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*by* Yusmita Yusmita

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## **Islamic Family Inheritance Law in a Global Legal Perspective: Influence of Cyber-Crime**

### **Abstract**

The present research aims to assess the Islamic family inheritance laws among different Muslim countries along with the issues of cybercrime in this regard. Quran contains a justified and fair teaching of Allah Almighty regarding the fair share of possessions after the death of a person among his legal heirs. These constraints and Islamic laws are defined for the betterment of a person the breaching of which makes a person a sinner both lawfully and in front of the Almighty on the Day of Judgment. Therefore many Muslim countries strictly follow the guidelines that Islam has conveyed regarding inheritance. Furthermore, the present research also seeks to report the impact of cybercrimes on inheritance laws by identifying the ways through which cyber criminals can violate legal constraints and breach the laws for personal gain. The research holds numerous practical and theoretical implications. As this research extends the growing body of literature regarding Islamic inheritance laws in Muslim countries from a global perspective. Practically this research also holds multiple benefits for practitioners of Muslim countries that supervise legal regulations. As cybercrime has also exerted a negative influence on the breaching or violating of laws, therefore through this research beneficial insights have been provided to policymakers of Muslim countries to amend the legislations and legal laws and impose serious punishments upon violating these laws or undertaking cyber-criminal activities. The research limitations have also been addressed in this study

Keywords: Inheritance, Islamic Laws, Shariah, Cyber-crime, family heirs

### **1. Introduction**

Family law (Harris, Carbone, & Rebouché, 2023) is the set of rules, regulations, and laws that are related to family matters. These family matters include marriage, divorce, inheritance, custody of the child, etc. Inheritance laws (Khosyi'ah & Rusyana, 2022) are the rules and regulations that are related to the matters of inheritance. It also includes the statutes about the part of assets or property that someone will get from their family members. Countries all over the world have this kind of family law that is related to the inheritance of the family. The inheritance laws (Abubakari, Richter, & Zevenbergen, 2019) are related to different aspects of inheritance such as inheritance of property, the ratio of the division of property, inheritance tax, and inheritance assets such as gold, vehicles, etc. The reason to make these inheritance laws, a part of family laws is the concern that

all family matters and issues should be resolved with dignity and under the law (Lutska, Karmaza, Koucherets, Makhinchuk, & Koroied, 2022). The inheritance or family law is heavily influenced by the culture and religion of the certain region or country to which it belongs (Few-Demo & Allen, 2020). Islamic inheritance laws (Asni, Sulong, & Ismail, 2021) are the ones that are made by the religion Islam and followed by all Islamic countries and Muslims. With time, as advancements are happening in technology, the crime rate using this technology is also increasing (Monteith et al., 2021). Cybercrime (Buil-Gil, Miró-Llinares, Moneva, Kemp, & Díaz-Castaño, 2021) is a crime or wrongdoing that involves the use of computer networks, online networks, platforms, computers, etc. According to recent statistics, almost 1 in every 5 persons has been a victim of cybercrime in the world in 2022 (AAG, 2023). These cybercrimes have been getting involved in inheritance matters especially the transfer of property-related issues. Even after having a proper system of inheritance laws, people are suffering from disputes of inheritance. These cybercrimes include identity theft for the transfer of property, Document forgery for illegal work, threats, etc. In some serious disputes, the issue even leads to other crimes such as murder, abduction, threats, etc. (Fincham, 2019). Many countries are taking action and forming laws against these issues but the addition of cybercrime in these inheritance disputes has fuelled this issue more. This is the reason that countries nowadays are trying to get a hold of cyber issues also (Basuchoudhary & Searle, 2019). Still, there are many countries that are fighting for inheritance laws as due to the lack of inheritance laws and uneven distribution of inheritance other social evils such as dowry, murder, illegal property snatching, etc. are increasing at a serious rate. This is the reason that discussing this issue has become very important. Different research studies (Agarwal, 2022; Chang, 2022; Grajzl & Murrell, 2022) have discussed inheritance laws. But unfortunately not many studies have discussed the Islamic family inheritance laws, especially in relation to cybercrime. Hence the aim of the current research study is to analyze the Islamic family inheritance law from a global legal perspective along with its link to cybercrime. The current research study has great significance for different stakeholders in different aspects. As the current research study discusses the Islamic family inheritance law from a global legal perspective along with its link to cybercrime, it can be a great contribution to the existing literature. The current research study also has significance for the law-making authorities, as the current study helps them to find out which areas of inheritance laws still need consideration and reforms, and what loopholes are present in the existing laws and regulations. The current research study can be of great significance and

effectiveness for the general public as the current study discusses the Islamic inheritance laws, that too from a global perspective, which can help them to get awareness about these laws and their rights. The current research study will be of great help to future researchers.

