

A Comparison Of Philanthropic Contributions With Different Cultural Backgrounds : A Case Studi Of Indonesia and Malaysia

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Abstract

This essay analyzes philanthropic contributions in Indonesia and Malaysia, two nations with extremely different cultural histories, with a focus on literary studies. In the essay, the concept of charity is discussed along with how it has influenced Islamic culture in the two countries. Additionally, it examines the effects of historical, religious, and sociocultural contexts on the parallels and differences between Malaysian and Indonesian philanthropic cultures. The ideas of sadaqah, zakat, and waqf all include charitable giving in Indonesia; amal jariah and baitulmal do the same in Malaysia. Despite the fact that they approach philanthropy in different ways, both Indonesia and Malaysia have been able to establish exceptional initiatives that have a significant impact on society. Some of the challenges involved in putting philanthropy into practice in Indonesia and Malaysia, including a lack of collaboration between philanthropic groups and the government and a lack of accountability and transparency in the administration of philanthropic funding. Finally, this study provides a fascinating comparison of the significance of generosity in Malaysia and Indonesia, two nations with very different cultural traditions. The report addresses case examples of philanthropy in health and education, as well as the challenges that both countries faced when philanthropy was implemented.

Keywords : *Indonesia, Malaysia, Philanthropic*

Abstrak

Esai ini menganalisis kontribusi filantropi di Indonesia dan Malaysia, dua negara dengan sejarah budaya yang sangat berbeda, dengan fokus pada studi sastra. Dalam esai ini, konsep amal dibahas bersama dengan bagaimana hal tersebut mempengaruhi budaya Islam di kedua negara. Selain itu, esai ini juga mengkaji pengaruh konteks sejarah, agama, dan sosiokultural terhadap persamaan dan perbedaan budaya filantropi Malaysia dan Indonesia. Di Indonesia, gagasan sedekah, zakat, dan wakaf mencakup pemberian amal; di Malaysia, amal jariah dan baitulmal melakukan hal yang sama. Terlepas dari kenyataan bahwa mereka melakukan pendekatan filantropi dengan cara yang berbeda, baik Indonesia maupun Malaysia telah mampu membangun inisiatif luar biasa yang memiliki dampak signifikan pada masyarakat. Beberapa tantangan yang dihadapi dalam mempraktikkan filantropi di Indonesia dan Malaysia adalah kurangnya kolaborasi antara kelompok-kelompok filantropi dan pemerintah serta kurangnya akuntabilitas dan transparansi dalam pengelolaan dana filantropi. Akhirnya, penelitian ini memberikan perbandingan yang menarik tentang pentingnya kedermawanan di Malaysia dan Indonesia, dua negara dengan tradisi budaya yang sangat berbeda. Laporan ini membahas contoh-contoh kasus filantropi di bidang kesehatan dan pendidikan, serta tantangan yang dihadapi kedua negara ketika filantropi diimplementasikan.

Kata kunci: Indonesia, Malaysia, Philantropi

INTRODUCTION

Islam teaches about social justice and care for fellow humans in several ways, one of which is philanthropy or generosity. Philanthropy is described as the love of humanity expressed through charitable giving to others. The term literally implies the notion of the practice of voluntarily giving, voluntary service, and voluntary association to benefit others as an expression of love. It is derived from the Greek words *philos* (love) and *anthropos* (human).

Doctrinally speaking, generosity has existed ever since the Prophet Muhammad embraced Islam. The topic of Islamic philanthropy is one that appears to be overlooked from an academic and institutional standpoint and has not developed into a serious study, particularly in Indonesia. With the founding of Baitul Maal, institutional charity in Islamic history got its start. Only in the era of Umar bin Khatab, along with the expansion of the territory under Islamic rule, did the amount of funds managed and the diversity of Baitul Maal activities also increase and become more complex. During the time of the Prophet, Baitul Maal was established flexibly and without formality. Abu Bakr then carried on the organization. The caliph created an administrative and accounting system to handle these circumstances as a result of this situation. The Baitul Mal hired a number of Persian managers and accountants.

There are two types of philanthropy: traditional philanthropy and philanthropy for social justice, which differ in character. The practice of traditional philanthropy takes the form of donating for the benefit of social services, for instance direct gifts from benefactors to the needy in order to meet their daily needs. Traditional philanthropy is based on charity. The drawback, however, is that it cannot raise the poor's level of living or, in more concrete terms, that it simply provides a fishing rod (hook) and nothing else. This type of charity can reduce the gap between the rich and the poor, as opposed to the type that promotes social justice. In other words, this kind of philanthropy searches for the underlying causes of poverty, especially the inequality in resource distribution and access to power in society, in order to build the bridge by mobilizing resources to support initiatives that fight the structural inequalities that underlie poverty.

