

Technological Approach in Education of *Musafir* (Muslim Traveler) in Islam: The Study on Mobile App *Mysafar*

Wan Mohd Khairul Firdaus Wan Khairuldin

Research Institute for Islamic Product & Civilization (INSPIRE), Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin, MALAYSIA

Abdul Hanis Embong

Centre for Fundamental and Liberal Education, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu, MALAYSIA

Wan Nur Izzati Wan Nor Anas

Academy of Islamic Studies, University of Malaya, MALAYSIA

To Link this Article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.6007/IJARPED/v8-i1/5499>

DOI:10.6007/IJARPED/v18-i1/5499

Published Online: 09 March 2019

Abstract

Nowadays, travel that commonly known in Islam as a musafir is a phenomenon for most Muslims in the world. At the same time, Islam itself encourages muslims travelling to see the greatness of God's creation. In fact, travelers is also gain knowledge and goodness from the journey. Therefore, Islam has special guidelines in traveling. However, most Muslims are sometimes confused about the implementation. With technological advances, some of these things can be solved. This study uses the documentation method as a method of data collection and content analysis method as a method of data analysis. The findings suggest that travel is the things that are urged by Islam because of its benefits; physically and spiritually. The technological approach is also seen to assist many of the problems in the understanding. This includes determining the distance and duration of the traveler. Therefore, it is recommended to develop appropriate applications to facilitate Muslim travelers in the future.

Keywords: Musafir, Technology, Mysafar, Education

Introduction

Tourism is a new trend in the world community today. Tourism is a lifestyle practiced by most people in the world. The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) (2015) has estimated that there are 1.133 billion international tourists worldwide in 2014. This is an increase of 4.3% compared to 1.087 billion in 2013. This shows a considerable figure in world tourism.

Tourism not only involves foreign countries, but also involves Islamic countries and Islamic tourism. The four major Muslim countries in the world have become the tourist center for

Muslim and non-Muslim tourists. The country is Egypt, Morocco, Malaysia and Turkey who successfully promote their countries for Islamic tourism. In 2012 only, his four countries receive beyond 86 million international tourist arrivals (Nurrachmi, 2017). This shows that the Islamic tourism sector has also begun to get a lot of attention today (Abdullah & Mukhtar, 2014).

This increase in Islamic tourism also involves the concept of traveling to Muslims. Islam recognizes travelers who travel to their destination. As such, Islam has set some specific *rukhsah* (concession) concepts that can be applied by Muslim tourists. Among of concession are the prayers of *jama' qasar*, the breaking of fast and so on. However, the problem of understanding this concept often has problems among Muslims. In fact, sometimes some things need to be scientifically explained that can strengthen education and the implementation of worship to tourists. Therefore, education related to Islamic tourism should be carried out effectively with the use of current technology facilities. For that matter, the the scientific method should be used. With the absence of specific app before, a convenient app needs to be built. Therefore, *MySafar* is a form of app that makes it easy for users to get scientifically answered practices while traveling.

Methodology

Data collection for this study uses document analysis method or library research method. The data collected from classical and contemporary books. The collected data analyzed using content analysis method. Content analysis is used to examine and explain the interpretation contained in the document. According to Krippendorff (2004), content analysis is a research technique by making systematic and objective conclusions through documented data. It coincides with the data collected from certain documents involving works of writing. In the case of this study, content analysis is to get a clearer picture of the technological approach in Islamic Travelling education.

Discussion

Travel and Tourism in Islam

The concept of Islamic tourism to date has a wide range of definitions based on diverse concepts of understanding (Khairuldin et al., 2018). Generally, adventure and tourism in Islam is an activity that has its own objectives, especially the ultimate goal of every individual. The goal is physically, socially and spiritually. This is clearly different from western tourism that focuses solely on physical aspects (Khairuldin, 2016). Islam sees tourism as a form of appreciation about the creation of the earth by God in seeking His pleasure. Therefore, there are various principles that Islam has put in order to achieve that (Kadir Din, 1989).

Some scholar of Islamic tourism refer Muslim as the travelers who travel to certain destinations for religious purposes only (Zamani-Farahani & Henderson, 2010). However, this concept is clearly inaccurate if it is discussed based on the terms mentioned in the Qur'an. Hence, generally Islamic tourism is not limited to religious tourism or special worship alone. Islam also gives freedom to its people to do all kinds of tourism. However, such travel does not conflict with values set by Islam (Shakiri, 2006).

