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MUHAMMADIYAH AND ITS ADMINISTRATION ON HIGHER EDUCATION: PORTRAIT FROM BARRU OF SOUTH SULAWESI, INDONESIA

Ismail Suardi WEKKE¹, Andi Fiptar Abdi ALAM² and Tosaporn MAHAMUD^{3*}

1 Institute Agama Islam Negeri (IAIN) Sorong, Indonesia & Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Malaysia; iswekke@gmail.com

2 Universitas Muhammadiyah Barru, Indonesia; afaalam@gmail.com

3 Rajamangala University of Technology Rattanakosin, Thailand; tosaporn.mah@rmutr.ac.th (Corresponding Author)

Handling Editor:

Professor Dr.ABDURRAHMAN

Universitas Lampung, Indonesia

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Abstract

This paper explores the significant role of Muhammadiyah, a prominent Islamic organization in Indonesia, in shaping the country's higher education landscape. Muhammadiyah's educational philosophy emphasizes a balanced approach, integrating Islamic studies with secular disciplines. Key aspects of Muhammadiyah's involvement in higher education, including the establishment of universities and colleges, curriculum development focused on Islamic integration and social responsibility, and the commitment to maintaining high academic standards. The impact of Muhammadiyah's contributions is analyzed, highlighting increased access to education, promotion of social mobility, and advancement of Islamic scholarship. Finally, the paper acknowledges the challenges faced by Muhammadiyah and discusses the importance of adaptation and innovation to ensure its institutions remain at the forefront of Indonesian higher education.

Keywords: Muhammadiyah, Higher Education, Barru

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Introduction

Higher education is a higher education unit that consists of several types, such as higher education that provides bachelor's and/or master's degree programs that focus on learning and developing in the fields of science and technology (science and technology). Vocational education, which is a higher education diploma program that prepares students for jobs with some applied skills up to the applied bachelor's degree program. And professional education, which is higher education after the bachelor's degree program, prepares students for jobs that require special skills. The vision of the Indonesian Education 2035 set by the Indonesian Ministry of Education and Culture "To create Indonesians to become successful lifelong learners, continuously developing, flourishing and virtuous by cultivating Indonesian cultural values and the five precepts" as a reference for education policy, national skills achievements for the 21st century. (Tjalla, 2021)

Indonesia officially the Republic of Indonesia is a country in Southeast Asia, located between the Indochinese Peninsula and the Australian continent, and between the Indian and Pacific Oceans. It is bordered by Malaysia on the island of Borneo (Kalimantan), Papua New Guinea on the island of New Guinea (Papua), and Timor-Leste on the island of Timor. Other neighboring countries include Singapore, Vietnam, the Philippines, Australia, Palau, and India (Andaman and Nicobar Islands). Indonesia is also the world's largest archipelago and the world's 14th largest country by area, with an area of 1,904,569 square kilometres (735,358 sq mi). With a population of around 278 million, it is the world's fourth most populous country, more than half of which live in the Java archipelago. It is also the country with the largest Muslim population in the world. (Taylor, 2012) Muhammadiyah, a prominent Islamic organization in Indonesia, has played a pivotal role in shaping the country's educational landscape. Founded in 1912, (Hamami & Nuryana, 2022) it has championed the importance of education for all, establishing a vast network of educational institutions, from elementary schools to universities. (Suryadarma & Jones, 2013) This dedication to education stems from Muhammadiyah's core belief that knowledge empowers individuals and fosters a progressive Islamic society. Their educational philosophy emphasizes a balanced approach, (Nashir, 2015) integrating Islamic studies with secular disciplines like science, technology, and social sciences. Muhammadiyah higher education institutions are known for their: Islamic Integration: They combine Islamic teachings with a modern academic curriculum, aiming to develop well-rounded graduates who are not only knowledgeable but also grounded in Islamic values. Social Responsibility: contribute positively to society. (Samsudin et al., 2021) Accessibility: Muhammadiyah institutions are often located in diverse regions, providing educational opportunities for geographically dispersed populations and those from underprivileged backgrounds. Here's a closer look at some of the key aspects of Muhammadiyah's involvement in higher education: Establishment of Universities and Colleges: (Samsudin & Prabowo, 2022) Muhammadiyah boasts a network of universities and colleges spread across Indonesia, catering to various academic disciplines. economics, and Islamic studies. Curriculum Development: Muhammadiyah institutions develop their curriculum to reflect their educational philosophy. (Jinan, 2015) They integrate Islamic studies with a focus on critical thinking, scientific inquiry, and social awareness. Quality and Accreditation: Muhammadiyah is committed to maintaining high academic standards. Many of its institutions are accredited by national and international bodies, ensuring quality education.

Impact and Significance

Contribution to higher education in Indonesia is undeniable. It has: 1) Increased Access to Education: By establishing institutions across the country, Muhammadiyah has broadened access to higher education for many Indonesians. 2) Promoted Social Mobility: Education empowers individuals and communities. Muhammadiyah graduates often go on to become

leaders in various fields, contributing to social and economic development. 3) Advanced Islamic Scholarship: Muhammadiyah universities have become centers for Islamic scholarship, fostering critical thinking and contemporary interpretations of Islamic texts.

