

# Maqasid-al-Shariah-based socio-economic development index (SCECDI): The case of some selected Islamic economies

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## ABSTRACT

The main objective of this study is to develop a socio-economic development index (SCECDI), which is composed of social development index (SDI) and economic development index (ECDI). For the analysis, we have included 14 Islamic countries which are Afghanistan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Kuwait, Malaysia, Morocco, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and U.A.E for the years 2010 and 2015. Pakistan's spending on education and health is quite low during last five years on average, while value added agriculture is the highest among all Muslim countries. Meanwhile, spending on health and education in Saudi Arabia is quite high, besides having quite high export value added and capital formation. These are required for better economic development. Highest educational profile is observed in Malaysia, while the employment rate is highest in Kuwait among all. We have diversified the summary profile for all countries of the variables included for the analysis in the study. Expected outcome is that those Islamic economies which have better economic conditions, will have more than 0.50 values for SCECDI, while others may have the value in between 0-0.50. We also demonstrate the importance of SCECDI focusing the dynamic characteristics of all Islamic countries included in the study.

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## 1. Introduction

Islam has its own economic vision that upholds the social and welfare aspects. This vision built a Maqasid al-Shariah that aims at promoting development and avoiding harms (Ibn Ashur, 1945[2006]). Although Islamic vision is very large, it has been introduced to all aspects of life. A global perspective of these features falls under the lack of Maqasid al-Shariah in Muslim countries. Broadly

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speaking, Maqasid al-Sharia ensures that Islamic codes could contribute to the promotion of human welfare, prevent corruption, enhance the social and economic stability (Ibn Ashur, 1945[2006]).

The classical and modern view of Maqasid al-Sharia is multidimensional. It has a larger scope that aims at the welfare of the society to be better off. If religion is an independent variable; then it is the religion that influences the economy i.e. economic performance, productivity and resulting in social development. If religion is a dependent variable; then it would imply the level of social and economic development. Standard of living impacts the adherence to religious teachings and rituals e.g. faith based activities (Rehman and Askari, 2010). In the latest country, new view of development emerged such as Human Development Index (HDI) by UNDP (1990); Combined Quality of Life Indices (CQLI) by Diener (1995); Sustainable development indicators (SDI) by Borys (2005); Augmented version of the Human Development Index (AHDI) by Marchante and Ortega (2006); Calibrated Human Development Index (CDI) by Niels (2010); Socio-Economic Development Index by Ayasrah (2012). We inspired a new concept of development under Maqasid al-Sharia.

There is very limited research done to assess the relationship between religion and government policies, including Islamic rule of law. In this context, we construct a new index for measuring socio-economic development in Islamic perspective which is called Maqasid-al-Sharia based Socio-Economic Development Index (SCECDI). The remaining part of the paper is organized as follows. Section 2 highlights some literature review. Section 3 presents the data and methodology of the index. Section 4 explains the analysis of global performance socio-economic development index (SCECDI) under Maqasid al-Sharia approach. Finally, Section 5 closes with conclusion and policy implications.

## **2. Literature Review**

The doctrine of Maqasid al-Sharia is the set of religious law and moral code in Islam system. It is considered as the central bone and covered all aspects of life that are related to personal, social, economic, political and intellectual. Islam encourages economic development that also establishes social justice that concerns itself with the well-being of human beings. There are three fundamental goals stated by Maqasid al-Sharia and these include educating the people, maintaining justice and ensuring the well-being of community.

The pioneering works emerged from scholars such as Al-Juwayni (1979), Al-Ghazali (1901), Ibn Ashur (1998) and Ibn Taymiyyah (al-Raysuni, 1992). Recently, the application of Maqasid al-Sharia in various disciplines including social and economics has been gaining eminence. Among the leading economists who have written on the subject are Chapra (1985 and 2000), Siddiqi (2000), Ahmad (2000), Hasan (2004), Atiyah (2008), Al-Najjar (2008), Kasri and Habib (2015). Therefore, there is a need for extending the application of Maqasid al-Sharia to comprehensive development of social and economic at macro level both in theory and application.

