

Empowering voices: Muhammadiyah journey through theology of al-ashr and ummah development

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ABSTRACT Since its founding in 1912, Muhammadiyah has developed into a social religious movement that plays an important role in creating an Islamic society in Indonesia. Based on the three main ethos of the Koran: Rahmah (compassion), Al-Ma'un (social praxis), and Al-'Ashr (collaborative civilization), Muhammadiyah integrates interpretation of the Koran with advances in science and universal human experience. This research explores how Muhammadiyah applies Al-'Ashr theology in the development of its people, highlighting the synergy between faith and righteous deeds that encourage cooperation and social progress. The findings in this research show that Muhammadiyah's application of the Al-'Ashr principles has succeeded in creating an effective cooperation framework, which not only improves the welfare of the people but also strengthens inclusive social and economic dynamics. In addition, through autonomous organizations such as Aisyiyah, Muhammadiyah has a significant impact on women's empowerment, which is an important catalyst in Indonesia's social and economic development. Aisyiyah not only aligns with Muhammadiyah's goals but also encourages special initiatives that enhance the role of women in religious and social contexts. In conclusion, Muhammadiyah has demonstrated strong adaptation to contemporary challenges while remaining true to its basic ethos. Through the application of al-'Ashr theology, this organization puts forward a holistic and sustainable model of community development, which prioritizes community participation in building a strong and progressive Islamic civilization. This research provides new insights into how theology can be applied in a modern social context, supporting Muhammadiyah's vision to achieve harmony between faith and empowering social practices.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Since its founding by KH Ahmad Dahlan in 1912, Muhammadiyah has been a pioneer of social reform in Indonesia with a strong foundation in Islamic principles (Kusumawati et al., 2023; Salim et al., 2021). This organization takes inspiration from concepts in the Koran such as Rahmah (compassion) (Suharsiwi et al., 2023), Al-Ma'un (social praxis) (Safitri et al., 2022), and Al-'Ashr (collaborative civilization) (Adibusholih et al., 2022). These principles not only guide Muhammadiyah's mission in building a strong Islamic community (Willyarto, 2022), but also in adopting modern and progressive ideas that expand its influence in the social, educational, and economic fields.

A comparison between Muhammadiyah and the Puritan Protestant movement (Solehudin et al., 2024; Sungkawati et al., 2023), especially in the context of Max Weber's thesis on the Protestant ethic and the spirit of capitalism, opens up an interesting perspective in the study of religious reform movements and their impact on society (Kholili, 2021; Tabroni et al., 2022). Scholars such as Clifford Geertz and James L. Peacock have emphasized how Muhammadiyah's activities intersect with economic

development (Khiftiyah et al., 2024; Winoto, 2022; Yazid, 2021), but the core of the organization remains deep and theological, inspired by the vision of its founder. This vision promotes a progressive interpretation of Islam by integrating beneficial aspects from various global civilizations (Muslih, 2021; Rokhman et al., 2022), facilitating transcultural dialogue that enriches the narrative of Indonesian Islam.

Muhammadiyah, one of Indonesia's largest Islamic organizations, has played an important role in social reform through its various affiliates, especially 'Aisyiyah', which focuses on women's empowerment, education, and health (Fitra, 2021; Willyarto, 2022). This initiative is proof of Muhammadiyah's dedication to progressive Islam, advocating for gender equality and recognizing women as important social contributors (Faizah, 2023; Hasani, 2023). These efforts are in line with the global movement towards gender equality, which not only improves the socio-economic conditions of society but also strengthens the role of women in leadership and development processes.

Despite these advances, there are still challenges in realizing Muhammadiyah's ambitions. Field studies revealed gaps between the organization's goals and its impact on the

ground, particularly in the implementation of Al-Ashr theology a framework that emphasizes renewal and adaptation in Islamic practice. Although Muhammadiyah has made significant contributions in modernizing society while adhering to Islamic principles through its education and health services, there is an ongoing struggle to bridge the gap between the theoretical framework and practical implementation.

