

The Role of 'Aisyiyah Women in Social Contribution in Central Java in the Contemporary Era

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Abstract

Objective: This study examines the contribution of 'Aisyiyah Women to social development in Central Java in the contemporary era, with an emphasis on their strategies, challenges, and adaptations in the fields of education, health, and economic empowerment.

Methodology: A literature research approach was used to analyze the social contribution of 'Aisyiyah in Central Java in 2019-2025. Data is collected from a variety of sources, such as books, journals, and official reports. The analysis was carried out based on the theory of women's empowerment from Naila Kabeer and the theory of social change from Anthony Giddens, to disseminate the impact and transformation produced by the social contribution of 'Aisyiyah to women's empowerment and social change.

Results: The findings of the study show that 'Aisyiyah in Central Java plays an important role in women's empowerment and improvement of community welfare through skills training programs, health initiatives, and educational services, especially through PAUD Bustanul Athfal (ABA). More than 15,000 women have participated in entrepreneurship training, which has had a significant impact on their economic independence. In addition, the organization also addresses social issues such as gender equality, health, and poverty through extensive service programs.

Application/Originality/Value: This research highlights 'Aisyiyah's response to contemporary challenges such as globalization, technological advancements, and cultural change, stating that the organization's relevance is maintained thanks to its innovative strategies, including digital engagement and collaborative partnerships with government agencies. The results of this study provide valuable insights to understand the role of women's organizations in driving social change and women's empowerment in Indonesia.

Keywords: 'Aisyiyah, women's empowerment, social contribution, education, health, economic empowerment, Central Java, social change

Introduction

Women in Indonesian history, especially in Central Java, have played an important role in various aspects of life, including the social, economic, and educational sectors (Hapsari et al., 2025). One of the organizations that consistently makes significant contributions to women's empowerment is 'Aisyiyah, the largest women's organization in Indonesia which is part of Muhammadiyah (Candra & Azani, 2025). Since its establishment in 1917, 'Aisyiyah has shown a strong commitment to improving the quality of life of women and families through various social, educational, and health programs.

The development of the contemporary era marked by globalization, urbanization, and modernization has presented new challenges for women, including members of organizations such as 'Aisyiyah (Wulandari & Ahmad, 2025). However, the social contribution of 'Aisyiyah women in Central Java continues to grow, which shows that this organization remains relevant and effective in facing the dynamics of the times (Isro'iyah & Riinawati, 2025). Thus, the analysis of 'Aisyiyah's adaptation to change and its contribution in the social context in Central Java is very important.

Data from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) of Central Java shows that women's participation in various social and religious activities has increased significantly in recent decades. In 2021, more than 60% of women in Central Java were involved in social activities or community organizations. Among members of religious organizations such as 'Aisyiyah, more than 70% actively participate in programs that include skills training, social assistance, and education. These findings confirm the important role of women in strengthening social networks and their contribution to social development in the region (Sobar et al., 2023).

Analysis of women's social contributions can be carried out through various theories, one of which is the theory of women's empowerment which highlights the increase in women's control over social, economic, and political aspects of their lives (Luthfitah et al., 2023). Naila Kabeer (1999) states that women's empowerment includes increasing access to resources and decision-making skills that affect their lives (Kusuma Fadhillah et al., 2024). In addition, the theory of social

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change put forward by Anthony Giddens (2006) is relevant to understanding how 'Aisyiyah, as a women's organization, adapts to the changing times and contemporary social challenges. This organization plays a significant role in providing a space for women to actively participate in social development and interact with the community.

The main problem raised in this study is the social contribution made by 'Aisyiyah women in Central Java in the contemporary era (Wahyu et al., 2025). This research aims to examine in depth the form and implementation of social contributions made by 'Aisyiyah women in various fields of community life. In addition, this study aims to identify the challenges faced by 'Aisyiyah women in carrying out social roles, both stemming from internal organizational factors and external factors such as social, cultural, and policy dynamics. This study also analyzes the adaptation strategies carried out by 'Aisyiyah women to social and cultural changes in the contemporary era in order to remain relevant and effective in making social contributions to the people of Central Java.