Among the closest terms to the word travel in Islam are the *musafir* or *safar*. The word traveler comes from the Arabic verb, *safara*. Words are interpreted with a variety of meanings such

as *going, walking, wandering or setting distance*. While the word traveler is addressed to the person who travels to a destination that is determined and has a purpose. This is because, if they do not meet these requirements, they are not referred to as travelers (Wahbah al-Zuhaili, 1997).

For those meet the requirements, there is a certain concession allowed. It was discussed in fiqh books as people who go out of their homes to a place that meets a certain distance of the traveler. As a result, the perpetrator is required to shorten the prayer or breaking fasting on ramadhan (al-Qahtani, 2007).

Technological Approach in Education Of *Musafir*

The learning within mobile devices or better known as M-Learning has long been growing rapidly overseas such as Europe and the United States (Shuib, 2009). In Malaysia, the term m-Learning has been introduced in the general public especially in the curriculum of higher education (Siraj, 2004; Kamal & Tasir, 2008). According to Kulkulska-Hulme and Traxler (2005), M-Learning is one of the new concepts in the learning process that emphasizes the use of mobile devices without being bound by time and place. This statement is supported by Quinn (2002) that defines m-Learning as a learning process using mobile devices like Palms, PDA (Personal Digital Assistant), computers, mobile phones and so on.

According to Seong (2006), learning through m-Learning has provided various alternatives and facilities in social interaction. For example, cellphone usage is no longer limited to receiving and making calls. In fact, mobile phones also have the convenience of sending and receiving email, short messaging (SMS), multimedia messaging services (MMS) and equipped with facilities as a medium in learning.

Rahman et al. (2015) found that there was a positive impact on the use of technology on religious-related learning. This study was conducted on Islamic education teachers. They provide a positive response to the use of electronic technology in the learning process. This shows that the use of technology in the learning process is appropriate especially for the field of Islamic studies.

Furthermore, there are several studies on the use of e-Learning technology in the study of another Islamic knowledge, especially the Quran. Among them are the study by Saleh & Shukor (2004), Rahim (2008) and Selamat et al. (2015). Study by Rahim (2008) is in line with the study of Selamat et al. (2015). They believe the development of information technology can be used to enhance the system of memorization in the process of learning and teaching among the Quranic memorabilia. Rahim (2008) adds that the factors that can be identified become the source of weakness in the teaching and learning method of tahfiz when the teacher still maintains the traditional method in the process of teaching and learning the Quran. This statement was also supported by Saleh and Shukor (2004).

To facilitate the traveler in their journey, a smartphone application is recommended. The application is named as MySafar. MySafar is a technology innovation using smartphone-based software to fiqh travelers. It functions as a measuring distance of the remembrance and the duration of the settlement of a Muslim who wants to travel to a destination. This software is important to a Muslim to determine the need to perform prayers when traveling or upon

arrival to the destination. To adapt to the Muslim landscape of Malaysia, this software is a prototype built on fiqh Syafie sect. The production of the MySafar prototype is expected to resolve confusion among the Muslim community and facilitate them to plan the interpretation.

