

THE GAIT OF AQIDAH PHILOSOPHY STUDY PROGRAM ALUMNI AND THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF CIVIL SOCIETY

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Abstract: This study aims to analyze the work of alumni of the Aqidah and Islamic Philosophy study program, Faculty of Ushuluddin and Islamic Studies, Islamic University of Sumatera Utara, with a focus on observing the contributions made and the strategic areas of civil society development that alumni do. The research used a descriptive study-based qualitative method, and data collection techniques using observation, interviews and document analysis. Furthermore, the data collected was analyzed using the Miles and Hubberman interactive model including data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing. The results of this study indicate three findings, namely first, the role of alumni in taking part in building and fostering communities in Sumatra and several regions in Indonesia has been proven by the community as evidenced by the strategic position of alumni both in government and private institutions. Second, the role of alumni is more focused on the fields of education, counseling and guidance. Third, there is close involvement between study program managers, alumni, and partners in improving the work of alumni. This collaboration has proven to be an important factor in the success of a more sustainable and effective community development program.

Keywords: Alumni Gait, Community Development, Civil Society

Abstrak: Penelitian ini bertujuan menganalisis kiprah alumni program studi Aqidah dan Filsafat Islam Fakultas Ushuluddin dan Studi Islam Universitas Islam Sumatera Utara, dengan fokus kajian mengamati kontribusi yang dilakukan dan bidang strategis pembangunan masyarakat madani yang alumni lakukan. Penelitian menggunakan metode kualitatif berbasis studi deskriptif, dan teknik pengumpulan data menggunakan observasi, wawancara dan analisis dokumen. Selanjutnya, data yang dikumpulkan dianalisis dengan menggunakan model interaktif Miles dan Hubberman meliputi reduksi data, penyajian data, dan penarikan kesimpulan. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan pada tiga temuan yakni pertama, peran alumni dalam berkiprah membangun dan membina masyarakat di Sumatera dan beberapa daerah di Indonesia sudah dapat dibuktikan oleh masyarakat hal itu terbukti dari posisi strategis alumni baik pada lembaga pemerintahan maupun swasta. Kedua, peran alumni lebih terfokus pada bidang pendidikan, penyuluhan dan bimbingan. Ketiga, adanya keterlibatan yang erat antara pengelola program studi, alumni, dan mitra kerja dalam meningkatkan kiprah alumni. Kolaborasi ini terbukti menjadi faktor penting keberhasilan program pembinaan masyarakat yang lebih berkelanjutan dan efektif.

Kata Kunci: Kiprah Alumni, Pembinaan Masyarakat, Masyarakat Madani

INTRODUCTION

Alumni or college graduates are an indicator of the educational success of an educational institution, as well as a mirror of the educational process carried out in producing a productive and useful generation of nations for society. The contribution of the world of education to national development is expected with the birth of graduates and alumni who are productive and have the ability to be applied and functioned both formally and non-formally (Muzaki, 2023). Among the tools used to develop a person's abilities, both in terms of cognitive, affective, and psychomotor is through education that can be obtained in schools or campuses with formal education, or in non-formal, or informal institutions. A student is free to determine and choose which path to use to develop knowledge and forge talents and potential in himself, even when pursuing formal education, an individual has the right to also participate in non-formal education activities (Handrianto et al., 2021).

One of the most appropriate places to forge one's abilities is campus. All public and private campuses have an obligation to encourage students to develop both inside and outside campus. This is done so that students can have scientific mastery which has a positive impact on the development of student scientific traditions or attitudes (Soo, 2023). On the other hand, it cannot be denied that students are one of Indonesia's most important human

resources and are also the next generation of national development. Students as a young generation are people who have a lot of responsibility because it is on their shoulders that the direction of the Indonesian nation is carried. Currently, students are a great hope for the people of Indonesia, because their role is an agent of change in society. There is a very harmonious relationship between students and the people, students serve as the mouthpiece of the people, students serve as controllers of various government policies. Therefore, the position of students is currently needed and must be involved in various nation building agendas (Cahyono, 2019; Martadinata, 2019).

