Undesignated Academic Mosque Response Toward COVID--19 Pandemic

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Abstract. Mosque is a unique building by the function as muslim prayer room. Indonesia as the world biggest muslim country has mandated each building to provide prayer room especially mosque by issuance of Ministry of Public Work- Housing Settlement decree no.14/2017. Academic building like cam-puss also mandated to have the campus mosque to facilitate the Muslim's civitas academia performing their prayer. However, the campus buildings commonly were not designed with mosque facility in purpose. Thus, campus designer performed remodelling their building to meet this demand. During the pandemic COVID--19 in Indonesia, some of undesignated academic mosques in Architecture Undip were responded it with various adaptation. This study purposed to investigate the responses of those mosque and try to figure the scheme of adaptation phase using descriptive analysis. The result of this study found that the places were follow the government advices and brought alone prayer into common practice.

1 Introduction

Mosques is unique building which having various frequency at different days and hours for Muslims activities such: praying, reciting Quran, social works, etc. The design and features of the mosques or musholas were related to contextual site, culture interactions and geographical factors [1]. Mosques were designed to have schematic prayer space where the long edge is directing to qibla (the bait of Allah/Kabah on Mecca) and ablution (wudhu) room to support pre-prayer activities [2].

Almost a quarter population of the world are muslim. Therefore, muslim community built many mosques throughout the earth as their demand in prayer space. Mosque is integral part of all Muslim community and not only that, the mosque also identity in muslim countries as their position of muslim population [3]. Indonesia as the world biggest muslim country has mandated each buildings to provide prayer room especially mosque by issuance of Ministry of Public Work- Housing Settlement decree no.14/2017. The decree also strictly stated that mushola must installs : clear direction to Qibla, distinctive separation between profane and common room, and proper thermal and lighting comfort [4]

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In the literature there are limited number of studies about mosque and rarely also about the campus mosque which not designated to be mosque [a]. Campus in Indonesia usually has central mosque. However, the demand to pray right on prayer time brought every building to provide a space to perform prayer (undesignated mosque). The condition of undesignated mosque on campus usually fully equipped with ablution area and prayer area. Thus, campus designer performed remodelling their building to meet this demand

The first COVID--19 case detected in China on late 2019 and made the big world problem since then [5-7] The World Health Organization under United Nation declared that nCOVID-1919 as pandemic on March 2020 as the rapid detection of COVID--19situation at many countries in all continents [8,9]. Until March 2020 COVID--19 has spread through 188 countries with 331.273 positive infected patients, 97.847 recovered people and 13.069 case of mortality by it.

Many countries have made regulation of area limitation or night curfew to cut the spreading [10] as previous situation of pandemic [11]. While the others force a lock down which brought total stop of public activities and shut the transportation to enter and exit from the cities or countries [12] All countries also supplied the medical stuffs (hand sanitizer, mask, face shield, etc), various COVID-19 tests, curative treatments, and research to response this situation [13]. The pandemic has affected every aspect such as economics [14] educations [15] tourism [16], and also religious aspect.

Indonesia first case of COVID-1919 were found at Depok city In Indonesia with two suspects on 2 march 2020 [17,18]. Since then, the pandemic seeks the people that disobey the physical and social distancing [19]. The increase of COVID-19 case in Indonesia, 510 has infected, 20 recovered and 38 death (23 March 2020). Therefore, Indonesia government released several protocols to perfrom home religion activities (prayers) to support the government regulation no.21/2020 about Large Scale Social Limitation for Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID--19) Pandemic Response [22] . Furthermore, the Majelis Ulama Indonesia (MUI) as Indonesia Muslim Representative Organization issued fatwa (religious law) no.14/2020 about Worship Protocols in Pandemic COVID-19 to support the efforts in cutting the COVID-19 spreading chain [23]. By those regulation and religious law issuance, the muslim community had dilemma in practicing the common worship which performed since 5th century and the medical issues or faith and reality.

This study purposed to investigate the responses of those mosque and try to figure the scheme of adaptation phase during this pandemic COVID--19 situation using descriptive analysis. The objects of undersigned mosque are located on Architecture Department of Engineering Faculty, Universitas Diponegoro.

2 Methods

2.1 Literature Study

This method was the primary method which already mentioned on introduction section as background of this scientific writing. Some literature research of mosque, COVID-1919 situations and the preventive efforts were being iterated with the object undesignated mosque and recent action on pandemics.

2.2 Site Observation

This method was performed to gain data from the mosques in Architecture campus of Undip, especially the adaptation toward COVID--19 pandemic protocols. The documentation was taken using digital devices to make high precision.

2.3 Descriptive Analysis

This method was the main analysis way in discussing each finding of efforts and protocols. The descriptive is a way in figuring out the phenomenon in researchers' basic knowledge, which as architecture and social science discipline.

3 Discussion

3.1 Campus situations

After the release of Minister Education and Culture notes no 3/2020 about COVID--19 Prevention on education unit [24] and No. 36962/MPK.A/HK/2020 about notice of online shifting on education to avoid the COVID-19 spreading [25] , Undip Rector also issued the note no. 20/UN.7.P/SE/2020 [26] which consist of 14 decree points about online based academic class and service [20] since march 2020 until present time, all activities have minimised until zero [21].

This situation brought only cleaning services, securities, and low number of academic staffs who come to the campus in daily routine. Their small number presences also affect the functions of undesignated academic mosque in the architecture department of Undip. All three mosque in this environment become rarely used by the people.