The organization also actively participates in interreligious dialogue and social activities, demonstrating the practical application of its theological stance (Utomo, 2020). This not only increases Muhammadiyah's influence in the broader context of society but also underlines the importance of integrating theory with practice in community development. An understanding of Muhammadiyah's theological approach and its practical application provides valuable insights into the study of Islam, offering a path for Muslims to navigate modern challenges while remaining true to Islam's core values (Lestari, 2021; Nurmawati, 2019). This research aims to deepen understanding of how Islamic principles can effectively address contemporary problems, encouraging a more inclusive and progressive societal landscape.

Much research has been carried out regarding the role of Muhammadiyah in the context of al-Ashr theology and development of the ummah, but there are still several shortcomings that need to be addressed to gain a deeper and more applicable understanding (Sobhan, 2022; Zara, 2022). First, there are limitations in the integration of theological insights and practical social results. Previous research has often not been able to explicitly link theological principles with implementation and real results in community development. This shows the need for a more synergistic approach between theory and practice in religious studies.

Second, there is a tendency for research to focus on religious activity in general rather than on more specific theological applications (Hapsari, 2023; Nubowo, 2022). This means that many studies simply describe religious movements without exploring in depth the theological foundations that guide their social practices. Apart from that, the lack of emphasis on women's empowerment in a religious context is also an important issue. Although the role of women in Islamic societies has been widely explored, there is not much research that specifically examines how movements such as Muhammadiyah can contribute to women's empowerment.

Finally, the lack of a comprehensive model of religious community development and a narrow geographic or cultural focus are also problems that frequently arise in previous research (Al-Hamdi, 2023; Fitra, 2021). Broader and more inclusive research, which explores the impact of religious movements in various geographic and cultural contexts and presents integrative models that combine religious ethos with modern challenges, is urgently needed to advance our understanding of ummah development and social progress in broader contexts.

The proposed research offers an in-depth and innovative perspective on the use of Islamic theology in community development strategies. This is a step up from previous studies that may have focused more on theory than practical application. By specifically targeting how Al-Ashr's principles are applied in social and economic activities, this research seeks to link religious doctrine with real actions that impact social change.

One of the main strengths of this research is its focus on the role of Aisyiyah, a concrete example of how faith-based initiatives can play a role in women's empowerment and broader societal development (Hasani, 2023; Willyarto, 2022). This not only broadens our understanding of gender roles in religious contexts but also shows how Islamic values can be integrated in sustainable and inclusive development efforts.

Furthermore, this research also tries to explore how Muhammadiyah's strategy adaptation can provide an example for other religious organizations in various Islamic contexts. Thus, this study not only contributes to the academic literature, but also offers practical insights for policy makers and practitioners in the field. This makes this research highly relevant and important, as it not only addresses knowledge gaps but also provides a model that can be adapted and applied in a variety of social and religious settings.

2. METHOD

In this research entitled "Empowering Voices: Muhammadiyah's Journey Through Al-Ashr Theology and Community Development", the methodology used is a structured approach to explore how the Muhammadiyah Islamic organization applies al-ashr theology in community development, especially with a focus on community development. the relationship between faith, good deeds, and social progress. This research uses a Systematic Literature Review (SLR) using the PRISMA technique (Faizah, 2023; Hasani, 2023), which was refined by data extraction from the Scopus database which includes publications from 2000-2024. This approach allows for a comprehensive and methodical review of literature relevant to the research theme.

a. Systematic Literature Review (SLR) (Akmalia, 2023):

1. Database Selection: The main database used is Scopus, which is known for its wide coverage of scientific articles.
2. Search Strategy: The keywords used are "Muhammadiyah", "Three Ethos of the Koran", "Theology of Al-Ashr", "Social Progress", and "Economics". The search was adjusted to capture articles that discussed theological aspects and their practical implications in community development.
3. Screening and Selection: Using PRISMA flowcharts, records were screened based on title, abstract, and full text to ensure relevance. Inclusion criteria focus on articles that specifically discuss the application of al-Ashr theology by Muhammadiyah in a social and economic context.

b. Data analysis (Huda, 2021):

1. Extraction and Management: Data from selected articles is extracted into CSV and RIS formats for compatibility with various data analysis tools.
2. Vosviewer Visualization: This tool is used to create a visual representation of the occurrence of keywords and thematic groups, helping to identify key themes and gaps in the literature.