The Aqidah and Islamic Philosophy study program of the Faculty of Ushuluddin and Islamic Studies of UIN Sumatera Utara has a very strategic role to forge students who are able to integrate Religious Sciences with science and technology so as to produce graduates who are able to *survive* in the open world (learning to be), knowing what needs to be known in an industrial society, technology and globalization (learning to think), and can work for the welfare of themselves and their communities (learning to do). However, along with the times and the increasingly complex challenges in the world of work, the Islamic Philosophy of Allegiance study program faces problems related to the suitability between alumni competencies and the needs of the world of work.

Although the study program has produced competent alumni, many alumni work in fields that are not in accordance with their majors. This shows that there is a gap between what is expected by *users* and the abilities possessed by alumni, especially in the context of applying the knowledge they have gained (Sukiman, 2015).

The Islamic Philosophy study program has one main characteristic in the type and field of science developed and also the production of graduates in accordance with its fundamental scientific character, namely combining theory and practice. This is because the output or graduate products produced are expected to be of high quality, professional in their fields. In other words, the *da'wah* that the *Akidah Filsafat Islam* study program wants to develop touches more on aspects of meeting the needs of everyday life so that a balance of material and spiritual needs is realized. However, despite the success in combining theory and practice in the learning process, real problems arise when graduates are faced with a dynamic and challenging world of work.

In addition, students as agents of change and transformers in society are expected to have the ability in the field of guidance and counseling based on a persuasive approach (interpersonal communication). This form of communication is very necessary because with a persuasive approach the community can reveal personal problems that may be taboo to be revealed openly. the Islamic Philosophy of Allegiance study program has

produced many alumni who are professionals in the field of guidance and counseling. the Islamic Philosophy of Allegiance study program conducts socialization for users to utilize and provide space for alumni to work in their institutions. However, the results of interviews conducted with several alumni show that many of them work not in accordance with their majors. Therefore, to strengthen the department, it is necessary to investigate user perceptions of alumni of the Islamic Philosophy major, Faculty of Ushuluddin and Islamic Studies UIN Sumatera Utara with the hope that alumni issued from the Islamic Philosophy major have relevant and ready-to-use competencies for users.

This research will also examine the involvement of higher education managers, alumni, and users in improving the work of alumni. It is hoped that the collaboration between these three parties can make a significant contribution in improving the quality and relevance of graduates of the Islamic Philosophy *Akidah* study program, as well as ensuring that they are ready to have a positive impact on the development of civil society. The involvement of university managers in aligning the curriculum with the needs of the world of work, as well as support from alumni and users in facilitating employment opportunities for graduates, will be a key factor in improving the work of alumni in society.

This research also has a distinction that distinguishes it from previous

studies, where the main focus is on strengthening the role of alumni in civil society through the involvement of university managers, alumni, and users. In contrast to previous studies that emphasize more on individual alumni outcomes in the world of work or social life separately, this study tries to reveal the collaborative relationship between the three parties to improve alumni's work more holistically. Another distinction is the special attention to the Islamic Philosophy study program at UIN Sumatera Utara which emphasizes character building and alumni competence in order to contribute to civil society, in line with the needs of society and the industrial world.

The support of the exploration of five previous studies provides a strong foundation for the distinction of this research. Research by Indriati and Djaddang (Indriati & Djaddang, 2024), Suparyati, and Habsya (Suparyati & Habsya, 2024) shows that the success of graduates in the world of work is strongly influenced by the involvement of universities in providing internship opportunities and collaboration with industry. Research by Nurpratama et al (2025) also examined the impact of alumni involvement in professional networks and found that alumni who are active in these networks tend to have better career opportunities. Anastasya & Sukmayadi's research (2023) emphasizes the importance of the role of a curriculum that is in accordance with the times to

increase the relevance of graduates to the needs of the labor market. Meanwhile, Mahatmi & Sebatubun (2021) mentioned that effective communication between universities and users can help identify labor needs that match the skills possessed by alumni. Finally, Ritonga et al.'s research (2024) highlights the importance of strengthening soft skills competencies, such as communication and leadership skills, in preparing alumni for success in the world of work and in society. By integrating findings from previous research and adding them with explorations related to collaboration between university managers, alumni, and users, this research is expected to make a more significant contribution in improving the quality and relevance of education, as well as strengthening the role of alumni in advancing civil society.

