

THE DINAMICS OF ISLAMIC COLLEGES IN SOUTH SUMATERA: PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES

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This article is an outcome of the research and thorough study toward central issues in developing religious studies on Islamic Colleges in South Sumatra. In the management system and institutional development of Islamic education, the human resources' role plays a vital role in achieving the national Islamic Colleges program in Indonesia. This writing describes a more comprehensive research outcome on various dynamics and academic problems in several Islamic Colleges in the South Sumatra region. Some essential issues such as problems in education and the scientific publication, scientific journal system and resources management, availability on education Infrastructure and facilities, qualified and supporting Islamic books availability, and overall challenges faced by several Islamic Colleges in South Sumatra become the strict attention in this research. Data or information derived in this research through several field studies, both in interview and observation, until

collecting various sources through transcript or written document possessed by some Islamic Colleges in the South Sumatra region. This research has delivered recommendations or important input in developing and managing Indonesian Islamic Colleges, Indonesia in general, particularly in South Sumatra.

Introduction

In Indonesia, Islam's development to integrate religious colleges has an essential role for national and religious civilization in a multicultural society. South Sumatra province region once was become a great civilization in Religious and cultural studies at the height of the Buddhist Hindu kingdom as a witness to the history that cannot be denied as an outstanding achievement for Indonesian people. In various manuscripts or historical literature, it is believed that the Sriwijaya kingdom's success in Religion and culture is a magnificent achievement that still inherits strong tradition within South Sumatra's culture (Budi Santoso, 2020: 1-17). Bennet Bronson, his research is quite popular, reveals that the Sriwijaya is the early Indonesian kingdom with high religious and cultural civilization and quite influential in South Asian territory. Some of the following reviews prove that South Sumatra for Indonesia is a vital territory within the nation's cultural system (Bennet Bronson, 1975: 1-23).

In the development until today, if we refer to the latest data issued by the Center of Statistics Agency, until 20 December 2020, the population living in South Sumatra is as much as 8,600,756 people, mostly Muslim populations up to 7,900,662 people (BPS Sumsel, 2020). The data shows that South Sumatra is currently dealing with considerable challenges in the middle of technology development, either regionally, nationally, or globally. Education function plays a vital role in building intelligent civilization, especially related to morality either in religious or scientific aspects, in the middle of plurality in the people's cultural system and background in South Sumatra. The effort to achieve the ideal education has led some Islamic and private colleges to take an

essential role in education. The part is to develop the intellectual quality of the people for facing various challenges and encouraging them to present a solution for various religious issues in South Sumatra. Furthermore, if we observe statistics numbers in Islamic education on the Ministry of Religion website, the number of Islamic colleges in South Sumatra, currently estimated at around 64 Islamic colleges, either public or private, spread across several regions and cities in the province (Diktis, 2020).

If we refer to some strategic result studies on Islamic colleges throughout Indonesia, it is insufficient, it is evident. Suppose we compare to a small country such as Malaysia, which has less population than Indonesia. The condition makes Islamic colleges in Indonesia capable of competing globally in various fields of science and discipline. Some issues and problems, such as improving research quality or increasing publication work on reputable international journals, have become challenges for most intellectual communities lately. Besides being loaded with academic assignments, a lecturer is also demanded to publish qualified works on an accredited journal and succeed in publishing into a reputable international journal. Let us analyze comprehensively some studies on the research conducted by some lecturers and researchers in Islamic studies for the last three years. It shows an improvement in quality either in journal management and development or in the scientific writing held by Islamic colleges as a whole. Some International reputable Islam journals such as Qudus International Journal of Islamic Studies, IJIMS, Journal of Islamic Architecture, and Studi Islamika should be appreciated for their achievements lately. Some of these achievements have become prestigious in facilitating the best works of scientists, students, and the Muslim communities in Indonesia and globally. Until the end of 2020, some Indonesian Islam Journal has achieved Quartile one on Scopus Index in Scimago data as a reputable International journal index (Sinta Indonesia, 2020).

