

# Mosque as a Place to Improve Human Development Index

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**Abstract:** This research was conducted with the aim to find out whether the mosque can be used as a place to increase the Human Development Index (HDI), also to find out whether the mosques have optimized their roles and functions regarding the indicators that can improve HDI. A literature study was conducted to find out whether mosques can be used as a place to increase the HDI in Mataram City. Researchers used primary data derived through interviews and questionnaires, in order to find out whether the mosques in Mataram City have optimized their roles and functions. A survey has been conducted by using sub-districts level of Cluster Random Sampling in Mataram City. The research results showed that mosque is one of the best places that can be used as a place to improve HDI based on its roles and functions. Most mosques in Mataram City have carried out educational and economic empowerment activities, but not all have carried out healthcare activities. The economic empowerment activities that have been carried out are limited to consumptive matter that not entered the stage of community economic empowerment.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

The Human Development Index (HDI) is defined as the process of enlarging people choice. HDI formed by 3 basic formations: a long and healthy life, knowledge, and a decent standard of living. HDI is a comparison measurement of life expectancy, literacy, education, and living standards for all countries throughout the world. It is used to classify whether a country is a developed country, a developing country, or a backward country; also, to measure the influence of economic policy on quality of life (Jahan, Jespersen et al. 2016).

According to the Central Bureau of Statistics, the HDI is an important indicator to measure success in efforts to build the quality of human life (Central Bureau of Statistics, 2018). The HDI can also determine the level of development of a region or a country. And for Indonesia, the HDI is a strategic data, because in addition to be a measure of Government performance, the HDI is also used as one of the allocators for determining the General Allocation Fund.

HDI measures the average achievement of a country in 3 basic dimensions of human development: a long and healthy life, measured by life expectancy at birth; knowledge, measured by reading and writing

rates for adults (two-third weight), and a combination of primary, secondary, and gross enrollment ratios (one-third weight); and a decent standard of living, measured by the natural logarithm of gross domestic product per capita in Purchasing Power Parity (PPP).

The calculation results of HDI with new methods for the period 2010-2014 show that five provinces in the country, with a relatively high rate of HDI increase, are East Nusa Tenggara, West Nusa Tenggara, Central Sulawesi, West Kalimantan, and Jambi. That means, even though having an HDI score that is not too high, relatively low, such as NTT and NTB, the five provinces are able to boost the improvement of regional human development achievements optimally in the last five years (Suhariyanto 2015).

Lombok – West Nusa Tenggara is an island known as *Pulau Seribu Masjid* (Island of One Thousand Mosques). This term arises because there are many mosques established on the island of Lombok, compared with other islands in Indonesia. Mosque has various functions and major roles for the Muslims, one of which is to develop human resources. One indicator of the success of human resource development is the increased number of HDI. In 2014, the HDI score of West Nusa Tenggara Province ranks 33th out of the 34 provinces, then

increased to 29th out of the 34 provinces in 2018 (Susanto 2018).

In West Nusa Tenggara, about 4229 mosques registered in mosque information system, Ministry of Religious Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia (Ministry of Religion of the Republic of Indonesia n.d.). Based on The Central Bureau of Statistics, the citizen in West Nusa Tenggara are about 96.77 % Moslems, 0.26 % Christians, 0.19 % Catholics , and 2.45 % Hindus (Central Bureau of Statistics, 2018). So, the mosque has the potential to be used as a place to increase HDI, because the majority of the population is Muslim.

Mosques in the time of the Prophet (Peace be Upon Him) had roles and functions that could improve the Human Development Index, such as the existence of Islamic Education Center as a place to serve health problems, as well as *baytul mal* (place of economic management of the *ummah*, Muslims community). If the roles and functions of the mosque in NTB are played as it should, then it is certain that the presence of thousands of mosques can help the improvement of the community's HDI. It certainly affects the more prosperous society, as well as a *baldatun thoyibatun wa robbun ghofur* place (good country and full of forgiveness from God).

#### *Roles and Functions of The Mosque at the Time of Prophet Muhammad*

At the time of the Messenger of Allah (Prophet, Peace be Upon Him), the mosque did not only function as a place of worship (*mahdhah*), such as prayer and remembrance. But the mosque is also a place of education; a place for providing social benefits; a place for military training, war preparation, and a place to treat the victims of war (healthcare); a place to reconcile and resolve disputes; and as a center of information.

