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LAND AVAILABILITY AND REQUIREMENT ON ISLAMIC CEMETERY AT KAMPUNG TOKAI, PENDANG

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Abstract:

Nowadays land limitation for Islamic cemetery has become main concern among Muslim community, authority, and Islamic NGOs. Thus, awareness and systematic mitigating these issues are necessary planning. Against these backdrops, the objective of the study is to determine the maximum limit of land availability for Islamic Cemetery by applying planning guideline and the provision of required facilities and utilities. The methodology uses secondary data to analyse and interpret projection data. This study shall be beneficial to the authority in-charge of cemetery management in purpose of references for future requirements and needs. In a hope, this study can give impact in land cemetery planning while enhancing on alternatives approach as the solution for other new cases.

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Keywords:

Community, Islamic Cemetery, Land Availability, Land Limitation, Planning

Introduction

Islamic cemetery in Malaysia has stated under responsibility and managed by Department of Islamic Affair of each state. The cemetery also shall be organized by the local communities based on the *qariah* members (Ibrahim et al., 2020). Based on Majlis Agama Islam Kedah (MAIK), currently on year 2022, the situation of Islamic cemetery in Kedah still recognised under control in terms of land capacity based on the specific area appointed yet, Religious, Education and Human Resource Council of Kedah (2021) stated that its compulsory for the authority to decide the alternatives to prepare for future needs. The concern has involved regarding to the land limitation and availability of Islamic cemetery in Kedah. Yet, most of Islamic cemetery in Kedah has stated under control related to the issues though, this case still needed to be investigated and may happen in place (MAIK, 2022).

The land limitation for Islamic cemetery has been rise recently regarding to the increasement of population in nation. Parallel to the housing provision, the cemetery itself also faced the same shortage issues (Sulaiman, 2014). Multilevel cemetery has been defined as stated alternatives that used to overcome cemetery land limitation issue to date. To be emphasised, Muzakarah Fatwa Committee of the 92nd National Council for Islamic Religious Affairs Malaysia (2010) has decided the compulsory of multilevel cemetery to be done if there are cases related to the land limitation on Muslim meditation issues (Ahmad, 2021). On other hand, PLANMalaysia@Semenanjung (2012) found that the determination on land cemetery has reflects to the population and the mortality rate of the area. In concern, the reinforcement between The Guidelines of Land Cemetery and Crematorium (2012) and the needs of alternatives by the upper authority apparently shows the land limitation issues has become part of major concern in cemetery facilities (PLANMalaysia@Semenanjung, 2012). However, there are limited research articles have explored the provision and demand of Islamic cemetery as one of the community facilities that need to be considered the most. Hence, to fill in the research gaps in this area, the aim of this paper is to determine the maximum limit of land availability in context of institutional and facilities for Islamic cemetery in Kampung Tokai, Pendang, Kedah.

Literature Review

The literature reviews for this paper involve four (4) points which covered on the key variables as determinants for the land availability for public facilities of Islamic cemetery. The reviews involve recognised as the definition of cemetery land in context of community facilities, allocation of land for cemetery usage, land requirement in general guidelines and cemetery land in planning based on settlements hierarchy. The study on land limitation and availability of land cemetery acquired the knowledges on the land cemetery allocation based on the

determination of local authority and general guideline of cemetery. In the nutshell, cemetery in context of planning has reinforced on the hierarchy of population in the area to ensure the provision of Islamic cemetery has meet the requirement.

Definition of Cemetery Land in context of Community Facilities

Community facilities can be interpreted as part of physical development that shall be fulfilled to achieve social and development sustainability. The purpose of community facilities provision is to provide the facilities and amenities that needed and required by the community sufficiently. The allocation of community facilities can be defined in the regulations of Town and Country Planning Act 1976 (Act 172) and Order, National Land Code (NLC) Act 1965 Section 124A and 204D, and National Urban Policy (NUP) 2016. Othman and Albakeri (2019) found that cemetery shall be interpreted as a reminder of life after death which distributed into two (2) types of gardens which recognized garden of paradise or garden of hell. Next, the burial of death people shall be implemented immediately along with the procedure that stated in Islam followed the Shara' (Ibrahim et al., 2022).

PLANMalaysia @Semenanjung, 2012 has found that the cemetery facilities have distributed into the category of cemetery which included in nine (9) categories of community facilities.