Furthermore, if we analyze Islam's journal statistics entirely owned by private or public Islamic colleges, of course, it is not parallel with the existing colleges. In the data collected from Sinta portal, since 20 December 2020, as official government website which contribute on indexing to give accreditation towards scientific journal in Indonesia. Until that time, there were 210.918 writers

recorded in the Sinta sites coming from 5.070 affiliations. Some of these reviews show that Indonesian Islamic colleges face serious challenges, either in national scale challenges or open challenges globally. Dealing with this situation, specifically some Islamic colleges that are in the Kopertis scope of the Ministry of Religious Affairs Republic of Indonesia in southern Sumatra region VII, which are mostly still in the process of evolving, of course, become a severe challenge for the administrators and the academic communities in southern Sumatra if we analyze some Islamic colleges in South Sumatra on scientific publication aspect and scientific journal such as in Bumi Salimpari Lubuklinggau School of Religious Studies which established since 1994 (Notary, 1991), from the existing journal, not one of them listed on Sinta Index or accredited in Sinta website since 1994 until 20 December 2020. There are three journals under the Department of Research and Community Service in STAI Bumi Silampari Lubuklinggau (OJS STAI Bumi Silampari, 2020). Besides, some other Islamic colleges are also in the same Lubuklinggau town, such as Al-Azhar Islamic Institute, which has five journals that have not listed in the SINTA index as legitimation for accreditation scientific journals (Ejurnal IAI Alazhar Lubuklinggau, 2020). Some of these problems show a portrait of Islamic colleges in South Sumatra, currently facing severe problems for competing in improving management quality and developing essential aspects of a college entity within the Indonesian National education program.

Furthermore, suppose we review aspects in the resources or some lecturers who are affiliates on the two Islamic colleges. It shows that only some of them have worked and some research published in a reputable journal (Observation, 2020). If we review the problems comprehensively, it could be the case and severe problems faced by Islamic colleges in South Sumatra. In achieving an increase in the research and publication of scientific writings, of course, it cannot be separated from various factors that have an essential role in the quality development and improvement of human resources who administer colleges, both regarding financial support, training for supporting reading books to efficiency in the field of management education management. Hence, those critical issues have led the researcher to thoroughly conduct a more comprehensive study of some Islamic colleges' problems in South Sumatra. It is expected that research and studies can become suggestions, input, or some vital

recommendations in managing or developing higher education in the South Sumatra region, particularly and Islamic colleges generally. Pamela. A. Lemoine, in her writing *Global Higher Education, Development and Implications*, A. Lemoine claims that the primary axis of vision in higher education institutionally is to resolve various imbalances and social, humanitarian needs in various aspects in line with contemporary demands (Pamela A. Lemoine, 2017). Therefore, we can see some educational issues faced by some countries, such as India. In searching for higher education problems, the important role is to cooperate in higher education on an international scale and look for an achievement aspect to improve higher education quality (Saravanakumar, 2020).

Results And Analysis

This research approach uses the scientific theory of Jurgen Habermas, which is classified into three categories: analytical-empirical science, historical-hermeneutical science and critical science (Habermas 2006; Murphy & Fleming.) 2009; Safruddin 2004). From Habermas' theory, a study of the dynamics of higher education in analytical-empirical science ilmu and. This research uses library research, and the main sources are research on the dynamics of higher education in the form of books, articles or other written works, while the secondary sources is a scientific research article that supports the topic of this research and is equipped with supporting data from interviews with related figures.

Discussion

The dynamics of Indonesian Islamic colleges' development start from creating education, research, and community service to manifest higher education's threefold missions. This importance shows that Islamic higher education development and performance or its characteristics have parameters that can be measured from the three substantial aspects of its performance and achievements (Amirudin, 2020). Strengthening in the field of research for every Islamic higher education is not only directed to a dimension of competition in research in the national scope alone but every lecturer is encouraged to produce various works or research in reputable international journals. Suppose it refers to the standards set by the

Ministry of Research and Technology on researching. The demand becomes a problem and challenge for the lecturer and students in many Indonesian colleges. Currently, South Sumatra has a Muslim population of around 7,907,662 people who live in 17 regencies and cities in the province (Kemenag Sumsel, 2018), with Islamic colleges until 20 December 2020 as much as 6000 higher education (Republika, 2020). Of course, this data was incomparable with the problem considering there were only 5 or 6 scientific journals owned by Islamic colleges in the largest Muslim populated country. In this condition, the phenomenon shows that Indonesia faces serious challenges in improving research or studies in the religious field.

