

MUHAMMADIYAH IN NORTH SUMATERA

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Abstract: This paper explores the history, development, roles, and challenges of Muhammadiyah in North Sumatera, a prominent Islamic organization in Indonesia. Since its establishment in the region in the early 20th century, Muhammadiyah has played a significant role in advancing education, healthcare, and social welfare. Key contributions include the establishment of schools, universities, hospitals, and community empowerment programs, which are deeply rooted in Islamic values. The paper also highlights Muhammadiyah's proactive approach to addressing modern challenges, such as globalization, competition, and radicalism, through innovation, digital transformation, and strategic collaboration. With its commitment to sustainable development goals (SDGs), Muhammadiyah continues to promote inclusive education, equitable healthcare, poverty alleviation, and social justice, shaping a progressive and resilient Muslim community in North Sumatera.

Keywords: Muhammadiyah, North Sumatera, Islamic organization, education, healthcare

Introduction

Muhammadiyah is one of the largest Islamic organizations in Indonesia, founded by KH. Ahmad Dahlan in 1912 in Yogyakarta. The organization aims to purify Islamic teachings based on the Qur'an and the Sunnah of the Prophet while contributing to social, educational, and health development. Muhammadiyah's presence in North Sumatera plays a crucial role in the progress of the Muslim community in the region. This paper discusses the history, development, roles, and challenges faced by Muhammadiyah in North Sumatera. (Abdullah, W. & Siregar, D, 2022)

Muhammadiyah is not only recognized as a religious movement but also as a social movement oriented towards empowering the community. This dual focus is one of the primary reasons Muhammadiyah has been able to sustain and expand, including in the culturally diverse and challenging environment of North Sumatera. (Nurhayati, D. & Syamsul, M, 2021)

Muhammadiyah began to develop in North Sumatera in the early 20th century, especially in Medan and its surrounding areas. Its presence in this region was influenced by the national movement spreading the spirit of Islamic reform. This spirit was brought by figures from Java, as well as traders and scholars active in international trade routes. (Hanafi, M. & Putri, R, 2021)

In the 1920s, the first Muhammadiyah branch in North Sumatera was established in Medan. Initially, Muhammadiyah activities focused on religious studies and disseminating ideas of Islamic reform. Over time, the organization expanded its activities into education, health, and social sectors. Support from the local community, eager for change in religious life patterns, further fueled Muhammadiyah's growth in North Sumatera. (Nasir, H, 2020)

The purpose of this paper is to analyze the history, development, roles, and challenges of Muhammadiyah in North Sumatera. It aims to highlight Muhammadiyah's contributions

to education, healthcare, and social welfare, while exploring its strategies for addressing modern challenges such as globalization, competition, and radicalism. Additionally, the paper seeks to provide insights into Muhammadiyah's efforts in promoting sustainable development and fostering a progressive, inclusive, and resilient Muslim community in North Sumatera Muhammadiyah. (Hidayat, T, 2020)

Literature Review

Muhammadiyah, established in 1912 by KH. Ahmad Dahlan in Yogyakarta, is widely recognized as one of the largest Islamic organizations in Indonesia. As highlighted in the works of scholars, Muhammadiyah focuses on purifying Islamic teachings based on the Qur'an and the Sunnah while addressing contemporary societal challenges. Studies such as those by "Pimpinan Pusat Muhammadiyah" (2022) underline the organization's dual role as both a religious and social movement, aiming to foster moral integrity and community welfare through education, health services, and economic empowerment. (Zainuddin, M, 2020)

The historical development of Muhammadiyah in North Sumatera is closely tied to the broader Islamic reform movement in Indonesia. Early researchers have noted that Muhammadiyah's spread to this region was facilitated by trade networks and the reformist enthusiasm of leaders from Java. According to reports, Muhammadiyah's establishment in Medan during the 1920s was a response to the local community's desire for a more organized and reform-oriented approach to Islam, as seen in the adoption of modern educational systems and the emphasis on societal progress. (Hakim, F, 2020)

Education has consistently been a cornerstone of Muhammadiyah's contributions. Literature on Muhammadiyah schools and universities, such as Universitas Muhammadiyah Sumatera Utara (UMSU), highlights their role in providing accessible and quality education. Scholars have also examined the dual curriculum model, which integrates religious education with the national curriculum, producing graduates with both academic and spiritual competencies. This approach reflects Muhammadiyah's commitment to shaping future leaders who embody Islamic values and possess critical skills for societal development. (Alim, Z, 2021)

In the healthcare sector, Muhammadiyah's efforts are well-documented in various academic studies and institutional reports. The establishment of hospitals and clinics offering affordable healthcare reflects Muhammadiyah's mission to serve underserved populations. Studies on the Muhammadiyah Disaster Management Center (MDMC) further showcase the organization's proactive role in humanitarian aid, disaster response, and psychosocial support, underscoring its dedication to alleviating human suffering in alignment with Islamic principles.

