

Unpacking the Link Between Big Five Personality Traits and Waqf Participation in The Malaysian Armed Forces

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Abstract: This research delves into the utilization of Personality Traits theory to comprehend the underlying motivations behind Waqf practices among military personnel. Implementing a structured questionnaire as the main tool for data collection, a total of 487 responses were secured. The research tools utilized in this study were derived from prevailing scholarly literature in the realm of personality psychology. The empirical findings of this study validate the substantial influence of personality traits, encompassing behavioral control and environmental components, on the inclination of military personnel to participate in endowment practices. This elucidates the complexities inherent in charitable contributions within this specific cohort. The discoveries underscore the importance of individual personality traits in shaping philanthropic behaviors among military personnel. Elements such as behavioral control and environmental factors play pivotal roles in molding the propensity towards Waqf practices within this distinct demographic. These insights harbor practical implications for policymakers, military institutions, and scholars, furnishing a more profound insight into how personality traits and environmental elements impact endowment behaviors. This investigation emphasizes the necessity of taking into account personality traits when scrutinizing charitable endeavors among military personnel. By comprehending these motivations, policymakers and military entities can more effectively endorse and bolster Waqf practices among their members. Furthermore, these results contribute to the wider discussion on the convergence of personality psychology and philanthropy, enhancing our understanding of charitable behaviors in specialized settings such as the military.

Keywords: *Waqf, Personality Traits, Military Personnel.*

1. Introduction and Background

Waqf has played a distinct role in the field of economics and consistently displays potential. It is perceived as a crucial economic institution that promotes economic activities while ensuring the benefits are directed toward a particular sector of the population. In Islamic tradition, Waqf denotes the practice of allocating resources or advantages for the betterment and welfare of the public, overseen by designated entities such as relatives or organizations to promote societal well-being (S. Ismail et al., 2023) and (Ayatina, 2023).

The evolution of Waqf practices within the Malaysian Armed Forces can be traced back to the inception of the Malaysian Armed Forces Religious Corps (KAGAT) in the year 1985 (Jalal et al., 2019). Nevertheless, according to Kamaruddin et al., (2022), obstacles exist in the execution of waqf reporting methodologies in Malaysia, as issues like the lack of uniform reporting criteria and restricted reporting avenues impact the effectiveness of waqf reporting within establishments. Studies by Sapir et al., (2023) and Abd Mutalib et al., (2019) show that the recognition of waqf in Malaysia, specifically cash waqf, is encountering obstacles attributed to a multitude of factors. Research demonstrates a deficiency in awareness and comprehension of cash waqf within Malaysian society. Moreover, Nor & Sari, (2022) stated the constrained utilization of cash waqf for the advancement of socio-economic aspects is associated with societal norms, insufficient promotion, and a deficient comprehension of this particular type of waqf. Despite the probable advantages of cash waqf in strengthening the Muslim economy, it is vital to deal with the awareness and application gaps to increase waqf acceptance in Malaysia.

2. Literature Review

The Big Five personality traits, regularly alluded to as the Five Factor Model, involve five unmistakable

dimensions: openness, conscientiousness, neuroticism, extraversion, and agreeableness (Stahlmann et al., 2023, Canales-Ronda, 2023 and Ji & Esqueda, 2022).

These characteristics play a significant role in various domains of life, encompassing civic participation, occupational performance, substance abuse, and phenomena such as phubbing. Scholarly investigations suggest that extraversion and conscientiousness wield notable influence in forecasting sales effectiveness and work conduct, whereas neuroticism tends to yield adverse consequences. Moreover, heightened neuroticism, diminished agreeableness, and reduced conscientiousness are frequently linked with substance misuse, with certain nuances in the impact of each trait on distinct forms of substance consumption. In addition, conscientiousness and intellect have been observed to exert a detrimental effect on phubbing conduct among young individuals. A profound grasp of these Big Five personality traits is imperative for grasping individual disparities and actions. The examination of the Big Five Personality Traits by Ismail, (2017) has been conducted in diverse settings, including Islamic financial planning, innovative work behavior within Islamic banks, and waqf commitment. Studies indicate that specific personality traits are influential in shaping behaviors associated with waqf and financial choices. Scholarly works on Islamic financial planning have proven that conscientiousness and openness to experience play a vital role as moderators in the relationship between Islamic financial literacy and financial planning. The results by Haris et al., (2021) imply that individual qualities, such as openness to new experiences, conscientiousness, and potentially additional traits specified in the Big Five model, might affect individuals' outlooks and decisions regarding waqf donations.

