



Patterns and Development of Islamic Education in Andalusia and Sicily

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ABSTRACT

Objective: This study examines the pattern and development of Islamic education in two critical regions of Islamic civilization in Europe: Andalusia and Sicily. This study aims to analyze the characteristics of Islamic education patterns, identify the stages of its development, and compare the dynamics of Islamic education in the two regions. **Method** The research uses a qualitative approach based on library research by analyzing primary and secondary sources related to the history of Islamic education in Andalusia and Sicily. **Results:** Research shows that the pattern of Islamic education in Andalusia is systematic and structured with a comprehensive curriculum, including religious and scientific sciences, and has formal educational institutions such as kuttab, mosques, and madrasas. Its development experienced a golden age in the era of the Umayyad Dynasty with the emergence of the University of Cordova. Meanwhile, in Sicily, Islamic education is more informal and flexible, focusing on teaching the Quran and Arabic in mosques. Its development peaked during the reign of King Roger II, who implemented a policy of tolerance and multiculturalism. A comparison of the two regions shows that Andalusia has a more established and influential education system than Sicily. However, both contribute significantly to the transfer of Islamic knowledge to Europe. **Novelty:** This research lies in a comprehensive comparative analysis of the characteristics and dynamics of Islamic education in the two regions, which previously tended to be studied separately. These findings provide a new perspective in understanding the contribution of Islamic education to the development of medieval European civilization.

INTRODUCTION

Islamic civilization has significantly contributed to the development of science and education in the world, especially during the medieval period. Among the regions that are the center of the glory of Islamic civilization, Andalusia (Islamic Spain) and Sicily are two strategic regions that play a crucial role as a bridge between the Islamic world and Europe (Acharya, 2023; Corrao, 2021; Hiatt, 2021a, 2021b, 2021c; Venegas, 2021). These two regions became the center of Islamic political power in Europe and developed into an intellectual center that blended various scientific traditions from the East and the West. The pattern of Islamic education that developed in these two regions has unique characteristics formed from the fusion of Arab-Islamic culture with local European traditions (Mami, 2021).

Under the rule of the Umayyad Dynasty and its successors, Andalusia experienced a golden age of Islamic education that lasted for several centuries. Cities such as Cordoba, Granada, and Seville developed into learning centers that attracted scholars and learners worldwide. Meanwhile, Sicily, under the rule of the Fatimid Dynasty and later the Normandy-Islamic Dynasty, also developed a unique educational system, reflecting the synthesis of Islamic, Byzantine, and Latin traditions. The educational patterns in these two regions are unique in their institutional structures and the teaching

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