



Factors Influencing Perception of Mosque Congregants Towards Administration Management: A Case Study of Masjid Al-Abyad, Taman Matang, Kuching, Sarawak

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Abstract

This study focuses on investigating the dominant factors that influence the Jemaah's perception of administration management at Masjid Al-Abyad in Taman Matang, Kuching, Sarawak, with a specific emphasis on addressing the limited existing studies on Malaysian mosques. The research aims to identify the most influential factor impacting perception, examine the relationship between mosque attendance frequency and perception, and explore the correlation between committee, financial management, and facilities management with the Jemaah's perception. To gather data, quantitative methods were employed, utilizing an online questionnaire distributed to the Jemaah in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The sample consisted of 102 respondents selected through purposive sampling. The findings indicate that financial management emerged as the most dominant factor, significantly influencing the Jemaah's perception of administration management. It is important to note that these findings are specific to Masjid Al-Abyad and may not be generalized to all mosques. Future qualitative research is recommended to explore additional factors comprehensively. Overall, this study contributes to the preservation and integration of science and charity in mosque administration within the Nusantara region.

Keywords: Perception, administration management, mosque, factors, financial management, quantitative research, Covid-19 pandemic, dominant factors.

1. Introduction

The significance of mosques extends beyond being places of worship, as history demonstrates their multifunctionality in Islam's development. Mosques have served as venues for gathering, discussions, strategic planning, trade, legislation, knowledge dissemination, and more. While their original purpose was for prostration and devotion to Allah SWT, mosques have evolved into centers for da'wah activities without neglecting their primary function. With the progress of technology and the increasing Muslim population, numerous mosques have been constructed to meet the community's growing needs. The administration members of a mosque play a crucial role in ensuring its effective utilization. In recent times, mosques have also become venues for activities such as korban, children's tuition, and weddings. Managing these diverse da'wah activities necessitates efficient administration. A well-structured administration management system instills confidence in the community, fostering a continuous practice of da'wah in a specific mosque. Given that mosques are public gathering places, it is essential to prioritize the community as stakeholders. Understanding the community's perception of mosque administration is crucial for meeting their needs and desires. Conflict between committee members and the community must be avoided as both parties depend on each other, with community donations significantly contributing to mosque revenue. Additionally, the community relies on mosques for preaching activities based on the funds allocated. These mutual benefits attract community members to visit the mosque frequently, yielding positive outcomes. Thus, it is essential for mosque committee members to be aware of the community's perception of administration management and the factors influencing it.

2. Literature review

This section provides a comprehensive review of the existing literature on the factors influencing the perception of Jemaah (congregants) towards the administration management of mosques, with a specific focus on Masjid Al-Abyad in Taman Matang, Kuching, Sarawak. The review begins by discussing the factors identified by Abd Aziz bin Harjin (2008), including the committee, financial management, and facilities. It further explores additional aspects related to mosque management, such as personnel management, hygiene management, time management, cadre management, and the level of understanding of mosque administration in Islam. Financial management emerges as a critical aspect of mosque administration in the literature. The transparent and efficient handling of donated funds is emphasized as a key factor in maintaining community trust and engagement with the mosque. Scholars highlight the correlation between effective financial management and the community's willingness to actively participate in mosque activities. It is



argued that improved fund management practices are essential for sustaining financial transparency and ensuring the proper utilization of resources. Facility management is another important area addressed in the literature. Researchers underscore the significance of maintaining functional and well-equipped facilities to foster community involvement in mosques. The availability of basic amenities, such as clean and comfortable prayer spaces, ablution facilities, and parking areas, is seen as instrumental in attracting congregants and creating a conducive environment for worship and social interactions.

The literature review also examines the factors influencing mosque attendance. It reveals that several factors contribute to the frequency of congregants' participation. The limited role of mosques in community development, the qualities of imams and staff members, personal issues faced by congregants, inadequate amenities, and non-strategic locations are all identified as factors influencing mosque attendance. Additionally, gender emerges as a significant factor, affecting both obligatory prayers and participation in outreach programs. Overall, this section highlights the importance of understanding and addressing the various factors that shape the perception of Jemaah towards mosque administration management. The findings emphasize the need for transparent financial management practices and the provision of adequate facilities to enhance community engagement. Furthermore, the factors influencing mosque attendance underscore the importance of considering the diverse needs and preferences of congregants. This review serves as a foundation for the subsequent research, which aims to investigate these factors and their relationship with the perception of congregants towards the administration management of Masjid Al-Abyad, Taman Matang, Kuching, Sarawak.

3. Conceptual Framework

Based on the literature review and understanding of the factors that influenced the perception of mosque congregants towards administration management, a conceptual framework was developed. The dependent variable in this study was the perception of mosque congregants towards the administration management of Masjid Al-Abyad, located in Taman Matang, Kuching, Sarawak. The independent variables included the committee, financial management, and facility management. These variables were examined to understand their impact on the perception of mosque congregants towards the administration management of Masjid Al-Abyad.

4. Research Questions

The research question for this study is: "What is the most dominant factor influencing the perception of mosque congregants towards the administration management of Masjid Al-Abyad in Taman Matang, Kuching, Sarawak?"

5. Significance of Study

The significance of this research paper lies in its potential to provide valuable insights and practical benefits to various stakeholders. Firstly, mosque committee members across Malaysia, particularly in Sarawak, can utilize the findings and recommendations of this study to enhance the administration management of their respective mosques. By examining the dominant factors influencing the perception of mosque congregants towards administration management, committee members can identify areas of improvement and implement effective strategies. The case study of Masjid Al-Abyad in Taman Matang, Kuching, Sarawak, serves as a valuable model for other mosque committees to optimize their administration practices, particularly in areas such as financial management, facility management, and committee organization.

