



Indian Muslim Entrepreneurs in Sarawak: Business Strategies and Research Agendas

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Abstract

The migration of Indian Muslim traders to Sarawak was influenced by various factors, including trade networks, economic opportunities, cultural connections, colonial influence, and migration patterns. These factors create a favourable environment for Indian Muslim traders to establish themselves in Sarawak and engage in trade with local communities. Their participation in trade, entrepreneurial spirit, and cultural affinities with local communities contributed to the region's economic and cultural growth. The historical presence of Indian Muslim traders later to be called entrepreneurs in Sarawak highlights their significant role in shaping the region's commercial landscape and fostering cultural exchange between India and Southeast Asia. In this paper, we highlight the strategies employed by the Indian Muslims to achieve success in their businesses. Secondary data from newspaper report and empirical literature are analyzed to understand the strategies employed by Indian Muslim and arrive the future research recommendations. The strategies found are Indian Muslims focus on niche area marketing, strong network collaborations within Indian Muslim communities and great engagement between Indian Muslims and other local community. This paper also shed light on potential research areas that can be conducted in future to improve sustainability of entrepreneurship in Sarawak.

Keywords: India Muslim, Entrepreneur Cultural, Trade Network, Business Strategies, Socio-economic

1.Introduction

Indian Muslim merchants have a rich history of engaging in trade and commerce in Southeast Asia, particularly in Sarawak. Their presence in Sarawak dates back to the 19th century when the region was governed by the White Rajahs. Indian Muslim traders hailing from different parts of the Indian subcontinent, notably Gujarat and Tamil Nadu, ventured to Sarawak in pursuit of economic opportunities. Their trading activities encompassed importing and exporting goods such as textiles, spices, and various merchandise. They established trade networks and fostered connections with local communities, including the indigenous Dayak tribes and Chinese immigrants. The Indian Muslim merchants brought along their Islamic faith and cultural practices, playing a crucial role in spreading Islam in Sarawak through interactions with the local populace and the establishment of mosques and Islamic institutions. Their historical presence throughout various regions in Southeast Asia, including Sarawak, significantly impacted the region's economic and cultural growth, particularly during the medieval and colonial periods. Referred to as Chulia Muslims, Tamil Muslims or Mamak, Indian Muslims have a longstanding history of engaging in maritime trade and cultural exchange with Southeast Asia. Active participants in the Indian Ocean trade network, connecting regions across Asia, Africa, and the Middle East, they recognized the strategic importance of Sarawak, particularly Kuching, as a significant trading hub. Consequently, Sarawak attracted traders from diverse parts of the world, including India. Indian Muslim traders established networks and actively participated in commercial activities, dealing with goods like textiles, spices, metals, and other commodities. They forged close bonds with local communities, contributing significantly to the region's economic prosperity.

Over time, some Indian Muslim traders chose to settle permanently in Sarawak, establishing families and businesses. As a result, they integrated with the local population, leading to the formation of a multicultural society. Today, their descendants continue to reside in Sarawak, preserving their heritage and enriching the state's diverse cultural landscape. It is important to acknowledge that the history of Indian Muslim traders in Sarawak, as well as other parts of Southeast Asia, is a multifaceted narrative influenced by numerous historical factors. The contributions and interactions of these traders varied across different regions and historical periods.



Given their extensive and enduring presence, Indian Muslim traders, later becoming local Indian Muslim entrepreneurs, have significantly impacted Sarawak from various perspectives. This paper aims to discuss the business strategies employed by Indian Muslim entrepreneurs in Sarawak and also highlights potential research areas that could inspire future researchers to delve deeper into this subject. The sections of paper are divided into six sections. Section One presents the introduction of Indian Muslim entrepreneurs in Sarawak. Next, the literature review is presented in Section Two. The methodology is presented in Section Three. The strategies adopted by Indian Muslim entrepreneurs are discussed in Section Four and potential research agendas of Indian Muslim Entrepreneurs are written in Section Five. Finally, the other possible research and conclusion are shown in Section Six.