This research aims to analyze the social contribution of 'Aisyiyah women in Central Java in the contemporary era, with a focus on the social, educational, and health sectors as strategic sectors in community empowerment. In addition, this study identifies the challenges faced by 'Aisyiyah women in carrying out social roles in Central Java. This study also analyzes the adaptation strategies applied by the 'Aisyiyah organization in responding to social and cultural changes in the contemporary era, to maintain the relevance and effectiveness of its contribution to the social development of the community.

This research is expected to provide a deeper understanding of the role of 'Aisyiyah women in shaping social dynamics in Central Java and their contribution to women's empowerment in Indonesia in general.

Metode

The library research approach is applied by collecting, analyzing, and evaluating relevant literature on the social contribution of 'Aisyiyah women in Central Java in the contemporary era (Fatmawati et al., 2025). The main data sources include books, journal articles, annual reports, official documents, and statistical data related to the 'Aisyiyah organization. The analysis was carried out by referring to the theory of women's empowerment by Naila Kabeer and the theory of social change by Anthony Giddens to understand the dynamics of organizational adaptation to social change.

The data collected were analyzed using thematic analysis methods to identify the main themes related to women's social contributions, challenges faced, and adaptation strategies implemented by 'Aisyiyah women (Siwiyanti et al., n.d.). The validity of the data is maintained through triangulation of sources by comparing information from various literatures. This approach aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the social contribution of 'Aisyiyah women as well as organizational adaptation strategies in the face of sustainable social change.

Results of the Discussion

Forms of Social Contribution of 'Aisyiyah Women in Central Java

'Aisyiyah women in Central Java play an active role in the social empowerment of the community through various programs that focus on strengthening women and families (Faizah & Ainiyah, 2025). As an organization based on Islamic values, 'Aisyiyah provides training in relevant skills, such as sewing, cooking, and entrepreneurship for women. These programs are designed to increase economic self-sufficiency, strengthen social capacity, and encourage women's participation in decision-making at the family and community levels. These empowerment efforts give women greater control over the social and economic aspects of their lives, in line with Naila Kabeer's theory of women's empowerment which emphasizes the importance of access to resources and decision-making abilities that affect their lives.

In 2019, more than 15,000 women participated in entrepreneurship skills and education training organized by 'Aisyiyah in Central Java. The program supports small business establishments, such as handicrafts, home meals, and other skills-based businesses, thereby strengthening the family economy and creating new jobs at the local level (Utomo et al., 2024).

Women of 'Aisyiyah in Central Java have shown a strong commitment to providing social assistance to people affected by natural disasters and economic difficulties. For example, in the landslide disaster in Pandanarum, Banjarnegara, 'Aisyiyah Wonosobo has distributed assistance in the form of food, clothing, and other basic needs to the affected victims. The assistance is not only providing physical assistance, but also creates a spirit of mutual cooperation among the community. This reflects the important role of 'Aisyiyah women in providing social support to families in need, especially in times of crisis (Al-Afasy, 2025).

In addition, 'Aisyiyah women also strengthen their mentoring capacity for MSME empowerment through the BUEKA (Together for Family Economy) program. This program aims to strengthen the competitiveness of MSMEs at the local level, with a focus on economic empowerment of women and families through continuous training and mentoring. In the implementation of this program, they not only provide skills training, but also equip women entrepreneurs with knowledge about better business management, marketing, and financial management. This activity has contributed to the improvement of the family economy and the empowerment of women in Central Java, as well as helping them in overcoming economic challenges in the midst of pandemic and uncertainty (Suri, 2025).

Social assistance and economic empowerment programs initiated by 'Aisyiyah women in Central Java have proven effective in improving community welfare, reducing social disparities, and strengthening family resilience. Women 'Aisyiyah play a significant role in overcoming social and economic problems, as well as supporting communities to rebuild a better life after disasters.

