



AN EVALUATION MODEL USING THE *MAQĀṢID-AL-SHARĪAH* FRAMEWORK TOWARDS LIVEABLE CITY

BY

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ABSTRACT

This study concentrates on the outstanding research gap that current conventional measurements of liveability lacks religious indicators and sub-indicators. Hence based on this premise this thesis works towards developing an evaluation model for liveability by engaging in the Islamic framework of *Maqāṣid al-Sharīah* (Objectives of Islamic Laws). Religiosity of human beings is found to be the right prerequisite to set the foundation for liveability planning. The path towards this end has actually been laid by the Creator Himself through the manual called *Maqāṣid al-Sharīah*. Indeed, worldly pursuits had been governed by greed (prosperity), development and progress negating humanity wellbeing in its holistic sense. Hence, research on the objectives of the *Sharīah* for the individual's liveability and quality of life encompassing the fivefold matter i.e. to safeguard his religion, his life, his intellect, his lineage and his wealth is now indispensable. The rampant environmental disruptions and disasters that gravely affect human liveability and quality of life actually reflect man's failures to perform his role as the "*Khalīfah*" or vicegerent on earth. It should never be attributed as the creator's wrath! This study therefore stresses the role of urban planners and the people living in cities to make cities liveable. To support this goal, this research engaged in data collection involving three semi-structured interviews as its qualitative methodology and one quantitative questionnaire survey of the "guardian" or stakeholders (Urban Planners and *Maqāṣid al-Sharīah* scholars). Their professional and truthful insights in creating urban liveability and quality for living are vital in developing the liveability measurement model within the Islamic perspective. This thesis designated it as the Islamic Liveability Evaluation Model (ILEM). Rich findings from the Mixed-Method methodology were analysed via ATLAS.ti and Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP). The former employed the thematic approach while the latter used the Super Decision software to calculate geometric means, weightage, ranking and consistency ratios. The indicators of ILEM are the five *Maqāṣid al-Sharīah* domains and the sub-indicators by the respective domains are safeguarding religion, widespread religious activities at the neighbourhood and city level, integrated 'aqli and naqli education system, extreme importance in safeguarding the family institution, and wealth generation system that is religious compliant. The choice of Shah Alam as the test case for ILEM serves as an example to evaluate liveability of cities based on the *Maqāṣid al-Sharīah* framework. Hopefully, the formulation of ILEM by this research is a significant breakthrough to measure liveability of cities for the whole world - both for the Muslim and the Non-Muslim cities alike!

خلاصة البحث

تركز هذه الدراسة على الفجوة البحثية البارزة التي تتمثل في افتقار المقاييس التقليدية الحالية لظروف السكن الملائمة للعيش للمؤشرات الدينية والمؤشرات الفرعية. وبناءً على هذا الأساس، تعمل هذه الرسالة على تطوير نموذج تقييم لظروف السكن الملائمة للعيش من خلال الإطار الإسلامي القائم على مقاصد الشريعة الإسلامية. فقد وجد أن الطريق نحو هذه الغاية قد تمّ وضعه بالفعل من قبل الخالق نفسه من خلال دليل يدعى مقاصد الشريعة. في الواقع، إن المساعي الدنيوية يحكمها الجشع ومتطلبات التطور والتقدم ولا تعترف برفاهية البشرية بمفهومها الكلي. ومن ثمّ، لا غنى عن البحث في تحقيق مقاصد الشريعة من أجل حياة أفضل للفرد تشتمل على الضروريات الخمس، التي تحفظ للفرد (دينه وحياته وعقله وعرضه وماله). إن الاضطرابات والكوارث البيئية المتفشية التي تؤثر بشكل خطير على حياة الإنسان اليوم تعكس في الواقع فشل الإنسان في أداء دوره كـ "خليفة" على الأرض. فكل هذه الكوارث يجب أن لا تحسب على أنها غضب من الخالق، بل هي نتاج أعمال الإنسان. ومن هنا تأتي هذه الدراسة لتؤكد على دور المخططين الحضريين وسكان المدن لجعل المدن قابلة للحياة. ولتحقيق هذا الهدف فقد سعى البحث لجمع البيانات عبر ثلاث مقابلات أُجريت مع عينات مختارة كمنهجية لجمع بيانات نوعية، إضافة إلى استبيان واحد للحصول على بيانات كمية من أصحاب المصلحة، وهذه الفئة تشمل (المخططين المدنيين وعلماء المقاصد). إن رؤيتهم المهنية والصادقة في خلق البيئة الحضرية وظروف السكن أمر حيوي في تطوير نموذج لقياس ظروف السكن الملائمة للعيش من منظور إسلامي. لذلك تمّ اتخاذها في هذه الأطروحة كنموذج إسلامي لتقييم ظروف العيش (ILEM). لقد تمّ تحليل نتائج منهج الطريقة المختلطة باستخدام برنامج اطلس (ATLAS.ti) وعملية التحليل الهرمي (AHP). وقد استخدم الأول النهج الموضوعي بينما استخدم الأخير برنامج Super Decision من أجل حساب النسب الهندسية والوزن والترتيب ونسب الاتساق. مؤشرات ILEM هي مجالات مقاصد الشريعة الخمسة والمؤشرات الفرعية من قبل المجالات المعنية والتي تتمثل في حماية الدين، والأنشطة الدينية الشائعة على مستوى الحي والمدينة، وتكامل العلوم العقلية والنقلية في نظام التعليم، والأهمية القصوى لحماية مؤسسة الأسرة، ونظام توليد الثروة المتوافق مع الدين. لقد تمّ اختيار شاه علام كنموذج اختبار لـ ILEM لتقييم ظروف السكن الملائمة للعيش للمدن ضمن الإطار الإسلامي القائم على مقاصد الشريعة. نأمل أن تكون صياغة هذا القانون من خلال هذا البحث إنجازاً مهماً لقياس مدي مناسبة ظروف السكن الملائمة للعيش في المدن الإسلامية وغير الإسلامية على حد سواء.