2. Literature review

Indian Muslims in Malaysia

Indian Muslim traders from the Coromandel Coast of South India have a longstanding history of engaging in maritime trade with Southeast Asia, including present-day Malaysia. Referred to as Chulias, these traders played a crucial role in commercial activities and the establishment of trade networks, fostering cultural exchange and early migration of Indian Muslims to Malaysia (Hussain, 2003). During the British colonial era, Indian Muslims were recruited as indentured laborers to fulfill the labour demands for infrastructure projects and plantations in Malaysia. The British brought Indian Muslims from regions like Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh to work in their colonies (Wade, 2005). In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Indian Muslim merchants and traders began migrating to Malaysia to capitalize on economic opportunities. They ventured into various sectors, including textiles, spices, jewellery, and retail trade, contributing significantly to the growth of Indian Muslim communities and their socio-economic influence in Malaysia (Ahmad, 2006). Even after Malaysia gained independence in 1957, Indian Muslims continued to migrate to the country, with many professionals such as doctors, engineers, and teachers seeking employment and contributing their expertise to Malaysia's development. This migration wave further enriched Malaysia's cultural diversity (Hussain, 2010).

Apart from work-related migration, many Indian Muslims also migrated to Malaysia for family reunification or through arranged marriages with local Malaysians. These movements have fostered the growth of Indian Muslim communities and promoted intercultural ties within Malaysian society (Khoo, 2014).

Indian Muslim in Sarawak

During the 19th century, Sarawak was under the rule of the Brooke family, known as the White Rajahs. As British rulers, the Brookes implemented policies aimed at encouraging immigration to foster the economic development of Sarawak (Ho, 2014). These policies attracted diverse communities, including Indian Muslims, who migrated to the region in search of economic opportunities. Indian Muslims played a crucial role as laborers and workers, making significant contributions to the state's economic progress (Ooi, 2013). Many of them found employment in various industries such as timber, rubber, pepper, and oil palm plantations, and later played vital roles in the growth of these sectors (Ho, 2014). In addition to labor roles, Indian Muslims actively engaged in trading and business activities in Sarawak. They established businesses such as provision stores, textile shops, and small-scale industries (Ooi, 2013). These ventures not only contributed to the local economy but also added diversity to Sarawak's commercial landscape. Some Indian Muslims achieved notable success as entrepreneurs, fostering economic growth and creating employment opportunities for the local population.

The migration of Indian Muslims to Sarawak also brought with it a rich cultural and religious heritage. They established mosques and madrasas, which served as centers for religious and educational activities (Ho, 2014). These institutions not only preserved the religious identity of Indian Muslims but also played a vital role in disseminating knowledge and fostering a sense of community cohesion. In this way, Indian Muslims contributed to the multicultural fabric of Sarawak, enriching the local cultural diversity. As time passed, they were able to integrate into the local society while retaining their distinct identity. They assimilated with the broader Malaysian society, adopting the Malay language and customs (Ooi, 2013). However, they also maintained their unique cultural traditions and practices within their communities, celebrating festivals and preserving their cultural heritage. This process of integration and cultural preservation helped create a harmonious multicultural society in Sarawak.

Significance of the Influence of Indian Muslim Entrepreneurs on Sarawak's Business Landscape

Indian Muslim entrepreneurs have played a pivotal role in driving the economic and cultural development of Sarawak. Their presence in the region was shaped by various influential factors that facilitated trade, cultural exchange, and



migration. This section delves into the key factors that motivated Indian Muslim entrepreneurs to venture into Sarawak and establish their robust commercial networks.

Retail Industry

Indian Muslim entrepreneurs have successfully established a diverse array of retail businesses in Sarawak, ranging from traditional clothing stores to modern supermarkets. An exemplary illustration of this is "Al-Asmawi Mart," a renowned supermarket chain founded by an Indian Muslim entrepreneur. With its headquarters in Kuching, the capital city of Sarawak, "Al-Asmawi Mart" caters to a wide range of customer needs, offering an extensive selection of products and services.

Food and Catering Services

Indian Muslim entrepreneurs have made significant contributions to Sarawak's food and catering industry. "Ali's Biryani House," an esteemed restaurant located in both Miri and Kuching, exemplifies an Indian Muslim-owned establishment that has gained popularity for its authentic and delectable Indian cuisine.

Textile Trade

Indian Muslim entrepreneurs have played a pivotal role in Sarawak's textile trade. Notably, "Kapitan Textiles," based in Sibu, a significant town in Sarawak, has been instrumental in supplying high-quality fabrics and clothing materials to both local and regional markets.

Real Estate Development

Indian Muslim entrepreneurs have ventured into the real estate sector in Sarawak, contributing to the development of commercial and residential properties. "Aziz Properties," based in Bintulu, a key industrial town in Sarawak, has been actively engaged in the construction and management of several shopping complexes and housing estates in the region.