The Holy Quran and the Sunnah have interest in the overall welfare of mankind. Human development and welfare of human being has an essential place in Islamic teaching. Several Islamic indices have been developed, Islamic Human Development Index (I-HDI) by Anto (2009); the Islamicity Index (I<sup>2</sup>) by Rehman and Askari (2010) and socio-economic development index by G Asli (2000) are three of such attempts. The I-HDI is based on Maqasid al-Sharia and promotes well-being of all mankind. It encompasses more explicitly the ethical concerns in measuring development by incorporating freedom, faith, environmental concerns and family values in the HDI. Anto (2009) attempts to develop I-HDI for

Muslim countries. The index comprises what is termed as Material Welfare Index (MWI) and Non-material Welfare Index (NWI) representing the five basic needs in Maqasid al-Shariah and also includes the Freedom Index (FrI) and the Environment Index (EnI). The findings show that the whole rank is slightly different, a number of countries enjoy a better rank and several countries suffer a marked deterioration of rank. Middle East Countries and the bottom line are still dominated by African Countries.

Rehman and Askari(2010) developed the Islamicity Index (I<sup>2</sup>)to measure the degree of “Islamicity” ofIslamic and non-Islamic countries based on the Maqasid al-Shariahprinciples of Islam. It measures four sub-indices namely the Economic Islamicity Index (EI<sup>2</sup>), Legal and Governance Islamicity Index (LGI<sup>2</sup>), Human and Political Rights Islamicity Index (HPI<sup>2</sup>), and International Relations Islamicity Index (IRI<sup>2</sup>).This Islamicity Index (I<sup>2</sup>) measures 208 countries adherence to Islamic principles using four sub-indices related to economics, legal and governance, human and political rights, and international relations and measures the level of each index for every country. The results show that Islamic countries are not as Islamic in their practice and most of non-Muslims countries are top of the list. Low indices countries have problems such as inefficient institutions, bad economic condition and policies, corruption, under developed rule of law and equity, economic and social systems failing woman and children, and other traditional developing country diseases.

Aslietal. (2000) measures the social and economic development index for some selected 40 Islamic countries and ranked according to the principal of component analysis and countries divided into three main groups; i)- seven rich oil gulf countries and Malaysia; ii)- 14 North African and South East Asian countries and iii)-Remaining 19 West African countries included.The improvement of development measures has never stopped until today, either improving the existing measures or developing new measures. Some recent attempts tried to adjust the existing HDI to some more specific aspects, including inequality (Alkire and Fosterr, 2010), investment index (Hussein 2004),HDI (Chapra 2008), socio-economic development index (Ozgur, etal, 2004) and E-HDI index (Dar, 2004), Index of Socio-Economic development consistent with Maqasidal-Shari’ah (Shaikh, 2015),Maqasidal-Shariah based inclusive human development (Oladapo and Asmak, 2016) have proposed a different multidimensional index. Among these attempts, Islamic perspective on development seems to attract little attention to be used as a foundation to develop a specific index and using social and economic variables (Mean years of schooling, education expenditure, life expectancy at birth, health expenditure, number of homicides, corruption, GDP per capita, employment, GINI index, agriculture, industries, service, total reserves, investment, and exports)related to measure development in Muslim countries.

### **3. Methodology on socio-economic development index**

There are five steps involved in the estimation of socio-economic development index (SCECDI). In Step 1, we evaluate the goal-post values based on mean ( $\mu$ ) and standard deviation ( $\sigma$ )for all countries under study for each indicator. In Step 2, standardised values are estimated for each indicator used in social development index and economic development index.

The standard equation for the normalised value (Kothari, 1978) is as follows:

$$Z = \frac{X - \mu}{\sigma}$$

Where  $Z$  is the standard normal distribution;  $X$  is the value you want to normalise;  $\mu$  is the mean of the distribution and  $\sigma$  is the standard deviation of the distribution. The symbol of Number of Homicides, and GINI index standardised values must be changed for indicators that are inversely related to Social and Economic development, so that positive values become negative and negative values become positive. In Step 3, the area under the normal curve is determined; which is usually 50% that lie on the right side of zero and 50% on the left side of zero.

