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SecureSolah Mat

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ABSTRACT

Prayer mat is one of the most significant equipment that is used by Muslims to perform *solah* (prayer). A prayer mat is placed on the ground in order to maintain cleanliness throughout the worship especially in position of *sujud* (prostration). Despite the fact that there are many various kinds of mats available on the market, most of them still require few adjustments and improvement to ensure the safety and convenience of a worshipper. One of the major problems that most worshippers faced, particularly women is that their handbags that contain valuable items such as mobile phones and wallets are often stolen while performing their obligatory prayer and ablution. Therefore, the main objective of innovating this product is to lower the risk or the possibility of theft and to guarantee worshippers to remain solemn and calm while performing prayers. This innovation calls for the addition of a new compartment; a dome-shaped part at the front of the mat that will serve as the storage area for purses and handbags, as to ensure the safety of the stored goods. The prayer mat also could form into a bag that enable to store prayer garments. In addition, a bag strap is also added at the back of the mat to transform it into a backpack. Thus, make it easier for users to carry while performing their ablution and carrying the bag anywhere. This product can be commercialized in famous prayer clothing boutiques. In conclusion, these improvements are able to provide a safety and convenience experience.

Keywords: solah mat; theft; safety; compartment; backpack.

1. INTRODUCTION

Sejadah, or prayer mat is one of the tools used when fulfilling the 2nd Pillar of Islam which is prayer for Muslims. The function of the prayer mat is to serve as a mat for prayer and can also be used as a marker for the Qibla direction (Educalingo, n.d.) Among the functions of the prayer mat in prayer is as a mat for 'sujud'. By using a praying mat for 'sujud', worshippers will be more comfortable and confident in cleanliness while praying. In addition, prayer mats can also make prayer more solemn and calm (Hanna Mirae, 2022).

The prayer mat plays an important role in getting a solemn prayer because our eyes are focused on the place of 'sujud'. Although there are various types of prayer mats on the market such as fluffy and thick mats, large prayer mats, as well as mats with cool fabric, there are various improvements that can be made to produce the best prayer mats considering that there are number of types of problems that occur when performing the obligatory worship. Among the main problems that often happen especially to women is the theft of handbags containing valuable goods such as mobile phones, wallets and more. This often happens during prayer especially during prostration or 'sujud' because they are unable to see the whereabouts of their

handbags. Furthermore, worshippers need to bring their handbags together while performing ablution because they get anxious and fear their belongings might get stolen, which is why it may be troublesome for the majority of worshippers. Moreover, it will cause worshippers to face difficulties in taking ablution because they need to always hold their handbags since most of the bag storage areas provided in ablution places are often wet and dirty. Therefore, the objective of innovating this product is to reduce the risk of theft and ensure that users can remain solemn and calm while performing prayers. With various improvements made to the regular mat, worshippers no longer have to worry about where to put their handbags and keep their minds off the safety of their belongings. Therefore, a more perfect prayer can be established without any problems.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 Innovation Development

The SecureSolah Mat is innovated from a regular prayer mat with various improvements to overcome safety problems that are often faced by worshippers, especially women. Most of the existing prayer mat designs emphasised on the comfort and esthetical aspects and overlooking the safety aspect. Among the improvements applied is an additional space to store handbags and can be transformed into a backpack that can store prayer garments. In addition, a bag strap is also added to the back of the prayer mat which makes it convenient to carry anywhere. Not only that, the prayer mat is made out of organic cotton and linen which are environmentally friendly and sustainable materials. On the other hand, the zipper sewn around the mat and in the additional compartment is made of plastic to prevent rusting that could potentially ruin the prayer mat.

2.1.1 Extra compartment to store handbag

SecureSolah Mat has a special compartment or section for worshippers to store their bags while performing prayers in public places. This compartment or part has a hidden zipper sewn into the front of the prayer mat. Thus, the users are worry-free to find alternative places or extra bags to keep their belongings safe. SecureSolah Mat offers two different sizes; 60cm x 34 cm and 60 x 100 cm that allow users to choose the mat size according to their preferences and to suit the size of their handbags

2.1.2 Can be folded into a backpack

Another feature that has never been seen in any existing mat is that the SecureSolah Mat can be folded up to be used as a backpack. This feature allows users to perform ablution without having to worry about leaving their handbag unattended. The SecureSolah Mat has a zipper sewn around the mat that is easy to fold and transform it into a backpack. Users can place their handbags in the additional compartment provided and carry the mat like a backpack with ease while performing ablution. In comparison with the existing products that also have the feature of turning the prayer mat into a bag, they came out with a tote bag design instead of backpack. It will be quite difficult for the users to perform ablution as they need to hold onto the bag or have to leave it on the rack bag at the ablution area which is often wet or dirty. Furthermore, carrying a tote bag will make the users to bear the entire weight on one shoulder compared to a bag pack where the weight is evenly distributed between both shoulders (Mahdiya Bhiwandiwala, 2024).

