

The Role of Health Workers in Strengthening the Concept of Sharia-Compliant Hospitals from the Perspective of Maqasid Sharia

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Abstract

The consolidation of the concept of sharia-compliant hospitals is an increasingly important necessity in the effort to enhance the quality of healthcare services in line with Islamic principles. This article examines the role of healthcare workers in realizing sharia-compliant hospitals, emphasizing the perspective of maqasid sharia. The background of the study indicates that although efforts have been made to make hospitals compliant with sharia, the role of healthcare workers in fulfilling this responsibility still requires more in-depth research. The main issue identified is the lack of understanding and awareness among healthcare workers regarding their responsibilities in ensuring that the services provided adhere to the principles of sharia. The objective of this study is to identify the critical role of healthcare workers in strengthening the concept of sharia-compliant hospitals and to assess how the elements of maqasid sharia can be applied in their daily practices. The methodology of this study employs a document analysis approach, where official documents, guidelines, and previous studies are analyzed to obtain a comprehensive picture of current practices and suggestions for improvement. Research findings indicate that there is an urgent need to enhance understanding and training among healthcare personnel regarding the concept of maqasid sharia and how it can be applied in the management of treatment and healthcare services. A holistic approach that combines aspects of sharia, ethics, and professionalism is necessary in the effort to strengthen sharia-compliant hospitals in Malaysia. The results of this study are expected to enhance the quality of healthcare services in Sharia-compliant hospitals and support more effective implementation from the perspective of maqasid sharia.

Keywords: Sharia-Compliant Hospital, Health Workers, Maqasid Sharia

Introduction

The concept of sharia-compliant hospitals is an innovative approach in the field of modern medicine that combines elements of conventional medicine with Islamic principles. This effort aims not only to ensure compliance with Islamic law in all aspects of patient management and treatment but also to pay attention to holistic well-being, which encompasses spiritual, physical, and mental aspects.

In Malaysia, the role of sharia-compliant hospitals is increasingly gaining prominence in the national healthcare system, particularly in meeting the needs of Muslim patients who prioritize treatment based on sharia (Waieudin & Sukor, 2023). In the context of *maqasid sharia*, the strengthening of sharia-compliant hospitals is seen as an important step in preserving the five main objectives of sharia, namely religion (*hifz al-din*), life (*hifz al-nafs*), intellect (*hifz al-'aql*), lineage (*hifz al-nasl*), and property (*hifz al-mal*).

The role of health workers is very important in ensuring that this objective is achieved through an ethical approach based on Islamic values. This article will thoroughly examine the role of healthcare workers in strengthening the concept of sharia-compliant hospitals, as well as how the principles of *maqasid sharia* can be applied in clinical practice and hospital management to ensure the sustainability of sharia-compliant and quality healthcare services.

Implementation of the Sharia-Compliant Hospital Concept

A Sharia-compliant hospital is a concept that refers to healthcare services in hospitals that align with sharia principles or Islamic teachings. It involves criteria such as having a Sharia Supervisory Board, establishing a vision and mission based on Islam, setting up sharia committees and ensuring sharia ethics in hospital operations (Al-Azmi. et. al, 2022). Hospitals must also have human resource management that complies with sharia aspects, accounting and financial management, marketing management, and facility management. In addition, hospitals need to adhere to sharia standards in quality management, service provision, medications, spiritual guidance, patient education, and patient care (Shariff & Rashid, 2016; Zawawi & Othman, 2018).

The purpose and objectives of a sharia-compliant hospital in the context of medicine and health are to ensure that all aspects of healthcare are in accordance with Islamic teachings. (Md Salleh et al, 2014). This hospital not only provides effective treatment but also safeguards the spiritual, moral, and social aspects of patients by integrating sharia principles into the healthcare system in a holistic manner. For example, the hospital provides healthcare services that fully comply with Islamic law, including maintaining the modesty of patients, providing female doctors for female patients, and ensuring that treatments are conducted according to Islamic principles.

In addition, hospital staff are given regular training on the principles of Islamic medicine and how to implement sharia-compliant treatments. This includes how to handle Muslim patients in a way that does not contradict with Islamic law. (Md Salleh et al, 2014). The ultimate goal to be achieved is to provide healthcare services that prioritize the preservation of life through treatment methods that are halal and in accordance with Islamic law. In general, the goal of this sharia-compliant hospital is to ensure that the elements of

maqasid sharia are always preserved and to provide benefits to all involved while eliminating any form of harm.

