THE URGENCY OF AN INCLUSIVE SOCIETY BASED ON ISLAMIC VALUES FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

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Abstract:

This research explores the urgency of developing an inclusive society based on Islamic values for persons with disabilities in Indonesia through a qualitative literature review approach. Comprehensive analysis of academic literature from 2020-2025 reveals that integrating Islamic principles with the concept of inclusive society requires paradigmatic transformation in understanding disability as diversity of Allah's creation. Research findings indicate that Islamic values such as rahma, ta'awun, and musawah provide strong theological foundations for inclusive society development, yet implementation faces complex structural and cultural challenges. Investigation of inclusive education in Islamic institutions indicates significant potential for transformation, while analysis of stigmatization and accessibility reveals the need for comprehensive strategies integrating education, advocacy, and community empowerment dimensions. Effective inclusive society development strategies must accommodate intersections between Islamic values and universal human rights principles, while considering Indonesia's unique socio-cultural context.

Keywords: *Inclusive Society, Islamic Values, Persons with Disabilities*

INTRODUCTION

Indonesia as the world's most populous Muslim country faces complex challenges in building an inclusive society that respects diversity and the rights of persons with disabilities. The concept of an inclusive society has become a global paradigm aimed at creating social justice and equality for all citizens, including persons with disabilities, who constitute an integral part of society and cannot be overlooked. According to World Bank data, one billion people, or 15% of the global population, experience various forms of disability, and they tend to suffer from higher socio-economic disadvantages compared to those without disabilities (World Bank, 2023).

In Indonesia, the issue of inclusivity for persons with disabilities has become increasingly urgent amid growing awareness of human rights and the implementation of various disability inclusion policies. Despite adequate legal protections, stigmatization against persons with disabilities remains a significant issue, especially in major cities such as Makassar (Billah et al., 2025). This problem is further complicated by the intersection of religious and cultural norms, particularly within a majority Muslim society. The main challenge lies in integrating Islamic values of rahmatan lil 'alamin (mercy to all creation) with the principles of inclusive education and social inclusion in everyday life.

Islamic legal perspectives provide a strong theological foundation for building an inclusive society for persons with disabilities. The concept of rukhṣah (concession) in Islamic law, which grants ease and leniency to those with physical

or mental limitations, illustrates that Islam fundamentally acknowledges human diversity and offers humane solutions (Maftuhin, 2023). However, the implementation of Islamic values in the context of disability inclusion still encounters various obstacles, both in terms of societal understanding and policy frameworks that have yet to fully accommodate the needs of persons with disabilities.

Inclusive education plays a key role in fostering an inclusive society grounded in Islamic values. Islamic schools and universities in Indonesia have a strategic role in reforming inclusive education, yet they face challenges in implementation (Maftuhin, 2023). The legal culture and disability rights within Islamic higher education institutions reveal gaps between the ideals of Islamic teachings on equality and real-world practices. This highlights the need for a more comprehensive approach to integrate Islamic values with disability rights and social inclusion principles.

Multicultural education in the context of religious life is highly relevant for promoting harmony and tolerance within pluralistic societies such as Southeast Asia (Zamroni et al., 2020). The development of multicultural education through self-awareness, early childhood education, patriotism and nationalism-based education, and equality pedagogy can foster national harmony and resilience. In Indonesia's context, a multicultural approach rooted in Islamic values can serve as a foundation for building an inclusive society that respects not only ethnic and religious diversity but also the diversity of physical and mental conditions.

Access to places of worship for persons with disabilities in Indonesia remains a serious challenge requiring urgent attention. Although Indonesia officially recognizes six religions, the implementation of religious rights for persons with disabilities faces infrastructural and accessibility barriers (Billah et al., 2025). This indicates that the concept of an inclusive society must be implemented holistically—not only in education and employment but also in spiritual and religious aspects, which are fundamental rights for every citizen.

Challenges and strategies for building inclusive schools in Indonesia require alignment between Islamic values and inclusive education principles. Approaches that integrate Islamic teachings on compassion, justice, and equality with modern educational methodologies can create conducive learning environments for all students, including those with special needs (Muttaqin et al., 2023). Affirmative action and improvements in rural inclusive schools are vital steps to ensure quality education is accessible to all children, including persons with disabilities (World Bank, 2024).

Globalization and modernization compel Indonesian society to adopt international standards in disability inclusion while maintaining Islamic identity as the foundational value of social life. The experiences of other Muslim countries in integrating Islamic values with human rights principles offer valuable lessons for building authentic and sustainable inclusive societies. The urgency to develop an inclusive society based on Islamic values is not only a moral and religious imperative but also a strategic necessity to maintain social cohesion and achieve just and sustainable development.

