



**ASSESSING COMMUNITY FACILITIES PROVISION
FROM ISLAMIC PERSPECTIVES: A CASE STUDY OF
TAMAN MELATI, KUALA LUMPUR**

BY

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ABSTRACT

The provision of community facilities is a key responsibility of local government to meet local needs. An ideal community is one that is formed with proper and well-planned facilities. Adequate provision of facilities helps in improving the quality of life for the residents in a neighbourhood. However, problems arise when there is a lacking in terms of the provision as well as the management and maintenance of the community facilities. Islam propagates the improvement and perfection of conditions for human life. The provision of community facilities by integrating Islamic Principles helps to create a harmonious neighbourhood area. At the same time, it will also help the residents to improve their lifestyle towards better living conditions. This research focuses on five main criteria to assess the conditions of public facilities which are; quality, quantity, accessibility, management and maintenance as well as safety and security. Meanwhile, from the Islamic perspective, the criteria include human welfare, social interaction, safety and security, social responsibility and Islamic urban image. Facilities assessment is based on the Planning Standards and Guidelines for Community Facilities GP004-A except for welfare facilities and public library that are not allocated in the study area. This thesis will come out with the assessment of the existing practice and the improvement that can be made therein. The four main objectives of this research are to identify the factors that affect the level of satisfaction for the community facilities provided, to derive Islamic principles related to the community facilities, to examine the issues and problems on the existing provision of community facilities and to recommend measures for the improvement of community facilities provision based on Islamic principles towards human well-being. A neighbourhood area was selected and research was conducted through site inventory, questionnaire survey and experts' interview. From the research, it was found that most of the residents are satisfied with the existing community facilities provided. However, there are still some lacking in the aspect of planning and implementation stages as well as in the monitoring aspect. These deficiencies have given rise to some negative effects on the users. This is in contradiction with the Islamic principles that emphasize on the protection of the basic needs of each individual. Hence, this research is very important in order to help local authorities in preparing the indicators for community facilities and concurrently integrating the Islamic principles to help demonstrate a high level of well-being for a better quality of life for the community.

خلاصة البحث

يعتبر توفير المرافق المجتمعية من المسؤوليات الأساسية للحكومة المحلية لتلبية الاحتياجات المحلية. والمجتمع المثالي هو مجتمع يتكون بمرافق مناسبة ومخططة بشكل جيد. يساعد توفير المرافق بشكل كافٍ في تحسين نوعية الحياة للمقيمين في الحي. ومع ذلك، تنشأ مشاكل عندما يكون هناك نقص في شروط توفير وإدارة وصيانة مرافق المجتمع. الإسلام ينشر تحسين وكمال الظروف لحياة الإنسان. ويساعد توفير المرافق المجتمعية من خلال دمج المبادئ الإسلامية في خلق منطقة متناغمة. وفي الوقت نفسه، سيساعد أيضًا السكان على تحسين أسلوب حياتهم نحو ظروف معيشية أفضل. يركز هذا البحث على خمسة معايير رئيسية لتقييم شروط المرافق العامة، وهي؛ الجودة والكمية وسهولة الوصول والإدارة والصيانة وكذلك السلامة والأمن. وفي الوقت نفسه، من المنظور الإسلامي، تشمل المعايير رفاهية الإنسان والتفاعل الاجتماعي والسلامة والأمن والمسؤولية الاجتماعية والصورة الحضرية الإسلامية. يعتمد تقييم المرافق على معايير التخطيط والمبادئ التوجيهية للمنشآت المجتمعية GP004-A باستثناء مرافق الرعاية والمكتبة العامة التي لم يتم تخصيصها في منطقة الدراسة. خرجت هذه الأطروحة مع تقييم الممارسة القائمة والتحسين الذي يمكن تحقيقه فيها. الأهداف الأربعة الرئيسية لهذا البحث هي تحديد العوامل التي تؤثر على مستوى الرضا عن المرافق المجتمعية المقدمة، لاشتقاق المبادئ الإسلامية المتعلقة بالمرافق المجتمعية، لدراسة القضايا والمشاكل المتعلقة بتوفير مرافق المجتمع الحالية والتوصية بتدابير لتحسين توفير المرافق المجتمعية على أساس المبادئ الإسلامية نحو رفاه الإنسان. لقد تم اختيار منطقة مجاورة وأجريت الأبحاث من خلال جرد الموقع واستبيان الاستبيان ومقابلة الخبراء. من نتائج البحث أن معظم السكان راضون عن المرافق المجتمعية الموجودة المقدمة. ومع ذلك، لا يزال هناك بعض النقص في جانب التخطيط ومراحل التنفيذ وكذلك في جانب المراقبة. وقد أدت هذه العيوب إلى بعض الآثار السلبية على المستخدمين. وهذا يتناقض مع المبادئ الإسلامية التي تؤكد على حماية الاحتياجات الأساسية لكل فرد. ومن ثم، فإن هذا البحث مهم للغاية من أجل مساعدة السلطات المحلية في إعداد المؤشرات الخاصة بالمرافق المجتمعية وفي الوقت نفسه دمج المبادئ الإسلامية للمساعدة في إظهار مستوى عالٍ من الرفاهية لتحسين نوعية الحياة للمجتمع.