After finding normal distribution areas under the standard normal curve, the following sub-indices would be calculated in Step 4; Social Development Index (SDI) measures the average performance of the seven social indicators; Economic Development Index (EDI) measures the average performance for a country based upon 9 indicators. In order to produce the Social-Economic Development Index we aggregate the sub-indices. The SCECDI is the sum of the social development index (SDI) and economic development index (EDI).

$$S_c E_c DI = S_c DI + E_c DI$$

The values of the SCECDI index range between 0 and 1, where values close to 0 indicate very low of Socio-Economic development. On the other hand, values close to 1 indicate that the country has a very high level socio-economic development. Sub-indices have assigned equal weightage 50%. We have:

$$S_c E_c DI = 50\%(S_c DI) + 50\%(E_c DI)$$

#### 4. Data description

Most of the data have been compiled from World Bank reports for the period of five years interval between 2010 and 2015 for all fourteen Muslim countries of the world. There are few variables having other data sources for the estimation purpose including corruption number, number of homicides data have been taken from UNODC, Transparency International and Demographic year book respectively. Data on mean years of schooling have been analysed for the all countries of the world and discussed in detail in Barro and Lee (2010) reported by UNDP (2016). We have gathered the data on mean year of schooling used for education measures to capture the social effect from UNDP report (2016). All the relevant variables used for estimation purposes are given in Table 1 along with their sources.

#### 5. Results and Discussion

Socio-economic development comes from the social change and brings economic prosperity. The old and latest thoughts are more or less similar for socio economic development measures. This development process starts with education which brings social changes in order to make good human and ultimately the society. Figure-I illustrates that with a better education, we can remove the social evils from the society and produce good society, which may be able to maintain and pay zakat to the deserve people in the community, which brings equity in the society and justice (Pranam, 2013), with better healthy people, ultimately reduces the poverty and have better economic environment. With strong economic sizes, an economy can grow with increased investment and low poverty level, helps to increase the GDP level of the economy, may increase the per capita income of the mass in the economy, and fulfill the main objectives of the Maqasid-al-Shariah, helpful to enhance the prosperity level. In a nutshell, with better

education and prosperity economically tends to have positive change socially and increase economic growth that leads to produce socio-economic development change in the society.

Table 1. Socio-economic development indicators and their sources

Indicators	Data Source
Mean years of schooling	UNDP
Education expenditure (%GDP)	World Bank
Life expectancy at birth, total (years)	World Bank
Health expenditure (%GDP)	World Bank
Number of Homicides	UNODC
Corruption	CPI Index
GDP per capita, PPP (constant 2005 international \$)	World Bank
Employment to population ratio, 15+, total (%)	World Bank
GINI index	World Bank
Agriculture value added (%GDP)	World Bank
Industries value added (%GDP)	World Bank
Service value added (%GDP)	World Bank
Exports of goods and services(%GDP)	World Bank
Investment (Gross Capital Formation) (%GDP)	World Bank
Total reserves (includes gold, current US\$) Million	World Bank

Figure-II illustrates the classification of the four quadrants of development status matrix (DSM). The first quadrant shows that if both SCDI and ECIDI greater than 0.50 for a country, it will be highly developed. The second quadrant has SCDI > 0.50 but ECIDI < 0.50 moderate development. Meanwhile, the third quadrant has SCDI < 0.50 but ECIDI < 0.50 moderate (values close to zero shows low (0-0.25) or moderate (0.25-0.5)). Finally, the fourth quadrant has SCDI < 0.50 but ECIDI > 0.50 and very low developed country lie in the fourth quadratic.

Tables II and III show the mean values of SCDI and ECIDI respectively for Saudi Arabia (SA). On average mean years of schooling during 2015 is Grade 8, that most of the population in Saudi Arabia is Grade 8 passed, as they spent 5.20% of total GDP on education sector only. Expected life is quite high which is 74 and 4.68% of GDP is allocated and spent on health sector during the study period. Number of homicides is 240 which is quite low as Saudi Arabia comprised 31.5 million people in population during 2015. Also, SA is on the 46th number in corruption showing quite fair dealing and attitudes towards most of the economic and social activities in the country. Divorce number is very high which can be a reason women require more empowerment and independence in their decisions.