3. Thematic Analysis: Themes related to the synergy between faith and righteous deeds promoted by Muhammadiyah are analyzed. This includes reviewing case studies and practical implementation of these theological concepts in community development.
- c. Interpretation and Synthesis:
1. The data and themes are synthesized to build a comprehensive understanding of how Muhammadiyah's theological approach contributes to the welfare of society and development of the people.
 2. This research aims to highlight successful strategies and areas where theology and practical development intersect, driving social progress.
- d. Limitations
1. Publication Coverage: Reliance on Scopus as a primary data source may exclude relevant research published in non-indexed journals or books that could provide deeper insights into grassroots movements or the local impact of Muhammadiyah initiatives.
 2. Date Range: A specific focus on publications from 2000 to 2024 may miss historical perspectives or emerging trends post-2024 that may be important in understanding long-term impacts.
 3. Geographic Focus: Although the majority of Muhammadiyah's activities are in Indonesia, existing findings may not fully capture variations in implementation and impact across regions in Indonesia.
 4. Language Barriers: Limiting searches to English-language publications may omit valuable research and discussions conducted in other languages, particularly Indonesian or Arabic, which are essential to a comprehensive understanding of Muhammadiyah's theological discourse.
 5. By recognizing these limitations, this research aims to provide a balanced view while identifying areas that need further investigation in understanding the role of theology in social progress, especially through the lens of Muhammadiyah activities.

3. RESULT & DISCUSSION

3.1 Practical Application of Al-'Ashr's Theology

3.1.1 Theology of Al-'Ashr in the Muhammadiyah movement

The practical application of Al-'Ashr's theology in the Muhammadiyah movement illustrates a deep commitment to integrating Islamic principles with community development. Al-'Ashr's theological insight (Hamami, 2021; Setiawan, 2022), which emphasized compassion, social justice, and moral responsibility, was expressed in various initiatives led by Muhammad. These initiatives not only aim to improve the socio-economic status of society but also to foster a sense of spiritual and moral uplift (Marwadi, 2021; Monika, 2023).

One of the main areas in which Muhammadiyah is particularly active is in the field of education. Inspired by Al-'Ashr's emphasis on knowledge and its transformative

power, Muhammadiyah has established many educational institutions ranging from elementary schools to universities. These institutions were designed to provide not only secular knowledge but also religious education in line with Al-'Ashr's teachings. This dual focus ensures that students are not only academically competent but also morally and ethically aware, ready to make positive contributions to their communities.

Apart from education, Muhammadiyah applies the theological principles of Al-'Ashr in the fields of health and social welfare. The organization operates hospitals and clinics that provide affordable health services, guided by the Islamic values of compassion and service to others. Additionally, in the field of social welfare, Muhammadiyah regularly organizes charity programs and disaster relief operations, which embody Al-'Ashr's call for social responsibility and support for underprivileged communities (Sukmono, 2023; Sunarti, 2022). Through its practical application, Muhammadiyah not only adheres to but also actively spreads Al-'Ashr's theological vision, demonstrating its relevance and applicability in contemporary society.

3.1.2 Principles of Al-'Ashr Theology into Practical Application

The theology promoted by Ahmad Dahlan, the founder of the Muhammadiyah movement, was greatly influenced by the reformist ideas of Muhammad Abduh and his student Rasyid Ridha, both of whom came from the Al-'Ashr school of thought. This theology emphasizes rationalism, anti-superstition, and a return to the Qur'an and Hadith as the primary sources of Islamic knowledge, avoiding blind adherence to traditional schools of Islamic jurisprudence (Darmayanti et al., 2024; Nurhakim et al., 2024; Pohl, 2012). Here, we explore how Al-'Ashr's theological principles were translated into practical actions for community development within the Muhammadiyah movement.