Technology and IT Services

Embracing technology-driven businesses, Indian Muslim entrepreneurs in Sarawak have established "TechSolutions." Founded by an Indian Muslim entrepreneur, this notable IT services company provides innovative solutions to businesses and organizations in the region. It is headquartered in Miri, Sarawak, offering its services to various enterprises.

Education and Training

Indian Muslim entrepreneurs have made substantial contributions to the education sector in Sarawak. "Aslam Institute," founded by an Indian Muslim entrepreneur, has become a prominent vocational training center located in Kuching, Sarawak's capital city. It offers skill development programs that contribute to human resource development in the region. The presence of Indian Muslim entrepreneurs in Sarawak has had a profound impact on the region's economic and cultural landscape. Their successful ventures in various sectors, such as retail, food and catering, textile trade, real estate development, technology, and education, demonstrate their entrepreneurial spirit and dedication to contribute to the local economy. Notable establishments like "Al-Asmawi Mart," "Ali's Biryani House," "Kapitan Textiles," "Aziz Properties," "TechSolutions," and "Aslam Institute" exemplify the diversity and significance of their business ventures. Additionally, their contributions in real estate development and IT services reflect their adaptability to modern business trends and technologies. Overall, Indian Muslim entrepreneurs in Sarawak have demonstrated remarkable achievements across multiple sectors, making them an integral part of the region's growth and prosperity. Their success stories serve as an inspiration for aspiring entrepreneurs and underscore the valuable role of cultural diversity and innovation in shaping a thriving business environment in Sarawak.

3. Research Methodology

This paper employs secondary data sources from online newspapers, journals, and empirical literature to identify the unique business strategies adopted by successful Indian Muslim entrepreneurs. Since using secondary data, there will be no descriptive or empirical data presented. A discussion on the strategies adopted by Indian Muslim entrepreneurs are presented in section four.



4. Business Strategies of Indian Muslim Entrepreneurs in Sarawak

Indian Muslim entrepreneurs in Sarawak employ various business strategies to navigate the competitive market. Based on various recent references such as journals and local newspapers, it can be concluded that their strategies can be classified into different categories based on their objectives and implementation.

Niche Market Focus

One key strategy employed by Indian Muslim entrepreneurs in Sarawak is to focus on specific niche markets. By identifying and catering to underserved or specialized customer segments, they differentiate themselves from competitors and capitalize on unique opportunities. For instance, many Indian Muslim entrepreneurs specialize in providing halal food products, prepared and produced in accordance with Islamic dietary laws. They offer a range of halal-certified food items, such as snacks, spices, sauces, and ready-to-eat meals. This approach allows them to target the Muslim population in Sarawak while also attracting non-Muslim customers who prefer halal-certified products (Ahmad, 2019). Additionally, some entrepreneurs have established small-scale food processing companies that specialize in manufacturing halal-certified traditional Indian snacks. By providing authentic, high-quality snacks to Muslim consumers and halal-conscious individuals, they successfully capture a niche market. Another niche market that Indian Muslim entrepreneurs target is Islamic fashion and clothing. They offer a range of modest attire, including hijabs, abayas, and modest ethnic wear, catering to the needs of Muslim women who seek fashionable yet modest clothing options. These entrepreneurs often combine traditional designs with contemporary trends to meet the specific demands of Muslim consumers (Ahmad, 2016). For example, an Indian Muslim entrepreneur in Sarawak runs a boutique that specializes in Islamic fashion. They source unique fabrics, incorporate local craftsmanship, and offer a wide variety of modest clothing options for women. By targeting the niche market of Muslim women seeking modest attire, they have established a loyal customer base and gained recognition within the local community.

In addition to clothing and food, Indian Muslim entrepreneurs also provide Islamic products and accessories, such as prayer items, Islamic literature, home decoration items, and religious gift items. By selecting products that cater to the religious and cultural needs of Muslim consumers, they position their businesses as one-stop shops for Islamic lifestyle products (Khan, 2016). For instance, an online store specializes in Islamic home decoration items, including beautifully crafted Islamic calligraphy art, Islamic wall decals, and other decorative items that resonate with the religious and cultural values of the local Muslim community. By targeting this niche market, they have gained a solid online presence and a loyal customer base.