Therefore, we propose the following hypothesis:

- H1: Extraversion will be positively related to waqf acceptance.
- H2: Agreeableness will be positively related to waqf acceptance.
- H3: Openness will be positively related to waqf acceptance.
- H4: Conscientiousness will be positively related to waqf acceptance.
- H5: Neuroticism will be negatively related to waqf acceptance.

Figure 1: Research Framework

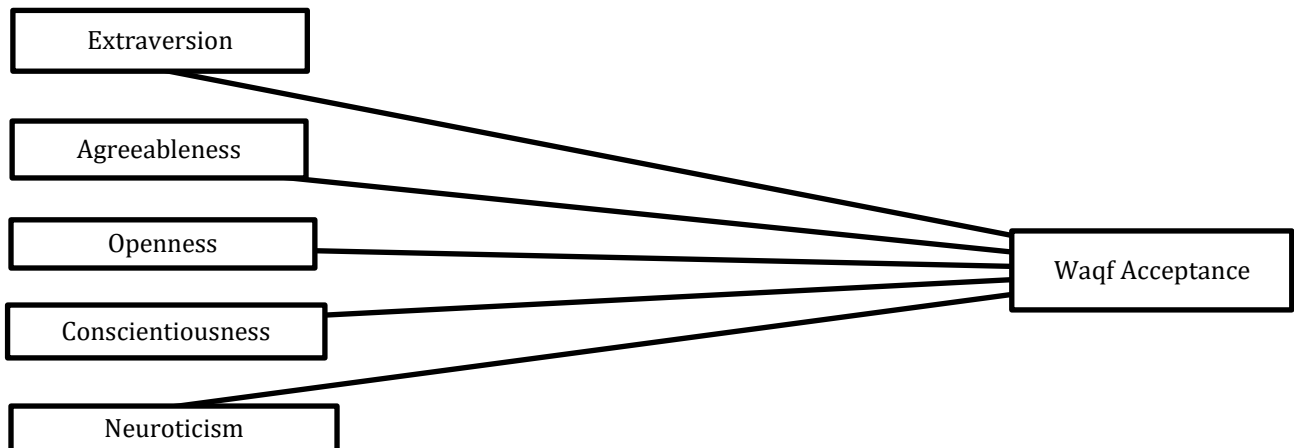


Figure 1: Research Model

3. Research Methodology

The present study examines the big five personality traits of Waqf acceptance among Military Armed Forces personnel in Malaysia. According to Wang et al., (2020) when the examiner chooses to achieve the research objective within a designated timeframe, they must employ a cross-sectional survey design. This approach facilitates an economical and concurrent assessment of the outcomes and exposures of the study subjects. As

asserted by Chang et al., (2010), to mitigate the common method bias, the participants were provided with an assurance of confidentiality and anonymity to elicit truthful responses. As recommended by Eichhorn,(2014), respondents' inclination to answer may be influenced if they encounter ambiguity while completing the questionnaire, which is an unfavorable situation. The current investigation utilized a five-point Likert Scale to gather data by grouping significant objects. In this specific research endeavor, the researcher employed a five-point Likert Scale to collect data, where the objects of substantial importance were brought together.

It is essential to underscore that within this range, a rating of 1 denotes a notable variation in opinions, whereas a rating of 2 suggests disagreement and a rating of 3 suggests impartiality. Conversely, a rating of 4 denotes agreement with the presented stance, and a rating of 5 signifies a strong endorsement or alignment with the viewpoint in question. The choice of the non-probability sampling technique was primarily determined by the absence of a sampling frame that the researcher could access. Moreover, it was also influenced by the confidentiality of the army personnel. The utilization of purposive sampling technique has been employed with great care to select individuals who are currently serving in the armed forces stationed at different camps throughout Malaysia. These selected individuals have been invited to participate as respondents in this research endeavor. Moreover, when considering the G*Power analysis, particularly about the F-Test in Linear Multiple Regression: Fixed model with R2 deviation from zero, it was concluded that a minimum sample size of 138 was advised for this specific research. Nonetheless, it is noteworthy that the investigator managed to recruit a total of 487 participants for the study, surpassing the recommended minimum necessity. The technique utilized for gathering information was Google Forms, which was employed to distribute the survey to the participants. The participants then completed the survey in an Excel spreadsheet, ensuring the exclusion of any inaccurate data and ensuring the accuracy and reliability of the collected data.

