



Analysis of the Theory of Al-Maqāṣid asy-Syarī'ah in Sustainable Economic Development

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ABSTRACT

Sustainable economic development has emerged as a critical challenge in our increasingly globalised world, where environmental degradation and social inequities pose significant threats to future prosperity. The urgency of this issue is underscored by recent reports indicating that over 1 billion people still live in extreme poverty, while climate change continues to exacerbate existing vulnerabilities. In this context, the theory of Al-Maqāṣid asy-Syarī'ah provides a relevant framework for addressing these multifaceted challenges, as it focuses on the preservation of human welfare and the promotion of social justice. Central to this theory are the principles of maslahah, which advocate for actions that yield the greatest benefit for society, thereby aligning economic activities with ethical and moral values. This article seeks to analyse the application of Al-Maqāṣid asy-Syarī'ah in the realm of sustainable economic development, underscoring its potential to foster holistic community welfare. Employing a qualitative methodology, this study will delve into pertinent literature, elucidate the research methods employed, and present the findings that emerge from the analysis. It is anticipated that the insights gleaned from this research will illuminate the significance of integrating Islamic principles into sustainable economic practices, ultimately contributing to a more equitable and environmentally sound future. By recognising the interconnectedness of economic, social, and environmental factors, we can pave the way for a development model that is not only sustainable but also just and inclusive.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Sustainable economic development is an effort to meet the needs of the current generation without sacrificing the ability of future generations to meet their needs. This concept is increasingly vital in our rapidly changing world, where environmental degradation and social inequality pose significant threats to long-term prosperity. Within this context, the theory of Al-Maqāṣid asy-Syarī'ah, which focuses on the overarching goals and benefits of Islamic law, provides a robust framework for achieving a balance between economic growth and environmental sustainability. According to Ali (2007), Al-Maqāṣid asy-Syarī'ah encompasses five primary objectives: the protection of religion, soul, mind, descendants, and property. Among these, the safeguarding of property and life is particularly pertinent in the pursuit of just and equitable social welfare, highlighting that an approach rooted in Islamic values extends beyond mere theoretical constructs and can be effectively operationalised in practical development initiatives.

Moreover, this theoretical framework underscores the significance of maslahah, or public interest, which serves as a foundational principle for making informed economic decisions. Abubakar (2016) posits that the integration of scientific methods within ushul fiqh can facilitate the identification of maslahah that aligns with contemporary social and economic conditions. This alignment is crucial, as it fosters an environment where the principles of Al-Maqāṣid asy-Syarī'ah can stimulate innovation and sustainability across various economic sectors, particularly in the development of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs). The relevance of this approach is underscored by the increasing global challenges we face, including climate change, social injustice, and economic crises, which necessitate a concerted effort from all stakeholders to incorporate the principles of Al-Maqāṣid asy-Syarī'ah into

economic development strategies.

Given this backdrop, the rationale for this study emerges from the pressing need to explore how the principles of Al-Maqāṣid asy-Syarī'ah can be practically applied within the framework of sustainable economic development in Indonesia. The purpose of writing this paper is to not only elucidate the theoretical underpinnings of Al-Maqāṣid asy-Syarī'ah but also to investigate its practical implications and the positive impacts that can arise from its application. By delving into this exploration, the study aims to contribute to the broader discourse on sustainable development, demonstrating that the integration of Islamic values into economic practices can yield significant benefits for society as a whole. Ultimately, this research seeks to provide insights that can guide policymakers, practitioners, and scholars in fostering a more sustainable and equitable economic future, thereby ensuring that the needs of both current and future generations are adequately met.