The effort to increase Islamic journal amount or local writer capability to contribute in the Islamic research on the reputable journal has led to a condition of Islamic colleges to make a concentration and seriousness to encourage the lecturer in every institutional education to collaborate researching to create a publish qualified writing which acknowledgeable for science and research in other countries. In managing Indonesian Islamic journals such as Qudus Internasional Journal Of Islamic Studies, which is currently listed in Quartile 1, now can be an essential reference in increasing journal quality. It covers some aspects that other Islamic journals can learn, such as mastering IT, reviewer quality, and professionalism in the beginning until publication, and honesty in publication mechanism. All these efforts will make a journal's administrator collect some articles into a publication, but it will focus on selecting the qualified writings. Suppose we observed in QIJIS journal comprehensively, on the resources involved aspect. In that case, they have at least ten professional administrators consist of one person as an Editor In Chief who has had Id Scopus, one person as Managing Editor who has had written for id Scopus and eight persons as professional Editor consisted of 5 Indonesian editors and two other editors from two different universities in Malaysia (Journal IAIN Kudus, 2020).

On the substantial aspect, such as reviewer, who assess incoming writing on a journal, quite the opposite, it was dominated by overseas universities. Hence, if we calculated, it was estimated that only 45% of the reviewer originated in Indonesia. Thus, if we observed from the process's resources, the international journal's numerous management systems need more external cooperation of

inter-institution and inter-nation by cooperating with various overseas universities with an undoubtedly considerable reputation. Furthermore, let us take a look on administrator resources involved in *Islamika Studi Journal*, for instance. It is also filled with many figures who have a good reputation in researches or studies on Islam. One of the renowned writers in Indonesia, Azyumardi Azra, indeed in regulation process and writing mechanism and incoming research until it is received, absolutely has passed set of stages and quite selective analysis from the professional journal administrator if we see the portrait and condition of Islamic colleges in South Sumatra region, either regarding writers who are affiliated on Islamic colleges, or Islamic journal managed by colleges in South Sumatra region, no less than 64 private Islamic colleges that are under the scope of Kopertis VII region covering from South Sumatra, Bengkulu area, and some colleges in Lampung.

Table 1. Statistics Based on the Number of Accredited Journals and Writers Affiliated to Region VII Kopertais

Educational Institution Journal Number	Number Of Journal Accredited In Scopus and Sinta	Number Of Writers Who Are Affiliated	Number Of Writers' articles In Scopus and Sinta Journal Index
UIN Raden Fattah Palembang	Scopus: 0 Sinta : 0	473 Person	Scopus Articles : 94 Sinta Articles : 364 Uncategorized : 3961
STAI Bumi Silampari Lubuklinggau	Scopus: 0 Sinta : 0	17 Person	Scopus Articles : 0 Sinta Articles : 7 Uncategorized : 108
STAI Al-Azhar Lubuklinggau	Scopus: 0 Sinta : 0	10 Person	Scopus Articles : 0 Sinta Articles : 0 Uncategorized : 11
STIT YPI Lahat	Scopus: 0 Sinta : 0	1 Person	Scopus Articles : 0 Sinta Articles : 0 Uncategorized : 0
STAI Ash-Shiddiqiyah Lempuing OKI	Scopus: 0 Sinta : 0	0 Person	Scopus Articles : 0 Sinta Articles : 0 Uncategorized : 0
STAIR Sekayu Musi Banyu Asin	Scopus: 0 Sinta : 0	1 Person	Scopus Articles : 0 Sinta Articles : 0

			Uncategorized : 2
STITQ Ogan Ilir	Scopus: 0 Sinta : 0	4 Person	Scopus Articles : 0 Sinta Articles : 1 Uncategorized : 28

Some of these reviews re-explain the dynamics and portraits of Islamic higher education in the South Sumatra region in research and management of scientific journals as the center in the knowledge civilization. Human resources owned or the lecturers in various Islamic colleges in South Sumatra, which shows that in this condition Islamic colleges in the region is facing a problem that requires serious attention for every educational institution as well as a significant task for the government in charge, namely the Ministry of Religion of the Republic of Indonesia. So that in its implementation, it does not just give encouragement and theoretical instruction, but as an effort that leads to the practical aspect. In seeing the existing dynamics, the writer believes that this review must describe some scientific instrument publication aspects. For Islamic colleges, this is still too taboo due to many problems faced by every Islamic college that are just beginning to evolve in South Sumatra.