- i. Education
- ii. Health
- iii. Religious
- iv. Cemetery
- v. Safety
- vi. Welfare
- vii. Government Usage
- viii. Public facilities
- ix. House of Society

Seeking on cemetery's classification, there are seven (7) classification of cemeteries that infer on Muslim, Chinese, Indian or Sikh or Bahai, Christian, crematorium or corpse management hall, columbarium, and others (PLANMalaysia@Semananjung, 2012). Referring to the Guideline of Cemetery Land and Crematorium (2012), cemetery land can be defined as meditation area for death people which discovered under the land. The stated definition has reflected to all types of cemeteries which recognised as Islamic cemetery and crematorium for the other religion.

In perspectives of community facilities, the cemetery land has been recognised as the basis of the facilities for community (PLANMalaysia@Semananjung, 2012). Reflects to the statement given cemetery land remains as the closest community facilities elements which related to the population growth of the area. As the hypothesis, the higher population growth, the higher requirement of the cemetery land of the area. Inspecting on the hypothesis given, this if prove that cemetery land is functional as the basis facilities among community and importance toward the human needs.

Land Allocation for Cemetery Usage

The allocation of land for cemetery purposes is authorized by PLANMalaysia@Kedah and MHEAIK specifically. PLANMalaysia@Kedah shall grant the land under state authority for the purpose of community facilities usage. In other hand, the authority of state religious shall allocate the land for community facilities under government land (Rani & Aziz, 2010). The

land allocation for community facilities is covered among all the community facilities which included the facilities of education, health, religious, cemetery, safety, welfare, government usage, public facilities, and house of society (PLANMalaysia, 2012). Hence, there are allocated land stated under *waqf* that allocated by the person who tends to declare the land as part of *waqf* for usage of facilities (MAIK, 2021).

Generally, *waqf* land is identified as the land which been given freely in purpose for charity to the related party that appointed (Rahman, 2010). National Land Code (Act 56) 1965 Section 52 stated the use of lands according to “agriculture”, “building” or “industry”. National Land Code (Act 56) 1965 Section 51 also clarifies that lands above the shoreline be classified as town land, village land and country land. In context of state, the *waqf* land and properties been managed by Majlis Agama Islam Kedah (MAIK) which classify that the two (2) items as *waqf* shall be known as *waqf* land and properties (Abdullah, 2016). In context of management, the *waqf* properties is managed followed by two (2) stages of state and district based on the in-charge authority (Noor & Rani, 2014). On the other hand, the *waqf* properties can be distributed and used differently based on circumstances that need.

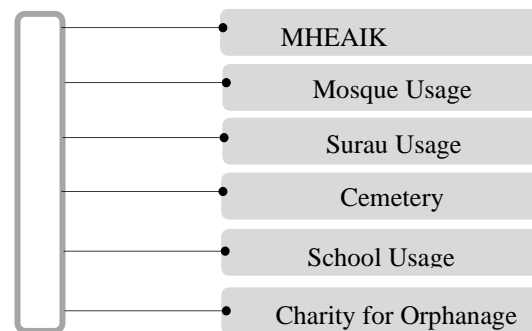


Figure 1: Category on Waqf Properties

Source: (Nor & Mustafa, 2009)

Land Requirement in General Guidelines for Cemetery Land

The General Guidelines of Cemetery land recognised the common guidelines for cemetery land that consist of all cemetery categories which needed to be followed to ensure the cemetery area is constructed systematically. The land requirement that been realigned to cemetery area are based on the community composition and the races involved (PLANMalaysia @Semenanjung, 2012). Regarding to the Guidelines of Cemetery land and Crematorium (2012), the approximate area for cemetery land provision is based on population on the area. It is stated that one (1) hectare of cemetery land can be provided for 8,000 population. This estimation regarding to the formula and calculation as stated in the guideline with estimation based on the death rate 5 out of 1000 per year. On the other perspective, the ratio of cemetery land can be determined by each State Authority based on the current need of the state.

$$C_t = P_t \times Mr \times Sz \times Rg$$

C_t = Cemetery land on Year t
 P_t = The Total of Population
 Mr = Death Rate
 Sz = Average of Cemetery Lot Size
 Rg = Distance Between Reuse Cemeteries

Figure 2: The Formula of Cemetery Land Requirement

Source: (PLANMalaysia @Semenanjung, 2012)

Cemetery Land in Planning based on Settlement Hierarchy

Cemetery land planning is applied to all cemetery categories and crematorium. It is compulsory to form a cemetery land based on the settlement hierarchy to ensure the need and requirement meet the cemetery land provision. Moreover, by providing the cemetery land based on the appropriate hierarchy is able create a planning which parallel to the sustainability.