RESEARCH METHODS

This study employs a literature review methodology as the primary approach to analyze and synthesize various theoretical concepts and empirical findings related to the urgency of building an inclusive society grounded in

Islamic values for persons with disabilities. The literature review approach is chosen due to its ability to integrate fragmented knowledge across multiple disciplines, provide a comprehensive understanding of the phenomenon under investigation, and identify research gaps that can be further developed to contribute significant theoretical insights. This method enables the researcher to conduct an in-depth analysis of diverse academic perspectives concerning Islamic values, social inclusivity, and the rights of persons with disabilities within the pluralistic context of Indonesian society (Moresi et al., 2022).

Data collection and analysis are carried out through a qualitative approach focusing on the interpretation and deep understanding of relevant theoretical concepts aligned with the research topic. The qualitative literature review allows for a comprehensive exploration of the nuances and complexities of the relationship between Islamic values and principles of social inclusion, as well as providing room for a contextual analysis of the implementation of disability inclusion policies in Indonesia. This methodology also facilitates the identification of theoretical and practical patterns that might not be evident through quantitative approaches, thereby offering a more holistic insight into the phenomenon studied (Busetto et al., 2020).

The literature search strategy was conducted comprehensively using various international and national academic databases, including Google Scholar, JSTOR, PubMed, ProQuest, and Indonesia OneSearch, with a focus on publications from 2021 to 2025 to ensure the relevance and currency of research findings. Keywords used in the search included combinations of terms such as "inclusive society," "Islamic values," "disability inclusion," "Indonesia," "Muslim community," "social inclusion," and "disability rights," in both English and Indonesian. Inclusion criteria encompassed reputable journal articles, academic books, research reports, and official publications from international organizations addressing the relevant topics, while exclusion criteria involved sources lacking strong theoretical foundations, opinion articles without empirical backing, and unverifiable sources (Busetto et al., 2020).

Data analysis was performed using thematic analysis, which enabled the identification of key themes emerging from the reviewed literature, the synthesis of relevant theoretical concepts, and the development of a comprehensive conceptual framework regarding an inclusive society based on Islamic values. This thematic analysis was conducted systematically by categorizing findings into interrelated themes, identifying consistent conceptual patterns, and analyzing relationships between various theoretical constructs to generate an integrated understanding. The process also included a critical evaluation of the quality and relevance of each literature source, as well as the identification of academic consensus and debates within the field (Candra Susanto et al., 2024).

The validity and reliability of the study were ensured through the application of triangulation principles in the literature analysis, where diverse theoretical perspectives and empirical findings from different sources were compared and analyzed to guarantee consistency and accuracy of interpretation. Additionally, internal peer review was implemented by engaging discussions and consultations with experts in Islamic studies, disability studies, and social inclusion to verify the validity of interpretations and conclusions. Limitations inherent in the literature review method are acknowledged, particularly regarding the limited availability of literature in the Indonesian context and potential publication bias affecting the representativeness of findings. However,

these limitations were mitigated through a comprehensive search strategy and critical analysis of each reviewed source (Paré & Kitsiou, 2017).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION
Conceptualization of Islamic Values in the Context of Social Inclusivity

An in-depth examination of academic literature reveals that the implementation of Islamic values in constructing an inclusive society for persons with disabilities requires a comprehensive understanding of foundational Islamic epistemology. Contemporary studies demonstrate that Islamic legal perspectives provide a progressive normative framework for understanding and accommodating human diversity, particularly through the concepts of rahma (compassion) and hikmah (wisdom), which serve as fundamental pillars in building inclusive social structures. An investigation by Salha et al. (2020) elaborates that the conceptualization of disability within Islam transcends purely medical dimensions, encompassing a holistic perspective that integrates spiritual, social, and psychological aspects of the individual as integral components of Allah's diverse creation.

Analysis of various academic discourses indicates that classical Islamic principles bear significant relevance to the social model of disability paradigm prevalent in contemporary academic contexts. The shift from the medical model to the social model in disability studies reveals an intriguing convergence with Islamic teachings on the collective responsibility of society to create a conducive environment for all individuals, regardless of their physical or mental conditions. Research by contemporary Muslim scholars highlights that Islamic values such as ta'awun (mutual assistance), tasamuh (tolerance), and musawah (equality) provide a strong theoretical foundation for developing inclusive communities that accommodate the needs of persons with disabilities.