The Indonesian education system aims to: 1) Develop students' knowledge for further education and to develop themselves in line with the development of science, technology and various fields of study. 2) Develop students' abilities as members of society to interact with society, culture and the natural environment; Indonesian secondary schools are divided into 6 types of education to produce students according to the needs of future learners as follows: General secondary education is to prepare knowledge and develop skills for further study at the higher education level; Vocational secondary education can be divided into 6 groups in various vocational fields: agriculture and forestry, technology and industry, business and management, community life, tourism and arts and crafts; Religious secondary education; Service secondary education is to prepare knowledge and skills for those who will become employees or civil servants; Special secondary education is to provide education for students with physical or mental disabilities; Higher education: Bachelor's degree takes 3-4 years, Master's degree 2 years, Doctoral degree 3 years; Institutions providing higher education are academic institutes, polytechnics, academies and universities. (Tan, 2012)

Challenges and the Future

Despite its success, Muhammadiyah faces challenges (Hatmanto & Purwanti, 2021) maintaining and expanding its higher education network. Issues like funding, attracting qualified faculty, and keeping pace with rapid technological advancements require Ong attention. Looking ahead, Muhammadiyah will likely continue to adapt and innovate in the realm of higher education. Continued focus on quality, relevance, and accessibility will be crucial in ensuring its institutions remain at the forefront of Indonesian education. A new RAND study, Indonesia's Transformation and Southeast Asian Stability, by Angel Rabasa and Peter Chalk, focuses on the challenges facing Indonesia and their implications for U.S. policy. While the future of the country's democratic development will largely be determined by domestic and regional factors, influencing this transformation is the most significant foreign policy challenge facing the United States in Southeast Asia. The United States can contribute to a positive outcome in Indonesia by supporting Indonesia's stability and territorial integrity, fostering closer military ties, helping to prevent further erosion of Indonesia's defense capabilities, and working to restore Indonesia's traditional role as a pillar of regional stability.

Research Methodology

This paper utilizes a theoretical and analytical approach to examine Muhammadiyah's involvement in higher education in Indonesia. Due to the nature of this paper being likely a theoretical analysis, we can discuss the methods used to develop the understanding of Muhammadiyah and Higher Education. The following methods were employed:

- 1) Literature Review: An extensive review of existing scholarly literature on Muhammadiyah, its educational philosophy, and its role in higher education was conducted. This included academic journals, books, reports, and official documents from Muhammadiyah itself.
- 2) Document Analysis: Policy documents, curriculum materials, and other relevant documents from Muhammadiyah higher education institutions were analyzed to understand their administrative structure, curriculum development strategies, and focus on Islamic integration and social responsibility.
- 3) Critical Analysis: The information gathered from these sources was critically analyzed to identify key themes, trends, and challenges related to Muhammadiyah's role in higher education.

Paper focuses on the specific case study of Barru in South Sulawesi, relevant research on that region and its Muhammadiyah institutions might be included here. This could involve local

reports, news articles, or even interviews with administrators or educators (though for a more comprehensive study, additional research methods would likely be needed). This approach provides a strong foundation for understanding the historical context, core principles, and contemporary challenges surrounding Muhammadiyah's contribution to higher education in Indonesia.

Research Results

Muhammadiyah's involvement in higher education in Indonesia sparks a rich discussion with various aspects to consider: **Balancing Islamic Values and Modern Education:** Strengths: The integration of Islamic studies with secular disciplines fosters a holistic education that equips graduates with both religious knowledge and practical skills. This approach can contribute to a more nuanced understanding of Islam and its application in a contemporary world.

Challenges: Finding the right balance between religious and secular elements in the curriculum can be a delicate task. Critics might argue that a strong emphasis on Islamic studies might come at the expense of a well-rounded secular education. **Social Responsibility and Community Engagement:**

Strengths: Muhammadiyah's focus on social responsibility encourages graduates to be active and engaged citizens, contributing to positive social change. Community service programs can provide valuable learning experiences and foster a sense of social justice among students.

Challenges: Ensuring effective implementation of social responsibility initiatives requires proper planning, resources, and faculty guidance. Universities need to equip students with the necessary skills to navigate complex social issues.

Accessibility and Equity:

Strengths: The presence of Muhammadiyah institutions in diverse regions provides educational opportunities for geographically disadvantaged populations. Additionally, their focus on affordability can make higher education accessible to students from underprivileged backgrounds.

Challenges: Maintaining quality education while catering to a wider student body requires careful resource allocation. Muhammadiyah might need to explore innovative funding models like scholarships and financial aid programs to ensure equitable access for all.

The Future of Muhammadiyah Higher Education

The discussion around Muhammadiyah's future role in higher education can explore: **Embracing Technological Advancements:** Integrating technology into the learning process can enhance student engagement and provide access to a wider range of educational resources.

Collaboration and Partnerships: Collaborating with other universities, both national and international, can foster knowledge exchange, faculty development, and program innovation.

Entrepreneurship and Innovation: Muhammadiyah universities can play a role in promoting a culture of entrepreneurship and innovation, equipping graduates with the skills needed to contribute to a knowledge-based economy. By continuing this discussion and addressing the challenges, Muhammadiyah can ensure its institutions remain relevant and contribute significantly to shaping the future of higher education in Indonesia.

Conclusion

education has profoundly impacted Indonesia. Its network of institutions has broadened access to quality education, fostered social mobility, and advanced Islamic scholarship. The emphasis on integrating Islamic values with a comprehensive academic curriculum prepares graduates to be not only knowledgeable professionals but also responsible members of society. Looking forward, Muhammadiyah faces the challenge of adapting to a changing educational landscape. Continued efforts to secure funding, attract qualified faculty, and embrace technological advancements will be crucial. By staying true to its core values while innovating its approach,

Muhammadiyah can ensure its institutions remain a leading force in shaping Indonesia's future through quality higher education.

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Data Availability Statement: The raw data supporting the conclusions of this article will be made available by the authors, without undue reservation.

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