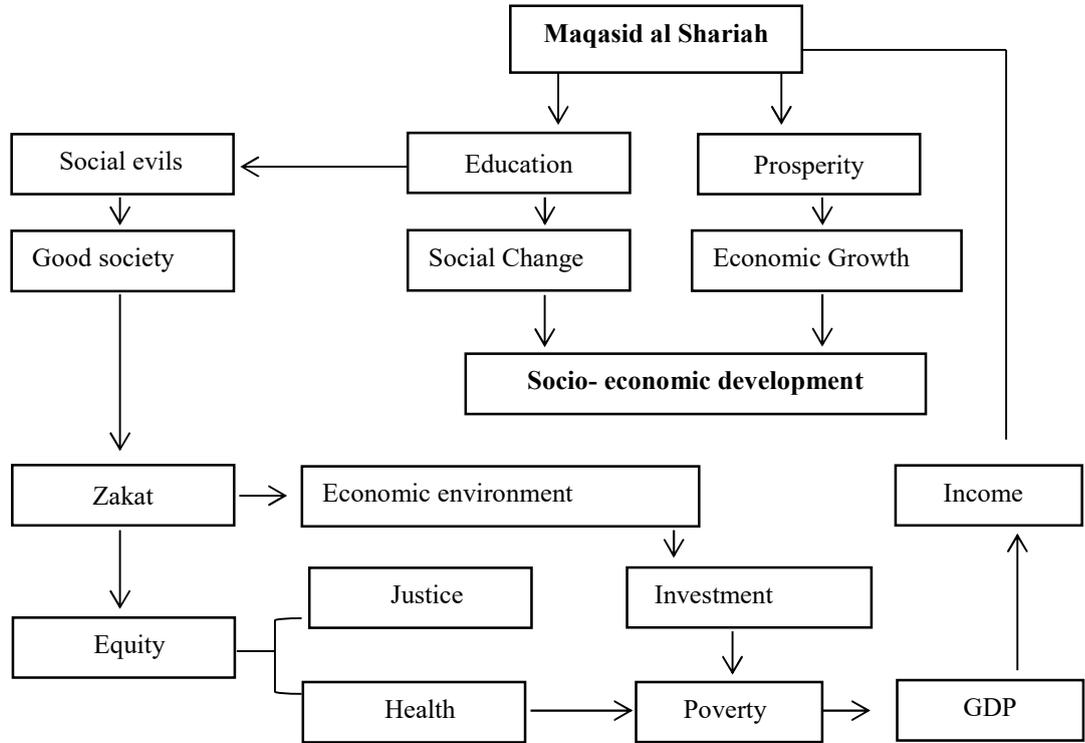


Fig 1. The socio-economic development conceptual framework based on Maqasid al-Shariah

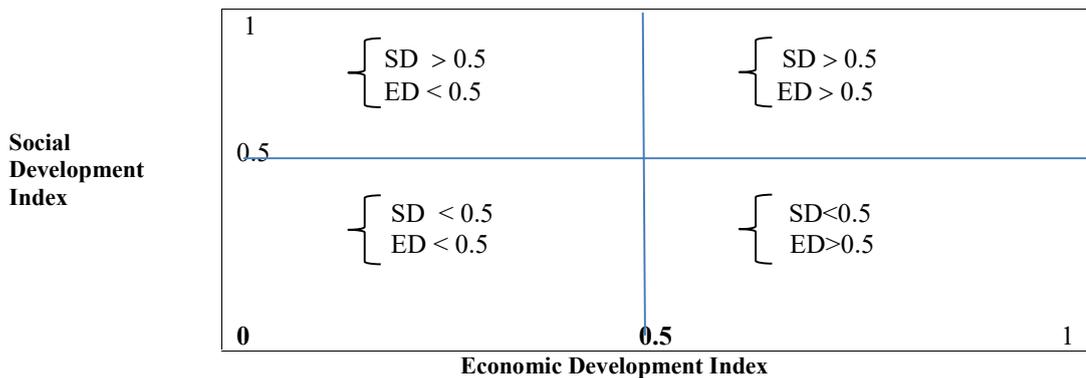


Fig 2. Classification of the ScDI and EcDI

ECDI in Table III presents that SA is quite better in economic activities and having 21312.8 per annum GDP per capita. Also about half of the total population is employed, and industrially developed having 45.83% value added in industrial sector as a percentage of GDP. Economic indicators show SA is economically well developed and leading toward developed state soon.

