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Editorial Notes

Browse <https://myjournal.mohe.gov.my/public/browse-journal-view.php?id=1139> and enjoy reading this Vol.7 issue 1, 2024, the latest issue of the Journal of Islamic Management Studies. This issue focusses on consumerism, management, and finance from an Islamic perspective. The present issue of JIMS consists of five articles and a book review, as these contributions are made by established authors from their respective field of research interest in marketing, Islamic finance, and management. All these papers expand the frontier of knowledge and intellectual insights by offering advancements and solutions to the contemporary challenges faced by Muslim managers including non-Muslim managers operating businesses in Muslim societies and nations.

Among the paper contributions, the article entitled, ‘Influence of *Sejahtera* Responsible Consumerism among Young Consumers in Malaysia’ discusses issue related to the growth and prospects of consumerism in a form of responsible consumerism and sustainability practices of younger generation in Malaysia who are relatively better educated and bound to make an informed decision in terms of their choice of *Sejahtera*. The motivation behind conducting this research was to explore the understanding of sustainable, ethical, and *Sejahtera* Responsible Consumerism practices and identify factors influencing consumption behaviors among the younger generation in Malaysia. The findings underscore the need for educational initiatives to raise awareness and understanding of responsible consumerism, addressing societal norms, lack of knowledge, and limited exposure.

The next article, ‘An Islamic-Supported Model (*MH4S* Model) for Work-Life Balance towards a Happier Life’ argues that life owes to change, and change is a law of life. But a life in this temporary living is short-lived and within the duration of short time we live, one can’t enjoy happiness. Because human beings always try to do things that one believes would make him/her happy. Thus, happiness in life is the goal that human beings try to achieve during their mundane lifetime. Nevertheless, many people fail to achieve that goal of “being happy” ever since. This could be due to misunderstanding what “happiness in life” or life contentment really means. Happiness in life, as proposed in this study, is not only a mundane life-related phenomenon. Mostly people try to achieve happiness in life by focusing on mundane life-related factors, such as focus on their jobs as others focus on their families as a life contentment etc. This paper argues that real happiness is not a short life driven. The authors believe that real happiness in life is felt when more focus is given to the ulterior motive of the life-hereafter, not in the mundane and the temporary life itself, as this is based on the Islamic worldview.

On the other hand, the article entitled, ‘Systems Thinking, Economics, and Islamic Economics’ elaborates the role of systems thinking in Islamic management. This study is based on desk research based on the literature reviews and looks at how systems thinking has applied in economics. In particular, the use of computer simulations has enabled systems thinkers to question existing economic assumptions. It then explores Islamic economics and asks whether Islamic economists should incorporate systems thinking in their research project. It seems that Muslim economists are aware of feedback economics but that their priorities are elsewhere.

The fourth article entitled, ‘The Antecedents of Social Commerce Service Quality Dimensions: A Systematic Review’ is an attempt to discuss a comprehensive review of Social Commerce Service

Quality (SCSQ) and its dimensions. These authors conducted a systematic review of the extant literature on e-commerce, social commerce, service quality and e-service quality to identify the dimensions of Social Commerce Service Quality. Nine dimensions were identified, of which social interaction has been mentioned the most in the past literature, implying that it is an essential dimension for both e-service quality and social commerce platforms. The paper adopted a systematic literature review method. The unit of analysis is a peer-reviewed journal article. The approach follows a systematic review method for analysing the social commerce and e-service quality literature. This fulfils the aims at forming a research synthesis and draw a conclusion.

The fifth paper entitled ‘The Role of Islamic Social Finance in Mitigating the Poverty Levels in the Post-Pandemic Period’ in this issue of JIMS (Vol. 7 issue 1) discusses economic crisis post Covid-19 that has prompted global shrinkage, which has resulted in an anticipated economic collapse for 2020–2021. The pandemic appeared out of nowhere and has since spread worldwide, with five million deaths recorded globally in just a few months necessitated this study which examines whether Islamic social finance can effectively mitigate the dangers of humanitarian catastrophes. The study provides a multirange method for maximizing the advantage of Islamic social financing tools such as *zakat*, *Sadaqah* and *waqf*. The information, documents, and data for this study are gathered using a qualitative method. The findings have policy implications for governments who wanted to solve the COVID-19 problem and similar crisis, if any in future with Islamic social finance ideas and solutions.

Finally, the book review section explores the book 'Islam, Authoritarianism, and Underdevelopment,' highlighting the book's structure, which comprises two distinct parts. Part I delves into contemporary issues facing the Muslim world, including violence, authoritarianism, and socioeconomic challenges, dissecting them across three well-considered chapters. In Part II, the review discusses the historical perspective, covering the achievements and crises of Muslim societies from the seventh to the nineteenth centuries in four engaging chapters. The review concludes by emphasizing the book's success in providing a nuanced understanding of the complex factors shaping the Muslim world's historical and contemporary development. A must-read for those seeking a deeper grasp of these critical issues.

The readers of JIMS are welcome to visit websites of either the World Academy of Islamic Management or the Journal of Islamic Management Studies to post comments and feedback to the editors and editorial team. Your constructive comments and feedback, for the advancement in knowledge of management from Islamic or an alternative perspective is highly appreciated and most welcome. These comments will be noted as the constructive and suitable contribution to the cause of JIMS which is to be meant to enhance the socio-cultural needs of the affairs of the Ummah.

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