1. Rationalism and Modern Education: One of the core principles of Al-'Ashr's theology is rationalism. This principle is implemented by Muhammadiyah by establishing educational institutions ranging from elementary schools to universities that combine religious education with modern secular education (Bachtiar, 2022; Sulistiyono, 2006). This approach not only broadens students' perspectives but also equips them with the practical skills necessary for economic development and active participation in society.
2. Community Health Services (Shabir, 2018): Al-'Ashr's emphasis on the practical application of Islamic principles led Muhammadiyah to focus on health services as a fundamental aspect of community welfare. This movement has established hospitals and clinics that provide affordable health services to underserved communities. This initiative is rooted in the Islamic obligation to ensure the well-being of society, demonstrating the practical application of theological beliefs in community service.
3. Economic Empowerment (Bakhtiar, 2022): The principle of self-reliance is another aspect of Al-'Ashr's theology that is effectively practiced by Muhammadiyah. This movement has initiated various economic programs aimed at poverty alleviation, such as microfinance for small businesses, cooperatives, and vocational training programs. These initiatives help indi-

viduals become economically independent, which is empowering and in line with Islamic teachings on the dignity of self-reliance.

4. Disaster Response and Management (Nashir, 2019a): Reflecting Al-'Ashr's values of active humanity, Muhammadiyah has been prominent in disaster response in Indonesia, a country prone to natural disasters. The movement's rapid response to earthquakes, tsunamis, and other disasters reflects a practical theology that views service to humanity as a form of worship.
5. Interreligious and Community Dialogue (Burhani, 2011): Following al-'Ashr's theology which encourages understanding and cooperation between different communities, Muhammadiyah carries out inter-religious dialogue and community cooperation to encourage social harmony. These efforts aim to overcome sectarian divisions and foster peaceful coexistence, which is essential for the holistic development of any community.

Through these actions, Muhammadiyah has shown that the principles of Al-'Ashr theology are not only theoretical but are very applicable in responding to the challenges of contemporary society. This practical application not only revitalizes Islamic practices but also makes a significant contribution to the development of society.

3.1.3 Examples of Practical Application of Al-'Ashr's Theology

The Muhammadiyah movement, founded by Ahmad Dahlan in 1912 in Indonesia, has been a major proponent of modernist Islam, which emphasizes rationality, reform, and adaptation to modern life while firmly basing its teachings on the Koran and Hadith. The movement's theological foundations can be linked to Al-'Ashr's theology, which focuses on the principles of renewing Islamic thought and integrating faith with practical daily life. The following are five practical applications of Al-'Ashr Theology in the Muhammadiyah movement (Baidhaw, 2015; Muttaqin, 2023; Nashir, 2019b):

1. Educational Reform: The Muhammadiyah movement played an important role in advancing education that integrated religious teachings with modern scientific knowledge. The application of Al-'Ashr theology is evident in the establishment of schools and universities that encourage curricula that balance religious studies with contemporary science and humanities. This approach reflects the theological emphasis on science ('ilm) as a means of understanding God's creation and applying Islamic principles in a modern context.
2. Social Welfare Programs: Reflecting Al-'Ashr's theological emphasis on social justice and community welfare, Muhammadiyah actively develops various social service programs. This includes hospitals, orphanages, and disaster relief operations that not only provide necessary services but also embody the Islamic ethical principles of compassion and charity.
3. Economic Development: Al-'Ashr's theology promotes the ideas of justice and economic empowerment within an Islamic framework. Muhammadiyah has taken this into account by initiating various economic programs aimed at improving the living standards of

underprivileged communities. This includes microfinance initiatives and cooperative businesses that operate based on Islamic principles of justice and transparency, thereby applying religious ethics to practical economic activities.