Education is one of the main pillars of the social contribution of 'Aisyiyah women. Through the management of PAUD 'Aisyiyah Bustanul Athfal (ABA), 'Aisyiyah women play a role in shaping a young generation who are intelligent and moral. ABA's PAUD program emphasizes character-based education, Islamic values, and the moral, emotional, social, and intellectual development of children (Nata et al., 2023). In addition, 'Aisyiyah women are active in non-formal education that provides skills training for women and children in various regions of Central Java. This non-formal education program focuses on improving practical skills that support economic opportunities and expand women's access to social opportunities.

PAUD ABA, which is managed by 'Aisyiyah women in Semarang, has educated more than 2,500 children in 2022, who received lessons based on character and Islamic values. In addition, more than 1,200 women are involved in non-formal education that offers practical and religious skills (Rachmawati et al., 2023).

This effort is further strengthened through collaboration between educational institutions initiated by 'Aisyiyah women and their strategic partners, such as the synergy between Aisyiyah PK Kindergarten and Muhammadiyah PK Sambi Elementary School to strengthen a series of character-based education programs and superior school culture that can benefit not only students but also the community environment around the school (Pujiono, 2024). This kind of collaborative coordination meeting is an important momentum in building a more integrated and quality education ecosystem.

In addition, the involvement of 'Aisyiyah women is also seen in community service education partnership activities through the Muhammadiyah and 'Aisyiyah 2024 Real Work Lectures (KKN), where students are placed in villages such as Mayang (Gatak District), Gedongan (Baki District), Cemani (Grogol District), Mranggen (Polokarto District), and Mulur (Bendosari District) to apply various educational and social programs that have a significant impact on the local community (Fika, 2024). This kind of KKN activities also include the development of educational innovations in local communities, showing that the role of 'Aisyiyah women in education is not only limited to their own institutions but also in a wider network of empowerment.

The participation of students from partner universities such as the University of Muhammadiyah Prof. Dr. HAMKA (UHAMKA) in KKN in Umbulmartani Village, Grogolan Hamlet, Yogyakarta is a concrete example of how a collaborative educational approach makes a real contribution to community learning. During this program, students design and run programs that cover the fields of education, culture, religion, and society that have an impact on improving children's knowledge, cultural understanding, and environmental awareness of local residents (Hendra, 2025). This kind of activity reflects that investment in education through early childhood education management, school collaboration, and education-based community service programs encourages the involvement of 'Aisyiyah women in efforts to produce intelligent, competitive, and strong-personality human resources at the local community level.

'Aisyiyah women contribute significantly to improving religious literacy through regular religious studies, lectures, and religious training in various regions (Safitri & Shobahiya, 2025). These programs empower women to have a deep understanding of religion, which enriches their personal lives while strengthening their role as agents of social change based on religious values. In addition, 'Aisyiyah women actively provide training in economic skills, such as entrepreneurship and practical skills, that support financial independence and small business development to improve family welfare.

Religious recitation and training programs that are routinely carried out in the Solo Region, for example, have attracted more than 1,500 participants per year. This program aims not only to improve religious understanding but also to strengthen social relationships between members of the community. In addition, more than 500 women are actively engaged in entrepreneurship training to set up small and medium-sized businesses (Wibowo et al., 2024).

In the health sector, 'Aisyiyah women play an important role through programs that focus on maternal and child health. This program aims to reduce maternal and child mortality rates and improve the quality of family life by providing affordable health services and education about nutrition and environmental health (Fitriahadi et al., 2023). Women 'Aisyiyah collaborates with health institutions, health centers, and hospitals to provide medical services in remote areas, as well as encourage the establishment of clinical and hospital practices as part of the expansion of equitable and equitable access to health services in every region, including the frontier, outermost, and disadvantaged areas. This step reflects the organization's commitment to expanding the reach of primary health services that are not only curative, but also promotive and preventive so that they can reach community groups that have been experiencing limited access to basic health facilities (Ahmad, 2025). Health education on a healthy lifestyle and counseling on the importance of child and pregnant women's nutrition are examples of the contribution of 'Aisyiyah women in improving the quality of public health (Vinny Tryandini et al., 2025). And through its network of 'Aisyiyah clinics and hospitals spread across various regions in Indonesia, 'Aisyiyah women not only provide medical services, but also strengthen collaboration between community organizations, government health facilities, and other strategic partners to create sustainable health impacts in local communities