APPROVAL PAGE

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this thesis is the result of my own investigations, except where otherwise stated. I also declare that it has not been previously or concurrently submitted as a whole for any other degrees at IIUM or other institutions.

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"A special gift to all my four children, my two sons-in-law and my five grandchildren....

For their moral support and sacrifices to materialize this thesis comes through....

*This endeavour is a jihad for my fellow retirees of the Federal Department of Town &
Country Planning, Peninsular Malaysia.*

*Simultaneously, it should evoke as an inspiration for young fellows to pursue their
studies....*

A testimony of lifelong learning!

The challenge goes....If an old lady can, why not me?

*All praise belongs to Allah and what little knowledge gained from this arduous PhD.
journey will be passed on to the young Malaysian Planners, InshaAllah."*

"Lifelong learning, From Womb to Tomb"

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Conclusively, looking back on the thirty years of planning practice, the planning system, the planning laws, the planning standards and guidelines that have been instituted in Malaysia, I believe that Urban Planning in Malaysia should be Islamised and relevantised according to our own religion, culture and way of life which is simply uniquely Malaysian. Gone should be the days where we had blatantly adopted and adapted from the western secular ideologies and material culture. We are now mature enough to choose our own path - the Malaysian way!

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ABBREVIATIONS

AHP	Analytic Hierarchy Process
ATLAS. Ti	Computer-Aided Qualitative Data Analysis software (CAQDAS); ATLAS.Ti version 7
CR	Consistency Ratio
CEO, IAIS	Chief Executive Officer, Institute of Advanced Islamic Studies
EIU	Economist Intelligence Unit
EPU	Economic Planning Unit
E-HDI	Ethics Human Development Index
FDTCP	Federal Department of Town and Country Planning, Ministry of Urban Wellbeing, Housing and Local Government Malaysia
IKIM	Institut Kefahaman Islam Malaysia (Institute of Islamic Understanding Malaysia)
IbD-I	Islamic-based Development Index
I-HDI	Islamic Human Development Index
JAKIM	Jabatan Kemajuan Islam Malaysia
KPI	Key Performance Indicators
LPAs	Local Planning Authorities
LPPKN	Lembaga Penduduk dan Perancang Keluarga Negara
LESTARI, UKM	Institute for Environment and Development. Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia
MAS	<i>Maqāṣid al-Sharīah</i>
MFWI	Malaysian Family Wellbeing Index
MRPI	Muslim Religiosity and Personality Indexing
MSI	Malaysian <i>Syariah</i> Index
MUDI	Malaysian <i>Ummah</i> Development Index
MURNInets	Malaysian Urban Rural National Indicators Network on Sustainable Development
MQLI	Malaysian Urban Quality of Life Index
MWI	Malaysian Wellbeing Index
NPP	National Physical Plan, 2025
NUP	National Urbanisation Policy (2006-2015)
NUP2	Second National Urbanisation Policy (2016-2025)
PCM	Pairwise Comparison Matrix
PLANMalaysia	Department of Town and Country Planning, Malaysia (new name of FDTCP)
RMK-11	11 th Malaysia Plan
RO	Research Objectives
RQ	Research Questions
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals (2015-2030)