Maintaining the mosque is one of the characteristics of people who believe in Allah and the Last Day. And one way to prosper the mosque is by optimizing the role and function of the mosque. As explained by Allah in the *Surah At-Taubah* [9:18] (*surah*, division of the Qur'an), which means:

*“The mosques of Allah are only to be maintained by those who believe in Allah and the Last Day and establish prayer and give Zakah and do not fear except Allah, for it is expected that those will be of the [rightly] guided.”*

Mosques have a role and function to develop human resources, including the dimensions that build up the HDI (i.e. mosque as a place to serve health problems for a long and healthy life dimension; mosque as the center of Islamic education for the knowledge dimension, and mosque as a place of *baytul mal* (a place for managing the people's economy) for a decent standard of living dimension).

The large function of the mosque is also explained in an article in the Grand Mosque of Sleman, i.e. explained that the mosque used as a center of Islamic culture (Kusumawardhani 2013). This means that mosque accommodates all kinds of social activities that are within the limits of *taqwa* (piety) or which support the attainment of spiritual conditions and *taqwa*, as exemplified by the Prophet (Peace be Upon Him) in the establishment of the Quba Mosque (the first mosque of Islam) and the subsequent mosques in the period of the Prophet (Peace be Upon Him). The world affairs are located within the limits of *taqwa* and should be held inside the mosque area. It was also explained that at the time of the Prophet (Peace be Upon Him), the mosque functioned as a cultural center such as:

- 1) Mosque as a government center, which also functioned as a place of government administration, a place of justice, a place to hold consultations on both the Islamic community and those related to the government.
- 2) Mosque as a center of education, namely as a place for learning and teaching, and made as a library as a collection of scientific treasures.
- 3) Mosque as a center for community affairs, which consists of a place of art; place of marriage; place of *wakaf* or endowments care (property donated for religious or community use; religious foundation); place of *zakah* or charity (tithe; *zakah-fitrah*, tithe in rice or money paid on last day of fasting month; *zakah-maal*, tithe paid by rich people); place to stay for travelers; and places of activity that relate to Muslims, i.e. mosques as a center of Islamic culture at the time of the Prophet (Peace be Upon Him) and become the place for people to gathered and cause the interaction of human beings, both socially and Islamically.

Maintaining the mosque is one of the characteristics of people who believe in Allah and the Last Day. And one way to prosper the mosque is by optimizing the role and function of the mosque.

Based on previous research conducted by (Fitriyani, Awalushaumi and Kurnia 2016), the quality of *idarah* (management of mosque), *imarah*

(prosperity of mosques and development of social programs), and *ri'ayah* (physical maintenance of mosques) are significantly affected the intensity of visits to mosques Mataram City. This shows that mosque roles and functions related to health, education, and economy, which are one element in mosque prosperity (*imarah*), need to be improved, in order to increase the number of visits to mosques.

Another research conducted by (Mahmud, Rawson and Rahman 2011) showed that it is agreed that the Mosque is a place for not only prayers but also a training center of Islamic values. Another result was that it is important to share the knowledge about different disciplines at the mosque. Such a Mosque can help the Muslims to learn the views and thoughts of Islam and that can help the people live harmoniously and peacefully and achieve salvation from Allah in their life hereafter.

This research was conducted with the aim to find out whether the mosque can be used as a place to increase the Human Development Index. Other than that, another goal to be achieved was to find out whether the mosques have optimized their roles and functions regarding educational, economic, and health activities, which are indicators that can improve HDI.

## 2 METHODOLOGY

A literature study was conducted to find out whether mosques can be used as a place to increase the Human Development Index in Mataram City. Other than that, researchers used primary data derived through interviews and questionnaires, in order to find out whether the mosques in Mataram City have optimized their roles and functions. Researchers also used secondary data from Ministry of Religion, West Nusa Tenggara Province.

Research questions formed by the researcher then become the primary data of the study to be processed. A survey has been conducted by using sub-districts level of Cluster Random Sampling in Mataram City, where sample size was 97 respondents from 16 different mosques. Different questions have been asked to find out the research answer, based on 3 basic formations of Human Development Index (HDI); a long and healthy life (health dimension), knowledge (educational dimension), and a decent standard of living (economic dimension).

The analysis steps started with literature study, followed by the determination of the formulation of the problem and research objectives. After that, researchers identified the questions identification and

collect the data. The data that has been obtained was then analyzed for conclusion.

## 3 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 3.1 Mosque as a Place for Healthcare Activities

Mosque as a place for healthcare activities is explained in The Qur'an *SurahAl-A'raf* [7:31], (surah, division of the Qur'an). This verse indirectly teaches Muslims community to have a healthy lifestyle, by not being excessive in eating and drinking. Excessive eating and drinking are considered to be evil deeds and a major source of illness (Bahraen 2018).