If we refer to the research and scientific publication essentiality either nationally or globally, research's quality has become a world parameter to measure every science contribution of a country that also describes intellectual contribution in developing and growing science. International journal index reference currently has a reputation among academics in the world is that Scopus and Thomson. A Korean researcher, Hyung Sun Kim, in "The History of the Scopus Expert Content Selection and Advisory Committee of Korea," reveals that the effort undertaken in Korea to make a partnership with Elsevier Scopus by internalizing institutions is an essential effort to ease and facilitate Korean research publication or thoughts in global (Hyung Sun Kim, 2020). The dynamics show that the aspect of research instrument development involved in Islamic colleges is encouraged to increase cooperation or seriously concentrate on research to manifest higher education's threefold missions. This effort was seen in some researches resulting in other countries showing an increase in higher education cooperation as a

start in improving institutional quality.

Table 1.2 Lecturer Educational Qualification in Several Islamic Colleges in South Sumatra

Institution Name	Magister Education	Doctorate Education	Lecturer Total Number
UIN Raden Fattah Palembang	134 Person	134 Person	292 Person
STAI Bumi Silampari Lubuklinggau	35 Person	6 Person	42 Person
STAI Al-Azhar Lubuklinggau	38 Person	6 Person	44 Person
STIT YPI Lahat	16 Person	0 Person	16 Person
STAI Ash-Shiddiqiyah Lempuing OKI	0 Person	0 Person	0 Person
STAIR Sekayu Musi Banyu Asin	14 Person	0 Person	14 Person
STITQ Ogan Ilir	37 Person	1 Person	38 Person

Later on, some Islamic colleges in South Sumatra have undertaken a serious effort to increase academic quality in developing a higher education management system by internalization. Amin Ali Al Mubarak conveys that among problems faced by institutional education is academic issues, especially mastering English (Amin Ali Al Mubarak, 2020). In his writing, Subhan Ajrin Sudirman conveys that mastering English is vital in improving individual quality of academic level to perform scientific transformation at the international level (Subhan Ajrin Sudirman, 2020). In various reviews, mastering English for academics has a vital role in increasing academic quality. Some aspects, such as publication and communication, are becoming a central role in increasing academic quality. Muhammad Faizul reveals that English mastery or any other language often used in written or oral international communication becomes an obligation and demand for all academics circles to make

serious attention (Informant-1, 2020). However, through a set of research, the existing dynamics show that Islamic colleges in South Sumatra, especially private ones, are in a position that requires serious attention for all of the lecturers to improve to collaborating in mastering English. It would be vital to transforming science on an international scale through writing, conference, or seminar.

Besides the language aspect, the substantial aspect is also crucial regarding facility or learning equipment availability, which becomes an important issue to support the learning process and quality. Suppose we highlight the existing regulation such as Indonesian Government Regulation Number 19 of 2005 on National Standard Education. It states that every education unit must have facilities such as furniture, education tools, media, books, other learning sources, consumable items, and other equipment required to support the learning process with orderly and sustainability. The learning process seems to be prioritized by several institutions rather than substantial aspects as the outcome of the learning process. The function of learning media, basically used as a tool to achieve a purpose to increase student's learning potential because learning achievement is an education indicator. Therefore, learning achievement should be able to describe skills derived during collegiate studies (Sanaky, Hujair AH, 2020).

Mufid and Zuntriana, in their research on several Islamic colleges in East Java, find out a severe problem in the aspect of library management to develop Islamic colleges. To outline this issue, Mufid finds two issues: an internal problem in which management has not evaluated the management system, and an external problem covers the lecturers' low participation in developing library collection (Mufid and Zuntriana, 2018). Furthermore, to highlight issues on the whole library management in Indonesia, Rhoni Rhodin reveals that the Indonesian Islam library currently faces serious problems as it occurred in Indonesian Islamic colleges. It might become a foundation for Rhoni's assumption, which Islamic colleges should be concentrating on developing traditional role by providing building infrastructure. However, it is more than just that; Islam library administrators must understand their library's value. Responding to the value aspect, for Rhoni, it is a problem that has not yet been implemented in Islamic colleges' libraries. As a result, many libraries

were only developing their physical infrastructure, but the value is ruled out. From a series of problems in the libraries management and development as the primary supporting aspects of existing Islamic colleges, which is no less critical, regarding the institutional vision and efforts of Islamic college, to have serious attention in developing electronic and traditional libraries to improve quality as well as current references about the development of knowledge (Rodin Rhoni, 2020).