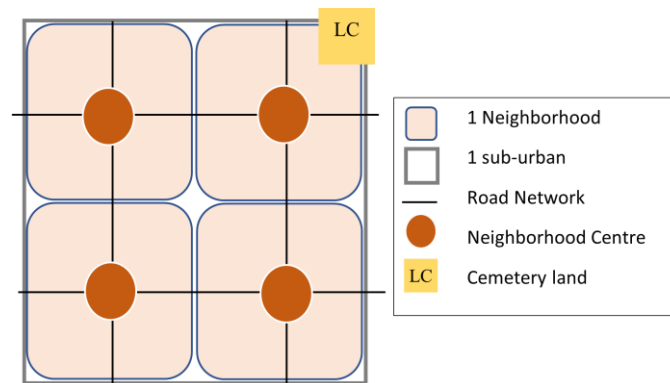


Figure 3: The Provision of Cemetery in Neighbourhood Unit

Source: (PLANMalaysia @Semenanjung, 2012)

Table 1: The Hierarchy of Cemetery land based on Settlement

Settlement Hierarchy	The Area of Cemetery land based on 1 Hectare/1000 Population	Planning Criteria
Neighbourhood or Village a. >10,000 People b. 1 Neighbourhood Unit	1.25 Hectares	a. Located Between 2 to 3 Neighbourhood Unit to Ease the Management. b. Open Cremation Allowed. c. Crematorium Not Appropriate to Provide. d. Columbarium Allowed.
Small Settlement Centre a. 10,001-30,000 People	1.25-3.75 Hectares	a. Located Between 2 to 3 Neighbourhood Unit with High Accessibility. b. Open Cremation Allowed.

b. 2-3 Neighbourhood Unit		c. Crematorium Not Appropriate to Provide. d. Columbarium Allowed.
Main Settlement Centre a. 30,001-100,000 People	3.75-12.5 Hectares	a. Located 20 km Away from Main Settlement Area. b. Implementation of Multilevel Cemetery (If Need). c. 1 Gas Crematorium (Minimum 0.6 Hec) & Columbarium is Provided based on Calculation Formula. d. Open Cremation Not Allowed.
Conurbation District Growth a. 100,001-300,00 People	12.5-37.5 Hectares	a. Located 20 km Away from City. b. Integrated Cemetery is Encouraged. c. Maximum Area to 20 Hectares. Need to Distribute into Several Area if More Than the Maximum. d. 1 Gas Crematorium (Minimum 0.6 Hec) & Columbarium is Provided based on Calculation Formula.
Conurbation of Nation, Half Regional and State Growth a. >300,001 People	>3.75 Hectares	a. Located 20 Km Away from City. b. Integrated Cemetery is Encouraged. c. Maximum Area to 20 Hectares. Need to Distribute into Several Area if More Than the Maximum. d. 1 Gas Crematorium (Minimum 0.6 Hec) & Columbarium is Provided based on Calculation Formula.

Source: (PLANMalaysia @Semenanjung, 2012)

Methodology

This research primarily uses the secondary data with a qualitative approach. Parallel to the reaffirm the aim of the study, the analysis used is defined as projection analysis to project the mortality using the current population data by Department of Statistic Malaysia (2020). On top of that, this analysis is to determined demand on cemetery land requirement and usage by observing population and mortality trends in 50 years for Pendang District. Yet, the study has been conducted for six (6) months which consists of five (5) stages from the introduction, literature review, methodology, result and findings, and discussion and conclusion.

Data Source

This research uses the demographic data of Pendang District by the Department of Statistic Malaysia (DOSM) including household, mortality rate and growth rate as the base data set. Projection analysis was conducted to observe population and mortality trends to estimate the land availability for Islamic cemetery requirement. Guidelines of Cemetery Land and

Crematorium (2012) also referred in this research to control the land capacity and requirement of Islamic cemetery.

Site Selection

The site selection as the study area is located at Pekan Tokai, Pendang, Kedah of Kampung Tokai Muslim cemetery with total acreage of 0.54 hectares. The site is selected regarding to the issues on land limitation for cemetery usage and the inappropriate layout that have been conducted on the existing condition of the study area. The Committee of Masjid As-Syakirin, 2022 has stated that the cemetery land also has been fill up to the second layer on year 2010. Yet, the cemetery land is almost reached to the 100 percents fully used to sustain. Moreover, compared to the Guideline of Cemetery Land and Crematorium, 2012, the study area has a lot of insufficiency to be functional as Muslim cemetery land that covered nine (9) settlements under its *qariah*. Thus, the site selection of this study is strongly justified that it is convinced to be conducted as part of this study based on the issues that have been identified in the preliminary stage suit to the requirements to conduct a systematic layout development study.