Philanthropy is also becoming more significant in Southeast Asia, particularly among academics, professionals, and decision-makers. For instance, charity has been important in helping social and environmental development in Malaysia. Numerous studies have been done that demonstrate changes in philanthropic patterns and traits, such as a transition from traditional charitable and faith-based philanthropy to modern philanthropy that is more organized and focused on long-term social impact.

In order to create future effective and long-lasting philanthropy initiatives, it is important to regularly study and understand trends and changes in philanthropy in Malaysia, much as in Indonesia. Therefore, additional research focusing on trends and changes in philanthropy can significantly contribute to understanding its dynamics and give philanthropic decision-makers and the government the right guidance.

Research that can offer insight into the evolution of philanthropic decisions, the sorts of organizations that are frequently supported, the quantity of money donated, and other factors that can influence philanthropic patterns is required in order to understand trends and changes in philanthropy. As a result, studies that examine philanthropic trends and changes can offer a more complete and pertinent picture of the dynamics of philanthropy in Indonesia and Malaysia as well as useful advice for philanthropic decision-makers and the government in creating efficient and long-lasting philanthropy programs.

RESEARCH METHOD

When conducting qualitative research using secondary data, the descriptive method is used to analyze information that has already been gathered for other studies and is present in the form of articles, journals, books, theses, etc. This approach can be utilized to address challenging research queries and to deepen knowledge of particular subjects. This approach can be utilized to address challenging research queries and to deepen knowledge of particular subjects. The first stage in conducting qualitative research using secondary data is to identify the study challenges and objectives. The most pertinent and reliable secondary data are then chosen from the secondary data acquired that is pertinent to the research issue. The data is then processed, examined, and compared to theories before being subjected to qualitative analysis techniques like content analysis or narrative analysis.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Definition of Philanthropy

Giving support or making gifts for charitable causes or the general good of society can be characterized as philanthropy in its entirety. Giving time, money, or other resources to nonprofit organizations, communities, or individuals in order to improve their quality of life is what is meant by philanthropy.

Filantropi has a variety of goals, depending on the circumstances or values that are brought up by an individual, a group, or an organization. Education as well as a variety of other fields may all be included in the filantropi's goals.(Fitriana 2018)

Additionally, philanthropy can be practiced in many ways, including monetary donations, technical support, community empowerment assistance, advocacy, and more. Creating charitable foundations or institutions, donating money to nonprofit organizations, offering educational scholarships, and helping during calamities or natural disasters are a few well-known examples of philanthropy. The improvement of people's lives and the well-being of communities is made possible by philanthropy, which also supports long-term social progress.

The holy books of Indonesia's six main legal faiths contain humanitarian treatises derived from their own traditions. Islam incorporates generosity within the ideas and practices of zakat, infaq, sadaqah, and waqaf. (Al-Syirazi 1997) Hinduism has a concept of philanthropy called as datria datriun, or zakat in Islamic terminology, and danapatra, or receiver. (Pirac 2002) Sutta nipata, or ethics, is a category for a comparable idea in Buddhism. These five fundamental principles—giving in trust, giving wisely, giving right away, giving sincerely, and giving so as not to hurt oneself or others—form the foundation of this teaching. The term "tithe" refers to the percentage of one's income that is required by law to be given to the church for the upkeep of the building, support of the clergy, promotion of its programs, and assistance to the needy (Thaha 2003). Philanthropy in the Confucian religious tradition can be connected to Mencius' love of the specific and Confucius' conception of mankind, both of which have virtues like justice, generosity, sincerity, earnestness, and kindness as ingrained qualities. (Thaha 2003)

First citizen philanthropy and organized philanthropy are the two categories under which philanthropy is classified in terms of governance. Citizen philanthropy is the act of giving that is typically done by one person, a group of people, or other citizens. Charity philanthropy is a subset of citizen philanthropy. While institutionalized and organized philanthropy is a type of philanthropy. The institution that this generosity takes the form of has an organizational structure, a vision, and a work program that govern how charitable donations are dispersed to the beneficiaries.

Giving assistance or making donations for the benefit of others or society at large is known as philanthropy. In some parts of the world, charity has a long history that extends back thousands of years.

Philanthropy is seen as a component of ancient Greek and Roman civilization in the West. Making donations to public or humanitarian projects was regarded as a noble gesture back then. Many well-known individuals, including Marcus Aurelius and Julius Caesar, were well-known for their contributions to civic causes.