4. Results

The research model elucidates about 39 % of the determinants that exert an influence on the engagement of the Malaysian Armed Forces in waqf. The outcomes of the conjectures testing are laid out in **Error! Reference source not found.** The study conducted by H1 analyzed the relationship between extraversion and waqf acceptance, whereas H5 investigated the connection between neuroticism and waqf acceptance. The findings revealed that neither factor made a significant contribution to waqf acceptance. On the other hand, H2 investigated the relationship between agreeableness and waqf acceptance and was found to be significant ($\beta = 0.266, p < 0.001$); H3 was also found to be significant with an investigated openness relationship with waqf acceptance ($\beta = 0.110, p < 0.05$), alongside H4's conscientiousness relationship with waqf acceptance ($\beta = 0.321, p < 0.001$). It can be concluded that H2, H3, and H4 are supported, but H1 and H5 are rejected.

Table 1: Multiple Linear Regression Result

Variable	hypothesis	Beta value	T Statistics	P Values	R ²	Remark
Extraversion	Extraversion will be positively related to waqf acceptance.	-.019	-.414	.679	0.390	Not Supported
Agreeableness	Agreeableness will be positively related to waqf acceptance.	.266	4.619	.000		Supported
Openness	Openness will be positively related to waqf acceptance.	.110	2.046	.041		Supported
Conscientiousness	Conscientiousness will be positively related to waqf acceptance.	.321	4.820	.000		Supported
Neuroticism	Neuroticism will be negatively related to waqf acceptance.	-.001	-.032	.974		Not Supported

Discussion

As elucidated in the literature review section, numerous prior studies have also employed the big five personality traits variables about waqf acceptance. In this investigation, only three out of the five variables scrutinized displayed significant support. The findings support the study by Faturhman et al., (2020) and (Asni & Sulong, 2017) Which shows Agreeableness assumes a notable function in multiple facets concerning waqf. This emerging recognition implies that agreeableness, whether on an individual or societal scale, may impact perceptions towards novel variations of waqf, including cash waqf. The findings support the previous study (Tarchoun & Ghraieb, 2022) which indicates that openness exerts a noteworthy influence on the interconnection among economic advancement, charitable giving, and communal backing within Muslim environments. This finding is consistent with the study by Nordin & Khalid, (2022) which shows Conscientiousness is known to have a notable impact on a range of factors concerning socioeconomic development and personal conduct. Studies indicate a positive correlation between conscientiousness and thriving in the context of high school educators. Nevertheless, it is important to highlight that extraversion and neuroticism did not demonstrate statistically significant associations with Waqf acceptance within this particular framework. Despite the deviation of these results from initial assumptions, they emphasize the intricate complexity of personality effects and the requirement for additional investigation across various environments.

5. Conclusion

This study's ramifications go well beyond academic spheres, offering valuable insights for policymakers, military establishments, and researchers. By acknowledging the influence of individual traits on participation in waqf, policymakers and military organizations can develop specific approaches to effectively encourage and bolster charitable activities among military personnel. Moreover, this research contributes to the wider discussion on the intersection of personality psychology and philanthropy, enriching our comprehension of benevolent actions in specialized environments like the military. It emphasizes the significance of taking into account personal variations when examining and advocating for charitable initiatives. There exist numerous opportunities for forthcoming research to investigate such as conducting a replication of this research across various cultural settings or within diverse sectors of the armed forces has the potential to offer a more thorough analysis of the correlation between personality characteristics and the acceptance of Waqf. Longitudinal research endeavors can monitor alterations in individual characteristics and engagement with Waqf over a period, offering a valuable understanding of the evolving dynamics of these connections.

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