Table 2. Indicators of social development in Saudi Arabia: 2015

<b>Social Development Indicators</b>	<b>Value</b>
Mean years of schooling	7.85
Education expenditure (%GDP)	5.20
Life expectancy at birth, total (years)	74.25
Health expenditure (%GDP)	4.68
Number of Homicides (yearly)	240
Corruption (Ranking)	46

Table 3. Indicators of economic development in Saudi Arabia: 2015

<b>Economic Development Indicators</b>	<b>Value</b>
GDP per capita, PPP (constant 2005 \$)	21312.8
Employment to population ratio, 15+, total (%)	50.01
GINI index	32
Agriculture value added (%GDP)	2.26
Industries value added (%GDP)	45.83
Service value added (%GDP)	51.83
Exports of goods and services(%GDP)	33
Investment (Gross Capital Formation) (%GDP)	28.79
Total reserves (includes gold, current US\$) Million	626989

Tables IV and V present the estimation of social and economic development index respectively for SA. Estimation process involves four steps starting with mean values and standard deviation for all fourteen countries using fifteen indicators during 2010 and 2015. In second step, we estimated standardized value for all indicators in SA. In the third step, we calculate area under the normal curve in the fourth step we estimated the average of the values area under the standard curve for the indicators in each index. The higher the Z standardized score, the more area under the curves and vice versa then more developed the country. We see when standardized value increases in tables the area under the normal curves also increase and area under the normal curves lie between 0 and 1. If standardized value is positive area under the normal curves vales must lie in 0.50 –1 and standardized value is negative then area under the normal curves vales lie in 0 - 0.50.

Table IV presents the estimation results for socio-economic development index for all fourteen Muslim states standardized on SA corresponding indicators. Mean years of schooling for all states are grade 7.01 with approximately 1.94 standard deviation. On average 3.61% of the GDP is annual expenditure on education sector which is not good and required more and more funds for this sector to develop and reach up to international level health expenditures are also very low (4.61% of GDP). Number of homicides are also very high. Keeping all these results for the selected indicators of all 14 Muslim states it shows that the socio-economic index would not be up to the level of developed countries of the world. After having their corresponding standard deviations, we standardised their values and found area under the standard normal curve. Average of the area under the normal curve for SCDI is 0.68.

Table 4. Social development index (SCDI) in Saudi Arabia: 2015

Indicators	Mean ( $\mu$ )	S.D ( $\sigma$ )	Standardized	Area under curve
Mean years of schooling	7.01	1.94	0.392	0.651
Education expenditure (%GDP)	3.61	1.10	1.789	0.962
Life expectancy at birth, total (years)	71.91	4.82	0.402	0.655
Health expenditure (%GDP)	4.61	2.07	-0.290	0.385
Number of Homicides	1865.78	3411.50	0.469	0.677
Corruption	39.96	14.763	0.273	0.604
			Average	0.68

*Note:* The sign of standardised number of homicides and number of divorces change because the indicators are inversely related with development. Mean for all countries under study ( $\mu$ ) and standard deviation for all countries under study ( $\sigma$ ).

Table V presents the estimation results for economic development index. GDP per capita is \$ 16178.03 per annum on average for all selected states. Employment as a percentage of total population is 39.6%, which is quite better, whereas GINI index showing the inequality is 55.8. Service sector plays leading role and having 9.7% of GDP share, whereas agriculture sector is not performing well and contributing only 35 % of GDP. Total reserves including gold are quite better for all states. Overall economic development index performance for these states are quite well and after standardizing shows an area 0.57 on average. Finally, we aggregate the sub-indices to get Socio-Economic development index. And for this purpose, we have added the both aggregates of areas under the curve of SCDI and ECDI, by giving them equal weightage.