Evi Fatimatur conveys that in the current era, every educator must always be ready in a competition to improve quality on digitalization aspect, including mastering and improving adequate quality on the aspect of digital literacy (Evi Fatimatur, 2020). In line with it, Haroon Idres proposes some concepts that seem to be considered under the Islamic libraries management system in many Islamic educational institutions facing problems in the management practice aspect: they do not have educational background in the library—borrowing Adian Husaini view that the obligation of a Muslim before to do deeds is to have a piece of knowledge first. Maybe this matter becomes a severe problem is to increase the quality of the existing resources in South Sumatra Islamic college (Adian Husaini, 2016). This effort is parallel with the Indonesian spirit since the Independence Day proclamation. Some practical efforts, such as building more mosques and Islamic-schools based, promoting MUI to scheme or support from the government to establish the Indonesian Muslim Intellectuals Association, are taken in the national management system (AzmiTayeb, 2008). On the academic aspect, Imaduddin Hamzah's study conveys that another significant challenge within internal higher education is implementing honesty as a form of morality that must be upheld (Esra Tore, 2020). Series and some findings led the academics to undertake a complete evaluation to improve academic quality with the existing dynamics, especially quality improvement on Islamic colleges in the South Sumatra region. Moreover, some religious education has orientation in holding Islamic religious teacher education. The theoretical learning and education process is not enough if they do not emphasize the existing Islamic colleges' consistent training effort. In Islam's education concept, educational implementation is transformed through various methods and

approaches, namely the psychological approach (Nurhasanah Bakhtiar, 2020). This approach gives students encouragement and motivation to be practical, comfortable, and smoothly through a psychological approach (Tanti, 2020). As a result, the graduates' quality can have a career according to their knowledge orientation correspond to the working demand as they are graduates from colleges (Kendra Lowery, 2020).

On the other crucial aspect, the research finds that Islamic colleges' problems in South Sumatra are related to the educational stage. From the table previously, lecturers who hold doctoral degrees are only 15% from private Islamic colleges. This condition will be confronted with national regulations that continue to accelerate and improve the quality of education. Recently, for instance, to highlight the importance of educational classification, several circulars such as the circular from the Indonesian Ministry of Religion No.B-2956/DJ.I/HK. 007/12/2020 on Rector position, or head of Islamic colleges, in point 1-3 is stressed that Rector candidates who do not meet the criteria of points 1-2 can be replaced with the educational classification of the Doctoral prospective lecturers with the Lecture position and fulfill a five-year service period. Several existing regulations become the challenge for every institution to improve lecturers' quality or the existing resources to assist national acceleration program.

Conclusion

Bagian From the series of research and observation conducted throughout 2020, the researcher finds that some private Islamic colleges are evolving in the South Sumatra region. It shows that there is an effort conducted by some Islamic colleges to increase education quality. Hence, they may generate competent scholars in their field of study. Some success stories and improvements in graduates in several colleges, such as graduates indexing received as Civil Officer, show PTIKIS already capable of competing with public or private colleges. Alumni data for the last three years, such as data from STAI Bumi Silampari Lubuklinggau, is an indicator of an increase that can measure the quality of graduates as an achievement of which deserves appreciation. Some severe problems also simultaneously become issues that should become serious attention for all existing

educational institutions, such as improving lecturer classification, supporting and considering giving an honorarium to the lecturer who create writing or research in an accredited or reputable international journal, increasing the library administrator's quality and digital library utilization, to encouraging and facilitating guidance or particular training for lecturer to improve their skill in English. Some problems found in this research become an essential evaluation for PTIKIS in the South Sumatra region to compete to improve educational value to achieve institutional mission vision or national program.

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