### **1.1.Method**

As the current research study is discussing Islamic family inheritance law from a global legal perspective, the current research study uses the qualitative research method. Being a qualitative research study, it uses the philosophical approach of interpretivism along with the inductive research approach as the current research study aims to build a theory. Thus, the qualitative research approach is the most suitable approach for this study along with the interpretivism and inductive research approach. For data collection, the current research study has adopted the “normative juridical research method” to collect data which is one of the most used methods in law-related studies. The current research study has collected data from both sources i.e. primary and secondary sources. The data that is collected from the primary sources is taken from different primary documents of law such as case laws, and court hearings regarding matters of family inheritance where different laws related to inheritance have been used along with different regulations, rules, documentation, etc. In the case of secondary data, the researcher has conducted detailed studies on the existing literature regarding family inheritance laws globally and their relation with cybercrime. This literature was examined through different secondary database sources such as law journals, online databases related to law i.e. West Law, Springer, Emerald, Bloomberg Law, Hein Online, JSTOR, and other data sources, and different books related to family law. For the purpose to analyse the collected data from different sources, the current research study has adopted the technique of the “content analysis method”. According to Hajek, Youssef, and Hajkova (2022), content analysis is one of the most reliable techniques of analysis while conducting a qualitative research study. This technique helps to identify the different patterns and themes related to specific words in the data collected by the researcher.

## **2. Literature Review**

### **2.1.Family Inheritance Laws: A General Perspective**

Family inheritance law (Bahrami-Rad, 2021) is defined as the set of laws or regulations from the family law that are related to the matters of inheritance. The inheritance laws deal with matters of inheritance such as the division of inheritance assets, the ratio of inheritance among family members, inheritance taxes, etc. The inheritance assets may involve property or land, vehicle, gold,

etc. (Berkah & Sawarjuwono, 2019). According to Ortiz (2023) inheritance is the right of the heir that they receive in the life or at the death of any ancestor, parent, or family member. It is the right of every person in the family and no one should be deprived of it according to law.

## **2.2. International Family Inheritance Laws**

There are different inheritance laws in all the countries around the world. But all those inheritance laws emphasize the importance of diligently fulfilling the rights of inheritance (Neuhäuser, 2023). The transfer of inheritance is usually based on the will that a person has prepared, the relationship with the legal family, country law, etc. In the United Kingdom, according to law, there is no compulsion to transfer property or inheritance to the heirs. Anyone can transfer their property or assets to any person in their will (EXPATICA, 2023). In the United States (School, 2020) the family inheritance law states that only the close ones of the dead person are entitled to the inheritance. Moreover, the spouse or relatives can also be included in this. According to the Barac et al. (2023) family laws including the inheritance laws, are influenced by the religion and the culture of the region or country. It further discussed that the countries where people with different cultures and religions live might give the freedom to everyone that they can follow the family laws according to their religion or culture. But most of the time, laws are influenced by the culture or religion in which people live. In Qatar, the family inheritance law is based on religion and follows its sayings accordingly. According to Article 243 of LAW NO. 22 of 2006 Promulgating The Family Law (PFL), the transfer of property or any inheritance asset to the heirs is a compulsory action that should be performed timely. Moreover, Article 245 makes it compulsory that the inheritance should be transferred to the blood relations or heirs only (MEEZAN, 2006). In Indonesia, according to the *Instruction of President No. 1 of 1991*, the transfer of inheritance to the heirs is compulsory. After that only, it can be decided who else is entitled to the share of the inheritance and what ratio should be given to them (NEXUS, 2023). Different countries adopt different inheritance laws based on their system.