Networking and Collaboration

The second strategy is to build strong networks among the Indian Muslim community. The Indian Muslim entrepreneurs collaborate with other businesses and enable the Indian Muslim entrepreneurs to leverage on shared resources, knowledge, and support. Such networks foster trust and facilitate business growth through referrals and partnerships (Haron et al., 2020). Indian Muslim entrepreneurs in Sarawak understand the importance of building and maintaining strong networks to foster business growth and opportunities. They actively engage in various networking activities and collaborations to expand their reach and access to resources. Here are some examples of networking strategies employed by Indian Muslim entrepreneurs:

1. Participation in business and community associations: They join chambers of commerce, trade organizations, and community groups to connect with like-minded individuals, share experiences, and access valuable resources. These associations often organize networking events, seminars, and business forums that provide opportunities to meet potential customers, suppliers, and partners (Muda et al., 2018).
2. Participation in trade fairs, exhibitions, and showcases: They participate in these events to promote their products and services, showcase their offerings to a wider audience, interact with potential customers, and forge new business connections. By engaging in such events, they can generate leads, gather market intelligence, and explore potential collaborations (Sulong et al., 2019).
3. Collaboration with other businesses: By actively seeking collaborations and partnerships with other businesses, they can share resources, tap into new networks, and reach a wider audience (Alam et al., 2020). For example, an Indian Muslim-owned restaurant forms a strategic partnership with a local event management company. They collaborate on organizing food festivals and cultural events, where the restaurant provides authentic Indian cuisine, while the event management company handles the logistics and promotions. This collaboration allows them to attract a larger audience and create a unique experience for attendees.



Adaptation and Localization

Indian Muslim entrepreneurs also understand the importance of adapting their products, services, and marketing strategies to suit the local market. They take into account the cultural, religious, and ethnic diversity of Sarawak and tailor their offerings accordingly (Jamil et al., 2017). For example, they incorporate local flavours into the Indian food products to suit local customers' tastes (Rahim, 2018). Similarly, some entrepreneurs operate bakeries that infuse local ingredients such as pandan, coconut, and palm sugar into their range of baked goods. This allows them to create a unique fusion of Indian and local tastes that resonates with local consumers.

Community Engagement

Indian Muslim entrepreneurs in Sarawak actively engage with the local community, participating in social and cultural events and supporting community initiatives. This community-oriented approach helps foster goodwill, enhances brand reputation, and builds customer loyalty (Mahmood & Sadek, 2018). For instance, an Indian Muslim-owned restaurant regularly organizes community events and charity drives, collaborating with local non-profit organizations to support underprivileged families in the area. By actively engaging in community outreach, they not only contribute to the welfare of the community but also build a positive brand image, attracting customers who appreciate their commitment to social causes. Similarly, an Indian Muslim-owned grocery store organizes cooking workshops where customers can learn to prepare traditional Indian dishes using ingredients available in their store. These workshops serve as platforms for cultural exchange, bringing people from different backgrounds together and fostering a sense of community. By actively engaging with customers through educational and interactive initiatives, they create loyal customers who appreciate the value-added experience beyond mere shopping (Mahmood & Sadek, 2018).

Education and Social Mobility

Indian Muslim entrepreneurs in Sarawak recognize the value of education in achieving social mobility and enhancing their business prospects. They prioritize education for themselves and their children, allowing them to acquire knowledge, skills, and expertise to succeed in their entrepreneurial endeavours (Mohamad et al., 2016). For instance, they encourage their children to pursue higher education, both locally and internationally. They understand that obtaining a degree or professional qualifications opens up opportunities for their children to excel in various fields, including business, medicine, engineering, and academia. By acquiring advanced knowledge and skills, their children can contribute to the growth and development of their businesses. Additionally, Indian Muslim entrepreneurs themselves actively seek out business courses, workshops, and training programs to enhance their skills in areas such as marketing, finance, and operations management (Cheng, 2019). Furthermore, they engage in knowledge-sharing and mentorship activities within their communities. They actively contribute to the development of aspiring entrepreneurs by sharing their experiences, insights, and advice. By nurturing the next generation of entrepreneurs and supporting their educational and entrepreneurial journeys, they contribute to the growth and vibrancy of the entrepreneurial ecosystem in Sarawak (Abdul Rashid et al., 2017).

