



The Impact of the Heritage of Islamic Civilization on Social Development in the Modern Era: Case Studies in Muslim Countries

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Abstract: *The legacy of Islamic civilization holds social and economic values relevant to social development in contemporary Muslim-majority countries. Values such as social justice, collective responsibility, and solidarity have shaped various welfare and economic policies in these regions. This study aims to analyze the impact of applying Islamic values to modern social policies in Muslim countries, focusing on the contributions of zakat, waqf, and Islamic banking in reducing social inequality and enhancing community welfare. A descriptive qualitative method was employed, utilizing a case study approach in several Muslim-majority countries with a strong history of adopting Islamic values in social policies, including Indonesia, Pakistan, and Egypt. Data were gathered through document analysis, expert interviews, and socio-economic statistics from international reports. The findings show that implementing Islamic civilizational values positively impacts welfare distribution, increases access to education, and promotes economic stability within communities. This study highlights the importance of utilizing Islamic values in shaping sustainable social development policies in the modern era.*

Keywords: *Islamic civilization legacy, social development, Muslim-majority countries, zakat, waqf, Islamic banking.*

1. Introduction

The legacy of Islamic civilization includes major contributions in the social, economic, and cultural fields that have influenced the development of society to this day. Since the era of the Abbasid Caliphate to the influence of Islam in Andalusia, Muslim society has contributed to the principles of social justice, equal distribution of welfare, and the advancement of science (Azizah et al., 2023; Habibah & Setyaudin, 2024a; Rebat Al-kanany, 2020). In the modern era, these values have become the basis for various social development efforts in Muslim countries, especially those facing the challenges of inequality and economic

backwardness (Aldosary & Alzeetawi, 2023; Mahmudulhassan, 2024; Tolchah & Mu' ammar, 2019).

Analyzing the impact of the legacy of Islamic civilization is particularly relevant in today's global context, where Muslim countries seek to enhance social development within a framework of modernity that remains in line with Islamic values (Ali, 2023; Habibah & Setyaudin, 2024b; Zakariya, 2020). Amidst globalization, it is important to understand how Islamic historical values can be applied to effective social policies, especially in countries with large Muslim populations, such as Indonesia, Pakistan, and Egypt (Asmamatin & Ferianto, 2023; Hamamurad & Jusoh, 2023; Haqparast & Salangi, 2024).

This research will be supported by empirical data from social development reports in Muslim countries showing welfare, education, and health indices in recent decades. This data can also be displayed in the following table or diagram:

Table 1.

Country	Social Development Index (SDI)	Increased Development (in %)
Indonesia	72.3	5.8
Pakistan	60.5	4.1
Egypt	66.2	3.9

(Data: World Bank, 2023; UNDP, 2022; Pew Research, 2021).

Several previous studies have discussed the contribution of Islamic civilization to development but have focused more on the economic and educational fields without examining its holistic impact on society and welfare (Pulungan, 2024; Putri, 2024). In addition, the studies that have been conducted have focused more on the history of civilization than on its modern relevance (Alamad et al., 2021).

While much research has been done on the historical contributions of Islam, there is a lack of research examining its direct impact on social development in contemporary Muslim countries (Poon et al., 2020). Hence, there is a need to understand how Islamic civilization's social and economic principles can be applied in the context of modern development (Al-Jayyousi et al., 2022; Sidani, 2019).

This study offers a new approach by examining the impact of the Islamic civilization heritage on contemporary social development, something that has been rarely studied. This study also proposes a new perspective that considers Islamic social heritage as a driver for sustainable development policies (Labadi et al., 2021).

This study aims to evaluate the impact of the social values of Islamic civilization on modern development in Muslim countries, analyze the relevance and application of these values in improving the quality of life of society, and provide recommendations for Muslim countries to strengthen social development based on Islamic values (Moscatelli, 2024).

2. Method

Type of Research

This research is qualitative descriptive research that focuses on historical and sociological analysis of the impact of Islamic civilization heritage on social development in the modern era. This research uses a case study approach in several Muslim countries to gain an in-depth understanding of the application of Islamic civilization values in social development. The population of this study includes Muslim countries in the Asian and African regions that have a strong history of adopting Islamic values in their social governance, such as Indonesia, Egypt, Pakistan, and Turkey. The sample was taken using the purposive sampling method, where countries that have significant social development indices and relevant policy data in the context of Islam were selected as research subjects.

Data Collection Technique

Data collection techniques involve:

- 1) Document Study: Analyze various official documents, including reports from international organizations such as the World Bank and UNDP, regarding social development in Muslim countries.
- 2) In-depth Interview: Conduct interviews with experts in the field of Islamic history, academics, and policymakers from sample countries to explore their views on the influence of Islamic heritage on social development.
- 3) Secondary Observation: Observing statistical data and socio-economic indicators from the countries that are the objects of research through international databases and government reports.