The Church engaged in a variety of humanitarian endeavors during the Middle Ages in Europe. Rich people gave the Church donations, which the church then gave to the needy and the destitute. Philanthropy has long been ingrained in the cultures of people in Asia. Giving contributions or doing acts of charity is known as "dana" in India. Giving aid to the destitute is referred to as "ciyuan" or "cishan" in China, where philanthropy is also known as this.

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Philanthropy is still changing and evolving today. The expanding importance of private philanthropy in funding humanitarian and community activities is one of the largest trends in contemporary philanthropy. With the development of technology and social media, philanthropy as a practice has also transformed. Social media and crowdfunding platforms enable people to contribute money and directly support charitable causes.

On a worldwide scale, philanthropy is also being more and more incorporated into the social and sustainable development agenda. Philanthropy is a mechanism that is utilized to boost community capacity, advance peace, create infrastructure, and enhance the health and education systems. Philanthropy has a long history in Indonesia, from the tradition of royal dynasties making grants in the past to the emergence of contemporary philanthropic groups today. Leading philanthropic institutions in Indonesia include Rumah Zakat, Dompot Dhuafa, and Kusuma Buana Foundation. The lack of awareness and the culture of making regular and scheduled donations, as well as the lack of openness and accountability of current charitable organizations, remain obstacles to the development of philanthropy in Indonesia.

Social and economic development are significantly impacted by philanthropy as well. Numerous programs and projects can be carried out and benefit those in need thanks to donations and support given by philanthropists and philanthropic organizations. The act of philanthropy benefits the philanthropist or donor as well as the beneficiaries, and both parties benefit. Philanthropy can aid philanthropists in finding inner fulfillment, giving them a feeling of purpose in life, and enhancing their reputation and positive image. However, philanthropy has potential risks and difficulties to face, just like other social behaviors. Misuse of funds, a lack of accountability, and the impact of political and commercial interests on philanthropic initiatives are a few hazards and difficulties that philanthropic practices must deal with.

Philanthropic organizations must have strong openness and accountability, as well as have efficient monitoring and evaluation processes, in order to successfully manage these risks and difficulties. In order to significantly aid those in need, philanthropy must also be conducted with a sustainable method and long-term impact.

In the midst of crises and tragedies, philanthropy is also becoming more and more significant. During natural disasters or humanitarian emergencies, a large number of charitable organizations actively participate in offering assistance and support. They support the distribution of humanitarian aid, giving catastrophe victims access to clean water, food, shelter, as well as emotional support.

Additionally, philanthropy can aid in the struggle against social inequality and poverty. Many charitable organizations concentrate on anti-poverty initiatives like giving the underprivileged access to education, capital for their businesses, and training programs.

Philanthropy is crucial to advancing sustainable development globally and meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) established by the United Nations (UN). Philanthropy is expanding and is a key factor in increasing social welfare in the Indonesian context. Humanitarian relief, community empowerment initiatives, education, and health care are a few of Indonesia's top charitable initiatives. The absence of proper policy support and the lack of community involvement in philanthropic activities are two issues that must be addressed in order for Indonesia to promote philanthropy. Therefore, to continue advancing and enhancing philanthropic practices in Indonesia, a concerted effort is required from the public sector, the private sector, and the general public.

Philanthropy in Indonesia

In Indonesia, philanthropy, or the voluntary giving of money for social or humanitarian causes, has existed for a very long period. There was a giving tradition known as "dana" among the Hindu-Buddhist kingdoms of Indonesia. The kings, nobles, and wealthy individuals of the time donated land, treasures, and cash to erect stupas, monasteries, and temples.

Following Indonesia's conversion to Islam, the customs of zakat, sadaqah, and waqf developed as a means of charitable giving. Several prominent national figures, including HOS Tjokroaminoto, Ki Hadjar Dewantara, and KH Ahmad Dahlan, practiced philanthropy during the Dutch colonial period by founding schools and social institutions to benefit the local population. After Indonesia gained its independence, philanthropy flourished, particularly under President Soeharto's New Order regime. Through initiatives like Five-Year Development and Village Development, the government encouraged philanthropy and offered tax breaks to people and businesses who contributed to charitable, social, and humanitarian causes. (Kloos 2013)

However, due to the unsteady political and economic climate following the fall of the New Order regime in 1998, philanthropic activities in Indonesia decreased. However, some individuals, such as Chairul Tanjung and Dato Sri Tahir, continue to be involved in charitable endeavors through the foundations and charities they founded. With the rise of new charitable organizations and the expanding use of technology to speed up the collection of gifts and the distribution of relief to areas in need, philanthropy in Indonesia has increased recently. Today, Indonesian philanthropy plays a significant role in the country's efforts to address social and humanitarian issues.

