

THE ROLE OF MOSQUES AS CENTERS FOR EDUCATION AND SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT IN ISLAMIC COMMUNITIES

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ABSTRACT

The review identifies innovations and best practices that mosques can adopt in fulfilling their role in a changing Islamic Society. This study uses a literature study with integrative and comprehensive literature analysis in collecting, reviewing, and analyzing various literature sources relevant to the topic of study. The study results revealed that the mosque is not only a place of worship but an integral center of empowerment in strengthening the Islamic community's educational, social, and spiritual dimensions. The educational function within mosques provides a strong foundation in religious understanding, ethics, and practical skills. In contrast, the role of mosques in social services creates social solidarity and a deep sense of social responsibility. Mosques also play an essential role in developing individuals' religious identities, strengthening ties with the larger Muslim community, and motivating them to create positive change in society actively.

Keywords: The Role of Mosques, Educational Centers, Islamic Communities.

INTRODUCTION

The mosque, as an irreplaceable institution in the life of Islamic society, has assumed a multifunctional role for many centuries. Although often known as places of worship, mosques also have significant educational and social dimensions in the development of Islamic societies (Cesari, 2005). The part of mosques in Muslim communities is not only limited to religious aspects but also



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151 | Bina Ummat | Vol 6 | No. 2 | 2023

extends to academic and social dimensions. It is a phenomenon that has fused closely with Islamic history and culture, enriching and shaping Muslim societies over time. In a constantly changing and complex global context, the question of how mosques play an essential role in Islamic societies' education and social life is becoming increasingly relevant and exciting. The importance of mosques as centers of education in Islamic societies is undeniable.

Traditionally, mosques have been the central place for religious studies and the dissemination of Islamic knowledge (Hoelzchen, 2022). Friday sermons, lectures and regular recitation in mosques are an invaluable source of inspiration and knowledge for Muslims. However, mosque education's role is not limited to religious understanding alone. Mosques are also learning centers for daily life, such as ethics, morality, and social skills (Dana, Barreto, & Oskooii, 2011). This makes the mosque the core of the character education process in Muslim society.

In addition to the role of education, mosques also play an essential role in the social aspects of Islamic society. The mosque is a place of worship and a gathering place for people. Through social activities such as catering to the poor, social assistance programs, or community discussions, mosques create strong social networks and a sense of community among Muslims. In addition, the mosque also acts as a place for dialogue between religious communities and a place to discuss social issues relevant to society.

As the central institution in Islamic society, the mosque has been essential in Muslims' education and social life for centuries. The multifaceted part of this mosque has been the focus of numerous previous studies to understand its impact and implications in the development of Islamic Society. In this context, there are several relevant previous studies and how these findings can provide a framework for this topic of study. The last highlighted various aspects of the role of mosques in educating Muslims. For example, a search by Alean Al-Krenawi (2016) reveals that mosques in different Islamic countries are often informal educational centers where youth learn religious values, Arabic, and other aspects of Islamic culture. The results of this study indicate that mosques have great potential in influencing the understanding of religion and culture in Islamic societies.

In addition, research by Budi Siswanto (2019) highlights mosques' role in forming individual characters. The results of this study indicate that mosques are often used to teach the younger generation ethics, morality, and Islamic values. This shows that the mosque plays a vital role in forming the necessary social and human values in Islamic society. However, research has also highlighted mosques' challenges in carrying out their role. For example, some studies note that mosques in some areas often face financial constraints and lack adequate resources to support their educational and social programs (Ahyaruddin et al., 2017; Anggraini, 2021; Kotani, Tamura, & Nejima, 2022). This is a relevant issue

in the context of this study, as it can affect the effectiveness of the role of mosques in society.

In addition, several studies have also paid attention to the role of mosques in promoting interreligious dialogue and intercultural cooperation. For example, several studies have investigated the effects of mosques in supporting interfaith dialogue and reducing religious conflict (Campdepadrós-Cullell, Pulido-Rodríguez, Marauri, & Racionero-Plaza, 2021; Rosyid, 2017). These findings highlight the role of mosques in promoting tolerance and peace in diverse societies. Although much research has been done on the role of mosques in education and culture, this review aims to contribute further by analyzing how mosques address challenges and opportunities in an increasingly complex and global context. The study will also try to identify innovations and practices that mosques can adopt in fulfilling their role in a changing Islamic society. By referring to previous research and combining these findings with new findings, this study is expected to provide a deeper understanding of the role of mosques in contemporary Islamic society.