## **2.3. Cybercrime Concerning Family Inheritance**

Cybercrime (Buil-Gil et al., 2021) is a crime that is committed with the help of computer networks. Such kind of crimes requires a set of networks, online platforms, or computers to perform an illegal activity. According to Bossler and Berenblum (2019), cybercrime is a type of crime that involves a computer. The involvement of a computer means that the computer may be used for committing the crime or maybe the target for the criminal. These cybercrimes are sometimes done by people

on their own or sometimes these are committed with the help of illegal organizations (Kshetri, 2019). Cybercrime has been involved in inheritance issues for the past few years (Chandra & Snowe, 2020). According to Gupta and Kumar (2020), the issue of identity theft has increased over the past few years. Identity theft involves the personal information of a person such as social site passwords, bank account passwords, etc. This identity theft data is used by the criminals or the people who hire them for different purposes. This identity theft can be used against anyone to change the will of a dead person as well as to snatch someone's inheritance assets also (Basuchoudhary & Searle, 2019). Documents forging is also a type of cybercrime that is used against inheritance matters. According to Ally and Gadgala (2022), the forging of the documents involves changing or falsifying the documents of a person in such a way that those documents can be used for someone else's profit. Such kinds of cybercrimes have increased in case of forging the ownership of the inheritance assets. Many cases of forgery have been observed in the case of illegal property transfers (Dong, 2023). Firdaus (2023) discussed that one of the most common ways of cyber crime includes blackmailing or threatening for a specific purpose or own benefit. It is further discussed that with the advancements in technology, people are becoming more digital, even though most of the documentation also occurs digitally. This has made the way of such criminals easier. Blackmailing someone for their personal information or any other thing for making them do anything against their will is also one the forms of cybercrime (Verma, Sharma, Kaushik, & Vyas, 2023).

### **3. Results and Discussion**

Inheritance is about transferring the property of a deceased person to a living human with other transferable rights. In Islam, inheritance has a varied meaning. The Quran does not entail any specified definition of inheritance but different scholars have explained it in different ways (Powers, 1993). Sir Abdur Rahim has explained that:

*"Inheritance is the transfer of obligations and rights from the deceased person to his or her heirs (Rahim, 1911; Saba, 2018)".*

Coulson has explained inheritance as the disbursement of property in heirs after the procedure of funeral expenses, valid bequest, debts, etc (Coulson, 1971). The rules and regulations of inheritance are explained as both a right of the heirs in the dead person's estate possession and succession to any exchangeable rights of the deceased person. The rights which are being

transferred are based on property or other such rights in the form of debts and to attain compensation on the behalf of deceased person. So, the Islamic inheritance law holds greater importance and its adequate implementation in Muslim countries is necessary because of divine instructions (Cheema, 2020; Reskiani, Tenrilawa, Aminuddin, & Subha, 2022). According to the teachings of the Quran, inheritance among Muslims according to the proportion exhibited in Holy Quran for the descendant's heirs in his or her possessions. Key rules related to inheritance are presented in the Holy Quran, the Hadith of the Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H), and the Fiqh.

### 3.1. Heirs in Islam

In Islam, legitimate heirs are categorized into three types; these are primary, secondary, and substitute heir's category (Zouaoui & Rezeg, 2021).

In the primary category, parents, children, and spouses are included. The second category of heirs is related with the "agnate brothers", "uterine sisters and brothers". The third category of substitute comprises of agnate grandson, granddaughters, and the agnate grand-mothers and grand-fathers. Consequently, the legal share of the property also differs from one another and from one category of heirs to the other (Zubair, Khattak, Rehman, & Khan, 2014). Muslim countries such as Indonesia, Malaysia, Dubai, Philippines, Syria, and Afghanistan, etc follow the implementation of Islamic inheritance law. The inheritance under Islamic guidelines is followed under the ayah of "*Surah An-Nisa (4:11, 12, and 176)*":

*"Allah instructs you regarding your children for the male what is equal to the share of two females. But if there is a single daughter, two or more, for them is two-thirds of one's estate. And if there is only one, for her is half. And for one's parents, to each one of them is a sixth of his estate if he has left his children. But if he had no children and the parents are alone to inherit for him, then in such case, his mother is one-third. And if he had brothers or sisters, for his mother is a sixth, after any bequest he may have made or debt. Your parents or your children, you know not which one of them are nearest to you in benefit. These shares are an obligation implied by Allah. Indeed Allah is the ever-knowing and wise"*