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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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides a general overview of the research entitled “Assessing Community Facilities Provision from Islamic Perspectives: A Case Study of Taman Melati, Kuala Lumpur”. This research aims to integrate Islamic principles in the provision of community facilities practice. This chapter is divided into several parts that consist of i) research background, ii) problem statements, iii) research questions, goal, objectives, and iv) significance of research, scope, structure and also a summary of the research.

The allocation of several types of community facilities especially within an urban area is needed to achieve the objectives in urban planning that is to secure a maximum practicable degree of economy, convenience and beauty (Lewis Keeble, 1969). Planning standards are necessary to help in achieving the adequacy and quality of services (Islam, 2009). The policymakers play a great role in deciding the way to improve performance and also to ensure that the service provided is at the most effective location. It is also important for town planners to plan in advance for community facilities and services as they are essential for future growth. In order to establish a community with the desired quality of life, engaging the provision of the community facilities within the Islamic principles is a must. High population of Muslims based on the research done by the Pew Research Centre (2015) supported this study. The development cannot be considered as an ultimate success if it is failed to comply with the Islamic Principles. Therefore, in this research, the researcher assesses the provision of community facilities provision according to Islamic

planning principles that include the elements of Maqasid al-Shari'ah and Islamic framework related to the community facilities. The issues regarding the allocation of community facilities were explored in greater depth in the subsequent chapters.

1.2 RESEARCH BACKGROUND

Nowadays, the growing number of the population in the urban area is one of the factors that lead to the urbanization process, especially at the city centre (Cochrane, A., 2007). Approximately 6 million additional populations have been estimated to live in the urban areas of Peninsular Malaysia during the 2010-2020 period, accounting for an urbanisation rate of 75% in 2020 or equivalent to the total of 20.9 million urban populations. The Central Region will be the most urbanised region in the country (National Physical Plan 3, 2016).

The growing in population lead to a high number of people competes in using the provided community facilities. Castaldi (1987) mentioned that the comprehensive planning that includes flexibility, adaptability, adequacy, efficiency, economy, energy conservation, safety, health, comfort, acoustical and visual environment need to be implied through the provision of community facilities.

The provision of community facilities is vital to ensure the residents continue to enjoy a better quality of life for the development of the community as a whole. Jamalinezhad et. al. (2012) argue that the most vital part that must be addressed in planning an Islamic city are human welfare and glory, justice and equality, central consideration, unity and kind-heartedness, economic development, security and safety and environmental protection.

This research deals with the Islamic principles that include the elements of Maqasid al-Shariah and the Islamic framework that have a relation with the

community facilities such as human welfare, justice and equality, social interaction, security and safety, social responsibility and environmental protection (Jamalinezhad, Talakesh, and Soltani 2012; Mortada, 2003; Azila Sarkawi, 2008 & Mohammed and Mahmoud, 2013). All those principles are relying on the Qur'an and Sunnah, the basic sources of Islamic law and using some examples from the previous built environment of early Muslims country.

Meanwhile, maqasid al-shar'iah has a great relationship with the purpose of life in Islam. It embraces the absolute meaning of human life in Islamic perspectives (Rafidah Mohd Azli, 2013). The importance on the inserting the elements of maqasid shariah towards the built environment is to demonstrate the Muslims as a khalifah on Earth to responsible for upholding the authenticity of Islam as a religion and a complete way of life (ad-din). Anas bin Maalik may Allah be pleased with him narrated that the Prophet sallallahu `alayhi wa sallam (may Allah exalt his mention) said: "Make things easy for the people, and do not make it difficult for them, and make them calm (with glad tidings) and do not repulse (them)", (Sunan Abi Dawud, 4835, Book 43, Hadith 63).