Examples of well-known Indonesian philanthropists include:

1. Ciputra, an entrepreneur and philanthropist known for establishing several foundations such as the Ciputra Foundation and Ciputra Foundation, which focus on education, arts and culture, and small and medium business development.
2. Budi Soehardi, a philanthropist who founded Yayasan Dharma Bhakti Astra, which focuses on health, education, and community empowerment. The foundation has successfully built several health facilities such as Astra Hospital, as well as helping the education of children from underprivileged families.
3. Sri Mulyani Indrawati, a well-known philanthropist and Indonesia's finance minister. Through the foundations she founded, such as the Pelita Pendidikan Indonesia Foundation and the Rumah Energi Foundation, she participates in numerous social and humanitarian endeavors.
4. The artist and philanthropist Dian Sastrowardoyo from Indonesia. Through the Diakoneia Modern Campus Foundation, she is actively involved in assisting underprivileged children. She also started the #KitaBisa social movement to aid areas affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.
5. Tahir, a businessman and philanthropist who established the Tahir Foundation, which focuses on humanitarian help, health care, and education. The foundation has provided aid to several needy people and disaster victims in Indonesia.
6. Susi Pudjiastuti, a well-known philanthropist and former minister of maritime affairs and fisheries for Indonesia. Through the Susi Air Foundation, she actively supports coastal communities and fishermen. She also founded the Merah Putih Movement social community to support disaster victims and underprivileged communities in Indonesia.

Various philanthropic institutions and charities, including Dompot Dhuafa, Rumah Zakat, Tzu Chi Foundation, and the Indonesian Red Cross, also engage in charitable work in Indonesia. They concentrate on a variety of topics, including health, education, environmental issues, natural disasters, and community empowerment.

Examples of philanthropic initiatives carried out in Indonesia include:

1. Initiatives to build schools and other educational facilities or to provide educational aid programs for children from low-income families.
2. Health initiatives, such as the building of hospitals, the supply of health aid for the underprivileged or communities devastated by disasters, as well as the distribution of medications and medical equipment.
3. Initiatives for economic empowerment, such as those that help the underprivileged create small and medium-sized businesses or offer them training and financial assistance.
4. Programs that provide food, clean water, shelter, and medical aid in times of emergency, such as those caused by conflicts or natural catastrophes.

5. Environmental initiatives including campaigns to reduce plastic waste and the creation of public parks and trees.
6. Cultural and art initiatives, such as helping disadvantaged children with art education facilities and programs or holding art festivals to encourage Indonesia's cultural variety.
7. Various philanthropic organizations, foundations, charities, as well as people and businesses that care about social and humanitarian issues in Indonesia, carry out these charitable projects. In addition to giving money, they frequently give their time and energy to causes by volunteering or mentoring the underprivileged or other groups that need use assistance.

In recent years, the use of technology and social media has also expanded in philanthropic activities in Indonesia. Some examples include:

1. Online fundraising through platforms such as Kitabisa, GoFundMe, or KitaBantu.
2. Social media efforts to promote understanding and support for a range of social issues, such as initiatives to reduce plastic waste or raise money for disaster victims.
3. The use of technology, particularly in difficult-to-reach locations, to provide quicker and more effective support and access to health care, such as drones and health applications.
4. The creation of technology and innovation hubs to aid in the development of innovative and long-lasting solutions to Indonesia's many societal issues.

All of these innovations make it possible for more people to practice philanthropy and provide aid to underserved communities in Indonesia more effectively and efficiently.

Philanthropy in Malaysia

Since the beginning of time, Malaysians have been known for their humanitarian outlook, compassion, and kindness toward others. There have been numerous stages in Malaysia's history of philanthropy (Carstens 2005).

Prior to Malaysia's independence (Ahmad, N.H. and Ramayah 2012), the early phase. Before Malaysia became independent, philanthropy was primarily carried out by well-known people who took it upon themselves to assist those in need. Among them are Yap Kwan Seng, a well-known businessman active in numerous humanitarian endeavors in Kuala Lumpur, and Sultan Abu Bakar of Johor, who constructed hospitals and schools in Johor Bahru.

After Malaysia's Independence (Fasa Pertengahan). Following Malaysia's independence in 1957, the government was instrumental in advancing and broadening the philanthropic sector. The Jabatan Kebajikan Masyarakat was founded by the government in 1961 to coordinate charitable initiatives around the nation. In

order to aid those in need, charitable organizations like Majlis Kanser Nasional (1966) and Yayasan Sultanah Bahiyah (1974) were also founded at the same time.