In the healthcare aspect, the Prophet (Peace be Upon Him) once gave an example of making a tent in a mosque when Sa'ad bin Mu'adh (May Allah be Pleased with Him) was injured in a battle, as explained in the hadith Aisyah (May Allah be Pleased with Her), (hadith, Islam traditional collection of stories relating words or deeds of Prophet (Peace be Upon Him), the chief source of guidance for understanding religious questions).

“...The Prophet Muhammad (Peace be Upon Him) pitched a tent in the mosque for Sa'ad bin Mu'adh so that he could be close to him for visitations... (recorded in Bukhari No. 443).”

Another example for the healthcare aspect was narrated by Abu Hurairah (May Allah be Pleased with Him) that one of the constant readiness is by taking many steps (walking) to the mosque (recorded by Muslim No. 251). As mentioned in (Barton, Hine and Pretty 2009), walking is a natural activity, which is cheap and requires no special equipment. There are many benefits of walking, such as increasing the flexibility and stability of joints, helping the prevent of cardiovascular disease, obesity, type II diabetes, osteoporosis, metabolic disorders, hypertension, and mental ill-health.

Before going to the mosque, Muslims are required to take ablution (*wudhu*) first, which is certainly forms hygienic personal habits. This is as explained in The Qur'an *SurahAl-Maidah* [5:6], which means:

“O you, who have believed, when you rise to [perform] prayer, wash your faces and your forearms to the elbows and wipe over your heads and wash your feet to the ankles...”

A survey conducted in Mataram City – West Nusa Tenggara shows that there are 63% of the sample have a healthcare activity. The healthcare activities for a long and healthy life dimension are free treatment (72 % of 63%); free eye check (14% of 63%); and integrated service post (14% of 63%).

### 3.2 Mosque as a Place for Healthcare Activities

In *hadith* recorded in Muslim No. 2699, it is mentioned that:

*“No people gather together in a mosque (the houses of Allah), reciting the Book of Allah (Qur’an) and studying it among themselves, except that tranquility descended upon them, mercy covers them, the angels surround them, and Allah makes mention of them to those in His presence. Whoever is slowed by his deeds will not be hastened forward by his lineage.”*

Mosques are used for many things. For example, mosques are used as learning centers, ranging from children to adults. This is nothing but aimed at developing Islam and making people better. A survey was conducted to get the following result for the educational activities for the knowledge dimension. There are several activities, i.e. Qur’an educational garden (31% exist); learning activities (81% exist); library (37% exist); Qur’an interpretation (8% exist); mosque board training (8% exist); and orphanage foundations (8% exist).

### 3.3 Mosque as a Place for Healthcare Activities

In the economic aspect, mosque is functioned as *baytul mal*. The mosque not only used as a place of worship but is also made as an Economic Community Management called *baytul mal*. One of its functions is in the management of *zakah*, which is fulfilled to eight eligible groups (for the poor, for the needy, for those employed to collect *zakah*, for those who bring hearts together for Islam, for those who freeing the captives or slaves, for those in debt, for the cause of Allah, and for the traveler, as explained in The Qur’an *SurahAt-Taubah* [9:60]).

As explained by Allah in The Qur’an *SurahAl-Hashr* [59:7], which means:

*“...so that it will not be a perpetual distribution among the rich from among you...”*

Through mosques, Islam motivates its people to always make a lawful living, so that after Muslims worship in the mosque, Allah commands Muslims to scatter to various places to seek sustenance, as explained by Allah in the *SurahAl-Jumu'ah* [62:10].

Basically, the most important element for humans to increase their economic level is within themselves, such as motivation, strong effort, creativity, and other efforts; so that they can provide themselves and their families. Islam is very critical of Muslims who are begging, and of Muslims who are worship but forget about his world affairs.

The survey conducted shows that economic empowerment activities that have been carried out in Mataram city – West Nusa Tenggara are limited to consumptive matter that not entered the stage of community economic empowerment. The economic activities for a decent standard of living dimension are *zakah*, *infaq*, and *sadaqa* management (100% exist); *Qurban* management (100% exist); compensation for orphans (31% exist); and rental of ambulance, chairs, and others (6% exist).

## 4 CONCLUSIONS

The development of the mosque in accordance with the time of the Prophet (Peace be Upon Him) can be one indicator that can improve the Human Development Index (HDI). This certainly leads to an increase in the level of human welfare in West Nusa Tenggara province, especially in Lombok Island, in terms of health, education, and economy, thus supporting the development of a better Indonesian nation. Mosque is one of the best places that can be used as a place to improve HDI based on its roles and functions. Most mosques in Mataram City have carried out educational and economic empowerment activities, but not all have carried out healthcare activities. The economic empowerment activities that have been carried out are limited to consumptive matter that not entered the stage of community economic empowerment.

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