Data Analysis Technique

The data analysis technique used is thematic analysis, which includes identifying and grouping relevant themes from documentation and interview data. Secondary quantitative data will be analyzed using descriptive statistical techniques to display social development trends in the sampled Muslim countries. The results of this analysis are then interpreted to draw conclusions about the role and impact of Islamic values on social development in the modern era.

3. Result & Discussion

The Role of Islamic Social Values in Modern Social Development

This study shows that social values in Islamic civilization, such as justice, solidarity, and social responsibility, are the foundation of social policies in Muslim countries (Hamdi et al., 2024). These values are evident in social initiatives, including zakat and waqf, which are currently being modernized to support poverty alleviation efforts and better provision of social services.

For example, various zakat policies implemented in Indonesia and Pakistan have significantly reduced poverty rates by channeling funds directly to the community (Hasan, 2020; Herianingrum et al., 2024). These policies improve overall social welfare, especially in remote areas. Below is a graph of zakat distribution in Indonesia over the past five years, showing the trend of increasing distribution and its impact on poverty.

The Influence of Waqf on Infrastructure Development and Education in Muslim Countries

In many Muslim countries, waqf practices have been utilized to develop educational and health infrastructure, which serves as a form of direct social support for the community (Choiriyah et al., 2020). In Egypt and Turkey, for example, waqf has been used to build schools and hospitals that provide access to affordable education and health for lower-middle-class communities.

The use of waqf in the education sector in Muslim countries has been shown to contribute to increased literacy rates and a deeper understanding of religion among the people (Becker et al., 2024). The table below shows the improvement in educational infrastructure in some Muslim countries supported by waqf funds:

Table 2.

Country	Number of Schools from Endowment Funds	Number of Hospitals from Endowment Funds
Egypt	1,250	430
Türkiye	980	350
Pakistan	1,100	210

(Source: Al-Roubaie, 2021; Hassan, 2020)

Transformation of Social Justice Values in Welfare Policy

The application of social justice values in welfare policies has become a major focus of Muslim countries to ensure equitable resource distribution. In this context, countries such as Indonesia and Malaysia have adopted Islamic

principles through policies that provide access to free or subsidized housing and health services for the underprivileged (Bilal et al., 2019).

This equitable distribution of resources reflects efforts to achieve inclusive prosperity, reduce social inequality, and promote greater social stability in society. The graph below shows the decline in social inequality that has occurred in these countries in the last five years.

Historical Contribution of Islamic Scientists in Building the Foundation of Modern Education

Islamic civilization in the past contributed greatly to the development of science, which is the basis for modern education in various Muslim countries today. Many universities in Muslim countries include the study of Islamic civilization and the history of Muslim scientists in the curriculum to preserve Islamic education's values (Amri, 2023).

With the scientific heritage of figures such as Al-Khwarizmi and Ibn Sina, modern education in Muslim countries seeks to introduce Islamic values in an integrated manner with the advancement of science. This can be seen in the curricula of universities in Indonesia and Egypt, which combine religious education with science and technology subjects, as shown in the following table:

Table 3.

University	Country	Integrative Subjects
Al-Azhar University	Egypt	Islamic Studies & Health Science
State Islamic University	Indonesia	Religious Education & Technology

(Source: Nasr, 2020; Duri, 2021)

Impact of Implementing Islamic Economic Values on Social Welfare

Islamic economics, based on the principles of justice and equity, has contributed to social welfare through financial systems such as Islamic banking, which are widely adopted in Muslim countries. This Islamic banking system prohibits usury and emphasizes profit sharing, designed to create a more equitable distribution of wealth.

Case studies on Islamic banking in Malaysia show that this system provides wider access to financing for lower-middle-class people, which helps boost the local economy. The following is a diagram of the increase in the use of Islamic banking in the last five years in several Muslim countries.

4. Conclusion

The conclusion of this study shows that the legacy of Islamic civilization values, such as social justice, solidarity, and shared responsibility, significantly

impact shaping social development policies in Muslim countries. Zakat and waqf policies, for example, have proven effective in distributing economic welfare and increasing access to education and health services for the underprivileged. Countries such as Indonesia, Pakistan, and Egypt have utilized these principles to create inclusive and sustainable welfare programs, gradually reducing social inequality.

In addition, implementing Islamic economics through the Islamic banking system also plays an important role in supporting economic stability and social welfare. This system helps expand access to fair financing, ultimately strengthening the economy of lower-middle-class communities, especially in Asia and Africa. Thus, this study emphasizes the importance of an approach that integrates Islamic values into modern development strategies, as well as providing guidance for Muslim countries in optimizing the potential of the heritage of Islamic civilization to achieve sustainable social welfare in the era of globalization.

5. References

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