Phase of Modernity (Since 2000). In Malaysia, philanthropy was promoted and expanded by both the government and the corporate sector more actively in the late 1990s and early 2000s. Suruhanjaya Kebajikan Malaysia was founded by the government in 1997 to encourage donations and participation in charitable endeavors by the general population. Through their corporate benevolence programs, private businesses are also increasingly taking the initiative to donate.

Overall, charitable giving in Malaysia is expanding and plays a significant part in assisting the poor. Hope for a better life for Malaysians is growing because to donations and initiatives from private individuals, the government, and the commercial sector.

In addition to these stages, there are other types of charity that are well-liked in Malaysia:

1. Business donations.

In recent years, corporate giving has gained popularity in Malaysia. Through their corporate benevolence programs, private businesses donate money to help the communities in which they operate.(Berhad, 2018)

2. Educational Initiatives

One of the most significant types of philanthropy in Malaysia is education projects. Talented students who cannot afford to continue their study can receive financial aid from a variety of charitable foundations and organizations.

3. Social Generosity

Social benevolence is a type of charity that provides monetary or in-kind aid to vulnerable populations such the disadvantaged, those who have suffered from natural catastrophes, the elderly, and abandoned children.

4. Donations from Religion

In Malaysia, there are numerous charitable foundations and religious organizations that provide financial aid to their congregations. For instance, well-known organizations in Malaysia that provide aid to the poor on a religious basis include Yayasan Wakaf Malaysia and Lembaga Zakat Selangor.(Mohd Noor, M., Suyurno, S.S. 2020)

5. Donating blood

In Malaysia, giving blood is a significant form of philanthropy. To help meet the need for blood for patients in hospitals around the nation, a variety of organisations work to encourage individuals to donate blood.

Among the prominent individuals in Malaysia engaged in philanthropy are:(Said,and Amiruddin 2019)

1. Tan Sri Mokhtar Al-Bukhary
Al-Bukhary Foundation was established by renowned Malaysian businessman Syed Mokhtar Al-Bukhary. He has given millions of ringgit to a number of causes, including mosque infrastructure development, health care, education, and social welfare
2. Tan Sri Vincent
Tan Sri Vincent Tan Foundation was started by renowned Malaysian businessman Vincent Tan. The charity helps communities living below the poverty line and donates money to kids in need.
3. Datuk Seri Razak
Former CIMB Group CEO and Yayasan Rakyat 1Malaysia founder Nazir Razak. The organization supports community development and donates money to deserving students.
4. Robert Kuok, Tan Sri
Robert Kuok is a well-known philanthropist and businessman from Malaysia. He has contributed millions of ringgit to a number of causes, including infrastructure development, social welfare, and education.
5. Dr. Datuk Jemilah Mahmood
Former Chairperson of the UN Office for Humanitarian Assistance and Security (UNOCHA) and medical specialist Dr. Jemilah Mahmood. She is renowned for her work on humanitarian missions in Palestine and Syria as well as her efforts to assist victims of natural catastrophes all around the world.

In addition to the aforementioned renowned people, Malaysia is home to several well-known foundations and organizations, such as:

1. Yayasan Sultan Ibrahim Johor
To help the people of Johor live better lives, DYMM Sultan Ibrahim Johor founded Yayasan Sultan Ibrahim Johor in 2014. The foundation donates money to support infrastructure development, social welfare, and education, among other causes.
2. Sime Darby Foundation
One of the biggest corporate charity foundations in Malaysia is the Sime Darby Foundation. The foundation makes donations to a number of causes, including environmental preservation, health, and social welfare.
3. Khazanah Foundation
The Kingdom of Malaysia formed Yayasan Khazanah in 2006, and since then, it has made donations in a number of areas, including infrastructure development, social welfare, and health care.
4. Table of National Abajas
A government charity called Tabung Kebajikan Negara seeks to assist those in need, including the underprivileged, the destitute, and those who have suffered from natural catastrophes.

5. The Petronas Foundation

In 1975, Petronas founded the corporate philanthropy foundation known as the Petronas Foundation. The foundation donates money to a number of causes, such as environmental preservation, social welfare, and education.

In addition, there are a lot of foundations and charity organizations created in Malaysia by people, families, or businesses. For instance, the Malaysian government-owned investment firm Khazanah Nasional formed the charity organization Khazanah organization. The foundation's primary areas of concentration are innovation and Malaysian human resource development.

In addition, a lot of wealthy Malaysians contribute a lot of money to charities. Tan Sri Vincent Tan, a well-known businessman in Malaysia, is one example. He has donated millions of ringgit to numerous nonprofits there.