*"And for you is half of what your wives leave if they have no children. But if they have a child. But if they have a child for you is one-fourth of what they leave, after any bequest they may have made or debt. And for the wives in one-fourth if you leave no children. But if your leave children, then for them is an eighth of what you leave after any bequest you may have made or debts. And*

*if a man or woman leaves neither Ascendants nor descendants but has a brother or sister then for each one of them is a sixth. But if they are more than two, they share a third after any bequest which was made or debts as long as there is no detriment caused. This is an ordinance from Allah and Allah is knowing and forbearing.”*

*“They request from you a legal ruling. Say Allah who gives you a ruling concerning one having neither descendent nor ascendants as heirs. If a man dies leaving no child but only a sister she will have half of what he left. And he inherits from her if she dies and has no child. But if there are two sisters or more, they will have two-thirds of what he left. If there are both sisters and brothers, the male will have the share of two females. Allah has made His laws clear to you, lest you go astray And Allah is knowing of all things” (Berkah & Sawarjuwono, 2019).*

### **3.2. Application of Islamic Family inheritance law in Muslim Countries**

As Muslim countries follow the divine and rightful instructions <sup>12</sup> of the Holy Quran, so following the saying of the Quran and Allah's teachings in the Holy Book, Muslim countries are bound to follow the inheritance law under Islamic Shariah. In Malaysia, 50% of the possessions of a person belong rightfully to the mother. However, as the wife of your father and under Faraid Law the stepmother is also entitled to 1/8<sup>th</sup> an equal share of 50% of the residence from the distribution of father's property. The Malaysian, inheritance law also adheres to the consent of co-heirs that will be required if the will provides the distribution to heirs, or if the disbursement to the non-heir exceeds the 1/3<sup>rd</sup> distribution (Ahmad Razimi, 2016). Similarly <sup>13</sup> in Indonesia, there are three legal inheritance systems such as “Islamic inheritance law, western inheritance law, and adat inheritance law”. Islamic countries globally follow the inheritance principle of the daughter entitling half of the share as given to the son. However, under Islamic Shariah, the grandsons are not given any proportion in the presence of the son. But if the son has died then the grandson is entitled to the share in inheritance (Cammack, 2002; Judiasih & Fakhriah, 2018; Lev, 1962). But if there is more than one son, the inheritance will be disbursed fairly among them.

In Afghanistan, a daughter is entitled to attain one-third of the inheritance from her brothers. But because of the combination of willful neglect and ignorance, male heirs usually prefer to ignore female family heirs out of the rightful inheritance. However, a wife is rightful to a quarter proportion of her husband's possession on his passing if she has no child. And if she has children, she is obliged to one-eighth (Rastin-Tehrani & Yassari, 2012). In the Philippines, the requisites of



inheritance for Muslim law of succession in Mindanao Philippines refer that the passing of a decedent as ascertained, the successor is alive at the decedent death time, and the successor is not considered disqualified to inherit. Under “The Philippines Law of Intestate Succession” the compulsory heirs such as children and spouses will automatically inherit the possessions or property of the decedent when he is passed (Haque, Solihin, Ahmad, & Jani, 2020). The estate incorporates both personal and real estate properties possessed by the decedent. Dubai also strictly follows the inheritance principle as stated and instructed in the Noble Quran. Under Sharia Law, the son typically inherits the double share as compared to the daughters. According to the “UAE personal Law states in Article 352 of 2005”, “Male shall have the proportion of two females in the inheritance” (Bulbul, 2013; Chiniara & De La Rosa, 2009). In Dubai Islamic law, this is applicable to daughters and sons regardless of whether they are of the same mother and father or not.

Syrian Islamic inheritance laws also correspond to the key Islamic principles, the inheritance proportion is disbursed among family members where males get a double share as compared to females. The law applied to Syrians of every sect till major Christian denominations passed new laws in 2010. The purpose of which was to make inheritance equal between men and women. Under “Law No. 59 of 1953”: “A deceased person's inheritance in Syria may not exceed 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of their entire estate and it is not allowed to make a bequest to an heir (Berger, 1997).” Similarly, Saudi Arabia, being a representative of Muslim countries is also strictly following the family inheritance law as quoted in Surah Al-Nisah above stated ayahs (Jahar & Shodiq, 2022).