This research makes a significant contribution to the development of the quality of higher education, especially in improving the work of alumni of the Islamic Philosophy Akidah study program in civil society. By examining the involvement of higher education managers, alumni, and users, this research provides new insights regarding the importance of collaboration between parties to improve the relevance of education and the readiness of alumni in the world of work. In addition, this research can be a reference to strengthen the role of alumni in community development, as well as provide recommendations for universities in

improving relationships with alumni and related sectors to advance the quality of education and community service.

METHOD

This research uses qualitative research methods with a descriptive study approach. In this study, the description focuses on user perceptions of alumni of the department of the study program of Islamic creed and philosophy, Faculty of Ushuluddin and Islamic Studies UIN Sumatera Utara. To get comprehensive results, this research will use at least two studies, user perceptions of the alumni of the study program of Islamic creed and philosophy, Faculty of Ushuluddin and Islamic Studies UIN Sumatera Utara and contextual studies of the contributions made by users to the study program of Islamic creed and philosophy, Faculty of Ushuluddin and Islamic Studies UIN Sumatera Utara.

Data Collection Methods In an effort to find data on the study of the growing understanding of user perceptions of the study program of Aqidah and Islamic Philosophy at the Faculty of Ushuluddin and Islamic Studies UIN Sumatera Utara, researchers will explore data directly to users of government agencies and communities directly involved in the study program of Aqidah and Islamic Philosophy. Data collection on user leaders is carried out in two ways, first by the informal interview method, where the interview process is based entirely on the spontaneous

development of questions in natural interactions. In this informal interview, the people spoken to may not realize that they are being systematically interviewed.

The data collection strategy uses in-depth interviews and observations to the community who are directly involved in the program that is implemented by the user, this strategy is carried out to understand the user's responses and perceptions of the alumni of the Islamic akidah and philosophy study program at the Faculty of Ushuludddin and Islamic Studies UIN Sumatera Utara, as well as to develop and refine the theory. To examine more deeply about how user perceptions, researchers will also review books related to the Islamic community development department. With an in-depth study of the concepts of development from existing documents, it will be able to analyze how the general understanding of user perceptions of the study program of Islamic creed and philosophy of the Faculty of Ushuluddin and Islamic Studies UIN Sumatera Utara.

This research divides research subjects into two categories, namely main subjects and supporting subjects. The main subject of this research is the user leadership of government and private institutions with an interest in the alumni of the study program of Islamic creed and philosophy of the Faculty of Ushuluddin and Islamic Studies of UIN Sumatera Utara. While the supporting subjects are alumni and the study program of Islamic creed and philosophy of the Faculty of

Ushuluddin and Islamic Studies UIN Sumatera Utara. The research subjects were taken using non probability sampling technique, where the research population is unknown. Furthermore, using the snowing ball method where the social symptoms of one place are different from other places. With the snowball method, knowledge of the social features of the research topic will be more complete and comprehensive

Furthermore, a critical analysis of stakeholder perceptions was carried out using the content analysis method, namely by collecting and analyzing the content of the text, where the content refers to words, meanings or meanings, images, symbols, ideas or themes communicated by the text. As for the stages before analyzing, verbatim transcripts of the interview results were made and classified by giving names and codes. Field notes that are written will also be classified and given critical notes. After all the data is grouped in specific codes, then determine the theme and conduct the analysis.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The research findings show that there are two areas of community development that have been carried out by alumni of the philosophy study program of the ushuluddin and Islamic studies faculty of UIN Sumatera Utara, namely community development in the physical and non-physical fields, the following will describe both.