In Malaysia, philanthropy has generally grown in importance, and many groups and people are working to give back to society through charity endeavors. The development of philanthropy in Malaysia demonstrates that there is a desire and dedication to make a difference in society and the environment, even if there is still much that needs to be done to solve social and environmental challenges in the nation.

Comparison of Philanthropic Contributions in Indonesia and Malaysia

The population, economy, amount of public knowledge of the value of philanthropy, and other factors may affect how charitable donations in Indonesia and Malaysia are compared. On the other hand, there are some discrepancies in philanthropic contributions between Indonesia and Malaysia, according to certain recent publications and data.

Approximately US\$1.5 billion in philanthropic donations were made in Indonesia in 2019 and US\$2.1 billion in Malaysia in 2018, according to the Global Philanthropy Report 2021. This shows that Malaysia has a greater philanthropic contribution compared to Indonesia given the difference in years. It is crucial to keep in mind that this comparison only takes into account declared donations and might not account for all philanthropic donations.

Additionally, there are differences between the two nations' philanthropic donation patterns. According to the Indonesia Philanthropy Report 2020, people make up the bulk of philanthropic gifts in Indonesia, whereas companies and foundations make up the majority of donations in Malaysia. This can mean that foundations and commercial groups in Malaysia are more aware of and interested in giving to charitable causes.

The two nations focus on various humanitarian endeavors in distinct ways. In Malaysia, charitable donations are more concentrated on religion and religious activities, whereas in Indonesia, philanthropic donations are more concentrated on health and education.

A more detailed comparison of philanthropic contributions in Indonesia and Malaysia from various angles:

1. Population and Economy

With an anticipated 273 million people in 2021, Indonesia will have a greater population than Malaysia, which will have 32 million people. Malaysia, however, has a greater GDP per person than Indonesia. The GDP per capita of Malaysia was approximately US\$11,243 in 2020, compared to only US\$4,174 for Indonesia.

2. Philanthropic Donations

In 2019, charitable gifts in Indonesia were about US\$1.5 billion, while those in Malaysia totaled about US\$2.1 billion, according to the Global Philanthropy Report 2021. It should be emphasized, nevertheless, that this comparison only takes into account declared donations and does not account for all philanthropic donations.

3. Source of Donations

The majority of philanthropic donations in Indonesia are given by individuals, while in Malaysia donations from companies and foundations are given more than individuals. This suggests that in Malaysia, business organizations and foundations have more awareness and interest in making philanthropic donations.

4. Types of Donations

In Indonesia, philanthropic donations are more focused on education and health, while in Malaysia philanthropic donations are more focused on religion and religious activities. However, both countries also have significant philanthropic donations in other areas such as the environment, community empowerment, and humanitarian aid.

a) The Government's Function

In Indonesia, the government has demonstrated support for the growth of philanthropy through various programs and regulations, such as tax breaks for charitable contributions and the establishment of the Indonesian Waqf Board to oversee waqf assets. In Malaysia, the government has also established a number of policies to promote philanthropy, including offering tax benefits and promoting corporate sector participation in charitable giving.

b) Community Participation

More and more people in Indonesia are engaged in charitable and civic activities, such as fundraising and volunteering. Additionally, there is a thriving philanthropic community in Malaysia that supports charitable causes and raises money for them.

Overall, philanthropy is growing and people are becoming more aware of the value of giving back to society, despite the differences between Indonesia and Malaysia's contributions to philanthropy. Philanthropy is highly regarded from a religious perspective since it involves looking out for the welfare of others. In the

context of Indonesia and Malaysia, both nations have a strong philanthropic culture that is rooted in the people's religious traditions. However, from a religious standpoint, there are some differences between philanthropic contributions in Indonesia and Malaysia. Here are a few of those variations:

1. Dominant religion

The largest Muslim-majority nation in the world is Indonesia, while Malaysia is also largely Muslim. This has an impact on the form and scope of giving in both nations. Islam recognizes charity as one of its five pillars, and both the Quran and Hadith make reference to it. In Indonesia, charitable endeavors are frequently linked to zakat, sadaqah, and infaq activities. While in Malaysia, the ideas of zakat, waqf, and charity tubes are also used to realize philanthropy.

2. The focus of philanthropic activities

In Indonesia, charitable giving is frequently directed toward charitable causes that benefit the underprivileged, victims of natural disasters, and orphans. While in Malaysia, philanthropy is more heavily weighted toward supporting mosque construction, health, and education. But the charitable work done by individuals in both nations is not just limited to these areas of interest; it also includes a wide range of other initiatives that are thought to be good for society.