4. Religious Reform: This movement advocates a puritanical approach to Islam, eliminating cultural practices that are not rooted in the Koran and Hadith, which is the basis of Al-'Ashr's theological emphasis on returning to scriptural sources. This has influenced how religious rituals and practices are carried out in society, thereby encouraging a more textually based Islamic practice.
5. Interfaith and Community Engagement: In line with Al-'Ashr's theological views on community and societal harmony, Muhammadiyah is actively involved in interreligious dialogue and community development projects. This not only helps build bridges between different religious communities but also encourages peaceful coexistence based on mutual respect and understanding, reflecting the movement's broader goal of societal reform influenced by Islamic values.

These examples illustrate how the Muhammadiyah movement effectively translated the principles of Al-'Ashr theology into practical applications that impact various aspects of life, from education and social welfare to economic empowerment and interfaith relations, demonstrating a dynamic model of Islamic reform.

3.1.4 The Focus is on the Practical Application of Al-'Ashr Theology in the Muhammadiyah Movement: Social and Economic Benefits

The Muhammadiyah movement, one of Indonesia's largest Islamic organizations, has actively implemented Al-'Ashr theology, which emphasizes ten principles derived from the Qur'an and Hadith, with a focus on moral and spiritual rejuvenation as well as social and educational welfare (Azizah, 2023; Wardana, 2019). The practical application of these principles is evident in several key projects and initiatives that have not only strengthened the movement's religious foundations but also generated significant social and economic benefits.

One important initiative is the establishment of educational institutions ranging from elementary schools to universities. These institutions integrate Al-'Ashr theology into their curricula, cultivating a generation that is morally and ethically aligned with Islamic teachings while equipped with academic and vocational skills. This educational approach has helped reduce illiteracy rates and raise educational standards, which in turn improves the economic prospects of individuals and communities. An emphasis on education also supports gender equality by ensuring that girls receive equal learning opportunities, thereby promoting balance and growth in society.

Furthermore, the health projects undertaken by Muhammadiyah demonstrate another practical application of Al-'Ashr theology (Bidayati, 2023). This movement has established hospitals and clinics throughout Indonesia, providing affordable and accessible health services to underserved communities. This initiative not only addresses the physical well-being of individuals but is also in line with Islamic principles of compassion and charity (Maftuhin, 2023). The availability of health services contributes to a

healthier workforce, thereby increasing productivity and economic activity at the community level.

These examples illustrate how the Muhammadiyah movement effectively translated the principles of Al-'Ashr theology into practical actions that address spiritual needs and socio-economic challenges. The success of these projects highlights the potential of faith-based initiatives to promote sustainable development and social cohesion, thereby having a major impact on the lives of many people in Indonesia.

3.1.5 What are the Challenges in the Practical Application of Al-'Ashr Theology

The practical application of Al-'Ashr Theology, which is a branch of Islamic theological thought, involves several intellectual and societal challenges (Asyari, 2007; Bidayati, 2023; Burhani, 2011).

- a. Variability of Interpretations: One of the main challenges is the diversity of interpretations and understandings associated with Islamic texts. Al-'Ashr's theology, like many other theological frameworks, relies on the Qur'an, Hadith, and other Islamic texts, which have varying interpretations. This can give rise to differences of opinion among scholars and practitioners about what constitutes correct practice.

Solution : Promoting a culture of respectful scientific debate and encouraging diverse perspectives within the framework of Al-'Ashr Theology can help. Establishing and supporting institutions focused on comparative theology in Islam could also help create a more unified understanding of the text.

- b. Cultural Integration: Al-'Ashr's theology needs to be practiced in diverse cultural contexts that may not always align with its principles. The challenge is to apply theological concepts in a way that is relevant and respectful of local customs and traditions without compromising theological integrity.