Community Development in the Physical Field

1. Economic development sector

With regard to the economy, of course, regarding the circulation of goods and financial circulation. This is the landaan of the Indonesian economy experiencing development, not only that, factors that also affect economic development, one of which is human resources. Related to that, alumni of the Aqidah and Islamic Philosophy study program also have a share in fostering the economy, one of which was carried out by Khairatun Nisa Nasution. Alumni who foster the community's economy in one of the villages in Kulon Progo Regency Yogyakarta, one form of guidance is to make catfish farms in each household, with funds obtained from the Ministry of Youth and Sports when participating in the 2012 Rural Activator Bachelor program. Each household received one million rupiah and the funds were returned after the catfish harvest. This activity lasted for two years, quite a lot of benefits were felt by the people in the village. The activities carried out by the Alumni are part of the development of human resources related to wealth. In the Islamic concept, wealth is a gift from Allah for humans as well as a tool for human development to continue human life to devote themselves to Allah. Therefore, wealth must be obtained in a halal and good way. Allah has provided everything on earth and in the sky for humans.

This opinion is in line with the theory put forward by Amartya Sen in his book *Development as Freedom* (2014), where he emphasizes that economic development is not only focused on increasing income, but also on developing human capabilities, one of which is through the development of human resources that can play a role in driving the economy more broadly. Sen emphasized that individual empowerment, especially in terms of mastery of skills and knowledge, is the main key in improving the economic welfare of a society. In this context, the contribution of Aqidah and Islamic Philosophy Study Program alumni such as Khairatun Nisa Nasution can be considered as an example of the application of human resource development in a broader context, namely community economic empowerment. As expressed by M. Quraish Shihab, in *Economics in an Islamic Perspective* (2021), the economy in the Islamic view must be based on the principles of justice and benefit for mankind. Therefore, any economic activity, such as that carried out by these alumni, which aims to improve community welfare through practical skills-based economic empowerment, is very much in line with these principles (Syahputra, 2014).

The activities carried out by Khairatun Nisa Nasution in fostering the economy of the community in Kulon Progo Village Yogyakarta are an example of the application of Islamic economic principles based on community empowerment. By developing catfish farming businesses in

each household, she focuses not only on economic achievement, but also on improving the quality of life of the community through practical skills empowerment. This is in line with Islamic economic principles that emphasize the obligation to strive, where every individual in society is expected to be productive and not depend on the handouts of others.

In addition, these activities contribute to reducing unemployment, as they provide opportunities for people to work and generate income. In the Islamic view, the state also has a responsibility to create jobs and address unemployment. Given the Islamic principle of recognizing private property rights, the business outcomes of this program also reflect respect for the individual's right to what he or she has earned. The principle of divinity in Islamic economics is also reflected in Khairatun's efforts, as the economic management undertaken is not only oriented towards material gain, but also pays attention to the spiritual dimension. In Islam, wealth is considered a trust that must be used for the welfare of the people and to fulfill religious obligations, such as spending wealth in the way of Allah. As stated by M. Quraish Shihab (2021) economic activities must continue to prioritize moral and religious values.

2. Education Development Division

Education plays a very fundamental role in preparing the younger generation to take responsibility in the life of society and the nation. According to Muhaimin (2007), education

is the main tool in creating human beings who are noble and able to raise the dignity of the nation. In this context, alumni of the Department of Aqidah and Islamic Philosophy, such as Prof. Dr. Hasyimsah Nst, MA, Prof. Dr. Hasan Bakti Nst, MA, Prof. Dr. Amroeni, M.Ag, Dr. Sukiman, M.Si, and Dr. Syukri, MA, made significant contributions not only in the world of formal education, but also in community development through lectures, training, and service in correctional institutions.

In Islamic education, the goal to be achieved is to form individuals who are not only intellectually intelligent, but also have good morals and are able to implement religious values in everyday life. As said by Al-Ghazali (2022), Islamic education aims to form humans as caliphs who are not only able to seek sustenance in a halal manner, but also bring benefits to mankind. Therefore, Islamic education must instill deep moral and spiritual values, while preparing students to face the challenges of the world and the hereafter.

This opinion is in line with the principles of the Tri Dharma of Higher Education which prioritizes education, teaching, and community service. In this case, alumni of the Department of Aqidah and Islamic Philosophy play a role in creating an environment that not only teaches knowledge, but also shapes character in accordance with religious teachings and human values.