As the plurality and complexity of Muslim societies in different parts of the world increases, research into the role of mosques as educational and social centers is becoming increasingly important in understanding the dynamics of contemporary Islamic societies. These developments create new opportunities and challenges that need to be understood in depth to ensure that the role of mosques remains relevant and beneficial to a diverse Muslim community. In this context, this study tries to dig deeper into the role of mosques as a vehicle for forming the identity of individuals and Muslim communities. Mosques are not only places of worship but also cultural and spiritual centers that play a crucial role in shaping the understanding of Muslims' religious, social, and cultural identity (Cheema, Scheyvens, Glavovic, & Imran, 2014; Ismail & Rasdi, 2010). The study attempts to answer questions about how mosques help individuals articulate and strengthen their Muslim identity and how this affects their integration into broader society.

Thus, this study is expected to provide a comprehensive overview of the complexity of the role of mosques in contemporary Islamic society. It is relevant for academic understanding and has significant practical implications in promoting education, social harmony, and well-being among Muslims and the wider community. Through a deeper understanding of the role of the mosque, it can better harness its full potential as an empowered educational and social center for the Muslim community.

This study uses a literature study with integrative and comprehensive literature analysis. The researcher will collect, review, and analyze relevant literature sources, including scientific articles, books, research reports, and other related literature. In this way, the researcher will ensure that a solid theoretical

basis and a deep understanding of the role of mosques as educational and social centers in Islamic societies support the study. An integrative and comprehensive analysis of the literature will provide a solid framework for this study, allowing it to examine the development of concepts and findings from previous research and explore recent developments in this field. Thus, this study will be supported by a broad and in-depth understanding of the role of mosques in Islamic society.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Educational Function of Mosques

The educational function within mosques is a topic that arouses significant academic and Social Interest in the context of Islamic societies. As a central institution in the lives of Muslims, the mosque serves as a place of worship and an educational center that plays a crucial role in shaping Muslims' religious understanding, morality, and culture. Mosques serve as important centers of spiritual learning for Muslims. It is a place where individuals, especially the younger generation, can learn about the teachings of Islam, the Quran, Hadith, and religious practices (Abu-Ras, Gheith, & Cournos, 2008; Isnaini, Nyimasmukti, Rahawarin, & Asrida, 2019). Through religious education and training conducted in mosques, individuals can understand the principles of Islam, practice worship properly, and strengthen their relationship with Allah. This is an essential foundation in the development of deep religious understanding.

In addition to religious education, mosques also play a role in conveying important social values in Islamic Society. Individuals can learn about ethics, morality, tolerance, and social responsibility inside the mosque. Thus, mosques teach aspects of religion and help shape better individuals in terms of behavior and social interaction. This has important implications in building a civilized and just society. In addition, the educational function in the mosque also includes character development. The mosque strives to form individuals with strong personalities, integrity, and. Through moral teaching and character education, mosques contribute to the formation of individuals who are responsible, honest, and caring towards others. This positively impacts Islamic society because solid character is the foundation of good leadership and sustainable contribution.

It is essential to understand that the educational function within a mosque is not limited to formal education but also informal education. During social events, recitation, and other religious activities in mosques, many lessons and values are conveyed through lectures, discussions, and unstructured social interactions. This makes the mosque a holistic educational center that shapes various aspects of the lives of individual Muslims. However, in understanding the educational function within a mosque, it is also necessary to recognize that this

role does not always go smoothly or without challenges. Mosques, like other institutions, often face specific obstacles.

One of the challenges that mosques may face is the lack of funding and personnel who can play the role of educators and educational leaders. Mosques with these limitations may have difficulty providing comprehensive and quality educational programs. In addition, mosques can also face challenges in terms of academic relevance. In today's information age, where access to information resources is vast, mosques must compete with various media and other platforms in delivering educational messages. Therefore, mosques need to adopt a creative and relevant approach so that their education remains attractive to the younger generation who are used to technology. However, despite these challenges, mosques also have great opportunities to develop and strengthen their educational function. By leveraging modern technologies such as online platforms and social media, mosques can reach more people and provide broader access to Islamic education. In addition, collaboration with formal educational institutions and other religious organizations can also enrich the mosque's academic program and expand its reach.