The literature on Al-Maqāṣid asy-Syarī'ah has grown rapidly, particularly within the context of its application in the economic domain. This burgeoning interest underscores the increasing recognition of the relevance of maqāṣid sharī'ah not only in spiritual matters but also in addressing pressing social and economic challenges faced by contemporary societies. Asy-Syāṭibi (1997), in his seminal work "Al-Muwāfaqāt fī Uṣūl asy-Syarī'ah," articulates that maqāṣid sharī'ah encompasses a holistic approach that integrates spiritual, social, and economic dimensions, thereby providing a comprehensive framework for understanding Islamic law. This perspective is echoed by Al-Qaraḍāwī (2010), who highlights the critical role of maqāṣid in the equitable and sustainable management of economic resources. Such insights suggest that the principles of Al-Maqāṣid asy-Syarī'ah can serve as a guiding framework for fostering an economic system that transcends mere financial profitability to encompass positive social and environmental outcomes.

The application of Al-Maqāṣid asy-Syarī'ah principles within the context of a sustainable economy is exemplified by the burgeoning field of Islamic finance. Sahroni and Karim (2016) elucidate that Islamic finance diverges from conventional financial paradigms by prioritising not only profit maximisation but also the social and environmental ramifications of investment decisions. This distinctive approach positions Islamic financial institutions as pivotal actors in promoting sustainable projects that yield benefits for the broader community. By financing initiatives such as renewable energy ventures and the development of environmentally friendly infrastructure, Islamic finance emerges as a powerful instrument for advancing sustainability-oriented efforts. This alignment of financial practices with ethical considerations reflects a growing awareness of the interconnectedness of economic activities and their impacts on society and the environment.

Moreover, Rizdwan Ahmad (2008) underscores the significance of the *maslahah* and *mafsadah tarjih* methodology within Islamic jurisprudence, which advocates for economic decisions that weigh the positive and negative consequences for both society and the environment. By adhering to these principles, it is anticipated that economic development can be harmonised with environmental conservation and social welfare. The empirical evidence supporting this assertion is compelling; statistics indicate that sectors embracing sustainability principles, such as renewable energy and organic agriculture, are witnessing remarkable growth. A report by the Global Sustainable Investment Alliance (GSIA) in 2020 revealed that total assets managed sustainably reached an impressive USD 30.7 trillion, reflecting a 34% increase compared to 2018. This significant uptick not only illustrates the growing appetite for sustainable investment but also highlights the vast potential for integrating the principles of Al-Maqāṣid asy-Syarī'ah within these sectors, promising not only economic advantages but also substantial social benefits.

Consequently, the existing body of literature demonstrates that the application of Al-Maqāṣid asy-Syarī'ah in sustainable economic development is not merely relevant but also contributes positively to societal welfare and environmental integrity. The rationale for further investigation into this topic lies in the necessity to deepen our understanding of how these principles can be effectively implemented across diverse economic sectors and to identify the challenges that may arise during this process. As we navigate the complexities of global economic systems, it becomes increasingly imperative to explore innovative frameworks that align with ethical considerations and promote sustainable practices.

The purpose of writing this paper is to elucidate the multifaceted nature of Al-Maqāṣid asy-Syarī'ah and its implications for sustainable economic development. By synthesising existing literature and empirical evidence, this study aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the principles underpinning maqāṣid sharī'ah and their practical applications in fostering an economy that is not only profitable but also socially and environmentally responsible. In doing so, it seeks to contribute to the ongoing discourse surrounding the integration of Islamic principles into contemporary economic practices, thereby offering insights that may inform policymakers, scholars, and practitioners alike.

The intersection of Al-Maqāṣid asy-Syarī'ah and sustainable economic development presents a promising avenue for addressing the multifaceted challenges of our time. The principles encapsulated within maqāṣid sharī'ah provide a robust framework for guiding economic activities towards outcomes that are equitable, sustainable, and beneficial for all stakeholders involved. As such, it is essential to pursue further research that not only explores the successful implementation of these principles across various sectors but also addresses the potential obstacles that may hinder progress. By doing so, we can better understand how to leverage the wisdom embedded within Al-Maqāṣid asy-Syarī'ah to create an economic landscape that prioritises the well-being of society and the environment, thus paving the way for a more sustainable future.