3. Agriculture Development Division

In addition to playing a role in education and the economy, alumni of the

Aqidah and Islamic Philosophy study program also made a significant contribution in the field of agriculture, one of which is Akong Lingga. This alumni has an orange plantation which is still well managed. Apart from being an agricultural entrepreneur, Akong Lingga also plays a role in community development, especially in agriculture. One form of his contribution is to absorb labor from villagers to manage their agricultural land. In addition, he also assists villagers in developing their agricultural land by providing seeds and fertilizers for free, with the stipulation that payment is made after harvest. This step shows Akong Lingga's attention to the capital needs of farmers and his desire to make it easier for people who want to cultivate land but are constrained by financing problems.

Analysis of these findings can be seen through the approach of Islamic economic theory, which emphasizes the importance of justice and shared prosperity in doing business. According to Syaripudin et al., (2023), one of the main principles of Islamic economics is that trade and transactions must pay attention to mutual welfare, by avoiding exploitation. In this case, the assistance provided by Akong Lingga to villagers to access agricultural capital illustrates the implementation of the principle of social justice in Islamic economics. It also reflects the sustainability of more inclusive agricultural development, where underprivileged communities can actively participate in productive economic

sectors. Thus, alumni involvement in agriculture is not only economically beneficial, but also contributes to broader community empowerment.

4. Development of political organizations and community organizations

The dynamics of the development of politics and organizations in Indonesia have changed significantly. Alumni of the Aqidah and Islamic Philosophy study program also play an active role in this development, one of which is Mulia Banurea who holds the position as Chairman of the General Election Commission of Sumatera Utara. This achievement shows that Aqidah and Islamic Philosophy alumni are able to compete with graduates from political majors in other universities. Mulia Banurea's success in occupying this strategic position proves that alumni of the Aqidah and Islamic Philosophy study program have qualified competence in politics and organizations.

Expert opinion can support this finding, as expressed by Masykuri Abdillah (Abdillah, 2015, 2022), which states that religious education, including Aqidah and Islamic Philosophy, provides moral and ethical provisions that are needed in politics. This competency allows alumni to play a role in politics by not only focusing on power, but also on the values of justice, integrity, and social responsibility in line with the principles in Islamic teachings. Thus, the contribution of Aqidah and Islamic Philosophy alumni in politics is not only focused on technical

expertise, but also on moral values that can bring positive changes in the political world.

Non-physical Community Development

1. Community Development in the Field of Tawhid

Alumni of the Aqidah and Islamic Philosophy study program at UIN Sumatera Utara have made a significant contribution to the development of public faith, including by acting as preachers and preachers. Their role is not only limited to teaching in universities, but also reaches out to the wider community through religious lectures, Friday sermons, and other da'wah activities. Alumni such as Dr. Syukri, MA, and Dr. Sukiman, M.Si, have been known to be active in delivering religious materials related to faith, both in educational institutions and in the general public. The participation of these alumni in da'wah shows their commitment to developing a healthy understanding of faith among the community, in accordance with the principles of Islamic teachings.

This contribution is in line with expert opinion which states that creed education has an important role in shaping the character of individuals and society. According to (Cahyono, 2019), da'wah is the main means of spreading Islamic teachings, which serves to strengthen faith and bring people closer to Allah SWT. In this case, Aqidah and Islamic Philosophy alumni have a strategic role in providing a correct understanding of Islamic teachings to the community.

Therefore, their contribution as preachers and preachers can be considered as part of the effort to strengthen the foundation of public faith based on the Qur'an and Hadith.

2. Community Development in the Field of Worship

Alumni of the Aqidah and Islamic Philosophy study program at UIN Sumatera Utara are also active in the field of religious development, especially in developing a correct understanding of religion among the community. They play an important role as a driving force in religious activities, such as conducting religious training, filling recitations, and giving lectures on various occasions, including in mosques, correctional institutions, and various community institutions. One of the alumni, such as Prof. Dr. Amroeni, M.Ag, has been involved in various coaching activities aimed at strengthening people's understanding of moderate and tolerant Islamic teachings.