GLOSSARY OF ARABIC TERMS

Amanah – Trust

‘Adl – Justice (also social justice)

Al-asrar – secret

Al-aql – Intellect (or mind)

Al-dīn – Faith/Religion

‘Al-illal, al-makna, al-ghard – Purpose

Al-hikmah – wisdom

Al-mal – wealth

Al-nafs – life/ Physical self

Al-nasl – lineage/ Posterity/ family/ offspring

Aqli – Brain

Dharuriyyāt – Essentials/Necessities

Fatwa – Legal verdicts

Fitrah – State of natural disposition (also innate goodness or purity)

Hadith (pl. *Ahadith*) – Saying of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ

Hajiyyāt – Complements/Exigencies

Hifz ul-Din –Protection of Religion

Hifz ul-Nafs–Protection of Life

Hifz ul-Aql–Protection of Intellect

Hifz ul- Nasl–Protection of Lineage

Hifz ul-Mal–Protection of Wealth

Ihsān – benevolence/ excellence

Ijtihād – logical reasoning

Ikhlas – Sincerity

Īmān – faith

Infāq – charity of surplus

Islam – submission

IRTI – Islamic Research & Training Institute of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB)

Kaffarah – Atonement

Khalīfah – Custodianship (also successor or vicegerent)

Kulliyāt– universal values

Maṣlahah – public interests and benefits
Maqāṣid– Higher purposes (or objectives)
MAS (*Maqāṣid al-Sharīah*)–Objectives of Islamic Law/ Higher objectives of the
Sharīah
Mīzān – Balance
Naqli – Heart / Soul
OIC – Organisation of Islamic Cooperation
Pbuh – Peace and Blessings be Upon Him - ﷺ
Sadaqah – Informal charity and alms giving
Ṣolāt – prayer
Sharīah – Islamic ethics and law (literally ‘the way’)
Sunnah – Traditions of Prophet Muhammad (Pbuh ﷺ)
Sūq – market
Tahsiniyyāt – Desirables/Enhancements/embellishments
Tajdid – renewal
Tawhīd – Unity (Oneness of God)
Ulama – Islamic scholars
Zakāt – Annual obligatory payment on wealth beyond
a certain threshold

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This thesis begins by introducing the term liveability, explores it and finally defines it in the context of this study. Firstly, it touches on issues surrounding liveability especially due to rapid urbanization process. Then it goes on to explain how it is currently measured by Western Organizations and scholars and what critiques that current liveability measurements have received; which explains why the need to undertake this study.

This study seeks to contribute towards evaluating liveability from the Islamic perspectives and produce a new *Maqasidic* liveability evaluation model which is based strongly on *Maqāṣid al-Shari'ah* (Objectives of Islamic Law) principles. Hence, the aim of this thesis is to formulate a liveable city evaluation model using the *Maqāṣid-Al-Sharīah* framework or could be simplified as the “Islamic Liveability Evaluation Model (ILEM)”.

In support of this thesis, many articles that relate liveability and *Maqāṣid al-Shari'ah* were written and presented by the researcher at International Conferences and some got published (APPENDIX 1).

This chapter highlights the prospective contributions of this research by way of enriching the current body of knowledge on liveability, focusing on the Islamic way. Islamizing the urban planning practices and fine-tuning Malaysian urban planning

policies, strategies, planning standards and implementations to benefit Malaysians in particular and the Muslim *Ummah* in general could also be an area of contribution.

This study follows a structured sequence and is organized as follows:

- 1) Background of the research
- 2) Statement of the Research Problem
- 3) Research questions
- 4) Research aim and objectives
- 5) Scope of the research
- 6) Thesis structure and
- 7) Significance of the study

1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE RESEARCH

The subject matter of this thesis (liveability) is considered as a ‘new’ area of research where *Maqāṣid al-Sharīah* is applied (Auda, 2017). The researcher agrees with his statement about the ‘newness’ of this field because at the literature search when this study was first undertaken it was found that very limited data bases concerning liveability in relation to *Maqāṣid al-Sharīah* were available. In contrast, other disciplines relating *Maqāṣid al-Sharīah* to financial and banking system, jurisprudence, business, contracts, *Maqāṣid* of the Quran, Key Performance Indicator (KPI) for government services etc. have been commonly studied before hence the vast literature on those subjects. Therefore, here lies the first knowledge gap where little research has been done to examine the relationship between *Maqāṣid al-Sharīah* and liveability.