The principles and guidelines for maintaining sharia compliance in hospital operations include the management and services to patients in a lawful manner, the provision of medical services according to the latest scientific developments, respecting the dignity of patients through a biopsychosocial approach, honoring perinatal maternal services, adapting management policies based on capabilities, and financial management based on sharia principles. Sharia-compliant hospitals must also establish a sharia monitoring board to ensure compliance with sharia regulations and guidelines. (Yahaya, 2018). The monitoring of these sharia guidelines also includes health workers who provide services to customers.

The Role of Health Workers in Sharia-Compliant Hospitals

Sharia-compliant hospitals strive to provide healthcare services that adhere to the principles of Islamic law. In this context, healthcare professionals play an important role in ensuring that every aspect of patient care and management aligns with the principles of sharia. The study also shows that the factor of healthcare workers is one of the main considerations before individuals choose a treatment center such as a hospital, and it serves as a motivating factor in selecting a hospital in the context of medical tourism. This is illustrated when the relationship between patients and healthcare staff is found to influence the quality of healthcare services.

Patient involvement is an aspect that exists in healthcare services when they influence the quality of services, accurately explain procedures, and physically undergo treatment. (Naidu, 2009). Patient perception, particularly regarding doctors' communication skills, is also a significant determinant of their satisfaction level with a hospital's services. The study by Butler et al. (1996) explains that 66 percent of the variance in patients' perceptions of service quality is focused on the quality of healthcare facilities and the performance of healthcare workers themselves.

In addition, the level of patient satisfaction that is closely related to healthcare workers also involves factors such as the care or treatment provided, empathy, the behavior of doctors (Fowdar, 2005), reliability, and consistently providing positive feedback, which are key factors (Tucker and Adams, 2001). In this regard, the role of healthcare workers is crucial in further strengthening the concept of a sharia-compliant hospital and serves as a model for the image of a hospital operating based on sharia principles.

The main role of healthcare workers in a sharia-compliant hospital encompasses various aspects, including ensuring adherence to sharia principles, ensuring the physical and spiritual well-being of patients, performing duties ethically, possessing comprehensive education and training, establishing effective communication relationships, making decisions that consider religious and cultural aspects, and conducting monitoring to remain within the framework of sharia compliance.

The Role of Health Workers from the Perspective of *Maqasid Sharia*

The role of healthcare workers in sharia-compliance hospitals based which aligned with the aspects of *maqasid sharia*, must emphasize the preservation of five principles: the

preservation of religion, life, intellect, dignity, and property. Every healthcare worker plays an important role in ensuring that these principles are applied in medical practice.

From the perspective of religious preservation (*hifz al-din*), health workers play an important role in ensuring that the health services provided are in line with the principles of Islam. The practice encompasses aspects of providing treatment that is free from elements of prohibition, maintaining the patient's modesty, and allowing space for the patient to fulfill religious obligations such as prayer. The application of *maqasid sharia* in this context ensures that the spiritual health of patients is also taken into account, with treatments that are in accordance with Islamic law, including the use of halal medications.

The context of maintaining this religion serves as a guide in every behavior and rule of life for the servant (Al-'Alim, 1991). Maintaining religion is the most important priority over preserving other interests. The priority stage in maintaining religion shows that humans are very unique creatures of Allah s.w.t. They were entrusted with the right to govern this world. Thus, they are endowed with intellect and desires that are highly functional for building and advancing civilization in this world, but the progress they achieve will ultimately be destroyed by themselves. As a result, all these creatures will be oppressed (Khalil, 1999).

The aspect of preserving the soul also encompasses matters related to the preservation of the right to life, the safeguarding of the dignity of life that distinguishes humans from animals, protecting oneself from destruction such as injury and violations of rights like murder, and maintaining freedom as a human being in terms of actions, freedom of thought, and expressing opinions (Abu Zahrah, 1958). To achieve the above purpose, the sharia requires that humans provide for their basic needs, such as food, shelter, clothing, and health, which includes protecting oneself from epidemics and maintaining health, while also allowing for the consumption of forbidden things in times of emergency (Al-Yubi, 1998).