$$S_{CECDI} = (50\%)S_{CDI} + (50\%) E_{CDI}$$

Table 5. Economic development index (ECDI) in Saudi Arabia: 2015

Indicators	Mean( $\mu$ )	S.D ( $\sigma$ )	Standardized	Area under curve
GDP per capita, PPP (constant 2005 \$)	16178.0	20186.22	0.254	0.598
Employment to population ratio, 15+, total (%)	39.617	26.378	-0.250	0.401
GINI index	55.818	14.211	0.408	0.655
Agriculture value added (%GDP)	35.315	5.471	-0.605	0.274
Industries value added (%GDP)	23.863	5.562	0.886	0.810
Service value added (%GDP)	9.788	8.397	-0.896	0.186
Exports of goods and services	39.431	13.80	0.468	0.677
Investment (Gross Capital Formation) (%GDP)	50.82	7.70	0.131	0.551
Total reserves (includes gold) Million US\$	76852.8	138452.5	3.973	0.999
			Average	0.57

*Note:* The sign of standardised GINI index change because the indicators are inversely related with development. Mean for all countries under study ( $\mu$ ) Standard Deviation for all countries under study ( $\sigma$ ).

Table VI presents the Development Status matrix for all fourteen countries under study using four quadrant figures. It is observed that Malaysia lies in the very high developmental indices on average; while Bangladesh is at the lowest level showing very low development index (0.34) in 2015. If we discuss socio and economic development index individually before aggregating, it shows that Malaysia is at the highest position in social development index, while Pakistan is the lowest one, similarly for economic developmental index, Malaysia is included in very high level of development while, Pakistan and Egypt at the low level of development category. Overall Malaysia has highest ranking profile in socio-economic

developmental index as both indices have values more than 0.50, while Pakistan has lowest position in ranking having less than 0.50 values for both indices.

Table 6. The social-economic development index (ScEcDI) in 2010 and 2015

country	ScDI 2010	EcDI 2010	ScDI 2015	EcDI 2015	ScEcDI 2010	ScEcDI2015
Bangladesh	0.22	0.49	0.21	0.45	0.35	0.33
Pakistan	0.23	0.40	0.31	0.37	0.31	0.34
Egypt	0.45	0.41	0.40	0.37	0.43	0.38
Afghanistan	0.41	0.39	0.42	0.39	0.40	0.40
Indonesia	0.35	0.48	0.40	0.49	0.41	0.44
Kuwait	0.55	0.57	0.55	0.41	0.56	0.48
Iran	0.56	0.37	0.51	0.51	0.46	0.51
Turkey	0.58	0.35	0.54	0.53	0.46	0.53
Morocco	0.52	0.45	0.52	0.57	0.48	0.54
Bahrain	0.71	0.56	0.62	0.50	0.63	0.56
U.A.E	0.63	0.61	0.64	0.52	0.62	0.58
Qatar	0.71	0.60	0.63	0.55	0.65	0.59
Saudi Arabia	0.65	0.55	0.68	0.57	0.60	0.62
Malaysia	0.70	0.50	0.73	0.59	0.60	0.66