In this era filled with social, economic, and political complexity, the educational function within mosques is becoming increasingly important. Mosques can serve as centers that strengthen religious understanding and equip individuals with the skills, values, and leadership necessary to contribute positively to society (Mu'is, 2020; Sheikhi, Seyedin, Qanizadeh, & Jahangiri, 2021). Therefore, continuous research and reflection on improving the mosque's educational function is very relevant in the face of challenges and opportunities. With a holistic approach and based on a deep understanding of the Islamic community, mosques can play a more significant role in guiding Muslims toward a brighter future.

In addition to the challenges and opportunities mentioned earlier, it should be understood that the educational function within mosques also has broader implications in the context of Islamic Society. One of the most striking implications is the role of mosques in maintaining the religious and cultural identity of Muslims. Amid globalization and foreign cultural influences, mosques often serve as Guardians of the authenticity of Islamic values and traditions. They became places where the Arabic language was learned, Islamic culture was preserved, and traditional values were passed on from generation to generation. In addition, the educational function within mosques can also play a role in promoting tolerance and interreligious dialogue. Although mosques are the main places of worship for Muslims, they can also be meeting places between Muslims and adherents of other religions. Educational initiatives and interfaith dialogue activities in mosques can help understand the similarities and differences between

faiths, opening the door to mutual understanding and cooperation among religious communities (Everett, 2018; Karimullah, Faizin, & Islami, 2023).

In some contexts, mosques also play a role in providing broader education, including secular education. This is especially the case in countries with education systems centered around mosques. Although formal education is supposed to be under the jurisdiction of educational institutions, mosques are often place where additional lessons or skills training are conducted. This shows the flexibility of mosques' role in answering the community's educational needs. It is also important to note that the educational function within a mosque is not only about the transfer of knowledge and religious values but also about the empowerment of individuals and communities.

Mosques can be center that help Muslims develop practical skills, such as social skills, leadership, and work skills. This is essential in assisting individuals to become active members of society and contribute positively. In addition, in some cases, mosques may also provide formal education, especially in areas where access to formal education is limited. A mosque can be a place where basic or further education programs are organized for individuals who want to improve their skills. This is an example of how mosques can play a role in fighting alcoholism and providing access to education for those less fortunate.

However, in detailing the role of education within mosques, one should also be aware that there are differences between mosques regarding resources, educational approaches, and societal influence. Some mosques may have more excellent resources and be able to host more extensive educational programs, while others may be limited in capacity. Therefore, it is essential to adopt a contextual approach and consider individual and community differences in assessing the educational function of mosques. In addition, it is necessary to continue encouraging research and reflection on the educational process within mosques. With a deeper understanding, mosques can continue to improve the effectiveness of their academic programs, adapt to changing times, and meet the diverse educational needs in Islamic societies. Thus, the mosque will remain a relevant and empowered academic center, making a meaningful contribution to the development of individuals and a better society.

It is essential to recognize that the role of education within the mosque affects the individual personally and has a broader impact on Islamic society. The education provided by mosques can shape the thinking and attitude of Muslims towards social, political, and cultural issues. Therefore, mosques have the potential to be agents of significant social change in society. One concrete example of the social impact of education within mosques is their role in combating extremism and intolerance. Mosques that provide balanced and in-depth instruction on actual Islamic values can help prevent radicalization and extremism. They can teach a correct understanding of religion, tolerance, and

cooperation among religious believers, which is the key to building a peaceful and harmonious society.

Education in mosques can also play a role in addressing the social problems Islamic societies face. For example, in the context of gender inequality, mosques can convey messages about equality and women's rights in Islam. They can provide education that combats domestic violence and eliminate practices that harm women. Thus, the mosque plays not only the role of a religious center but also a source of social and humanitarian understanding. However, to maximize the positive impact of education within mosques, it is essential to ensure that actual Islamic values deliver education and that mosques deeply understand the social and cultural issues Muslim communities face. With a strong commitment and a deep understanding of their role, mosques can become educational centers that are empowered, relevant, and bring significant benefits to the Muslim community and the world.

The Role of Mosques in Social Services

Mosques, as centers of religious activity in Muslim societies, have a much more significant role than simply as places of worship. Mosques' primary role in spreading the Islamic religion's teachings has been recognized for a long time. Still, it should be noted that mosques also play an essential role in social services to the Muslim community and surrounding communities. Mosques often act as social services centers in emergencies and humanitarian crises. Mosques provide shelter for refugees and communities affected by natural disasters or conflicts. It creates a haven for those needing immediate protection and provides humanitarian assistance such as food, clean water, shelter, and emergency medical care. In this context, the mosque is a place of worship and a central point for a rapid and effective humanitarian response.