Figure 3: Site Plan

Results and Findings

The result of the study can be interpreted based on objectives of the study that have been realign on the first stage of introduction. The result is retrieved from the implementation of data analysis based on collected data on the study area using interview according to the study area matters. Inspecting on the results and findings, this study has used the analysis approach of projection analysis to interpret the obtained data. Due to the result, it can acknowledge the study has determine that the study area has the issue on land limitation for further usage in fifty (50) years.

Table 2: Type of Analysis Usage

Aspect/Element	Analysis Methods
Quantitative Data (Secondary sources) i. Household of Pendang District ii. Growth rate of Pendang District	Projection Analysis

The Projection of Mortality, Population and Cemetery Land Requirements

Data collection process has inferred several limitations on the data of current population on the covered *qariah* by the study area. There is unavailable source to refer yet, the current population has been estimated by the formula of number of houses 1,058 multiply by household of Pendang District 4.2. Hence, the total estimation of population is defined as 4,444 people for *qariah* Pekan Tokai. The projection analysis has inferred on the mortalities and population of *qariah* Pekan Tokai. The land requirement on Muslim cemetery of study area is conducted through the calculation on current land usage and the maximum capacity to be fully used.

Projection of Mortality

The mortality rate of the study area is collected from Masjid As-Syakirin Committee which stated as three (3) mortalities per month that recognised as a low mortality rate suit to the population estimation. To be simplified, the mortality rate per month shall be multiply to twelve (12) months to formulated for one (1) year mortality rate. The starting year projection is using year 2020 parallel to the population estimation which using 2020 data. To be reinforced, the cemetery land has been filled up to the second layer in 2010. After ten (10) year, the cemetery land has almost reached the maximum usage for 75.9 percents. Yet, it is taking 30 years for the cemetery to be recycled based on the guideline. However, the projection shall start on year 2020, ten (10) year further and analysing the current land availability on year 2020 to reach 2030 to study on its needs for overcome the land limitation alternatives.

Table 3: The Projection of Mortality within Fifty (50) Years

Average of Mortality per Year		3 mortality/month x 12 months = 36 mortality/year		
Cellar of Year		10 years		
Projection of Mortality within Fifty (50) Years				
2020	2030	2040	2050	2060
36	720	1,080	1,440	1,800

Source: (Masjid Tokai Committee, 2022)

Table 3 shows that within fifty (50) years starting from year 2020, the mortalities have been projected to 1,800 mortalities with 36 mortalities rate per year. This mortality pattern is parallel to the estimated population. Thus, the total of mortalities shown the needs and requirements of cemetery land provision on year 2060 for land requirement and capacity.

Projection of Population

In another perspective, the other method that used to estimate the population of Pekan Tokai is using the calculation of housing in the *qariah* and household of the district. In total, there are 1,058 houses of the *qariah* and multiply by 4.2 district household which lead to the estimation of total population on Pekan Tokai as 4,444 people. The differentiation between the two (2) estimation has shown major gap for almost 4,000 people. Hence, this study has agreed to use the estimation method of house data and household calculation that conclude the total population of study area is 4,444 people which more accurate (Refer Figure 4.1). Based on Majlis Daerah Pendang, 2020, the growth rate of the district remains as 0.8 percents. Yet, to estimate the population starting from year 2020 as current population, it is calculated that the amount to be multiply by growth rate of district by the year period for ten (10) years' timelines to approach year 2060. Hence, it is the method that used to project the population analysis within fifty (50) years.

Table 4: The Projection of Pekan Tokai Population within Fifty (50) Years

Table 4: The Projection of Pekan Tokai Population within Fifty (50) Years				
Average of Pekan Tokai Population (Based on housing and household calculation)		4,444		
Growth Rate		0.8		
Projection of Pekan Tokai Population within Fifty (50) Years				
2020	2030	2040	2050	2060
4,444	7,999	14,398	25,916	45,649

Source: (Majlis Daerah Pendang, 2020)

Cemetery Land Capacity and Requirements

Based on the implemented analysis, it is found that the current cemetery land at the study area has reached 75.9 percents fully used for cemetery usage. Parallel to the projection approach that projected for fifty (50) years, the current land availability is able to sustain for five (5) years reflects to cemetery purposes for 0.04 hectares. Based on the circumstances, it is proved that the study area is need the most effective alternative on solving the issue of land limitation. Yet, the land capacity and requirement provision shall be of the study area shall be managed along with the systematic approach.