Solution : Engaging local leaders and communities in dialogue can help adapt theological practices to align with local customs while maintaining core principles. Educational programs that focus on the universality of Islamic teachings while respecting cultural differences can bridge the gap between theory and practice.

- c. Education and Outreach: There is often a gap in general knowledge about Al-'Ashr Theology among Muslims and non-Muslims, which can hinder its application and give rise to misunderstandings.

Solution : Increasing educational efforts through workshops, seminars and courses at various levels can increase understanding and appreciation of Al-'Ashr Theology. Utilizing modern technology such as online platforms can also help in reaching a wider audience.

- d. Education and Outreach: There is often a gap in general knowledge about Al-'Ashr Theology among Muslims and non-Muslims, which can hinder its application and give rise to misunderstandings.

Solution : Increasing educational efforts through workshops, seminars and courses at various levels can increase understanding and appreciation of Al-'Ashr Theology. Utilizing modern technology such as online platforms can also help in reaching a wider audience.

- e. Practical Implementation of Ethical Teachings: Lastly, translating the ethical teachings of Al-'Ashr Theology into the actions of everyday life can be challenging, especially in a world where such values may conflict with popular or political norms.

Solution: Community-based initiatives that exemplify the ethical teachings of Al-'Ashr Theology can be a practical example. Mentorship programs, in which experienced practitioners guide younger followers, can also encourage more practical application of these teachings.

In conclusion, although the challenges are significant, wise strategies and community involvement are key to the successful application of Al-'Ashr Theology in practical contexts. This approach not only maintains the integrity and relevance of theological principles but also ensures that these principles are lived out in meaningful ways across societies.

3.2 Theological Principles and Social Praxis

3.2.1 Theological Principles and Social Praxis: Exploring the Influence of Al-'Ashr on Social Behavior

The relationship between theological principles and their actual expression in societal norms and behavior has long been of scholarly interest. This is especially evident in the study of Al-'Ashr's contribution to theological discourse and how these principles were applied in social practice. Al-'Ashr, an important figure in the field of theology, proposed doctrines that not only challenged the theological foundations of his time but also offered a framework that had implications for social engagement and ethical governance.

Al-'Ashr's theological principles, primarily centered on the concepts of justice, divine omnipotence, and human accountability, propose a balanced view of divine control and human free will (Khoirudin, 2020). This balance is critical in understanding how individuals are expected to behave in society. His emphasis on justice, in particular, is consistent with the idea that each individual's actions have a direct impact on the collective well-being of his or her community. This principle plays an important role in establishing legal and moral codes in a society that respects its teachings.

The implementation of Al-'Ashr's doctrine in social praxis can be observed in various ways. For example, its influence can be seen in the development of educational curricula that integrate moral philosophy with religious teachings (Fanani, 2021), which aims to develop individuals who are not only knowledgeable but also ethically minded (Brown, 2019). Furthermore, in the field of justice, Al-'Ashr's influence is evident in his emphasis on justice and the moral responsibility of the judiciary, which reflects his theological views on divine justice and human duty.

In conclusion, Al-'Ashr's theological principles continue to inspire a framework of social behavior that emphasizes ethical responsibility and communal harmony. His teachings encourage a society in which every individual's actions are in harmony with a broader, divinely inspired moral order, thereby fostering a cohesive and just social environment. Exploring how these principles translate into practical application provides valuable insight into the dynamic interactions between religious beliefs and societal norms.