### **3.3. Cyber Crime Issues in Inheritance**

According to Curtis and Oxburgh (2022), cybercrime is referred to as a criminal activity that uses or targets a computer, a network of computers, or a networked device. Many cybercrimes are committed by hackers or cybercriminals for the purpose of their gains or making money. But most commonly, cybercrime seeks to damage networks or computers for reasons other than monetary incentives. Taking it into the context of inheritance, cybercrime is usually damaging when a hacker or cybercriminal aims to damage legal regulations and unlawfully breach them through different activities. For example, personal information, signatures, or private data can be stolen from a person and can be utilized for unlawful means which otherwise is not allowed to commit. Family inheritance laws can be damaged and adversely influenced through cybercrime through fraudulent activities, confidential information that can be used for fake purposes and to illegally acquire the

property of a deceased person, which otherwise would not be possible to attain. Defamation through cybercrime is also an emerging issue. Stealing one's personal data and using it to damage the reputation or goodwill of a person can also be a possible negative consequence of cyber-crimes.

With the advancement in technology breaching privacy and illegally accessing the personal information of others has become quite easier for cyber-criminals (Saidakhrarovich & Tursunovich, 2022). These attitudes in the longer run possess threats to the reputation, conduct, and overall legal regulations in any state. Therefore in consideration of family laws, the influence of cyber-crime on society and legal constraints is devastating and far-reaching. Different financial cyber-crimes are roaming around globally through which a significant financial loss for a person is exerted. When there are any legal discrepancies among families regarding possessions and property, in such cases, the cyber-criminals can potentially steal information and can use it to illegally captivate the property of others which would not be possible in any other way. Therefore, devastating cyber-crimes and negative or illegal activities of cyber-criminals can cause financial damage, property illegal possessions, reputational damages, long-term litigation costs, etc (Das & Nayak, 2013).

#### **4. Recommendations**

Based on the above analysis and detailed discussion of the Islamic family inheritance law from a global legal perspective along with its link to cybercrime, the following are some recommendations for the stakeholders of Islamic inheritance law such as government, law-making authorities, the general public, etc. These recommendations are for the betterment and improvement of the Islamic family inheritance laws and their implementation:

- It has become very important that the laws and regulations about family inheritance should be simplified so, that the general public can understand those laws and regulations in a better way. It is one of the biggest issues for the general public because for being aware of something, it is important to understand it first. The government and concerned authorities should simplify the laws for layman's understanding.
- Still, there are many countries where the inheritance laws are not implemented properly. These countries need to pay attention to the proper implementation of laws of inheritance so, that the arising disputes related to property and inheritance can be resolved.

- The government should pay attention to making such judicial institutes that can supervise whether the inheritance laws are implemented properly or not. Because most of the time even after having the proper set of laws, these are not being followed in many regions of different countries.
- As with time, crimes related to property disputes are increasing such as murder over a property dispute, abduction, etc. so, the law-making authorities should heavily penalize the person who commits such crime to stop this misdeed or wrongdoing. Strong actions should be taken against the people who commit cybercrime for property purposes.
- The government and the law-making agencies should bring technological advancements in the field so that the issues of inheritance related to cybercrime can be resolved more efficiently as the issues such as hacking, identity theft, etc. have been increased that are used in property crimes.
- There should be proper awareness campaigns for creating awareness about the inheritance laws and their importance, so, that people can get an idea about why these laws are so important and how these can save families from unnecessary disputes.
- Awareness campaigns should also be organized by the government to provide awareness about the cybercrimes related to inheritance issues and cyber laws. So, that people can get awareness to not fall into the scams that can be done in case of inheritance.

## **5. Conclusion**

The present research aims to analyze the Islamic family inheritance laws from a global perspective. For this reason, Islamic laws regarding Sharia of inheritance have been observed in Muslim countries. The research has adopted a “normative juridical research approach” and analyzed the primary and secondary information on some credible databases. For primary sources, various primary documents were reviewed such as court hearings and case laws related to the matters of the family inheritance. In the literature review, a global perspective of family inheritance laws was investigated which was further narrowed down to Muslim countries while analyzing the results. The results indicated that under Quran and Islamic Sharia, different regulations and legal constraints exist for this purpose, the breaching of which is wrong and illegal religiously and lawfully. The Islamic laws of inheritance have been analyzed by relating them with Surah Al Nisah’s ayahs. The results of the analysis declared that inheritance is considered the backbone of