In addition to emergency response, mosques also play a role in delivering sustainable social services to communities. It includes feeding programs for the underprivileged, clothing distribution, and access to housing for people who are homeless. Mosques often collaborate with charitable organizations and other humanitarian agencies to assist the needy. By doing this, mosques help reduce poverty and inequality in society. Not only that, the mosque also plays a role in social education. They organize educational programs on various social issues, including family education, reproductive health, and women's rights. These programs help increase public awareness and understanding of the relevant problems, which can lead to positive behavioral change and improved social well-being.

Health care is another area where mosques often make a meaningful contribution. Some mosques have clinics or health centers that provide essential medical services to the underprivileged. Mosques can also organize health campaigns, such as vaccinations or free health checks (Chaudhary et al., 2019;

Tamura, Kotani, Katsura, & Okai, 2022). It helps improve access to primary health care, especially in areas with limited medical facilities. In addition, mosques can also play a crucial role in the economic empowerment of communities. Mosques may host skills training, small business programs, or microcredit programs to help individuals build livelihoods and reduce unemployment. This helps increase people's economic independence and allows them to achieve financial sustainability.

In addition to its direct role in social services, the mosque can become a center for advocacy and social change in society. Mosques can be a prime mover in promoting equality, human rights, and peace. Mosques can be places where social and political issues are discussed, tested, and advocated. In this context, mosques can serve as a voice representing the interests of the Muslim community on essential topics such as discrimination, inequality, and human rights abuse. In addition, education in mosques also has a vital role in combating extremism and radicalization. Mosques can be educational centers that encourage a correct understanding of moderate Islamic teachings and teach the values of tolerance, inclusivity and dialogue. By doing this, mosques help deter extremist groups trying to exploit incomprehension or social instability to recruit members.

The use of modern technology can also expand the role of mosques in social services. Through online platforms, mosques can disseminate information about their social programs, garner support, and organize social activities more efficiently. It also allows the mosque to connect with the broader community, including those who may not be physically present at the mosque. It is also important to remember that social services in mosques must be based on Islamic values that encourage kindness, justice, and concern for others. It includes matters such as *zakat* (charitable giving), *sadaqah* (donation), and the obligation to help needy people. As religious institutions, Mosques have a moral responsibility to ensure that the social services they provide are consistent with the principles of the Islamic religion.

It is undeniable that the role of mosques in social services is essential and valuable. However, it should be noted that the mosque must continue developing its ability to deal with the ongoing societal changes. One of the main challenges is ensuring that social services provided by mosques cover all walks of life in need, regardless of their social, economic, or cultural background. In addition, mosques also need to ensure that the social services they provide are reactive to existing problems and proactive in preventing social problems. This means engaging in community education about relevant social issues, such as mental health, drugs, or domestic violence. Mosques can be counseling and social awareness centers that help prevent this societal problem.

To achieve sustainability in social services, mosques must also find sustainable resources. This includes fundraising efforts and gaining support from

governments, non-governmental organizations, or individual donors. With substantial financial backing, mosques can expand the reach and impact of social services. In addition, mosques can also work with other organizations in the community, including governments, educational institutions, and health institutions, to improve coordination and efficiency in social services. This creates synergies that maximize social service outcomes and avoid overlapping or duplicating programs.

In the globalization and Information Technology era, mosques can utilize modern communication tools to garner support, coordinate activities, and disseminate information to the community. Social media platforms and websites can create awareness about existing social programs in mosques and invite active participation from the district (Peucker & Ceylan, 2017; Rifat, Chen, & Toyama, 2017). In the development of the role of mosques in social services, it is essential to maintain a balance between religious values and social and humanitarian aspects. This ensures that the social services provided are respectable, sustainable, and relevant to Islamic values that encourage caring, justice, and kindness towards others.

In a world that is constantly changing and societies that face a variety of social challenges, the role of mosques in Social Services has invaluable potential in helping individuals and communities get through adversity and achieve well-being. With firm commitment, cross-sector cooperation, and adaptation to change, mosques can continue to provide hope and support for the needy in Muslim communities and worldwide. Social services in mosques should also include a holistic approach to welfare. This means providing material assistance and helping individuals and families develop the skills, knowledge and resources they need to be independent. Job training, counseling, and daily-life skill-building programs can be essential to these social service efforts.