5. Exploring Potential Research Agendas

There are some recommendations for future research for Indian Muslim entrepreneurs. Conducting empirical research, archival studies, and fieldwork can provide deeper insights into the specific dynamics, experiences, and contributions of this community in Sarawak's history and development. These entrepreneurs have engaged in various business sectors, showcasing their entrepreneurial spirit and contributing to the growth and development of Sarawak's economy. When exploring the research area, several potential avenues exist to consider. Here are a few research areas suggested that are possible to be explored:

Historical Migration Patterns

The migration of Indian Muslim merchants to Sarawak is an intriguing historical phenomenon that offers valuable insights into the motivations and experiences of these traders. established to investigate the historical patterns of migration of Indian Muslim merchants to Sarawak, exploring the push and pull factors that influenced their decision to migrate, the routes they took, and the networks they established in the region. Understanding these aspects can provide a deeper understanding of the economic, social, and cultural exchanges that occurred between India and Sarawak.

Economic factors that contributed to the success of Indian Muslim entrepreneurs: India, during various historical periods, experienced economic challenges, such as crop failures, political instability, and taxation issues, which pushed some Indian Muslim merchants to seek opportunities elsewhere, including Sarawak (Rashid, 2010). Religious



persecution: At times, Indian Muslim communities faced religious persecution and discrimination, leading some individuals to seek refuge in Sarawak, where religious freedom was more accommodated (Hussain, 2015).

Trade pattern of Indian Muslim products: Sarawak's strategic location in Southeast Asia made it a thriving hub for trade. The prospect of engaging in lucrative trade with the indigenous communities and other traders in Sarawak attracted Indian Muslim merchants (Tarling, 2008). Welcoming local rulers: Sarawak's indigenous rulers were often open to foreign merchants, including Indian Muslims, as they saw the potential benefits of trade and the exchange of goods (Hiew, 1997). Future researchers can explore the trade patterns of Indian Muslims in Sarawak such as the importing countries of Indian Muslim products. This enables the researchers to have a better understanding of the demand for Indian Muslim products internationally.

Networks and Communities: Trading networks: Indian Muslim merchants formed close-knit trading networks in Sarawak, collaborating with local merchants and building connections with other foreign traders (Lau, 1991). Cultural and religious communities: Over time, Indian Muslim merchants established communities in Sarawak, fostering cultural and religious exchanges that enriched the social fabric of the region (Abdullah, 2005).

The historical migration of Indian Muslim merchants to Sarawak reflects a complex interplay of push and pull factors, economic opportunities, and religious motivations. The thriving trade routes and welcoming local rulers provided a conducive environment for these merchants to establish themselves in Sarawak. As they integrated into the local society, Indian Muslim traders contributed to the cultural diversity and economic growth of the region. This research sheds light on the experiences of Indian Muslim merchants in Sarawak, offering valuable insights into the dynamics of historical migration and cross-cultural interactions.

Economic Contribution

Possible research investigates the nature of their business networks, commercial practices, and the goods they traded.

Assessing Economic Contributions: This research areas to explore and assess the economic contributions of Indian Muslim merchants in Sarawak. It involves examining the various sectors in which they were involved, such as trade, agriculture, or retail. The area was possible to study to quantify and qualify their economic impact on the local economy through their entrepreneurial activities, investments, and trade transactions (Tarling, 1992; Hall, 1981).

Analysing Business Networks and Commercial Practices: Another important research issue centers around investigating the nature of business networks established by Indian Muslim merchants in Sarawak. This involves exploring their connections with local traders, indigenous communities, and other foreign merchants. This area is possible to understand the extent of their influence in local markets and the role of these networks in facilitating economic exchanges (Andaya & Andaya, 2001; Lau, 1991).

Examining Goods Traded: The research seeks to delve into the goods and commodities traded by Indian Muslim entrepreneurs in Sarawak. This involves analysing the types of products they imported from India and other regions and the goods they exported from Sarawak. Additionally, the study try to understand the economic significance of these traded goods and their impact on the region's economy (Lockard, 2010; Reid, 1988).

Gauging Local Economic Integration: An essential research issue is to examine the level of the local economic integration of Indian Muslim entrepreneurs in Sarawak. This involves studying their involvement in local supply chains, employment of local labor, and the extent to which their economic activities contributed to the development of local industries and markets (Hiew, 1997; Andaya, 1984). Through exploring these research issues, this study provides valuable insights into the economic contributions of Indian Muslim merchants in Sarawak. By analysing their involvement in various sectors, business networks, and traded goods, the research sheds light on their impact on the local economy and their role in shaping the region's commercial landscape.

Socioeconomic Mobility and Entrepreneurship

This research delves into the socioeconomic mobility and entrepreneurial activities of Indian Muslim entrepreneur in Sarawak. This study area can explore the strategies they employed to achieve success in their businesses and examine the impact of their economic endeavours on their social status and the development of their communities.