3. The role of government in philanthropy

The part played by the government in philanthropy is another distinction. In Indonesia, the government plays a significant role in supporting charitable endeavors. This is demonstrated by the presence of programs like Bapak (Badan Amal dan Kemanusiaan Persatuan Arab Indonesia) and Baznas (Badan Amil Zakat Nasional), which were created to manage zakat and charity monies controlled by the community. On a smaller scale, the government of Malaysia also contributes significantly to encouraging charity.

4. Interfaith cooperation

In the context of Indonesia, philanthropy frequently entails collaboration between diverse religious groups, such as collaborative fundraising efforts carried out by various religious groups to aid catastrophe victims. Despite the fact that Muslims make up the majority of the population in Malaysia, interfaith cooperation in charitable endeavors is also highly regarded.

Overall, philanthropy makes an equally significant contribution to how religion is perceived in Indonesia and Malaysia, despite some differences in form, focus, and the role of government.

Challenges and Solutions for Philanthropy in Indonesia and Malaysia

The challenges of philanthropy in Indonesia (Janah 2020) and Malaysia have many similarities, but also significant differences. Here are some of the challenges of philanthropy in both countries:

1. Poverty Problem

One of the major obstacles to giving in Indonesia and Malaysia is poverty. Many individuals in both nations continue to live in poverty, not being able to meet even the most basic demands.

2. Social Inequality

One of the difficulties facing philanthropy in Indonesia and Malaysia is social inequality. This inequality is evident in the wealth divide, as well as in the disparity in access to healthcare and educational opportunities (Janah 2020)

3. Inadequate infrastructure

The lack of infrastructure in Indonesia and Malaysia continues to be a problem for philanthropy. Both countries still have some remote areas, making it challenging to deliver aid or services there.

4. Lack of supervision

In Indonesia and Malaysia, philanthropy faces additional difficulties due to a lack of control and stringent rules. This may result in the possible misuse or inefficient use of funds.

5. Socialization and Education

In Indonesia and Malaysia, philanthropic socialization and education remain difficult tasks. Many people are still unaware of the value of generosity and how to practice it correctly.

6. Cultural and Religious Differences

Indonesia and Malaysia have a lot of cultural and religious diversity which can be a challenge in conducting philanthropic activities. Some philanthropic activities may not be in line with certain religious or cultural values or beliefs.

7. Public Trust

Public confidence in charitable organizations is still quite low in Indonesia and Malaysia. This might make it difficult to raise money or provide relief because donors may have second thoughts about how their money will be used.

8. Skill Development

In Malaysia and Indonesia, there is still a need to expand the human resources and charitable talents. To be able to offer support and services in an efficient manner, many philanthropic organizations require educated and certified human resources.

9. Access to Technology

Some areas of Indonesia and Malaysia still struggle with access to technology. Effective service or help-giving may be difficult as a result, especially in difficult-to-reach places.

10. Lack of Collaboration

Another issue is the lack of cooperation between Malaysian and Indonesian charitable organizations. Some organizations might not get along well, which could cause overlap or duplication in charitable endeavors.(Mahfud 2018)

Philanthropic groups in Indonesia and Malaysia must work together better and coordinate their efforts to overcome this obstacle. In order to establish trust and spread knowledge about the value of philanthropy, they must also collaborate with the government and local communities. In order to increase the effectiveness of services and support, it is also required to enhance the human resources and philanthropic skills involved in such operations.

11. Proper Fund Management

In Indonesia and Malaysia, managing charity funds properly and effectively is another difficulty. Philanthropic organizations must make sure that the money they receive is spent efficiently, openly, and with a genuine positive impact on society.

12. Legal Challenges

Legal issues may also be a barrier to humanitarian endeavors in Indonesia and Malaysia. Philanthropic operations may be hampered by certain rules and regulations, thus organizations must make sure they follow all relevant laws when conducting their business.(Davis 2020)

To address these challenges, philanthropic organizations in Indonesia and Malaysia need to improve their capabilities in fund and resource management, and adapt to changing conditions. They also need to strengthen their networks and collaboration with government, communities and other organizations to increase the effectiveness and impact of philanthropic activities. In addition, they need to improve their ability to deal with legal and regulatory challenges.

Indonesia and Malaysia have great potential for philanthropy development as both countries have large populations and growing economies. In addition, the culture of mutual cooperation and concern for others is also a big asset in the development of philanthropy in these two countries.

Donations for social development, health care, disaster relief, and education are just a few of the charitable endeavors that are prevalent in Indonesia. Anak Nusantara Education Foundation, Dompot Dhuafa, and Bina Nusantara Foundation are a few instances of charitable organizations in Indonesia. The Indonesian government has also promoted the growth of philanthropy through a number of

policies and initiatives, including zakat, infaq, and sadaqah programs, as well as legal recognition for foundations and charitable organisations.