The contribution of 'Aisyiyah women in Central Java has had a real impact on improving the welfare of the community, especially in the fields of economy, education, and health. Through various programs, they have succeeded in improving the quality of family life, strengthening social networks, and opening spaces for women's active participation in

social development (Nurhidayah et al., 2024). Aisyiyah's health cadre empowerment program, which focuses on reproductive health education and disease prevention, has strengthened public knowledge about maternal and child health, which directly contributes to the reduction of maternal and infant mortality rates (Andriyani & Latif, 2025). In addition, through the women's empowerment program in education and the economy, Aisyiyah has also succeeded in increasing the capacity of women in rural areas, providing access to better health services, and supporting economic programs that improve the quality of family life. This empowerment program not only provides direct benefits for women, but also plays a role in creating a more just, prosperous, inclusive, sustainable, and religiously value-based society in various regions of Central Java.

The social contribution of 'Aisyiyah women in Central Java is very relevant to the theory of women's empowerment put forward by Naila Kabeer. This theory asserts that women's empowerment includes increased access to resources, decision-making skills, and control over life. Through empowerment programs focused on education, economic skills, and health, 'Aisyiyah women have increased women's social and economic capacity and expanded their participation in decision-making. These programs also play a role in reducing economic dependence and strengthening the position of women in the social structure of society.

Overall, the social contribution of 'Aisyiyah women in Central Java has had a significant impact on social development and women's empowerment. Through an approach based on Islamic values, this organization has succeeded in improving people's welfare, empowering women, and strengthening family resilience. This contribution affirms the relevance and success of 'Aisyiyah women in facing contemporary social challenges and supports the theory of women's empowerment as the basis for more just and sustainable social change.

The Challenges of 'Aisyiyah Women in Social Contribution in the Contemporary Era

In the contemporary era, 'Aisyiyah women in Central Java face various challenges in continuing their social contributions. One of the main challenges is the limited number of trained human resources (HR) and inadequate cadre capacity (Widiastuti et al., 2024). Although the organization has an extensive network, many members still require advanced training in social, leadership, and managerial skills. These limitations impact the effectiveness of social program implementation and limit the organization's ability to expand reach and impact at the local level. Therefore, capacity building for women cadres is a priority so that they can carry out their social roles optimally and face increasingly complex challenges.

A 2021 survey by the Women's Empowerment Council 'Aisyiyah Central Java showed that 57% of cadres involved in social activities and women's empowerment have not received formal training related to leadership and managerial, which limits their ability to design and implement effective social programs. This creates a gap in program management and the resulting impact

Another challenge faced by 'Aisyiyah women is the regeneration of leadership in the organization. Strong and committed leadership is needed to deal with changing social and cultural dynamics, but the number of cadres who are ready to replace leadership positions is still limited. Effective leadership regeneration is essential to ensure the sustainability of the social programs that have been pioneered. Without trained cadres and a clear vision, organizations risk losing relevance and effectiveness in social contributions. Therefore, 'Aisyiyah needs to design and implement a structured leadership regeneration strategy so that future leaders can strengthen the organization and answer the challenges of the times.

Based on internal data in 2020 from the Regional Leadership of 'Aisyiyah Central Java, only 32% of female cadres have the readiness to take leadership positions in organizations at the regional and branch levels. This shows that there is an urgent need for leadership training programs that can prepare cadres in the future.

The difference in understanding among 'Aisyiyah members regarding contemporary social issues is also a significant challenge. Issues such as gender equality, poverty, and climate change require a deep and uniform understanding for social programs to run effectively. This difference in perspective affects the da'wah strategy and program implementation, so efforts are needed to unify the understanding of members. To address these challenges, organizations need to increase members' capacity for understanding through relevant social literacy-based training, discussions, and education.