The theoretical construction of an inclusive society from an Islamic perspective has undergone significant evolution through progressive interpretations of classical texts and their application in modern social contexts. Hermeneutic approaches employed by contemporary Islamic scholars reveal that Islamic principles of social justice ('adalah ijtima'iyyah) encompass not only the equitable distribution of economic resources but also equal access to social services, education, and participation in community life. Comprehensive analysis of the literature indicates that the implementation of Islamic values in the realm of social inclusivity requires a multidimensional approach integrating normative, structural, and practical dimensions within societal life (Nurhayati, 2020).

Implementation of Inclusive Education in Indonesian Islamic Institutions

Observations of the dynamics surrounding the implementation of inclusive education within Islamic institutions in Indonesia reveal a multifaceted complexity in integrating the principles of inclusive education with traditional Islamic values. Investigations indicate that efforts to include students with disabilities in rural Indonesian education systems face both structural and cultural challenges, where affirmative action emerges as a crucial strategy to reach populations that have historically been underserved. Analyses of various policies and inclusive education practices demonstrate that Islamic institutions possess significant potential to serve as agents of change in advancing inclusive educational reform; however, they require a comprehensive paradigm shift.

In-depth examinations of the roles of madrasahs and Islamic universities in developing inclusive education reveal that these institutions have unique capacities to integrate spiritual values with modern educational methodologies. Research conducted by Sunandar (2023) shows that Indonesia's Islamic education system functions as a counter-institution to colonial processes while simultaneously adopting elements of Western education systems, thereby creating space for innovation in inclusive education approaches. Analyses of inclusive education practices in Islamic institutions underscore that integrating Islamic values with inclusive education principles necessitates culturally and religiously sensitive approaches that address the specific needs of students with disabilities.

Investigations into the challenges and achievements of inclusive education implementation in Indonesia indicate that factors influencing successful implementation encompass policy frameworks, infrastructure, human resources, and community support. Studies by various institutions reveal that despite significant progress in formulating inclusive education policies, practical implementation still encounters numerous obstacles that require comprehensive solutions. Analyses of inclusive education programs and initiatives within Islamic institutions emphasize the importance of capacity-building for teachers, provision of accessible facilities, and the cultivation of inclusive school cultures as key elements in creating a conducive learning environment for all students.

Stigmatization and Transformation of Social Perspectives

A thorough analysis of the stigmatization phenomenon faced by persons with disabilities within Indonesian society reveals a complex intersection of religious norms, cultural traditions, and social constructions that influence perceptions and treatment of individuals with disabilities. Research by Billah et al. (2025) indicates that stigmatization of persons with disabilities remains a significant issue in Indonesia, particularly in major urban centers such as Makassar, despite the existence of adequate legal protections. This complexity is exacerbated by the interaction between religious and cultural norms, which sometimes produce problematic interpretations of disability as a social phenomenon.

Investigations into Islamic legal perspectives and social experiences related to stigma against persons with disabilities demonstrate that transforming social perspectives requires a holistic and multidimensional approach. Analyses of various literatures suggest that the destigmatization process involves not only changes at the individual level but also structural transformations within social systems, institutions, and public policies. Contemporary studies indicate that Islamic values, when properly articulated, can act as catalysts for more inclusive and empathetic social perspective transformations toward persons with disabilities (Agustina & Indah, 2022).

Examinations of social and psychological dynamics within the context of stigmatization reveal that the construction of identity for persons with disabilities in the Indonesian Muslim community is influenced by diverse factors, including theological interpretations, cultural traditions, and contemporary social dynamics. Research by various scholars shows that social perspective transformation requires an integrated approach encompassing education, advocacy, and community empowerment to foster sustainable change. Analyses of numerous empowerment initiatives and programs highlight that active

involvement of religious communities in the social transformation process is a key factor in creating a more inclusive and empathetic society (Putri Zahara et al., 2024).

Accessibility and Participation in Public Spaces

Investigations into the accessibility and participation of persons with disabilities in various public spaces in Indonesia reveal significant disparities between legal guarantees and practical implementation on the ground. Research conducted by Mahfud et al. (2023) demonstrates that access to places of worship for persons with disabilities continues to face various infrastructural and accessibility challenges, despite Indonesia's recognition of six official religions and its constitutional guarantee of religious freedom for all citizens. Analyses of different aspects of accessibility indicate that the implementation of universal design principles in public infrastructure development still requires more serious attention from all relevant stakeholders.

Examinations of the participation of persons with disabilities in social and political life reveal that structural and cultural barriers remain major obstacles to achieving meaningful participation. Contemporary studies show that although there has been progress in recognizing the rights of persons with disabilities, practical implementation still faces multiple challenges that require comprehensive solutions. Analysis of various programs and policies suggests that approaches integrating religious and cultural perspectives with human rights principles could serve as effective strategies to enhance the social participation of persons with disabilities (Pandia et al., 2023).