While in Malaysia, charitable endeavors include giving to causes related to religion, health, education, and social advancement are highly active. The Tun Rahah Foundation, Sime Darby Foundation, and Khazanah Foundation are a few instances of charitable organizations in Malaysia. The Malaysian government has also promoted the growth of philanthropy through a number of policies and initiatives, including zakat, infaq, and sadaqah programs, as well as legal recognition for philanthropic foundations and institutions.

Even though philanthropy in Indonesia and Malaysia has made progress, there are still many obstacles to overcome. The lack of public understanding of the value of philanthropy, the difficulty in accessing and distributing philanthropic money, and the lack of openness and accountability in the management of philanthropic funds are a few of these difficulties. Therefore, in order to develop philanthropy in these two nations, there is a need for collaboration between the public, private, and community sectors.

Several actions can be taken to take advantage of current opportunities when considering the chances for charitable contributions in Indonesia and Malaysia, including:

1. Raising Public Awareness

An effort needs to be made to educate the general public about the value of charity and the various ways they can become involved. Through various social media platforms or at public events, the government and charitable organizations can run campaigns or engage the public.

2. Improving Access and Distribution of Philanthropic Funds

Improvements must be made in the distribution and accessibility of charitable donations to far-flung or underdeveloped locations. To do this and make sure philanthropic money are distributed correctly, local organizations and local governments can form a network of collaboration. (Markhamah, M., Nindya, dkk 2021)

3. Improving Transparency and Accountability

Philanthropic organizations are required to manage their philanthropic funds with responsibility and openness. To ensure philanthropic donations are spent effectively and efficiently, this can be achieved by adopting good governance standards and publishing frequent financial reports.

4. Encouraging Innovation

Innovation in the methods used to carry out philanthropic activities is required to boost their efficacy and impact. Governments and charitable organizations

can support the creation of innovative technology or approaches that will boost the effectiveness and impact of charitable endeavors (Furqon 2015).

5. Enhancing Partnerships

To capitalize on one another's advantages and further their mutually beneficial philanthropic objectives, governments, philanthropic groups, and the private sector can form strategic alliances. For instance, while the private sector might offer financial support or other resources for philanthropic activities, governments can also give incentives or policy support that encourages donations or charitable actions.(NURFAIDA 2020)

6. Establish Collaboration Between Philanthropic Organizations

To maximize the impact of charitable endeavors, charitable organizations might cooperate with other charitable organizations. Collaboration can take the shape of strategic alliances or the sharing of resources and initiatives.

7. Developing Sustainable Philanthropy Programs

By focusing on the efficiency and sustainability of programs, philanthropic organizations can create sustainable philanthropy initiatives. This can be accomplished by implementing sustainable development concepts, such as taking into account program planning's social, environmental, and economic implications.(Huraerah 2008)

8. Building the Capacity of Philanthropic Organizations

Philanthropic organizations can build their capacity in terms of management, finance, technology, and others. This can be done by providing training and mentoring to staff and volunteers of philanthropic organizations.

9. Providing Alternative Funding

Philanthropic groups can look for alternate funding sources, such as social investment or social venture capital, in addition to relying on donations. This can assist charitable groups in increasing their financial independence and social impact.

10. Encouraging Youth Participation

Youth can act as change agents in charitable endeavors. By include adolescents in education and training programs, as well as by supporting and rewarding youth who participate in philanthropic activities, philanthropic organizations can encourage young participation in philanthropic activities.(Huraerah 2008)

It is envisaged that through leveraging philanthropic opportunities in a variety of ways, Indonesia and Malaysia will build a strong and sustainable philanthropy system that will have a stronger positive impact on society

CONCLUSION

Both Indonesia and Malaysia have societies that are very distinct from one another, notably in terms of philanthropy or charitable giving. Both, however, have a long history of charitable giving and support philanthropy. In Indonesia and Malaysia,

philanthropy plays a critical role in fostering social fairness and long-term community development. To strengthen the role of philanthropy in both countries, all parties—including the government, corporate groups, and the community—must cooperate.

The level of generosity in both countries is influenced by a number of variables, including social organization governance, religious affiliation, educational attainment, and economic situations. In Indonesia and Malaysia, there are a number of charitable institutions and initiatives that are actively involved in supporting the local population, whether it be through humanitarian aid, programs in education, health, the environment, or culture. The expansion of philanthropy in both nations still faces significant difficulties and roadblocks, however, including a lack of public awareness, charitable organizations' lack of responsibility and transparency, as well as complicated bureaucratic procedures. In order to strengthen the role of philanthropy in Indonesia and Malaysia, several stakeholders must work together.

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