

Dimensions of Islamic Statistics

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Meaning of statistics

Statistics is that branch of science, which tries to gather facts according to the nature of society and places before the users as an analysis with maximum reality to make users assess the situation and take plausible decisions.

Tasks of Statistical Offices

All statistical offices in Islamic countries are collecting statistical data on the topics recommended by the United Nations and its related organizations based on the fundamental principles of the official statistics for international comparisons.

Different priorities

Priorities of topics to be studied differ from country to country, what is important for country (X) could be not important for country (Y).

Common issues

Most Islamic countries are facing the same problems and same conditions:

- Unemployment
- Poverty
- High Childhood Mortality
- Low Life Expectancy

Common characteristics

Most Islamic countries are characterized by :

- Low income
- Less developed
- High illiteracy

The role of Islamic statistics

The role of statistics in Islamic countries is more challenging as a tool for providing all data users and decision makers with updated socio-economic and other indicators on the one hand, and to be comparable with international statistics on the other.

Untackled Issues

Islamic statistics never tackled before some important issues such as:

- Heritage issue
- Alms (Sadaqat)
- Zakat
- Orphanhood

Heritage issue

- Information are available only on the heritage from the religious perspective but not reflected statistically (distribution of heritage among the inherited members).
- Non availability of such statistics will not enable us to measure the impacts of heritage on families and members welfare.
- No field surveys implemented to measure the impact of Heritage distribution to the recipients.

Alms (Sadaqat)

- Islam urges on giving SADAQA but not as a commitment from individuals to their poor brothers.
- Sadaqat help societies elevate poverty if organized properly.
- No statistical data available on the amount and values of Sadaqat distributed among poor people.
- No field surveys implemented to measure the impact of Sadaqat on the recipients.

Zakat Issue

- ZAKAT is a compulsory religious order and considered as one of the five Islamic pillars.
- ZAKAT helps societies elevate poverty if organized properly.
- Non availability of such statistics will not enable us to measure the impacts of ZAKAT on families and members welfare.
- No field surveys implemented to measure the impact of ZAKAT distribution to the recipients.

Orphanhood

- Childhood orphanhood is considered a major risk factor for poverty in adulthood, and cause shortfalls in human capital investments in children.
- Orphanhood is a result of high mortality rates among parents and low life expectancy.
- Studies on the consequences of child orphanhood are rare in most Islamic countries and usually used in demography to estimate adult mortality.

Impacts of Orphanhood

- Non availability of such statistics will not enable us to measure the impacts of orphanhood on children welfare.
- No field surveys implemented to measure the impact of orphanhood on the children exposed to this situation.
- Orphanhood may cause (Child Labour), (Begging), (Homeless phenomenon), (Social deviation) and crime.

Outline of Islamic Statistics

Prayer Statistics

- Age at First Prayer
- Sex of Person
- Number of Persons Who Pray
- Frequency of Praying
- Place of Prayer
- Attitudes Towards Prayer

Fasting Statistics

- Age at First Fasting
- Sex of Fasting Persons
- Reasons for Fasting
- Effects of Fasting
- Attitudes Towards Fasting

Statistics of Religious Visits

- Hajj
- Umra
- Atabat
- Taqdees

Islamic education Statistics

- Number of Islamic Schools
- Number of Students by Sex
- Number of Classes
- Number of Teachers by Sex
- Number of Intermediate Islamic Colleges
- Number of Islamic Universities

Islamic Mass media

- Preaching
- Lectures
- Satellite Stations
- Broadcasting Stations
- Magazines
- Newspapers
- Conferences

Solidarity Statistics

- Number of Islamic Societies
- Number of Islamic Charities
- Number of Islamic Hospitals
- Number of Islamic Clinics
- Services Provided for Recipients
- Financial Support for Recipients

Awqaf Statistics

- Number of Buildings owned by the Awqaf
- Land Area Owned By the Awqaf
- Income from the Ownership
- Ways of Using Awqaf Income
- Beneficiaries from Awqaf Returns

Arabic Language Statistics

- Number of Persons Speaking and Understanding Arabic Language
- Attitudes Towards Arabic Language
- Arabic Language Schools

Impact of World Economic Crisis

- All countries were affected by the crisis with different degrees
- Effects of the crisis hit various fields such as the economy, social welfare, and other fields
- Statistics is needed to measure the effects on the mentioned fields
- Cooperation between Statistical Offices and the data users will help understanding the situation

What is required from Islamic Statistical perspective

- Formulation an expert group from different Islamic member states to discuss the highlighted issues and provide the recommendations.
- Circulating a letter issued by SASRIC addressed to all Islamic Statistical Offices to provide any studies or field surveys results conducted on the mentioned issues.
- Urging governments in Islamic member states to allocate financial resources for conducting studies and field surveys on these issues.

Contd./ **What is required from Islamic Statistical perspective**

- Referring to the Holy Quran, for identifying any issues related to (Al Shareea') that might be used for statistical purposes (marriage, divorce,....etc).
- Exchanging experts among Statistical Offices in the Islamic Member States interested in these issues.