2. METHOD

This research employs a qualitative literature study approach to examine the relationship between Al-Maqāṣid asy-Syarī'ah and sustainable economic development. By conducting a thorough review of various sources, including academic books, journal articles, and research reports, the study aims to delve deeply into the concepts and assess the applicability of Al-Maqāṣid asy-Syarī'ah in different contexts. The data gathering process focused on identifying and evaluating literature related to the principles of Al-Maqāṣid, *maslahah* (public interest), and sustainable economic development. In addition to the literature review, relevant national and international case studies were analyzed to highlight best practices in implementing these principles. The research seeks to explore how Al-Maqāṣid asy-Syarī'ah can be integrated into economic development policies and strategies while assessing their societal and environmental implications. The analysis considers prevailing social, cultural, and economic contexts to ensure actionable recommendations are relevant. The analytical framework includes both descriptive and comparative analyses; descriptive analysis clarifies the core concepts of Al-Maqāṣid and their role in sustainable economic development, while comparative analysis examines existing practices in countries or regions that have adopted these principles. Through this dual approach, the study aims to enhance the understanding and practical application of Al-Maqāṣid asy-Syarī'ah, ultimately providing stakeholders with recommendations for developing more sustainable policies that align with these principles. By addressing the intricate interplay between Islamic values and modern economic practices, the research aspires to contribute valuable insights to the discourse on sustainable development within diverse socio-economic contexts.

3. RESULT

The results of this study indicated that the application of the Al-Maqāṣid asy-Syarī'ah theory in sustainable economic development could yield significant benefits for society. By integrating the principles of *maqāṣid*, economic development was shown to extend beyond mere growth metrics to encompass community welfare and environmental preservation. This holistic approach was supported by data illustrating that sectors prioritising sustainability, such as renewable energy, experienced remarkable growth during the study period. For instance, investment in renewable energy in Indonesia saw a substantial increase, reflecting a growing awareness among stakeholders regarding the critical importance of sustainability in contemporary economic practices. Furthermore, the application of the *maslahah* principle in economic decision-making facilitated the identification of projects that maximised societal benefits. Infrastructure initiatives that accounted for social and environmental impacts notably enhanced community quality of life and fostered inclusive economic growth. This correlation suggested that decisions grounded in the principles of Al-Maqāṣid asy-Syarī'ah could engender more positive outcomes for society as a whole, thereby reinforcing the relevance of these principles in guiding effective economic policies.

Additionally, the study revealed that innovation and technology played a pivotal role in achieving sustainable development goals. The implementation of environmentally friendly technologies in production and distribution processes not only mitigated adverse environmental impacts but also bolstered efficiency and productivity. Consequently, investments in innovation and technology aligned with the principles of Al-Maqāṣid asy-Syarī'ah emerged as essential components in the pursuit of sustainability.

Moreover, collaboration among government entities, the private sector, and civil society was identified as a crucial factor in the successful implementation of the Al-Maqāṣid asy-Syarī'ah principles. Engaging all relevant stakeholders ensured that resulting policies were comprehensive and adept at addressing the multifaceted challenges inherent in sustainable economic development. This collaborative approach enhanced the effectiveness of development programmes aimed at achieving sustainability objectives. The findings of this study underscored the importance of integrating the Al-Maqāṣid asy-Syarī'ah theory into sustainable economic development frameworks. By doing so, stakeholders could formulate policies and strategies that not only promote economic growth but also contribute positively to community welfare and environmental conservation.

4. DISCUSSIONS

In this discussion, the application of the theory of Al-Maqāṣid asy-Syarī'ah in sustainable economic development will be explored in depth, encompassing several critical aspects. The protection of assets, which stands as one of the primary objectives of *maqāṣid syarī'ah*, holds particular relevance in the context of economic development. Proper management of assets is essential for ensuring economic sustainability, as these resources are foundational to both individual prosperity and societal welfare. Al-Būṭī (2001) emphasises that effective asset management yields benefits that extend beyond personal gain, positively impacting the community at large. Thus, the principles of Al-Maqāṣid asy-Syarī'ah can serve as a guiding framework for sustainable and responsible resource management, promoting practices that enhance the collective good.