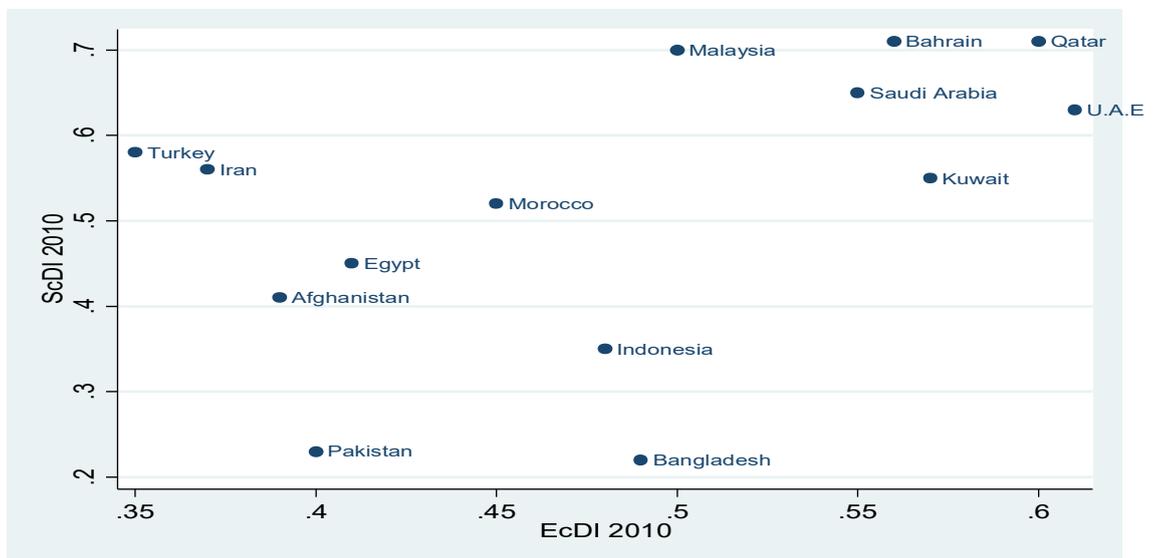


Fig 3. Classification of development status matrix (DSM):ScDI 2010 and EcDI 2010

Figure III basically compares the country performance with each other in the study. U.A.E, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Malaysia, Malaysia, Qatar and Kuwait lie in Quadratic 1, where both social and economic development index are more than 0.50. Similarly, Morocco, Turkey and Iran are in Quadratic 2. In Quadratic 3 are the poorest countries lie in this part such as, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Egypt

and Indonesia. In the last quadratic, no one country lies this place where economic is better performed, but social index poorly performs. In Figure 4, three countries including Morocco, Turkey and Iran showed the improved the social and economic indicator in 2015, due to which they shift from second quadrant to the first quadrant. Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia are still showing low performance and lie in the third quadrant. These countries are much lower than the other Arab countries including Turkey and Malaysia. This implies that social proximity sharing similar religion, culture and Islamic traditions and moral values play vital role in Development Status.