Maintaining transparency in managing funds and resources used for social services is also essential. The community has the right to know how zakat funds, alms, and other donations are used to help those in need. By providing clear reports on the use of funds, mosques can build trust in the community. In addition, mosques can also take advantage of innovative approaches to social services. These include using technology to identify and reach individuals or families needing assistance, implementing more creative economic empowerment programs, or using social media to raise awareness about social issues.

In the face of increasingly complex social challenges, mosques must also have a deep knowledge and understanding of contemporary issues. It covers climate change, migration, global health, and social change. Mosques can design relevant and sustainable social service programs by understanding these issues. Furthermore, ongoing evaluation and reflection are an integral part of developing

the role of mosques in social services. Mosques should be open to community feedback and regularly measure their programs' impact. This allows the mosque to improve its program and adapt to social needs changes.

The Role of Mosques in the Development of Religious Identity

In the context of Islamic societies rich in culture and history, the role of mosques is not limited to the function of worship alone. Mosques also serve as centers for developing religious identity for Muslim individuals and communities. Religious identity is an integral part of a Muslim's life, and mosques have great potential to shape, strengthen, and nurture this religious identity through various means, including education, socialization, and spiritual practice.

One of the central roles of mosques in developing religious identity is through religious education. Mosques are often the first place where individuals, especially children, get Islamic religious education (Gale, 2005; McLoughlin, 2005). They learn about spiritual teachings, moral values, and worship practices. This helped form the basis of their spiritual understanding and identity. This education can also help strengthen an individual's belief in the teachings of Islam and consolidate their religious identity.

In addition to education, the mosque serves as a place of religious socialization. Individuals interact with communities within mosques with common spiritual values, beliefs, and practices. This created solid social ties that strengthened their religious identity. In addition, the mosque is also a place where individuals can participate in various religious activities such as congregational prayers, spiritual discussions, scripture studies, and religious celebrations. Participation in these activities strengthens the individual's religious experience and deepens their religious identity.

In addition, mosques also play a role in facilitating the process of forming religious identity through the part of leaders and scholars. Mosque leaders and clerics act as spiritual guides and authorities in religious matters. They provide interpretation and direction on how to live the teachings of Islam in everyday life. These interactions with religious leaders help individuals understand their religion more deeply and form a strong religious identity.

In the modern era, with the challenges of globalization and religious pluralism, the role of mosques in developing religious identity also includes an understanding of diversity. Mosques can be places where individuals learn to respect and understand other religions while strengthening their religious identity. This creates an inclusive and tolerant religious identity, an essential aspect of an increasingly multicultural society.

Mosques provide a space for individuals to communicate with God through worship, such as prayer, dhikr, or reading the Quran. It is the moment when the individual feels the divine presence and contemplates the meaning of

their being. This process helps deepen religious identity as individuals feel closer to Islamic teachings and values. In addition, mosques are also a place for individuals to seek answers to complex religious questions. Religious discussions, scripture studies, and religious lectures in mosques provide a platform to understand and reflect on deeper spiritual aspects. This helps individuals build a more mature understanding of their religion and permeate their religious identity.

The role of the mosque in developing religious identity is also related to its social function. Mosques are often community centers active in social, cultural, and religious activities (Kessler, 2015; Nyhagen, 2019). Participation in these activities helps individuals feel more connected to the larger Muslim community. Their religious identity is formed not only as an individual identity but also as part of a broader collective identity. In addition, a mosque can also be a place where individuals learn about the social and ethical values expected in Islam. These include Justice, concern for others, and ethics in social relationships. Understanding and applying these values helps strengthen a religious identity rooted in strong moral principles.

The role of mosques in the development of religious identity is also relevant in the context of a multicultural society. Mosques can be places where individuals learn to respect differences and understand how their religious identities interact with diverse communities. This creates an inclusive religious identity and helps build bridges between cultures. Through structured religious education, mosques help individuals understand the fundamentals of Islamic teachings, its history, and underlying moral principles. This education forms a strong foundation for religious identity, as individuals have a deeper understanding of their religion and why they practice it. In addition, mosques also play a role in providing a place for deeper religious study and research. This is important for individuals who wish to undergo a more serious and in-depth analysis of religion. Through access to pastoral resources and guidance from competent religious scholars, mosques assist individuals in undergoing deeper spiritual exploration.