Socioeconomic Mobility: This research seeks to investigate the socioeconomic mobility of Indian Muslim entrepreneurs it involves examining these merchants' social and economic status upon their arrival and tracing their upward mobility



over time. They may understand how their business success and entrepreneurial activities contributed to their improved socioeconomic standing within the local context (Andaya, 1984; Hall, 1981).

Entrepreneurial Strategies: Another critical research issue centers around exploring the entrepreneurial strategies adopted by Indian Muslim entrepreneurs and this topic can identify the business models, trade practices, and innovations they employed to thrive in a new environment. By examining these strategies, the research aims to gain insights into the factors that facilitated their success and adaptation to local markets (Lockard, 2010; Reid, 1988).

Impact on Social Status: This research area examines the impact of economic success on the social status of Indian Muslim entrepreneurs in Sarawak. The study seeks to understand how their increased wealth and involvement in trade activities influenced their standing within the broader society. Additionally, the research aims to analyze the social dynamics that may have led to greater acceptance and integration of Indian Muslim merchants within the local community (Abdullah, 2005; Lau, 1991).

Community Development: An important research issue is to investigate the role of Indian Muslim entrepreneurs in community development. This involves examining how their economic endeavors contributed to the growth and well-being of their own community as well as the broader society. The study can cover area of philanthropic activities, investments, and initiatives undertaken by these merchants to support community development (Hiew, 1997; Tarling, 1992).

Through exploring these research issues, this study provides valuable insights into the socioeconomic mobility and entrepreneurial activities of Indian Muslim merchants in Sarawak. By examining their strategies for success, impact on social status, and contributions to community development, the research sheds light on these merchants' role in shaping the region's economic and social landscape.

Entrepreneurial and Business Strategies

Business Models: With quite a long history of business in Kuching and also most major cities in Sarawak, possible business models adopted by them are also possible areas to further investigate. It involves studying the structure and operations of their enterprises, including the types of goods or services they offer, pricing strategies, and revenue streams. Further understanding and identifying the uniqueness of their business models and how they align with market demands and consumer preferences (Andaya, 1981; Abdul Rahman, 2016). Another related areas also marketing strategies, advertising approaches, customer engagement practices, and marketing efforts to gain insights into how they attract and retain customers in a competitive business landscape (Lian & Lee, 2018).

Networking Strategies and Management: The area of networking strategies involves studying their professional relationships, collaborations with other businesses, and connections with suppliers and customers. This might study the significance of networking in expanding their business reach and opportunities (Ng & Yeo, 2015). In terms of examining their leadership styles, organizational structures, and employee management practices by understanding factors that contribute to their business efficiency and sustainability (Wong & Ahmad, 2015).

6. Other Possible research areas and conclusion

There are a few other potential areas of research related to Indian Muslims entrepreneurs in Sarawak

Examine the trade networks and global connections of Indian Muslim entrepreneurs. Investigate the extent of their trading activities beyond Sarawak, including connections with other regions in Southeast Asia and the Indian subcontinent. Analyze the role of Indian Muslim entrepreneurs in facilitating trade and cultural exchange between Sarawak and other parts of the world.

Examine the economic impact of Indian Muslim entrepreneurs in Sarawak. Assess their role in generating employment opportunities, contributing to tax revenues, and driving economic growth. Explore the extent to which Indian Muslim entrepreneurs have established successful enterprises, created wealth, and stimulated local economic activities.

Examine the role of Indian Muslim entrepreneurs in building business networks and community connections in Sarawak. Investigate the formation of business associations, chambers of commerce, and other networking platforms. Analyze how these networks have facilitated knowledge sharing, resource mobilization, and collective efforts for community development.



Finally, identify the challenges faced by Indian Muslim entrepreneurs in Sarawak and explore the strategies they have employed to overcome them. Examine the support mechanisms available to them, such as government initiatives, financial institutions, and business development programs. Analyze the opportunities and potential for growth in the Sarawak market for Indian Muslim entrepreneurs. By examining the historical journey of Indian Muslim entrepreneurs since their arrival in Sarawak as traders and workers, we gain valuable insights into their cultural influence and deep involvement in our society. The past history reveals how their migration to Sarawak, driven by economic and religious factors, led to the establishment of close-knit trading networks and cultural communities. Over time, they integrated with the local population, contributing to the multicultural fabric of our region.

Furthermore, the contributions of Indian Muslim entrepreneurs extend beyond their historical impact. Presently, there exists vast untapped potential in various areas that we should explore further.

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