Further investigation into participation dynamics within Muslim communities reveals that Islamic values can serve as sources of inspiration and motivation to promote social inclusivity, but this requires progressive interpretation and application. Research by various scholars indicates that the active involvement of religious communities in advocating for the rights of persons with disabilities can act as a catalyst for sustainable social change. Analyses of various community initiatives demonstrate that approaches integrating spiritual, social, and practical dimensions can create more inclusive and meaningful models of participation for persons with disabilities (Ahmad et al., 2022).

Strategies for Developing an Inclusive Society Based on Islamic Values

Formulating comprehensive strategies to develop an inclusive society grounded in Islamic values requires an integrative and multidimensional approach that accommodates the complex social, cultural, and political dynamics within Indonesia's pluralistic context. Analyses of various models and approaches indicate that effective development strategies must integrate dimensions of education, policy, infrastructure, and community empowerment to create sustainable transformation. Contemporary research emphasizes that the successful implementation of inclusive strategies necessitates synergistic collaboration among diverse stakeholders, including government bodies, religious institutions, civil society organizations, and disability communities themselves (Mahfud et al., 2023). Such collaboration ensures that initiatives are culturally sensitive, socially relevant, and pragmatically feasible, allowing for more comprehensive social inclusion that resonates with Indonesia's unique societal fabric.

A close examination of best practices and lessons learned from previous

inclusive program implementations reveals that community-based approaches demonstrate higher effectiveness in achieving sustainable change. Studies by various institutions show that strategies blending local values with international standards create development models that are both contextually relevant and broadly acceptable within society. Moreover, empowerment programs that prioritize the active participation of persons with disabilities in planning and implementation stages tend to yield better outcomes and long-term sustainability (Salha et al., 2020). This participatory approach not only respects the agency of individuals with disabilities but also enriches program design with authentic community insights, fostering a sense of ownership and commitment critical for enduring social progress.

Investigations into the role of innovation and technology in supporting social inclusivity reveal that assistive technologies and digital inclusion represent powerful tools to enhance accessibility and participation for persons with disabilities. Contemporary research highlights that integrating technology with Islamic value-based approaches can offer innovative and contextually appropriate solutions tailored to the specific challenges faced by persons with disabilities. The synergy between technology and spiritual values ensures that interventions are not only functionally effective but also culturally resonant, thereby facilitating broader acceptance and utilization (Pandia et al., 2023). This dual emphasis strengthens the inclusivity framework, promoting both practical accessibility and alignment with community belief systems.

Analyses of various technological initiatives demonstrate that user-centered design and active community involvement are key factors in developing effective and sustainable solutions to build an inclusive society. Engaging end-users throughout the design and implementation phases ensures that assistive technologies and digital platforms address real needs and preferences, reducing barriers to adoption. Furthermore, fostering community participation enhances social cohesion and trust, critical components for the success of inclusion initiatives. Collectively, these insights underscore the importance of multi-sectoral cooperation, culturally informed innovation, and empowerment-driven methodologies in advancing inclusive societal development rooted in Islamic values and responsive to Indonesia's diverse population.

CONCLUSION

This comprehensive study reveals that constructing an inclusive society grounded in Islamic values for persons with disabilities in Indonesia requires a fundamental paradigmatic transformation that integrates theological principles with practical implementation of social inclusion. The key findings indicate that, although Islamic teachings provide a progressive normative foundation for social inclusivity through concepts such as rahma (compassion), hikmah (wisdom), and ta'awun (mutual cooperation), their application in social realities still encounters multidimensional complexities. These complexities encompass structural, cultural, and institutional dimensions that challenge effective inclusion. In-depth analysis of inclusive education dynamics within Islamic institutions highlights significant potential for transformative change. However, achieving this requires approaches that are culturally and religiously sensitive to local contexts, balancing traditional Islamic values with contemporary inclusive education practices.

Investigation into phenomena such as stigma and accessibility underscores that transforming social perspectives demands comprehensive

strategies integrating education, advocacy, and community empowerment. Effective development strategies for an inclusive society must accommodate the intersection of Islamic values with universal human rights principles, while thoughtfully addressing Indonesia's unique sociocultural context. Strategic recommendations emphasize strengthening the capacity of Islamic institutions to implement inclusive education, developing accessible infrastructure, and establishing multi-stakeholder coalitions. These coalitions should advocate for the rights of persons with disabilities based on progressive and transformative Islamic values, ensuring a holistic and sustainable approach to social inclusion that respects both religious traditions and modern human rights frameworks.

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