The results of the 2022 internal survey by the Central Java Tabligh 'Aisyiyah Council show that more than 40% of members have different views on the understanding of gender equality, which affects the implementation of da'wah and social education programs. Therefore, it is necessary to improve social literacy among members through more intensive and value-based training that is more inclusive.

Globalization and modernization have a significant impact on people's mindsets and social values. The shift from traditional values based on local culture to modern and global culture challenges 'Aisyiyah women to maintain long-held religious and social values, while remaining relevant to the times. The tension between maintaining tradition and adopting innovation requires 'Aisyiyah women to develop an approach that maintains a balance between religious and social values with the demands of changing times.

Research in 2021 from the State Islamic University (UIN) Walisongo Semarang showed that 65% of 'Aisyiyah members felt difficulties in adopting more modern technology and social approaches while maintaining traditional values. This challenge is even greater given the rapid development of digital, affecting the role of women in religion-based social movements (Uyuni et al., 2025).

The development of digital technology presents challenges as well as opportunities for 'Aisyiyah women in spreading the message of da'wah and running social movements. Social media and other digital platforms can be effective tools to reach a wider audience, especially the younger generation. However, not all members have adequate skills to make optimal use of this technology. Limited digital understanding and skills are obstacles in optimizing the potential of technology for da'wah and social activities. Therefore, training on the use of social media and digital technology needs to be provided so that 'Aisyiyah women can make the most of this platform.

A survey in 2020 by the Regional Leadership of 'Aisyiyah Solo showed that only 38% of members can make maximum use of social media in da'wah activities and social organizing. This shows that there is an urgent need for more comprehensive digital training for members so that they can use social media as a more effective means of da'wah (Wahyuni et al., 2023).

'Aisyiyah women also face challenges related to government policies and social dynamics at the local and regional levels. In some regions, policies that do not support women's empowerment or rapid social change can hinder the implementation of social programs. Therefore, 'Aisyiyah needs to build good relationships with local governments and related institutions to ensure policies that support women's sustainability and social influence. In addition, the social programs implemented must be in line with local policies and adjusted to the needs of the local community.

A 2021 report by the Central Java Regional Development Planning Agency (Bappeda) indicates that policies related to women's empowerment in several regions are still hampered by regulations that are not yet gender-friendly (Takayasa et al., 2021). In some cases, this has led to obstacles in the implementation of social empowerment programs run by organizations such as 'Aisyiyah. Therefore, more intensive collaboration with local governments is needed to create policies that better support women's empowerment.

The theory of social change put forward by Anthony Giddens can be used to understand the role of 'Aisyiyah women as agents of social change. Social structures in families, communities, and organizations influence women's role in social change. In this context, the existing social structure needs to be utilized to strengthen the role of women in social development. However, rapid social change, both due to internal and external factors, affects women's ability to act as agents of change. Therefore, 'Aisyiyah women need to utilize social structures, including local social and cultural networks, to strengthen their contribution in shaping social dynamics in the contemporary era.

Overall, although 'Aisyiyah women in Central Java face various challenges in carrying out social contributions, the organization still shows a strong commitment to making a positive impact on society. Through the development of relevant adaptation strategies, such as increasing cadre capacity, strengthening leadership regeneration, and utilizing digital technology, 'Aisyiyah women can maintain the relevance and effectiveness of their contributions.

Adaptation Strategy and Relevance of 'Aisyiyah in the Contemporary Era

In the contemporary era, 'Aisyiyah women in Central Java have shown significant adaptability to rapid social and cultural changes (Maring et al., 2024). This organization is not only able to withstand the challenges of the times, but also continues to strengthen its relevance and contribution to women's empowerment and social development (Fatimah et al., 2025). This adaptability is reflected in the various strategies implemented by 'Aisyiyah women, so that they continue to play the role of agents of sustainable social change.

