah in Islam is classified according to different dimensions: the traditional classification of objectives of shariah in Islam is according to the levels of necessity, the scope of the rulings to achieve the purpose, scope of people included in the purpose, and level of universality of the purpose. The modern or contemporary scholars classify objectives of shariah in Islam according to general objectives, specific objectives and partial magasid (Auda, 2008).

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Objectives of shariah in Islam refers to the objectives of Shariah to ensure welfare to humankind, while Shariah means Islamic Law. There are five primary intents of objectives of shariah in Islam, namely preservation of religion, life, progeny, intellect and wealth. Health care in general, or in this particular study treating children with Autism with the assistance of humanoids robotics, seems to be intricately associated with the preservation of both progeny and intellect. Hence, to treat a patient through medication and therapy is a subject matter inseparable from shariah and its maqasid (Mahamood et al. 2017). Due to the sacred of life and all moments in life have great value. Therefore the saving of life and to heal from any illness should be done to take care of both progeny and intellect. In the Qur'an, Allah said: "O ye who believe! Make not unlawful the good things which Allah hath made lawful for you, but commit no excess: for Allah loveth not those given to excess. Eat of the things which Allah hath provided for you, lawful and good; but fear Allah, in Whom ye believe."(Al-Maidah, Verses 87-88).

In order to preserve the five primary intents, it should be done by following the Islamic Principles in treatment and rehabilitation. Muslims should find ways to heal their sickness, then only they should leave to God to grant them with cure (Al-Jauziyah, 2010, pp. 30-34). Thus, the statement "the ends justify the means" is not practised in Islam. Muslims incorporate their religion in every angle to fulfil the needs in their lives and focus on the availability of God to monitor all their actions. Therefore, Muslims believe that they should take care of the five objectives of shariah in Islam to live harmoniously in this world and have good lives in the HereAfter.

From an Islamic perspective, the decisions on the actions to be taken to achieve a particular objective must always be based on the Islamic Principles. Fatahiyah *et al.* (2010) found that in aspects related to medicine, there are six major principles to be followed. These six significant principles are:

- (1) The treatment goes in line with the teachings of Islam;
- (2) The treatment is based on the Islamic Legal Maxims;
- (3) The treatment focuses on the prevention and cure;
- (4) Avoid doing destructions;
- (5) Believe in the power of Allah to cure every illness; and
- (6) Use an unlimited method of treatment which is shariah compliant.

Muslims believe that all their actions have been accountable and are subjected to ultimate judgement as stated in the Qur'an in Surah Al-Maidah, verse 85: "Whoever recommends and helps a good cause becomes a partner therein: And whoever recommends and helps an evil cause, shares in its burden: And Allah hath power over all things."

On the other hand, the making of a robot falls under the ruling of image-making. If the robot resembles precisely the shape of a man or any animate being with the purpose to be worshipped or adored without any urgency, it is prohibited in Islam. It is associated with the action of imitating Allah's creation (Mahamood *et al.* 2017). "Give life to that which you have created." It also comes with the words of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him): "Those who will be most severely punished on the Day of Resurrection will be the image-makers." (Narrated by al-Bukhaari, no. 5606; Muslim, 2109). Therefore, the use of humanoid robotics as an assistive rehabilitation treatment for children with autism fulfils the requirements of objectives of shariah in Islam and the Islamic Principles in treatment and rehabilitation.

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Methodology

Content analyses through literature search from the online database were used as a basis for this review paper write-up. Utilizing applying content analysis, the paper reviews literature reviews of various inductively derived sub-fields of humanoid robotics, assistive rehabilitation treatment for children with Autism and objectives of shariah in Islam. The criterion for inclusion into the sample of papers was that at least two reviews of the respective sub-fields had been published in relevant English-speaking peer-reviewed journals in the twenty-year-period between 1999 and 2019. The findings of this content analysis and several methodological discussions aim at providing some practical guidance for the researcher. In this paper, the broad scope of content analysis can be translated into two levels of analysis:

The first level analyses the manifest content of texts and documents by statistical methods. On a second level, the latent content of the text and documents is excavated requiring interpretation of the underlying meaning of terms and arguments. It is a specific strength of content analysis that this method can combine qualitative approaches retaining rich meaning with robust quantitative analyses (Duriau *et al.* 2007), where it seems meaningful for the analyst (Mayring, 2000).

Referring to Mayring (2008), one may distil four main steps forming the process model of (qualitative) content analysis(Kassarjian, 1977; Krippendorff, 1980; Mayring, 2000):

- (1) the material to be analysed is delimitated, and the unit of analysis is defined (material collection);
- (2) formal characteristics of the material are assessed, providing the background for subsequent content analysis (descriptive analysis);
- (3) structural dimensions and related analytic categories are selected, which are to be applied to the collected material (category selection); and
- (4) the material is analysed according to the (analytic) dimensions (material evaluation).

Kassarjian (1977) stipulates that content analysis should follow a clear and purposeful process structure; accordingly, we follow the four-step process model derived from Mayring (2008) as introduced above. Kassarjian (1977) stipulates that content analysis should follow a clear and purposeful process structure; accordingly, the researchers follow the four-step process model derived from Mayring(2008) as introduced above. Our literature sample comprises English-speaking peer-reviewed literature review papers on assistive rehabilitation treatment for children with autism and objectives of shariah in Islam covering the twenty-year-period from 1999 to 2019. Peer-reviewed journal articles represent a significant mode of communication among researchers; therefore, they are taken as a unit of analysis. For compiling the paper sample, a literature search was carried out, based on the pair of keywords "objectives of shariah in Islam", "assistive rehabilitation treatment in autism" and "humanoid robotic", to be jointly found in title, keywords or abstract. The structured keyword search was conducted in major databases and library services: Emerald (www.emeraldinsight.com), Springer (www.springerlink.com), Wiley(www.wiley.com), and Scopus (www.scopus.com). Depending on whether a sufficient sample is reached at the title, abstract and keywords level, the selection of papers might either be narrowed or extended beyond this. Subsequently, different processing steps might be needed for ensuring that identified papers deal with the topics addressed. This has to be sure by reading the papers and thereby reflecting on their appropriateness for the topic studied. The criterion for inclusion into the paper sample was that at least two reviews of one subfield had been published within the relevant timespan. Current literature

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representing the relevant information was also searched for in other online databases and websites. Altogether, we identified 50 papers dispersed over ten journals.