Table 5: Estimation on Land Availability Usage for Land Capacity and Requirements

Calculation	
Allocation on Cemetery Lot = 0.04 Hectares (400m ²)	
	(400 / 2.16) m ²
	= 185 Cemetery Lots
Land Maximum Usage	= 185 lots/36 mortalities per year
	= 5 years

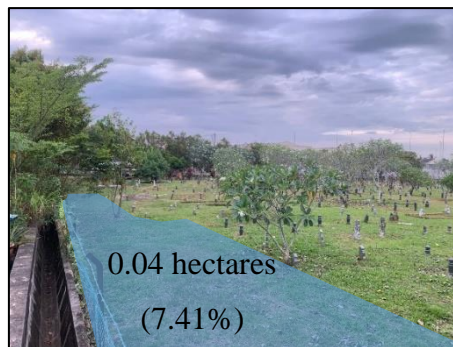


Figure 4: Current Land Availability for Cemetery Purpose

The Land Availability

The result found that there are two (2) main partition of land usage on the cemetery of study area. It is included the use of land for mosque and cemetery land usage. The land usage for mosque remains as 16.67 percents, 0.09 hectares. It is determined that this area cannot be used for cemetery purposes which its already allocated for the origin mosque. Yet, the cemetery has expanded to the mosque land on lot number of 378. However, this circumstance does not remain as the concern since the mosque has no longer use for praying unless for corpse management only. In perspective of cemetery usage, it is verified that there are 0.45 hectares in total yet only 0.04 hectares, 7.41 percents still available for the purpose. On top of that, the calculation in table 4.6 show that 0.04 hectares can only fit cemetery lot up to 185 lots with single level of cemetery which approximately five (5) years based on the mortality's projection. Thus, implementing the multilevel on the 0.04 hectares of land shall be effectively sustain the area for cemetery for another fifty (50) years.

Table 6: The Usage Cemetery Purposes on Kampung Tokai Muslim Cemetery Land by Year

Classification	Percentages (%)	Acreage (hec)
Full Usage Cemetery Area	91.11	0.41
Land Availability (current)	8.89	0.04
Total	100.00	0.45

Discussion and Conclusion

Based on the implemented analysis in the previous chapter, there are three (3) main findings which realign to the objectives of the study from the beginning reflects to the new layout of Islamic cemetery of the study area while overcome the issue of land limitation for cemetery used. Thus, by recycling the old cemetery shall be one (1) of the best solution to mitigate the land limitation issues (Reza, 2012). In this part, the amount of mortality and population Pekan Tokai in context of Pendang District has proved the strong relation to project the needs and requirements of the cemetery land for the study area based on the current land availability and land capacity.

The land capacity of the study area will be reached within five (5) years based on calculation of land maximum usage. Based on the land fill on year 2010, the cemetery can be used only for 30 years after. Moreover, it is remained that the *qariah* has the average of mortalities as 36

per year. It is shown that the area has low mortality rate however, the current land availability has been limited for 0.04 hectares from 0.41 hectares in total for cemetery usage. 0.04 hectares of land only able to fit mortalities for 185 cemetery lots with a single level cemetery. Yet, despite to the study area condition and land capacity, the area shall not be sustained using the burial classic method to fit the corpse based on mortality projection approaching year 2060. In other perspectives, the implementation of the multilevel cemetery up to two (2) or three (3) levels able to fit the mortalities in further years.

In the nutshell, the study area land capacity has apparently shown that the cemetery land will be reached the maximum usage on year 2025. Seeking on this circumstance, the projection of population and mortality for the community in Pekan Tokai has essentially implemented to recognise the condition of the cemetery land and its issue on land limitation for Muslim burial cemetery land in the area and its *qariah*. Inspecting on the future requirement, this study is able to be expanded on the future research in context of different methodology which infers on the interview method. On top of that, different dimension and perspective of the study can be discovered. This study also has proven that the study area current issue and needs for alternative to overcome the issue before it become more serious matter in Islamic burial matters at the study area.

To conclude, this research provides benefits information to the authority in-charge of cemetery management in purpose of references for future requirements and needs. The result can give impact in land cemetery planning while enhancing on alternatives approach as the solution for other new cases. Subsequently, this has been achieved it's objective of investigating land availability of the study area and the aim on determining maximum limit of land availability in context of institutional and facilities for Islamic cemetery in Kampung Tokai, Pendang, Kedah. Further research through interview can be done to perceive the perspective of related organisations in managing Islamic cemetery.

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