Contemporary challenges such as globalization, modernity, and radicalism are extensively discussed in the context of Muhammadiyah's strategic initiatives. Researchers have explored how Muhammadiyah adapts to these challenges through digitalization, innovative programs, and collaborations with government and private sectors. This literature highlights Muhammadiyah's ability to evolve while maintaining its core Islamic values, ensuring its relevance and effectiveness in addressing both local and global issues. These insights form a foundation for understanding Muhammadiyah's ongoing impact and its potential to contribute to sustainable development goals (SDGs) in North Sumatera and beyond. (Fitri, H. & Arif, M, 2021)

Method

This paper employs a qualitative research methodology, focusing on the analysis of historical and contemporary data related to Muhammadiyah in North Sumatera. Data were collected through a review of secondary sources, including official Muhammadiyah reports, scholarly journals, books, and relevant online resources. The study also incorporates case studies of Muhammadiyah's contributions in education, healthcare, and social welfare, providing a comprehensive understanding of its impact. A thematic approach is used to categorize and analyze the findings, highlighting key areas such as historical development, challenges, and strategic initiatives to address societal needs.

Results and Discussion

Muhammadiyah's role in North Sumatera demonstrates its dual identity as a religious and social movement. Its foundation, rooted in the principles of Islamic reform, serves as the basis for its contributions to education, healthcare, and social welfare. This section examines Muhammadiyah's significant achievements, challenges, and strategies in addressing the evolving needs of the Muslim community in North Sumatera.

1. Contributions to Education

Muhammadiyah's focus on education has established it as a leading provider of accessible and inclusive learning opportunities in North Sumatera. Its schools and universities integrate Islamic teachings with the national curriculum, producing graduates equipped with both spiritual and academic competencies. The success of institutions like Universitas Muhammadiyah Sumatera Utara (UMSU) illustrates Muhammadiyah's commitment to higher education and community engagement. By offering scholarships and free education programs, Muhammadiyah addresses educational inequality and empowers underprivileged communities, fostering social mobility and long-term societal benefits. (Ahmad, M, 2021)

2. Health and Social Welfare Efforts

In the healthcare sector, Muhammadiyah has significantly impacted society through hospitals and clinics offering affordable, quality services. These facilities are not only accessible but also operate on values consistent with Islamic teachings, ensuring holistic care. Through the Muhammadiyah Disaster Management Center (MDMC), the organization has extended its influence in humanitarian aid, playing a critical role during crises and natural disasters. Its efforts in social welfare, including economic empowerment programs for farmers and small businesses, further highlight Muhammadiyah's dedication to uplifting marginalized groups. (Yusuf, R, 2022)

3. Challenges in Modern Times

Modernization and globalization present challenges for Muhammadiyah in preserving its core Islamic values while remaining relevant in a rapidly changing world. The influx of modern lifestyles and competing ideologies demands strategic adaptations in its approach to da'wah and community service. Additionally, the rise of radicalism poses a threat to Muhammadiyah's moderate and inclusive Islamic stance. Addressing these challenges requires continuous innovation and resilience in its organizational structure and operations. (Rahman, A. & Sari, N, 2020)

4. Strategic Initiatives

Muhammadiyah has adopted several strategies to overcome these challenges and expand its impact. By leveraging digital platforms, the organization has modernized its educational, healthcare, and da'wah activities, effectively engaging younger

generations. Collaborative efforts with governments, private sectors, and international organizations further enhance its capacity to deliver sustainable solutions. Training programs for leadership development ensure a steady pipeline of competent and committed cadres to lead the organization into the future. (Ismail, A. & Farida, L, 2021)

5. Alignment with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Muhammadiyah's alignment with the SDGs underscores its vision for a more equitable and just society. Its emphasis on quality education, healthcare, poverty alleviation, and reducing inequalities directly supports global development priorities. (Fadli, I. & Rahmat, K, 2022). These efforts not only address immediate needs but also contribute to long-term societal progress, making Muhammadiyah a vital partner in regional and national development. (Kurniawan, R, 2022)

Conclusion

Muhammadiyah has played a pivotal role in advancing the Muslim community in North Sumatera through its contributions to education, healthcare, and social welfare. Its establishment in the region during the early 20th century marked the beginning of significant reforms in religious, educational, and social practices. The organization's initiatives, such as the establishment of schools, universities, hospitals, and community empowerment programs, have had a lasting impact on society.

Despite facing challenges from modernization, globalization, and radical ideologies, Muhammadiyah continues to adapt by leveraging technology, fostering strategic collaborations, and promoting moderate Islamic values. Its commitment to sustainable development goals (SDGs) further underscores its efforts to create an inclusive, equitable, and progressive society.

Looking ahead, Muhammadiyah's sustainability and effectiveness depend on strengthening cadre development, innovating programs tailored to societal needs, and expanding its influence through strategic partnerships. With its strong foundation in Islamic reform and social empowerment, Muhammadiyah is well-positioned to remain a driving force for positive change in North Sumatera and beyond.

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