Moreover, for all studies in this literature search phase, attention is directed to two types of relevant information:

- (1) Findings from previous studies that focus on humanoid robotics, assistive rehabilitation treatment for children with Autism and objectives of shariah in Islam
- (2) Theories and concepts adopted by previous studies when examining assistive rehabilitation treatment according to objectives of shariah in Islam

Result and Discussion

To respond to new medical technology, Humanoids, such as NAO, are now available in the market and are used for both typical and atypical developing children. Studies on the initial response of children with autism have led to a promising field of advancement in managing children with this disability (Mahamood *et al.* 2017). Two studies (Hashim *et al.* 2013) and (Shamsuddin *et al.* 2012) looked at the potential behavioural and cognitive changes associated with a single exposure to the humanoid robot NAO.

In Malaysia, Islam plays a very crucial role in looking at all angles of solutions as Muslims are the majority of the population. The framework of objectives of shariah in Islam and the Islamic Principles in treatment and rehabilitation and preserve life and faith. In detailing the level of objectives of shariah in Islam according to al-Shatibi (Al-Raysuni, 2005), it consists of three categories, namely:

- (1) urgency (ad-dharuriyyat): guaranteeing their 'vital needs;
- (2) necessity (al-hajiyat): catering for their 'requirements; and
- (3) additional facilities or luxuries (*at-tahsiniyyat*): allowing for 'betterment', enhancement or improvements (*tahsiiniyaat*) in the quality of their life.

He mentioned that the overall objective of Islamic law is to populate and civilize the earth and preserve the order of peaceful coexistence therein. To ensure the earth's ongoing well-being and usefulness through the piety of those who have been placed there as God's vicegerents. To ensure that people conduct themselves justly, with moral probity and with integrity in thought and action, and to reform that which needs reform on earth, that they tap its resources and plan for the good of all. Scholars like Al-Ghazali, Ibn al-Hajib and al-Shatibi defined daruriyyah as the preservation and safeguarding of five fundamentals in one's life that includes protection of religion (din), protection of life (nafs), protection of intellect (aql), protection of wealth (mal), and protection of lineage (nasl). These are regarded as the essential needs that a man requires for his well-being in this world and the hereafter. None of these essential needs can be ignored, for it will create a disorder in this world and man will not be able to fulfil his requirement as a khalifah in this world and achieve success in the world hereafter (Ibn Ashur, 2006). This classification shows the full range of dimensions and varieties of objectives of shariah in Islam which aim to provide ease and eliminate or reduce hardship to the society, especially to the Muslims.

Thus, the use of humanoid robotics as an assistive rehabilitation treatment for children with Autism falls under the level of urgency because these children have to undergo intervention and rehabilitation. This fulfils the requirement of five primary intents of objectives of shariah in Islam and meets the six Islamic Principles in treatment and rehabilitation requirements.

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Conclusion

Our point of departure for this study was that the framework of objectives of shariah in Islam that includes the Islamic Principles in treatment and rehabilitation which are tailored according to Shariah Law can further moderate and tolerate the balances between the new technology and the help from the therapists through the potential behavioural and cognitive changes associated with a single exposure to the humanoid. This approach could be developed further to offer new insights into research on humanoid robotic as assistive rehabilitation treatment for children with autism beyond seeing the framework of objectives of shariah in Islam as predictors. However, the researchers believe much more research is needed in order to explain relational exchanges in this context, given the present competitive context in which they are now immersed. Nevertheless, based on the findings, it can be suggest that the framework of objectives of shariah in Islam and Islamic Principles in treatment and rehabilitation can be used as one of the alternative interventions to moderate and tolerate the balances between mind and soul, material and spiritual and also between ethics and jurisprudence. The importance of preventing illness and healing should be taken into account.

This study presents an overview of the state-of-the-art solutions for helping and assisting children with autism spectrum disorders by means of diagnosis and social therapies following Shariah Law. These solutions benefit from new advances in artificial intelligence, as these increases the autonomy levels of assistance robots promoting children with autism spectrum disorder's daily functioning, well-being, and independence.

Indeed, Mahamood *et al.* (2017) affirmed that humanoid robots are not made to replace humans or healthcare professionals in providing therapy and care. The humanoids are merely an augmentation of therapy, providing a new approach in increasing the awareness, attention, and participation of the brain-impaired. The features of the humanoid are inclined towards simplicity and are necessary to help process information during learning and rehabilitation. Without this aid, the hardship of being brain-impaired may be prolonged.

The researchers believe that the current study provides some insights into the potential of incorporating the protection of the five necessary intents of objectives of shariah in Islam in assistive rehabilitation treatment for children with autism. By doing this, the humanoid will be able to help children with autism to gain a better life. Additionally, despite the exploratory nature of this study, the findings add insights to the psychology of children with autism and improve knowledge about the use of humanoid robotic as assistive rehabilitation treatment for children with autism according to objectives of shariah in Islam. We acknowledge that the current intervention does not provide ideal solutions to all needs of people with disabilities, but the results are highly promising.

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