In the context of preserving life (*hifz al-nafs*) for healthcare workers, their primary role is to ensure the safety of patients' lives by providing quality, professional, and ethical treatment. They are responsible for ensuring accurate diagnoses, appropriate treatments, and minimizing risks in every medical procedure. In the application of *maqasid sharia*, the preservation of life is regarded as the highest objective in every treatment action; therefore, healthcare workers must avoid any actions that could harm the patient.

Islamic law also protects the human intellect because the intellect is the foundation of accountability and is part of the soul and body of a person. In addition, it aims to ensure that every member of society is in a state of well-being, which requires the application of elements of goodness and beneficial aspects that are rooted in a sound mind. An unsettled mind will lead to destruction and chaos in life. Maintaining reason in the context of essential matters means preserving the function of the mind so that humans can acquire various knowledge and understanding through thinking with reason.

Intellect is a precious gift from Allah s.w.t. that guides and determines the direction of human life in this world and the hereafter. Therefore, reason becomes the determinant of the good and bad of human actions. To maintain the intellect, it needs to be nurtured through proper and healthy thinking practices, alongside its health being measured by the ability to

distinguish between good and bad, directing thoughts towards what brings benefit (Al-Kamali, 2000), and manifested through physical behavior and speech that is commendable from a religious perspective. (Al-Ghazali, n.d.).

In terms of preserving the mind (*hifz al-'aql*) in a sharia-compliant hospital, healthcare workers are responsible for maintaining the mental and psychological health of patients. They provide safe treatment for the mind, including emotional and mental support for patients, while avoiding the use of substances that can harm the mind, except in emergencies confirmed by sharia. Mental and psychological health play a crucial role in overall well-being and quality of life (Maria et al., 2021).

Research has shown that mental health issues can impact physical health outcomes, making it imperative for healthcare providers to address and prioritize mental health in their practice. By recognizing the significance of mental and psychological health, healthcare professionals can better support their patients and improve overall health outcomes. Therefore, the application of *maqasid sharia* ensures that the treatment provided protects the patient's mind from any disturbances or damage.

The need to preserve lineage (*hifz al-nasl*) also aims to maintain the continuity of human life in order to prosper the earth. To that end, laws related to principles that can fulfill the objective of preserving lineage have been prescribed (Al-Kamali, 2000). In the context of healthcare workers in sharia-compliant hospitals, they must ensure that the treatments provided do not threaten the sanctity of lineage. For example, in the in vitro fertilization (IVF) procedure, treatment is only provided to couples who are legally married according to religious law. The application of *maqasid sharia* in this context emphasizes the importance of adhering to Islamic guidelines in reproductive treatment, ensuring the maintenance of modesty and Islamic ethics throughout the process of childbirth and treatment.

Lastly, in order to preserve wealth (*hifz al-mal*), humans strive and work in the right way to acquire it while ensuring that it is not damaged or violated. Therefore, Islamic law prohibits the destruction and waste of property, as well as strictly forbidding acts of theft, robbery, and similar actions. In the context of healthcare workers, those involved in financial management need to ensure that treatment costs are reasonable and do not unfairly burden patients. In this context, healthcare officials must avoid the practices of usury and uncertainty (*gharar*) in the financial management of hospitals. The application of *maqasid sharia* demands the provision of quality treatment without imposing burdensome costs on patients, as well as ensuring that all financial transactions are transparent and free from elements that are prohibited in Islam.

Overall, the objectives of sharia provide guidance to healthcare workers in carrying out their responsibilities carefully and balanced in every aspect of treatment.

Conclusion

The role of healthcare workers in sharia-compliant hospitals is important to ensure the preservation of the *maqasid sharia* in healthcare services. They not only need to take care of the physical aspects of the patients, but also ensure the spiritual, mental, and social well-being of the patients. The principles of *maqasid sharia* serve as a guide in managing

treatments that are in accordance with Islamic law, in order to ensure the safety of life, intellect, religion, lineage, and the property of patients is guaranteed. Health workers in the context of a sharia-compliant hospital play a crucial role in maintaining the balance between providing quality medical care and adhering to the principles of *maqasid sharia*. Every action they take is not only focused on the physical recovery of the patients but also on their spiritual, mental, social, and moral well-being, with the aim of upholding the five main principles of sharia in medicine. The role played collectively and holistically will drive the strengthening of the concept of sharia-compliant hospitals that are being implemented.

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