2.1.3 Nature friendly

In innovating the best prayer mat, SecureSolah Mat did not miss to take this opportunity to apply environmentally friendly features. SecureSolah Mat is specially designed using environmentally friendly materials such as organic cotton and linen (Zhangjiagang Ruili Textile Co., Ltd., 2018). Compared to regular cotton fabric, organic cotton is a more sustainable fabric because it has a smaller carbon footprint as it is grown and manufactured without harmful chemicals that can reduce water pollution by 5 times (Is Organic Cotton Sustainable, 2022). The application of this sustainable material not only reduces the negative impact on the environment but also gives a good image to this product

2.2 Prototype Images

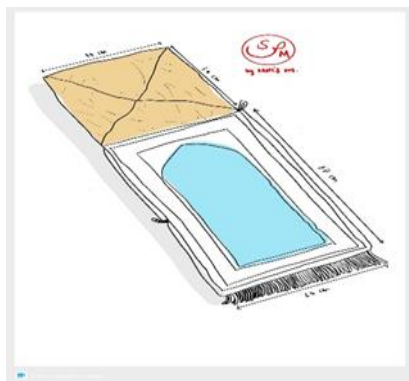


Figure 1. Compartment

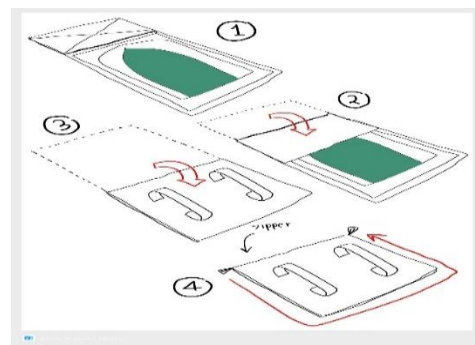


Figure 2. Folding to form a bag

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Findings

Observation and feedback are made when the product is demonstrated to a random group of females to try on. Each of the participants is required to fill in a questionnaire for feedback, therefore improvements can be made.

Table 1. Respondents' feedback on the Effectiveness of Product

Point		1		2		3		4		5	
Likert Scale		Strongly Disagree		Disagree		Neutral		Agree		Strongly Agree	
No.	Effectiveness of Product	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1	Achieve the objectives							6	19.4	25	80.6
2	Usefulness							6	19.4	25	80.6
3	Meet expectations (functionality & design)					1	3.2	3	9.7	27	87.1
4	User- friendly					1	3.2	3	9.7	27	87.1
5	Recommendation to others					1	3.2%	2	6.5	28	90.3

From the results, it showed that 25 out of 31 (80.6%) respondents strongly agreed that SecureSolah Mat achieves its objectives and find it very useful. 87.1% of the respondents also satisfied that SecureSolah Mat meets their expectations in terms of functionality and design.

Other than that, the majority of the respondents (90.3%) also support that SecureSolah Mat is indeed user friendly and they are very likely to recommend this product to their friends and family.

3.2 Innovation Relevance

SecureSolah Mat is specially designed for users who often travel alone, especially women, to facilitate their affairs in performing prayers without having to worry about the whereabouts and safety of their handbags. This product is designed with special features such as hidden compartments that ensure cases of theft of valuables such as wallets, mobile phones and money do not happen again. Therefore, worshippers can remain praying with full devotion and guarantee a perfect prayer. In addition, users can also perform ablution more easily. With the special feature of being able to be folded into a backpack and also the existence of a bag strap, users only need to carry their bag when performing ablution and do not need to place the bag on a surface that is often wet and dirty at the place of performing ablution. Furthermore, the material used to produce SecureSolah Mat is organic cotton and linen which are environmentally friendly materials. In highlighting the aesthetic concept, this product is also concerned with the environmentally friendly concept to guarantee the well-being of the environment from being affected. Not only that, the zipper made of plastic was also chosen to prevent it from rusting, thus guaranteeing the cleanliness of the prayer mat.

4. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, due to its multipurpose use which includes an additional compartment for securing belongings and the ability to fold into a backpack for easy portability, this product has been shown to ease social problems. From this innovation study, some future recommendations that could be added is to provide the mat with an adjustable shoulder strap. This is important so the user can adjust the shoulder strap to the length that they're comfortable with when using the SecureSolah Mat as the backpack. To sum up, this invention has the potential to benefit a large number of people, so it should be released onto the market as soon as possible to help tackle theft incidents in the mosque and guarantee worshippers' pleasure in their prayer.

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