3.2.2 Theological Principles and Social Praxis: Interpretation and Application in Modern Challenges

The application of theological principles to modern societal challenges involves evolving interpretations of traditional beliefs to address contemporary ethical, social, and environmental issues. As societies progress, religious communities often advocate for change based on ancient doctrines. This complex dialogue balances preserving core faith values with innovating to meet new challenges. A clear example is the religious response to environmental issues. Many religious groups view stewardship and care for creation as fundamental principles. In response to climate change, these groups promote sustainability initiatives, arguing that caring for the earth is a moral responsibility. Actions include implementing eco-friendly technologies in religious buildings, promoting environmental education, and advocating for policies that protect natural resources. Social justice issues like poverty, inequality, and human rights also see significant application of theological principles. Religions emphasize compassion and justice translate these values into initiatives aimed at poverty alleviation, education, and health support. Religious organizations often provide disaster aid, support refugees and immigrants, and campaign against systemic injustices affecting marginalized communities. This approach ensures that theological teachings are not just theoretical but are actively lived out in efforts to create a more equitable and caring society. In conclusion, applying theological principles in a modern context balances tradition with adaptation. Engaging with contemporary issues through theological teachings ensures religious communities remain relevant and contribute to societal progress. This dynamic interaction allows core spiritual messages to thrive, guiding adherents to live out their beliefs practically and meaningfully.

3.2.3 An Interesting Lens through which to View the Development of Society and Ethical Frameworks

The intersection of theological principles and social praxis offers interesting insights into societal development and ethical frameworks. Theology influences social norms, laws, and cultural values, although interpretation varies between religious traditions. The principles of justice, compassion, and stewardship are applied differently according to cultural and historical factors. For example, Christian social teachings emphasize love and forgiveness, while Islamic teachings focus on prosperity and equality. Faith-based organizations often play a role in poverty alleviation, health care, and education, guided by the principles of love and service to others. Applying these principles faces the challenge of balancing doctrine with contemporary social issues. Dialogue and collaboration between religious and secular institutions is necessary for an effective response to the challenges of the times. Understanding and respecting diverse theological perspectives can create inclusive and effective social praxis.

3.3 The Role of Women and Aisyiyah Initiatives

The Muhammadiyah Community, one of Indonesia's largest Islamic organizations, has played a key role in progressive religious and social movements since its inception in 1912. Aisyiyah, an autonomous women's group founded in 1917, has significantly influenced gender dynamics by redefining

women's roles within a religion context. Rooted in Islamic teachings advocating for women's empowerment and education, Aisyiyah has established numerous schools, colleges, and health facilities specifically for women. These institutions promote both secular and religious knowledge, empowering women to make informed decisions about their lives, in line with Islamic teachings that value the pursuit of knowledge. Aisyiyah's initiatives blend religious motivation with social effectiveness, gaining community trust and involvement crucial in a deeply religious society like Indonesia. By providing practical skills and knowledge, these initiatives enhance women's economic independence and community participation, challenging traditional gender roles and fostering a more balanced societal structure. Aisyiyah's ability to align religious principles with social empowerment demonstrates how religious organizations can drive societal progress while staying true to their spiritual mission.

3.4 Holistic Community Development Model

Muhammadiyah, one of Indonesia's largest Islamic organizations, integrates religious teachings with modern social needs to foster community development. Their approach combines spiritual growth with practical life aspects like education, health, and economic empowerment. Education is crucial, as Muhammadiyah runs numerous institutions from kindergartens to universities, blending religious studies with secular knowledge to prepare students for global success while honoring their cultural roots. They also promote lifelong learning through adult education programs. In health, Muhammadiyah operates hospitals and clinics for underprivileged communities, offering affordable care that combines modern medical practices with Islamic ethics. Public health campaigns on nutrition, maternal health, and disease prevention further support community wellness. Economic empowerment is achieved through microfinance, entrepreneurship training, and cooperatives, helping individuals and communities achieve financial independence. By educating on financial management and business operations, Muhammadiyah aids in economic development, reducing poverty, and strengthening local economies. This comprehensive strategy addresses modern social challenges while maintaining Islamic values, enhancing both individual spiritual well-being and societal progress.