Shariah Law. According to the sayings of the Quran, Muslims inherit from one another. So, there is a legalized proportion of relatives and other relations of the deceased person in his property, possessions, estate, etc. There is a purpose behind these Islamic laws and regulations which are compulsory to follow for any Muslim. These laws are applicable only after <sup>2</sup> the death of a person. If the legal heir is alive after the death of the person, he becomes a lawful heir and is entitled to his share in the deceased person's property. The key regulations of inheritance are declared in the Quranic Hadiths and Fiqh. Furthermore, the results also entail a description that Muslim countries such as Malaysia, the Philippines, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Dubai, and Indonesia follow the Islamic inheritance laws, the breaching of which is considered wrong and makes a person a sinner. These days, cybercrime issues have also been observed to strongly impact different sectors by breaking into confidential information and data. The analysis has also briefly exhibited the role of cybercrime in devastating the legal matters of inheritance.

## <sup>1</sup> 6. Implications

The current research study focuses on the analysis of Islamic family inheritance law from a global legal perspective along with its link to cybercrime. The implementation of these Islamic laws of inheritance has become very important due to its wide aspects and great distribution of inheritance among the concerned parties. Moreover, paying attention to the cybercrimes that are increasing in the cases of inheritance should also be taken into account. The current research study has the following theoretical and practical implications.

### 6.1. Theoretical Implications

<sup>1</sup> As the current research study discusses the Islamic family inheritance law from a global legal perspective along with its link to cybercrime, it can be a huge contribution to the existing literature. The current research study can also add value to the literature as it discussed the cybercrime issues related to inheritance such as identity theft, document forgery, threats, etc. which are very important to be discussed. The current study can contribute a lot to the theory as it discussed different international inheritance laws, Islamic inheritance laws, and cybercrime issues related to cybercrime. Since the study is conducted from a global perspective, it can have wide implications i.e. it can be used at a global level.

### 6.2. Practical Implications

The current research study has discussed different Islamic family inheritance laws from a global legal perspective along with its link to cybercrime. It also has discussed different cybercrime issues that can be connected to inheritance matters. This can help the governments to see which parts of the family inheritance laws need more attention and which laws need to be taken into account immediately. This can also be helpful for law-making authorities in two ways. Firstly, they can get an idea about the issues that needed to be addressed first or need to be penalized more strongly. Second, they will get to know about how they can make the supervisory institutes keep a check on the implementation of family inheritance laws as the current research study described that there is a lack of implementation of these family inheritance laws. The current research study is also very helpful and beneficial for the general public as it provides awareness about which family inheritance laws are present globally and in Islam also. Moreover, the current research study has also discussed the cybercrimes related to inheritance, so, it will help the general public to not fall into that scams. It can also be of great help to the policymakers as it discusses different laws and issues so, that they can make policies accordingly.

#### **7. Research Limitations**

Each research is accompanied by some limitations. In the present research, there are a few shortcomings that are required to be addressed. Firstly, this research has been conducted by utilizing a secondary data approach and there lack of direct data collection from respondents. Direct interaction with respondents enhances results' accuracy thereby delivering more beneficial and accurate results. Future researchers can therefore use primary data techniques, and hold small formal or informal discussion sessions with the Islamic representatives of law in various Muslim countries. In this way, their perspective regarding Islamic laws of family inheritance can be directly inculcated to draw a favorable or valuable response. Secondly, this study has targeted Muslim countries in its analysis of inheritance or property rights of family heirs which has limited the research's scope. Future researchers can conduct comparative research between Eastern or Western laws regarding family inheritance to draw more effective results. In this way, the wide discrepancies between these two laws can also be addressed. Thirdly, the present research is limited by time constraints as it has been conducted through normative juridical methods and therefore lacks a scope of longitudinal research. For this purpose, future researchers can investigate the pre and post-evaluations of Islamic inheritance laws to assess their significance of implications. The present research's main emphasis was on Islamic family inheritance laws, which indicates a

gap in the clear depiction of cybercrime and its influence on such laws. Therefore this research lacks a clear association of cybercrime with family inheritance laws of Islam, which also makes a way for future researchers to conduct an in-depth investigation of cybercriminals and report different case laws in Muslim countries regarding the way they fraudulently take over the possessions of others.

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