Secondly, policy makers responsible for mosque governance and oversight can benefit from the insights generated by this research. By understanding the key factors that shape congregants' perception of administration management, policy makers can develop informed policies and regulations to support effective mosque management. This research can contribute to the formulation of guidelines and best practices that promote efficient financial management, facility maintenance, and committee coordination within mosques. Ultimately, such policies can lead to the improvement of overall mosque administration in Sarawak, ensuring better services and experiences for congregants. Overall, this research paper holds significant value for both mosque committee members and policy makers, offering practical insights, recommendations, and guidance to enhance the administration management of mosques in Sarawak. By implementing the findings of this study, mosques can become more efficient, responsive, and better equipped to meet the needs of congregants, thereby strengthening the role of mosques as vital community institutions.



6. Research Methodology

This research study employs the Onion Model as its underlying framework, consisting of six layers (Saunders, Lewis, & Thornhill, 2007). The research philosophy adopted is positivism, aligning with the hypothesis testing approach in the first layer. The primary data source for this study is the congregants' perspectives on the administration of Masjid Al-Abyad in Taman Matang, Kuching, Sarawak. Secondary sources, including journals, papers, websites, and relevant publications, will also be utilized. The second layer comprises the research methods, employing deductive reasoning to develop research questions, objectives, and hypotheses. The research strategy, as the third layer, involves the use of an online questionnaire administered through Google Forms to mosque congregants. This research adopts a mono-method design, collecting qualitative data as the fourth layer. A cross-sectional time horizon is employed since the study is conducted within a limited period. Data collection and analysis form the final layer, with data examined using the Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) software to ensure validity and reliability. The unit of analysis is the mosque congregants of Masjid Al-Abyad, Taman Matang Jaya, Kuching, Sarawak, encompassing all individuals entering the mosque, irrespective of purpose (excluding worship, attending lessons or events, restroom use, etc.). Roscoe's sampling size criterion is applied, recommending a sample size between 30 and 500 for behavioral studies to minimize Type II errors (Sekaran & Bougie, 2016). Purposive sampling is employed to target Muslim individuals attending Masjid Al-Abyad, Taman Matang, Kuching, Sarawak. Interval measurement is used to determine the dominant factor influencing the perception of mosque congregants towards administration management. The research utilizes a quantitative approach with questionnaires distributed via the Google Form platform, and multiple regression analysis is conducted to identify the most influential factor.

7. Findings

The findings of this research indicate that the most dominant factor influencing the perception of mosque congregants towards the administration management of Masjid Al-Abyad, Taman Matang, Kuching, Sarawak is financial management. The research reveals that the total factor of financial management has the highest impact on the overall perception of mosque congregants towards the administration of Masjid Al-Abyad, Taman Matang, Kuching, Sarawak (beta = 0.558), followed by the total factor of facilities management (beta = 0.370). These results reject the hypothesis that committee is the most dominant factor influencing the perception of mosque congregants towards administration management of Masjid Al-Abyad, Taman Matang, Kuching, Sarawak.

8. Discussion

In the initial hypothesis, the committee was proposed as the main factor influencing the perception of mosque congregants towards the administration management of Masjid Al-Abyad, Taman Matang, Kuching, Sarawak. However, the findings of this study indicate that financial management emerged as the most dominant factor, thereby rejecting the hypothesis. This finding holds significant implications for other mosque committee members, providing them with a benchmark for effectively managing their respective mosques. Financial management is a crucial component in the governance of a mosque. Just as the government's spending procedures are expected to be transparent due to being funded through tax payments, the allocation of funds within mosques should also be transparent, as it largely relies on contributions from the community. The transparency and proper management of expenses can be observed through the outcomes and results derived from the utilization of donated funds. If the recorded collection shows significant results, but the visible outcomes do not correspond to the collected funds, it raises concerns about the financial management practices.

Furthermore, the management of donation collections also contributes to the dominance of financial management as a key factor. Given that the mosque attracts visitors from diverse socio-economic backgrounds, implementing a simple and user-friendly method for accepting donations becomes essential. By facilitating an easy and accessible donation process, mosque administrations can encourage greater community participation and contributions. Therefore, based on the research findings, it becomes evident that financial management should be prioritized and emphasized in the overall management of mosque administration. By ensuring transparent and effective financial practices, mosque committees can enhance the confidence and trust of congregants and the wider community. Ultimately, this leads to better administration management, as the financial component plays a pivotal role in sustaining and supporting the various activities and services offered by mosques.

9. Conclusion

In conclusion, this study has provided insights into the factors influencing the perception of mosque congregants towards the administration management of Masjid Al-Abyad, Taman Matang, Kuching, Sarawak. Contrary to the initial



hypothesis, the research findings have revealed that financial management, instead of the committee, plays a pivotal role in shaping congregants' perceptions. This outcome serves as a valuable reference point for other mosque committee members, highlighting the importance of transparent and efficient financial management in mosque governance. The handling of donated funds and the implementation of user-friendly donation collection methods also contribute significantly to the prominence of financial management. By prioritizing transparent financial practices, mosque administrations can foster trust and confidence among congregants, thereby enhancing the overall administration management of mosques. Moving forward, it is crucial for mosque committees and policy makers to acknowledge and prioritize the critical role of financial management in ensuring the long-term viability and success of mosque activities and services.

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