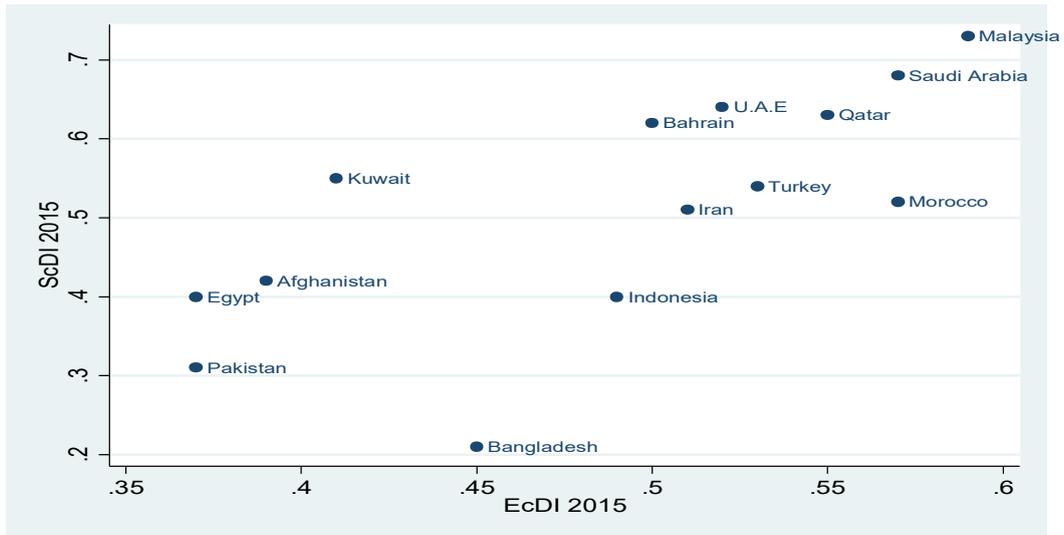


Fig 4. Classification of development status matrix (DSM):ScDI 2015 and EcDI 2015

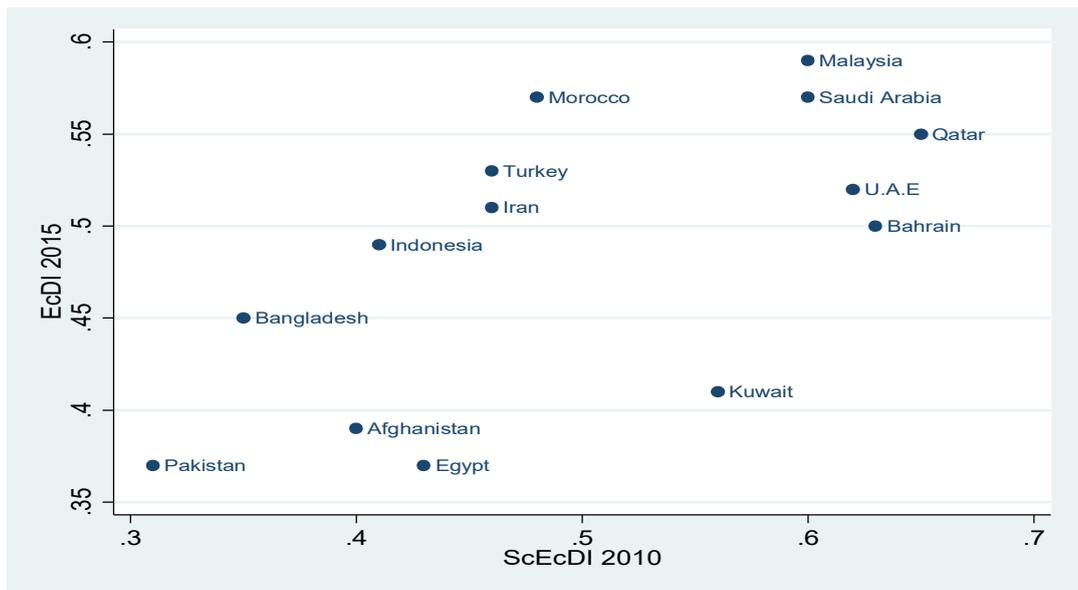


Fig 5. Classification of development status matrix (DSM):ScEcDI 2010 and ScEcDI 2015

Despite the increasing importance of development status, there is very limited performance of Pakistan and Afghanistan as indicated by the number of social and economic factors due to victimisation by terrorism. A great disparity exists between some regions like Malaysia, Saudi Arab, Qatar and U.A.E.

## 6. Conclusion and recommendation

The main contribution of this paper is the measurement of different levels of socio-economic development of Islamic countries under the Maqasidal-Shariah. The socio-economic development is a good representative measure of development because it provides a better indication of the general level of development in a country at a certain period of time such as (Socio-economic Development Index 1970; Social Economic Development Index 2012). The proposed index introduces the SCDI; ECDI and the SCECDI as an alternative of the HDI. Furthermore, the SCECDI provides more information about the gross level of social and economic indicators in different countries and provides clear picture of Islamic countries performance in terms of Maqasidal-Shariah.

The SCECDI is expected to be the better representation of holistic development and well-being according to Maqasidal-Shariah benchmarks, hence providing for researcher and policymakers in Muslim countries with an alternative measurement of socio-economic development. A number of findings have emanated from this study. As it was expected most of the Muslim countries are in better condition in social development index except few countries such as Afghanistan; Bangladesh; Indonesia and Pakistan as they have low indices in this study.

The findings also show that in the social development in Islamic countries, having more educated mass, allocated more budget for health and education would have longer years of life and better standard of living. Therefore, we may say that strong Maqasidal-Shariah approach could be the source of making healthy nations. It is hard to suggest based on the results as it is quite diverse and included many sectors that require for improvement, which is not practically possible. Therefore, it is suggested that every country should focus on education sector and provide more and more facilities to improve its socio-development index, and this will lead to develop almost all sectors automatically as this is the first step to go ahead for the development. Within the passage of time, after having better education, employment sector can perform well and economic conditions of the individual could be better.

In short, if the countries invest more on education and employment sector poverty, corruption and any other problems can be reduced, which ultimately provides better standard of living and good environment to the people to think and work for the country as a whole. If Muslim countries strictly follow Maqasidal-Shariah approach they probably obtain sound development index for the communities.

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