The role of mosques in developing religious identity also involves the promotion of tolerance and respect for differences in an increasingly pluralistic society. Mosques can be centered on interreligious and intercultural dialogue, which helps individuals understand differences in religious viewpoints and practices. It enriches religious identity with a broader understanding of diversity. In addition to education and discussion, mosques also play a role in shaping daily spiritual practices. This includes the implementation of congregational prayers, fasting during Ramadan, alms, and the performance of other worship services. These practices strengthen religious identity and create strong bonds with the larger Muslim community.

The role of mosques in developing religious identity also includes setting a good example and role model. Mosque and community leaders who behave according to the principles of the True Religion inspire individuals to follow in their footsteps. Religious, solid, positive role models often influence strong religious identities in mosques. In the modern information age, mosques can leverage social media and technology to spread spiritual messages and facilitate online religious education. This gives more comprehensive access to individuals who want to strengthen their religious identity without being limited to the physical location of the mosque.

Mosques also play a role in providing opportunities for individuals to do good and give assistance to others. Social services organized by mosques, such as sadaqah programs, help to the poor, and support for orphans, are concrete manifestations of the practice of moral values in Islam. Through participation in these activities, individuals deepen their religious identity in ways that benefit society. In addition, the mosque also provides a container for individuals to practice patience, grit, and self-control. Fasting during Ramadan, one of Islam's main pillars is a concrete example of how mosques help individuals hone self-discipline and self-control. It is integral to developing a strong religious identity as individuals learn to face challenges and temptations in life with confidence and self-control.

The role of mosques in developing religious identity is also associated with creating a positive attitude towards fellow human beings. Islam encourages compassion, caring, and justice in interindividual and inter-communal relationships (Karimullah, 2023). Through discussions and religious studies, mosques help individuals understand the importance of behaving well towards others within the Muslim community and in the broader context. In addition, mosques also educate individuals about the values of fair leadership and social responsibility. Good mosque leaders are role models in practising Islamic moral and ethical values in their leadership. It helps shape an individual's understanding of how these values can be applied in societal leadership roles.

As centres of religious and social activity, Mosques serve as links that unite individuals from different social, economic, and cultural backgrounds in a single community. This creates opportunities for such individuals to interact with each other, share experiences, and strengthen their sense of unity as members of the Muslim community. One of the ways mosques maintain social solidarity is through congregational prayer. Congregational prayer is the practice of worship that gathers the Muslim community in worship together in a mosque. This created a solid social bond as they came together to perform religious obligations. Through congregational prayer, individuals feel more connected to the community and deepen their religious identity.

In addition to prayers, the mosque hosts various social and cultural events that unite the community. These include celebrations of Islamic holidays, charity events, and social activities such as fundraising for humanitarian causes. Participation in these events strengthens social solidarity and religious identity by celebrating Islamic traditions and values together. Mosques also serve as places for individuals to pursue common interests, such as economic empowerment programs or education. Collaboration in these projects creates closer relationships between individuals and deepens their sense of involvement in the community. It helps maintain social solidarity, essential in forming a unified religious identity.

Mosques can also play a role in dealing with conflicts and differences within communities. When there is disagreement or tension, mosques can be a place for dialogue, deliberation, and finding solutions that advance the community's common interests. This is part of the mosque's role in nurturing social solidarity and nurturing positive relationships between diverse individuals. Furthermore, mosques can also play a role in rallying support and social action in emergencies or crises. They can be coordination centres to help individuals affected by disasters or other difficult situations. Social solidarity in moments like these is key to providing the necessary support to fellow Muslims. This social solidarity deepens religious identity and creates communities that unite and support each other in their spiritual journey. A solid religious identity and preserved social solidarity are a source of strength for the Muslim community in the face of various challenges in modern life. Thus, mosques have great potential to be an essential resource in building strong social relationships and supporting positive societal change.

CONCLUSION

Mosques play an integral role in the life of the Islamic community as centres of education, social service, and the development of religious identity. The educational function of mosques is to help deepen religious and moral understanding, facilitate the development of skills, and create opportunities for leadership and individual character development. Furthermore, the role of mosques in social services inspires individuals to participate in helping those in need, building social solidarity, and stimulating positive change in the community. In addition, mosques become places where individuals feel the power of their religious identity and feel connected to the larger community, fostering a sense of social responsibility and humanity. Thus, the role of mosques as educational and social centres in Islamic societies is an essential element in strengthening the Muslim community and contributing to the welfare of society as a whole.

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