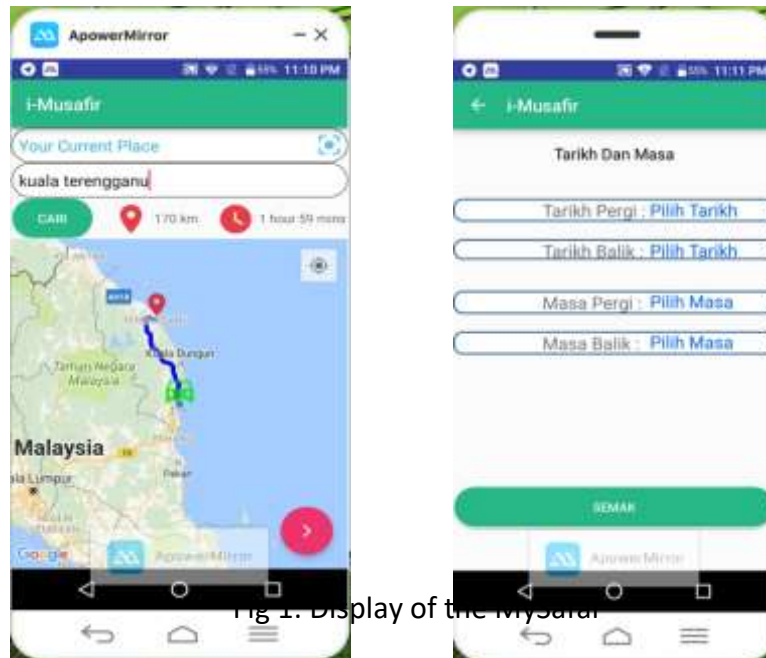


Fig 1. Display of the i-Musafir

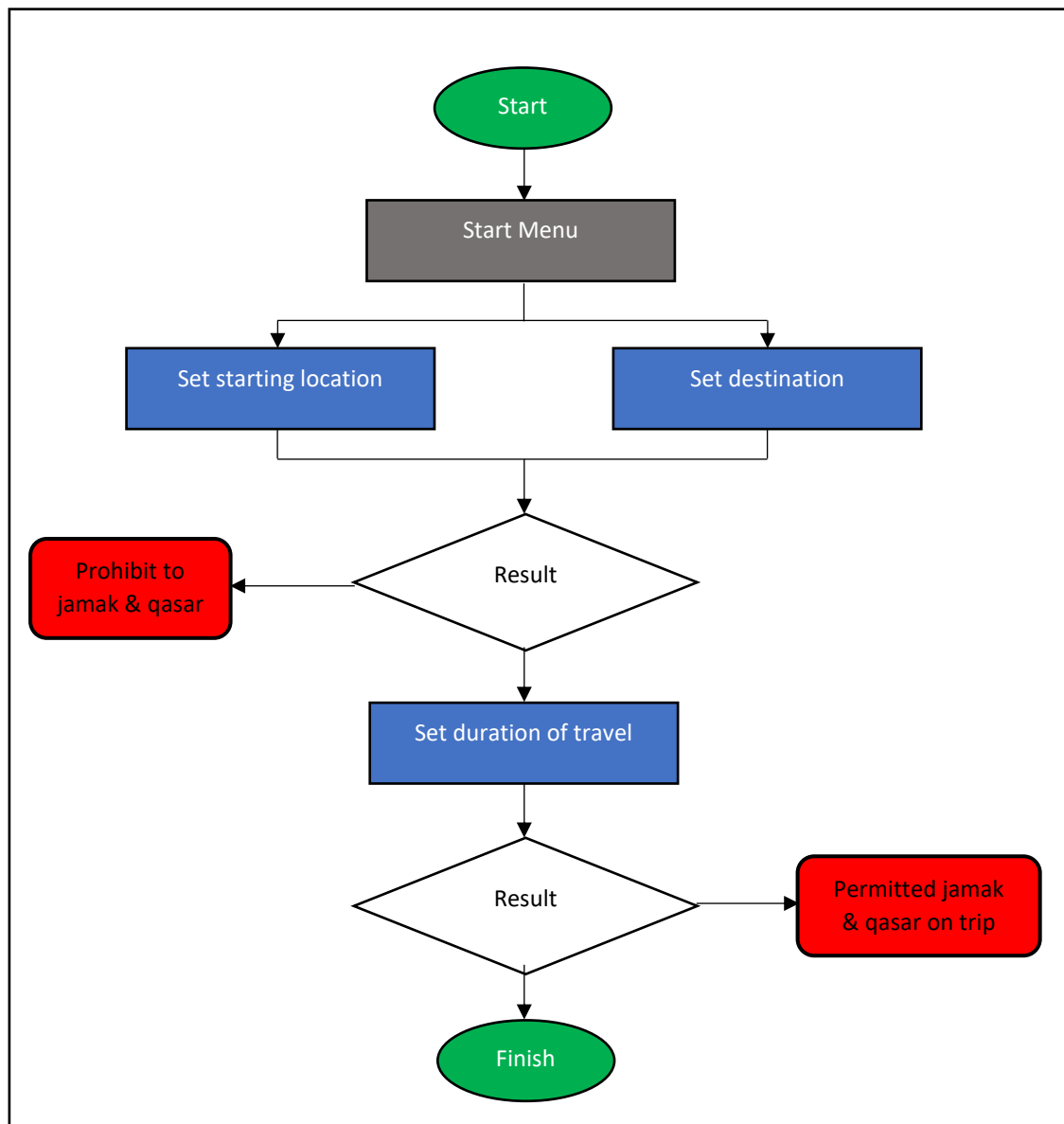


Fig 2. Flowchart of MySafar

Conclusion

In conclusion, the traveler is a practice that is strongly encouraged by Islam. As such, Islam has set some facilities and concessions to travelers. To facilitate education and guide to travelers, a smartphone app is built on the basis of requirements. This is a prelude that all Muslim travelers can use.

Besides that, MySafar allows travelers to calculate the same journey is related to distance or length of time. In addition, the app can also resolve the confusion of the community towards the implementation of worship while traveling in Islam.

Acknowledgement

Special appreciations to the Research Management, Innovation & Commercialization (RMIC), University of Sultan Zainal Abidin (UniSZA) for sponsoring the project.

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