One of the main strategies implemented by 'Aisyiyah to maintain the relevance and effectiveness of social contributions is to strengthen the capacity of cadres (Rahmawati et al., 2025). Through continuous training and education, 'Aisyiyah aims to improve members' skills, knowledge, and understanding of emerging social, economic, and cultural issues. This training program includes the development of managerial, leadership, and communication skills. This capacity strengthening of cadres allows 'Aisyiyah women cadres to carry out social programs in a more targeted and effective manner, as well as contribute to various social sectors at the local and regional levels.

This kind of capacity-building approach is documented in research on da'wah literacy and digital empowerment in contemporary Muslim women's organizations, which shows that empowerment strategies and digital literacy are part of efforts to increase the capacity of cadres in facing 21st-century social challenges (Rahmawati et al., 2025).

The 2021 Central Java 'Aisyiyah Training Report noted that more than 5,000 female cadres have participated in managerial and leadership training programs held by organizations in the Central Java region. The program aims to prepare female cadres who not only have technical skills, but also the ability to lead and manage social programs more effectively.

Along with strengthening the capacity of human resources, 'Aisyiyah women are also adapting to the rapid development of digital technology (Rahmawati et al., 2025). The use of social media and digital platforms is the main strategy that allows 'Aisyiyah to spread the message of da'wah and social education more effectively. Through digital technology, 'Aisyiyah women can reach a wider audience, including the younger generation who are highly connected to the digital world. Contemporary research on *digital da'wah* shows that Islamic women's groups in Indonesia use digital platforms such as Instagram, WhatsApp, and other social media to expand the reach of da'wah, establish new social relationships, and strengthen socially and religiously relevant online communities (Isnaeniah et al., 2025). Through social media, they provide education to the public about contemporary social issues, such as gender equality, children's education, health, and the environment. This approach creates a dynamic and relevant da'wah space with the times.

The 'Aisyiyah Digital Program 2020 shows that more than 60% of 'Aisyiyah women members in Central Java have been involved in the use of social media and digital platforms to spread the message of da'wah. This program focuses

on training on the use of social media for da'wah and social education related to issues of gender equality, maternal and child health, and the environment.

In addition to the use of digital technology, collaboration with various parties is also the main strategy in strengthening the social contribution of 'Aisyiyah women (Isnaeniah et al., 2025). Kerja sama dengan pemerintah dan organisasi masyarakat sipil memungkinkan pelaksanaan program sosial yang more targeted and have a significant impact. Through this collaboration, 'Aisyiyah women gain access to wider resources and support to run programs that benefit the community, especially in areas that need special attention. This collaboration also expands social networks and strengthens the position of 'Aisyiyah women in community life. This kind of collaborative strategy is reflected in the literature that discusses the *transformation of Muslim women's organizations* in Indonesia, which notes that cross-sector collaboration is one of the important strategies to expand social impact and increase the relevance of organizational contributions in a changing society (Isnaeniah et al., 2025) .

In 2021, 'Aisyiyah Central Java successfully established more than 20 partnerships with local governments and other civil society organizations to implement women's empowerment and maternal-child health programs (Takayasa et al., 2021). This collaboration provides greater access to funds and resources for social programs that have a direct impact on local communities.

These collaborative efforts are strengthened through the development of social programs that are responsive to the needs of the community. 'Aisyiyah has consistently launched program innovations designed to address social challenges due to the changing times (Riyan Muhammad & Milana Abdillah Subarkah, 2024). Salah satu contohnya adalah program pemberdayaan ekonomi perempuan melalui pelatihan keterampilan, pendampingan usaha kecil, dan peningkatan kesejahteraan keluarga (Mumpuni & Utami, n.d.). This program's innovation has a positive social impact and is relevant to contemporary conditions, as well as contributing to improving the quality of life of the community.

Women 'Aisyiyah also emphasized the importance of adjusting da'wah strategies to the local social and cultural context (Ulfa et al., 2025). Each region has different characteristics and challenges, so the da'wah approach needs to be adjusted so that the message is easier to receive by the community. In Central Java, 'Aisyiyah women developed da'wah based on local values and local culture without ignoring Islamic teachings. This approach has been proven to increase the effectiveness of da'wah and support community empowerment in accordance with the local social and cultural context.