3.5 Wider Implications for the Islamic Context

The Muhammadiyah movement, founded in 1912 by Ahmad Dahlan in Indonesia, advocates a return to a more biblical understanding of Islam while emphasizing modernity and education. This blend of traditional values and practical modernity offers valuable insights for other Islamic contexts globally. Muhammadiyah's focus on education and social welfare cultivates a generation of Muslims who are knowledgeable in both religious obligations and contemporary issues. This dual emphasis is crucial for regions with limited access to quality education, promoting community empowerment and development. Muhammadiyah's pragmatic approach to Islamic law, involving contextual interpretation and openness to reinterpretation (ijtihad), provides a flexible model adaptable to diverse cultural contexts. This flexibility helps address local challenges while adhering to Islamic principles, maintaining religious in-

tegrity and encouraging societal progress. The global Islamic community's diversity requires adaptable approaches like Muhammadiyah's. By adopting these principles, other Islamic movements can effectively promote an authentic and contemporary form of Islam responsive to modern societal needs.

The multifaceted role of Muhammadiyah in community development in Indonesia offers a rich tapestry for exploration, particularly when examined through the lens of Max Weber's Protestant ethic. This comparative framework illuminates how religious movements can drive economic growth and foster social reform (Mahmud et al., 2023; Mas'odi et al., 2024). The discussion gains a nuanced understanding of the organization's impact by situating Muhammadiyah within the broader context of religious and economic theory. Muhammadiyah's integration of Islamic principles with modern progressive ideologies underscores its dynamic and adaptive nature (Dahlan, 2018; Saputra, 2022) (Dahlan, 2018; Saputra, 2022), suggesting that its success in educational (Hidayat, 2017), economic, and social fields STEM from its ability to remain relevant to contemporary issues while staying rooted in Islamic teachings (Asih, 2021; Prayitno, 2020).

The emphasis on 'Aisyiyah, Muhammadiyah's women's wing, highlights the organization's commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment. This focus aligns with global movements advocating for gender inclusivity and challenging existing stereotypes about Islamic organizations. By showing how religious frameworks promote gender equality, Muhammadiyah is a compelling case study of how faith-based organizations can contribute to progressive social change. This approach not only enriches the understanding of Muhammadiyah's impact but also provides a critical perspective on the role of religious movements in advocating for and achieving social justice.

However, the discussion also brings to light the challenges of translating theoretical frameworks into practical applications. This highlights the potential for deeper investigation into the operational challenges faced by religious movements in implementing their doctrines. The proposed research aims to bridge the gap between theological doctrine and tangible societal outcomes, advocating for a more empirical and integrated approach to studying religion. Such an approach can offer valuable insights for policymakers and practitioners leveraging religious frameworks for societal development. Ultimately, this discussion explores the themes of religious adaptation, the intersection of faith and modernity, and the practical challenges of applying theological doctrines, positioning Muhammadiyah as a model for integrating spiritual values into progressive social change.

4. CONCLUSION

This research concludes that Muhammadiyah has succeeded in carrying out a vital role in developing the ummah through the application of Al-'Ashr theology, which prioritizes cooperation, social progress, and the welfare of the ummah. This research highlights how the ethos of Rahmah, Al-Ma'un, and Al-'Ashr from the Koran is translated into concrete actions that integrate faith with righteous deeds, creating synergy that drives inclusive social and economic progress. The findings show that the implementation of Al-'Ashr principles by Muhammadiyah not only strengthens so-

cial and economic dynamics but also improves the overall welfare of the people. By prioritizing the values of compassion and social praxis, Muhammadiyah can build a practical cooperation framework relevant to contemporary challenges. In addition, the role of autonomous organizations such as Aisyiyah in empowering women is an essential catalyst in social and economic development, which aligns with Muhammadiyah's goal of increasing the role of women in religious and social contexts. This research provides new insights into how theology can be applied in modern social contexts. Through the application of Al-'Ashr theology, Muhammadiyah shows strong adaptation to the dynamics of the times and remains faithful to its fundamental ethos. The holistic and sustainable ummah development model promoted by Muhammadiyah offers an integrative approach to developing a solid and progressive Islamic civilization, prioritizing active community participation in social and economic development.

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