This activity reflects the contribution of alumni in developing a society with noble character and a comprehensive understanding of Islamic teachings. In this context, religious education has a very important role in shaping individual and social morality. As stated by Nurcholis Madjid (Madjid, 2001), religious education in Indonesia should not only focus on aspects of worship, but also on character development and understanding of universal Islamic values. Religious guidance conducted by Aqidah and Islamic Philosophy alumni not only covers

theoretical aspects, but also practical, in an effort to improve the spiritual and social quality of the people.

Involvement of study program managers, alumni, and graduate users in fostering civil society

The development of Aqidah and Islamic Philosophy alumni of UIN North Sumatera in the fields of religion, economy, and education can run effectively thanks to the strong collaboration between study program managers, alumni, and users. This collaboration is a key factor that encourages the success of alumni in making real contributions in society, both in the form of da'wah activities, entrepreneurship, and educational development.

According to the theory of collaboration in education, effective collaboration between various stakeholders including study program managers, alumni, and users - can create an ecosystem that supports the development of learner capacity (Azra, 2012). Study program managers are responsible for developing a curriculum that is not only theory-based, but also applicative, which integrates religious values and practical skills that can be directly used by alumni in society. In this case, study program managers at UIN Sumatera Utara play a role in preparing alumni to be able to face challenges in the field and adapt to the needs of society.

Alumni, after completing their education, become agents of change who have the ability to apply their knowledge and skills in the real world. Collaboration with study program managers allows alumni to stay connected to curriculum developments and develop coaching programs that are relevant to the needs of the community. For example, alumni involved in the field of da'wah and faith development can collaborate with educational institutions or the government to conduct training, seminars and lectures that can improve people's religious understanding, in accordance with the competencies they gained during college.

Users, whether government agencies, communities, or private organizations, also play an important role in this collaboration. Users of alumni services, such as the government who need religious teaching or guidance, or the community who need economic and social guidance, provide space for alumni to implement their knowledge. This is also in line with the social constructivism theory proposed by Vygotsky (2015), which emphasizes the importance of social interaction and collaboration in learning. In this context, collaboration between study program managers, alumni, and users creates a dynamic learning space, where knowledge and skills are formed and applied through productive social interactions.

Overall, this collaboration forms a network that supports each other,

strengthens the capacity of alumni, and has a significant impact on society. With harmonious cooperation between study program managers, alumni, and users, guidance in the fields of religion, education, and economics can be carried out more effectively and have a broad impact, s in accordance with the objectives of Islamic education which aims to form individuals who are not only academically intelligent, but also have a positive contribution to society.

CONCLUSION

The conclusion of this discussion shows that the alumni of the Aqidah and Islamic Philosophy Study Program of the Faculty of Ushuluddin and Islamic Studies of UIN Sumatera Utara have made a significant contribution to community development, both in the physical and non-physical fields. In the physical field, alumni play an active role in community economic empowerment through various initiatives, such as livestock and agriculture-based economic development. This activity not only supports the improvement of community welfare, but also prioritizes the principles of Islamic economics which are based on justice and benefit for humanity. This coaching is in line with the concept of human resource development which emphasizes the empowerment of practical skills as the key to improving the quality of life of the community. In addition, alumni also play an important role in the field of education, both formal and non-formal, which focuses on character building and

noble morals. They contribute to various da'wah, recitation, and training activities to improve people's understanding of Islamic teachings that are moderate, tolerant, and in accordance with moral and spiritual values. In fostering the fields of tawhid and worship, alumni help strengthen the foundation of the community's faith and worship, which is the basis for creating a society with noble character and faith in Allah. Overall, the contribution of alumni of the Aqidah and Islamic Philosophy Study Program in various fields shows that Islamic religious education can have a broad impact on community development. With good collaboration between study program managers, alumni, and graduate users, community development can be carried out effectively and provide great benefits for the progress of the people and the nation. The implications of this research indicate the need to strengthen collaboration between higher education, alumni, and the community to optimize the role of alumni in community empowerment. Curriculum evaluation and development that is in accordance with the social, economic, and cultural needs of the community are needed. Study programs should better integrate relevant theory and practice to create a smart, moral, and socially caring society.

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