The 2020 Women's Economic Program Innovation held in Pekalongan City by 'Aisyiyah women noted that more than 200 women managed to increase their family income after participating in entrepreneurship skills training and small business mentoring. The program is focused on the creative economy sector and household-based small businesses (Tholib et al., 2021).

Women 'Aisyiyah emphasized the importance of adjusting da'wah strategies to the local social and cultural context. Each region has different characteristics and challenges, so the da'wah approach needs to be adjusted so that the message is easier to receive by the community. In Central Java, 'Aisyiyah women developed da'wah based on local values and local culture without neglecting Islamic teachings (Alhafizh et al., 2024). This approach has been proven to increase the effectiveness of da'wah and support community empowerment in accordance with the local social and cultural context.

The Local Culture-Based Da'wah approach carried out by 'Aisyiyah women in Cilacap Regency has succeeded in attracting more than 500 people in every recitation held at the village level (Niswah et al., 2023) . They combine Islamic teachings with local culture, thus making the message of da'wah more relevant and accepted by the local community (Bakry, 2025).

Despite the various adaptation strategies that have been implemented, 'Aisyiyah women still face challenges in the contemporary era, especially in keeping Islamic values progressive in the midst of rapid social change. In the midst of changing lifestyles and people's mindsets, 'Aisyiyah is committed to maintaining moderate and progressive Islamic principles. This commitment is realized by ensuring that women play an active role in society and uphold the values of justice, equality, and humanity. Thus, 'Aisyiyah women are not only beneficiaries, but also act as agents of sustainable social change in the fields of education, health, and economic empowerment.

Overall, 'Aisyiyah women in Central Java have successfully implemented various adaptation strategies to face challenges in the contemporary era. Through strengthening the capacity of cadres, the use of digital technology, cross-sector collaboration, and program innovation that is responsive to the needs of the community, the social contribution of 'Aisyiyah women remains significant. This adaptation strategy strengthens 'Aisyiyah's position as an agent of sustainable social change and strengthens the role of women in social development in Central Java.

Field	Explanation	Source
Education	Education is the main pillar in the social contribution of 'Aisyiyah women. Through the management of PAUD 'Aisyiyah Bustanul Athfal (ABA), 'Aisyiyah women play a role in shaping a young generation who are intelligent and moral. ABA's PAUD program emphasizes character-based education, Islamic values, and the moral, emotional, social, and intellectual development of children. In 2022, PAUD ABA in Semarang has educated	(Fika, 2024; Hendra, 2025; Nata et al., 2023; Pujiono, 2024; Rachmawati et al., 2023; Wibowo et al., 2024)