The quality of life is individual's overall satisfaction with life (Schumaker, Anderson, and Czajkowski, 1990). High quality built environment have long been promoted in urban planning with the integration of socially beneficial places where positive social activity and behavior abound (Dempsey, Nicola, 2008). The quality of life depends on the satisfaction of the community living in an area. All rulings of worldly and religious affairs have been built on the maslaha (interests). In light of that, Allah's commandments and prohibitions include some interests for all human beings. Those, as human beings, are "maslaha", for Allah's purpose are "maqasidu's-shari" (the goals of the Legislator), and for both sides are the legislative wisdom

(hikmat tashri) (Esen, 2015 and Mohd Dani, 2018). It is possible to develop Islamic principles based on which the resources of the world can be better utilized for the maximum benefit of humankind (Mohammad, 2008). Thus, through this research, the researcher assesses the provision of community facilities according to Islamic planning principles to ensure the quality of life for the human being improved and human on Earth live based on Islamic way of life in a harmony.

1.3 STATEMENT OF RESEARCH PROBLEM

The public perception on the existing community facilities provision in Malaysia has been declining over the years (Haryati Shafii, Jamaluddin Md Jahi, A. Latiff, 2009). The challenges in the provision of the community facilities arise due to the high capacity of the population, especially in urban area.

The conditions on the provision of the community facilities have been debated by Haryati Shafii, Jamaluddin Md Jahi, A. Latiff (2009), Skinner (2013), Iwarere and Lawal (2011) and Massam (2002). An extensive literature and research reports describe a variety of methods used to improve the quality of life of the community. However, the research done inadequately addressed the provision of community facilities.

Haryati Shafii, Jamaluddin Md. Jahi, A. Latiff (2009) in their study revealed that the quality of life of the community is in a dissatisfactory level due to improper provision of public facilities provision. There was also the issue of the poor maintenance of public facilities, as highlighted by (Iwarere and Lawal, 2011).

Another condition that lowers the quality of community life where public facilities are concerned is the scantiness of legal procedures as mentioned by (Skinner, 2013). In particular, little is known about the strength of relationships of

attributes that promote beneficial well-being effects to residents (Mansor et al., 2010 and Aisyah et. al., 2015). Jamalinezhad et. al. (2012) pointed out that during the early periods, to develop, protect and maintain an ideal environment, an Islamic concept of urban construction is addressed to the Prophet benefited from the endowment, assignment, privacy and computation.

The concept of governance is broad and, in many ways, ill-defined. Considine and Lewis (2005) argue that governance includes citizen participation, partnerships with government, private or third sector organizations, and local innovation. Through the inclusion of residents in the authorising process, it will indicate a widening of decision-making co-ordinates at the local level, where the top-down government is supplemented by horizontal forms of governance (McShane, 2006). For example, in some countries where many school buildings are in a poor state and where there are severe constraints on the ministry of the education budget, it is possible for the local communities to help add classrooms to a school and maintain the existing buildings (Beynon, 1997).

In view of the problems highlighted above, this research assessed the provision of community facilities provision according to Islamic planning principles. Therefore, a more integrated and comprehensive approach must be taken into action to improve the regulatory framework, planning structure and the services delivered based on the Islamic foundation. By doing so, it will help to create a set of way of life for the mankind that is in line with the Quran and Sunnah. It will also help the local authority to provide the community facilities in accordance with the Islamic framework.

1.4 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

There are several research questions that need to be answered to overcome the issues as well as give the answer for this research includes:

1. What is the practice of the current provision of community facilities?
2. What are the Islamic principles that have a relation to the community facilities?
3. What are the community perceptions on the current provision of the community facilities?
4. How to integrate the provision of community facilities for the human well-being based on the Islamic principles?

1.5 RESEARCH GOAL

The aim of this research is to integrate Islamic principles in the practice of community facilities provision. This thesis will come out with the assessment of existing practices and the improvements that can be made therein. The proposed indicators are not only based on the planning standards and guidelines but at the same time, inserting the elements of Islamic principles that are suitable to be implemented.

1.6 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

The following objectives were made in order to achieve the goal, there are:

- To identify the factors that affect the level of satisfaction for the community facilities provided.
- To derive Islamic principles related to the community facilities.

- To examine the issues and problems on the existing provision of community facilities.
- To recommend measures for the improvement of community facilities provision based on Islamic principles towards human well-being.

1.7 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RESEARCH

The inconvenience and inadequate provision of community facilities has greatly impacted the community. At the same time, there is insufficient study conducted to highlight the importance of integrating Islamic principles in the provision of community facilities.

Hence, this research is crucial to aid the local authorities in preparing the indicators for the community facilities as well as integrating the Islamic principles in the provision of facilities to reflect a high level of well-being and a better quality of life for the community. Such an approach will help to incorporate the elements of Islamic planning that is in line with our role as a khalifah on Earth. Furthermore, it would be beneficial to the local authorities as decision makers to improve the existing policies in line with Islamic perspective. Thus, it will also help in fulfilling the religious obligations for the town planners in the process of planning land uses.

Figure 1.1 shows the purpose of incorporating Islamic principles into the provision of the community facilities.