The original purpose of room alteration as mosque is to support Architecture Undip muslim people in praying on the Gedung A (main building), Gedung C (studio building) and Gedung D (graduate school) as can be seen on figure 1.

Fig. 1. The architecture campus siteplan

The location of the undesignated mosque as mentioned before and shown in figure 1 can be refer to the range of services. The Gedung A mosque purposed to serve the lecturer who commonly has working space on that building, The Gedung C for students who is rolling studio class and the Gedung D mosque is prayer room for all graduated faculty members (post graduated school).

Since the issuance of minister education and rector decree about online lecturing, the activities of this architecture school were automatically shifted into cyber campus. Most of faculty members are performing Working and Learn from Home rather then campus. Thus,

prayer occupation of Gedung A, C, D mosque were reduced into almost zero number. The author found that the securities and cleaning service who still work daily only use the Gedung A mosque, because they made the main building as their head quarter. The second regularly used mosque is Gedung D, because there are two doctoral students who stay in the campus (not return home) and both doctoral administration staffs worked regularly that perform prayer (dzuhur and asr salat) in this mosque. The last Gedung C mosque is rarely to none serve any prayer, since no undergraduate student can be found in campus during this pandemic situation.

3.2 Space adaptation

Gedung A Mosque has prayer plan for maximum 9 worshipers in before the pandemic [29] Refer to the COVID--19 protocols [27, 28] about physical distancing, all social facilities shall reduce the occupation in performing new normal. The current condition in Gedung A mosque only available for maximum 3 worshipers. The 2m physical distancing regulation has made the 2.1m width of Gedung A mosque only able to occupied by 3 worshippers and the ablution only available for a single user (see figure 2).

Fig. 2. Mosque-Ablution Plan in Building A Architecture Undip

The building C was having 12 persons capacities, but now only available for 6 worshippers and the ablution area can only serve 2 persons in the same time (see figure 3). However, this mosque is rarely to none performing a prayer. The mentioned condition of no studio activities and no undergraduate student become the main reason of zero activities in this mosque.

Fig. 3. Mosque-Ablution Plan in Building C Architecture Undip

The mosque of Gedung D become a space with maximum 6 worshipers from 12 potential users with maximum 4 users perform wudhu (ablution) in the same time [29] (see figure 4). The reality of regularly 4 graduate school faculty members using this mosque has meet the ideal condition in pandemic situation.

From the condition of three mosque, we can conclude that the physical distancing has brought 50% occupant in mosque capacities and the common form in jamaah prayer is just like a checker motive (see figure 5). However, the building itself was never being reduced for anticipating the pandemic ends which couldn't be predicted.

Fig. 4. Mosque-Ablution Plan in Building D Architecture Undip

3.3 Habit adaptation

The physical distancing rule has brought new habit in performing salat in space. Therefore, other habits derived from the COVID--19 spreading prevention protocol as regular disinfectant spray in mosque and ablution area (see fig 6). Following the new normal protocols from Health Ministry, the facilities shall be cleaned in every three hours. The real conditions were never that ideal, since the 8-working hour. The mosques were being cleaned by the cleaning service daily or once a day.

Fig. 5. Jamaah prayer in physical distancing era [11]

Fig. 6. Disinfectant spray in mosque facilities [11]

The MUI also mentioned earlier guidelines in rolling up the carpets in every mosque in aim to prevent the COVID-19 spreading. The undesignated mosques have followed the guideline and erased all the carpets in the area (see figure 7). Not only sajadah (prayer mat), the sandal mat also being erased from the mosque in A, C and D building. This condition has brought new habit of cleaning their foot into building entrance activities rather than mosque area. The department officer only laid the mat in the front of buildings which being regularly washed by the cleaning service officers.

Another new habit is the windows and door open situation. This habit referred to the protocol of avoid the usage of AC in the building. There is still debate in airborne COVID-19 spreading. However, the health ministry has mentioned about the AC usage clause on their protocol. This condition forced the building C and D mosque open their windows and doors as standard form (see fig 8 and 9). The building A couldn't open their window since it has no window and framed with glass panel (figure 7). Furthermore, the different condition of opening windows for mosque C and D are the location of the opened windows. The C has opened the 100cm height windows while D 210cm windows (Boven light) as different design of window instalments.

Fig. 7. No carpet situation in mosque A

The several condition of habit and space in mosque A, C and D had shown that these mosques were responded the pandemic COVID-19. However, the condition as undesignated

campus mosque shown more evidence about no campus life anymore and the facilities were never being improved and designed better.

Fig. 8. Situation on Mosque B (Al Firdaus)

In deeper analysis about habit changes, authors founded that individual habit of leaving the sajadah open and shut down curtain on mosque D (see figure 8). This condition might cause building sick syndrome and COVID-19 spreading in the future. There are potential increase of space humidity in this condition. There also potential spreading by the same faucet use before performing the salat in all mosque, because the WHO said the droplets is the main cause in the spreading.

Fig. 9. Situation on Mosque D (graduate school)

4 Conclusion

This paper concluded that there are several changes in order to COVID--19 response in prayer room and mosque. Physical distancing, more sanitize space and utility, capacity reduce, and open room have responded the government and Ulama protocols. Undesignated mosque has shown their reality as never been well designed space by low amenities can be adapted during this pandemic situation.

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