	<p>more than 2,500 children, with an emphasis on character-based education and Islamic values.</p> <p>In addition to PAUD, 'Aisyiyah women are also active in non-formal education that provides skills training for women and children in various regions of Central Java. The program focuses on improving practical skills that support economic opportunities and expand women's access to social opportunities. In 2023, more than 1,200 women are engaged in non-formal education that offers practical and religious skills.</p> <p>The efforts of 'Aisyiyah women in education are further strengthened through collaboration between educational institutions, such as the synergy between Aisyiyah PK Kindergarten and Muhammadiyah PK Sambu Elementary School. This collaboration strengthens the superior school's character-based education program and culture that benefits not only students, but also the environment around the school. In addition, the involvement of 'Aisyiyah women is also seen in the Muhammadiyah and 'Aisyiyah 2024 Real Work Lectures (KKN) programs, where students are deployed to villages to apply various educational and social programs that have a significant impact on the local community.</p> <p>This KKN program also involves partner universities such as the University of Muhammadiyah Prof. Dr. HAMKA (UHAMKA), where students design and run programs that include education, culture, religion, and society. This program has an impact on increasing children's knowledge, cultural understanding, and environmental awareness of local residents. Overall, the role of 'Aisyiyah women in education is not only limited to their own institutions, but also involves a wider network of empowerment, producing intelligent, competitive, and strong-personality human resources at the local community level</p>	
Health	<p>Women of 'Aisyiyah contribute to maternal and child health through affordable health services, nutrition education, and healthy lifestyles. They work with health centers and hospitals to provide medical services, especially in remote areas in Central Java and encourage the establishment of clinical and hospital practices as part of the expansion of equitable and equitable access to health services in every region, including the frontier, outermost, and disadvantaged areas. This step reflects the organization's commitment to expanding the reach of primary health services that are not only curative, but also promotive and preventive so that they can reach community groups that have been experiencing limited access to basic health facilities.</p>	(Ahmad, 2025; Fitriahadi et al., 2023; Vinny Tryandini et al., 2025)
Economic Empowerment	<p>In 2019, more than 15,000 women in Central Java participated in entrepreneurship skills and education training organized by 'Aisyiyah. The program focuses on establishing small businesses such as handicrafts, home food, and other skills-based businesses, which not only strengthen the family economy but also create new jobs at the local level.</p> <p>In addition, 'Aisyiyah women in Central Java also play an active role in providing social assistance to people affected by natural disasters, as seen in the landslide disaster in Pandanarum, Banjarnegara. The assistance provided was in the form of food, clothing, and other basic needs, as well as creating a spirit of mutual cooperation among the community. This role shows the social support of 'Aisyiyah women in helping families in need, especially in times of crisis.</p> <p>Furthermore, 'Aisyiyah women also strengthened their mentoring capacity for MSME empowerment through the BUEKA (Together for Family Economy) program. This program aims to increase the competitiveness of MSMEs at the local level with a focus on economic empowerment of women and families through continuous training in business management, marketing, and financial management. This activity has made a significant contribution to improving the family economy and empowering women in</p>	(Faizah & Ainiyah, 2025; Sintya Oktarina et al., 2024; Utomo et al., 2024)

	<p>Central Java, helping them overcome economic challenges, especially in the midst of pandemic and uncertainty.</p> <p>Overall, social assistance and economic empowerment programs initiated by 'Aisyiyah women have proven to be effective in improving community welfare, reducing social disparities, and strengthening family resilience, while playing an important role in addressing social and economic problems in the community.</p>	
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Conclusion

'Aisyiyah women in Central Java play a significant role in social contributions, especially in the fields of education, health, and economic empowerment. In the field of education, 'Aisyiyah women play a role in managing PAUD 'Aisyiyah Bustanul Athfal (ABA), which emphasizes character-based education and Islamic values, as well as providing non-formal education that develops practical skills. Collaboration between educational institutions and partnership programs such as Real Work Lectures (KKN) have also expanded the reach of education and empowerment in local communities. In the health sector, 'Aisyiyah women work with health centers and hospitals to provide affordable medical services, especially in remote areas, as well as provide education on healthy lifestyles and nutrition, which contributes to reducing maternal and child mortality. Meanwhile, in the field of economic empowerment, more than 15,000 women are taking part in entrepreneurship training that helps them set up small businesses and increase their families' economic resilience.

Despite their successes in various fields, 'Aisyiyah women still face significant challenges in carrying out social roles in the contemporary era. These challenges include limited trained human resources, leadership regeneration issues, and differences in members' understanding of contemporary social issues. In addition, the impact of globalization, modernization, and the development of digital technology are also challenges as well as opportunities that need to be responded to by this organization.

In order to remain relevant and effective, 'Aisyiyah women in Central Java have implemented various adaptation strategies. Strengthening cadre capacity, utilizing digital technology, and collaboration with various parties are the main factors in strengthening the organization's social contribution. Although challenges are still faced, this adaptation strategy has strengthened the position of 'Aisyiyah women as agents of sustainable social change in society. The social contribution of 'Aisyiyah women in Central Java confirms the role of this organization as an important actor in social development, education, and economic empowerment in the contemporary era.

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