Moreover, in the realm of sustainable development, it is imperative to consider the environmental implications of economic activities. The application of *maqāṣid* principles necessitates a dual focus on economic viability and environmental sustainability. For instance, in agriculture, the adoption of environmentally friendly organic farming practices exemplifies a commitment to achieving greater *maslahah* by preserving soil and ecosystem health (Al-Fanjari, 2010). This approach not only mitigates environmental degradation but also enhances the quality of life for communities reliant on these ecosystems.

Additionally, the social dimension of sustainable economic development warrants attention. Sustainable development transcends

mere economic growth; it also encompasses the reduction of poverty and the enhancement of community welfare. The role of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) is particularly significant, as this sector accounts for approximately 97% of the workforce and contributes 60% to national GDP, according to the Indonesian Central Statistics Agency (BPS). Supporting MSMEs within the framework of Al-Maqāṣid asy-Syarī'ah emerges as a viable strategy for fostering equitable social welfare.

Furthermore, innovation and technology are pivotal in actualising the principles of Al-Maqāṣid asy-Syarī'ah. The integration of technology can facilitate the development of more efficient and sustainable resource management solutions. For example, employing information technology in supply chain management can significantly reduce waste and enhance production efficiency. This aligns with Muzammil's (2010) assertion that innovation should prioritise societal *maslahah*. Therefore, investing in research and development of environmentally friendly technologies is crucial for sustainable economic progress.

Finally, collaboration among various stakeholders—including government, private sector, and community—is vital for achieving sustainable economic development goals. By fostering partnerships, we can formulate more effective and sustainable policies. Consequently, the implementation of Al-Maqāṣid asy-Syarī'ah principles in sustainable economic development necessitates the active participation of all parties to optimise outcomes. This collaborative effort will not only reinforce policy execution but also elevate public awareness and commitment to sustainability, thereby ensuring a holistic approach to economic, environmental, and social well-being.

5. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this study confirms that the theory of Al-Maqāṣid asy-Syarī'ah plays a pivotal role in fostering sustainable economic development. The principles inherent in *maqāṣid*, particularly the protection of property and the pursuit of *maslahah*, provide a robust framework that facilitates a harmonious balance between economic growth, social welfare, and environmental sustainability. This theoretical foundation not only addresses immediate economic needs but also ensures that development is equitable and mindful of future generations. By integrating these principles into economic strategies, there is a strong expectation that development can become more inclusive, thereby extending its benefits across all strata of society.

In the Indonesian context, the application of Al-Maqāṣid asy-Syarī'ah principles can serve as a catalyst for innovation, fostering an environment where community participation is encouraged and policies are crafted to be more responsive to the pressing challenges faced by society. For instance, initiatives that align with these principles can lead to the creation of sustainable business models that not only generate profit but also contribute positively to the community and environment. This alignment is crucial in a nation where diverse socio-economic challenges exist, highlighting the need for policies that are not only effective but also ethically grounded.

Moreover, further research is essential to explore the multifaceted application of this theory in a broader context, particularly in understanding how it can be adapted to various sectors and regions. Such research could provide valuable insights into the mechanisms through which *maqāṣid* can be operationalised within different cultural and economic frameworks. Therefore, it is vital for stakeholders—including government agencies, private sectors, and civil society—to engage in ongoing collaboration and demonstrate a steadfast commitment to implementing the principles of Al-Maqāṣid asy-Syarī'ah in sustainable economic development. By doing so, they can collectively work towards creating a more equitable and prosperous future for generations to come, ensuring that the benefits of development are shared widely and sustainably.

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