

Research On Contemporary Financial Transactions Related To Restaurants Assessed Through Islamic Jurisprudence And Human Health

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Cite this paper as: Ali Ahmed Salem Farhat, Abdullah Mohammed Abdullah Al Mazher, Abdullah Ali Mohammed Al Asmari, (2025) Research On Contemporary Financial Transactions Related To Restaurants Assessed Through Islamic Jurisprudence And Human Health. *Journal of Neonatal Surgery*, 14 (4), 103-107.

ABSTRACT

The study aimed to elucidate certain contemporary financial transactions related to restaurants from the perspective of Islamic jurisprudence and human health. It employed a descriptive methodology, supplemented by analytical techniques, yielding several key findings:

Financial transactions, as per Islamic rulings, pertain to worldly affairs conducted between two parties involving money circulation through buying, selling, leasing, etc., for profit purposes. There is a consensus among Muslims on the general permissibility of financial transactions, as individuals often require what others possess. Contemporary issues related to restaurants include the ruling on eating to fullness. Some restaurants offer a fixed price for a meal until satiation, which is permissible and considered minor permissible uncertainty that does not affect the sale's validity. Similarly, eating from an open buffet is allowable for the same reasons. The high prices at airport restaurants and cafeterias are due to supply and demand dynamics, fundamental to the pricing of airport restaurant products. It is noted that food and beverages from restaurants must adhere to high-quality standards concerning health requirements.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Careful investigation of contemporary transactions related to restaurants, explaining them to the public.
2. Linking the legitimacy of certain foods to health stipulations.

Keywords: Financial Transactions, Contemporary, Restaurants, Cafeterias, Islamic Jurisprudence

1. INTRODUCTION

All praise is due to Allah, who guides whomever He wills to seek knowledge in religion and leads whomever He pleases to His straight path. I bear witness that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah alone, without partner, and I bear witness that Muhammad is His servant, His messenger, His chosen one among His creation, and His beloved. May Allah be pleased with his companions, his wives, his family, and all those who righteously follow them until the Day of Judgment.

The development of jurisprudence is a constant, and ijtihad (independent reasoning) excellently addresses every new situation through the texts of Sharia, its generalities, and its jurisprudential and foundational rules. Among these contemporary issues are the jurisprudential rulings related to restaurants and cafeterias and their health compliance as assessed by Islamic jurisprudence. Recently, restaurants, cafeterias, and cafes have seen particularly active development, involving establishment, preparation, service, purchasing, payment, and health regulations. This research aims, God willing, to document various rulings and address violations in light of Sharia texts and the opinions of jurists.

Research Problem: The problem of the study can be formulated in the following main question:

What is the reality of contemporary financial transactions related to restaurants from the perspective of Islamic jurisprudence and human health, and what are its pillars, penalties, and causes for exemption?

Research Objectives: Based on the preceding inquiries, the objectives of the study can be articulated as follows:

- To define contemporary financial transactions and restaurants.
- To elucidate the ruling on eating to satiation and from open buffets.
- To clarify the ruling on price variations in airport restaurants.

Study Methodology: The study relies on the inductive method, tracing the issue under research through existing specialized literature that addresses it through exposition and analysis.

Study Plan: The study consists of an introduction, two topics, a conclusion, and an index:

Introduction: addresses the research problem, objectives, significance, methodology, and plan, including two topics, a conclusion, and a reference index.

Topic One: Definition of contemporary financial transactions and the concept of restaurants.

Topic Two: Rules regarding eating to satiation, eating from open buffets, and price variations in airport restaurants.

Then a Conclusion:

And a Reference List:

Topic One: Definition of Financial Transactions and the Concept of Restaurants.

Firstly, Definition of Financial Transactions

Linguistically, the term "transaction" comes from the verb 'to deal or trade', and the noun form 'transaction' refers to a commercial agreement [1].

Terminologically, it refers to the Shariah rulings related to worldly affairs that occur between two parties, for turning over money through buying, selling, leasing, and similar profitable engagements in transactions not previously addressed by jurists [2].

Legitimacy of Financial Transactions: The Qur'an, Sunnah, and Consensus.

As for the Qur'an: Allah Almighty says, "O believers! Do not devour one another's wealth illegally, but rather trade by mutual consent. And do not kill each other or yourselves. Surely Allah is ever Merciful to you." [Surah An-Nisa: 29].

This verse indicates that financial dealings among people should be conducted with mutual consent.

As for the Sunnah: It is narrated from Ibn Umar, RA, that the Messenger of Allah, SAW, said: "The trustworthy, truthful Muslim merchant will be with the martyrs on the Day of Judgment" [3].

This hadith underscores the legitimacy of financial transactions in general and the great status of the trustworthy merchant.

Consensus: Muslims unanimously agree on the legitimacy of financial transactions in general; since people need what others possess [4].

Secondly: The Definition of Restaurants

A restaurant is a place for preparing and serving food and drinks to customers. Meals are usually served and eaten on the premises, but many restaurants also offer take-out and food delivery services.

Topic Two: Rulings on Eating to Satiation, Eating from Open Buffets, and Price Variations in Airport Restaurants.

Firstly: The Ruling on Eating to Satiation

Issue Description: Some restaurants set a fixed price for a meal until satiation, especially in some countries at food carts.

Ruling: It is considered minor gharar (uncertainty) which does not affect the validity of a sale. Al-Nawawi said: "There is consensus on the permissibility of drinking from a water skin with compensation despite not knowing the exact amount of drink," and Ibn Rushd stated: "Jurists agree that significant gharar in sales is not permissible, but minor gharar is permissible." [6]

Contemporary Jurists Respond: On the matter of restaurants offering "pay twenty riyals and eat as much as you want."

Response: It appears that this is generally tolerated especially with those whose consumption is simple and customary. However, if a person knows themselves to be a heavy eater, they must stipulate this with the restaurant owner, as people's capacities vary [7].

Secondly: The Ruling on Eating from open Buffets

Issue Description: The open buffet system is one method of food presentation, characterised by self-service where guests serve themselves. It is used in various occasions, notable for its variety of dishes and fewer staff serving the guests.

Ruling: It is considered minor gharar (uncertainty) which is excusable and does not affect the validity of the sale. It resembles the situation described by Al-Nawawi, may Allah have mercy on him, about entering a bath for a known fee without knowing the amount of water used [5].

2. RULING ON PRICING FOOD AND BEVERAGE PRODUCTS AT AIRPORTS

With frequent travel and movement, consumers face difficulties dealing with the high prices of food and beverages at airports, which prevent them from accessing these products, unlike other commonly consumed products. This necessitates an explanation of the ruling on pricing food and beverages at airports in light of differing opinions among jurists on price control:

The First Opinion: For the Hanafis, Malikis, and Ibn Al-Rif'ah from the Shafi'is: The ruler may fix prices for measured and weighed items (necessities) during times of high prices and market manipulation [8]. **Their evidence is from the Sunnah, the traditions, and reason:**

As for the Sunnah: It is narrated from Ibn Abbas, RA, that the Messenger of Allah, SAW, said: "There should be neither harming nor reciprocating harm" [10].

The Second Opinion: The opinion of the Shafi'i and Hanbali schools is that pricing controls are prohibited, and no one is permitted to impose pricing on the people. Instead, individuals should be free to sell their possessions even during times of high prices [8]. Their evidence includes the Sunnah and reason:

As for the Sunnah: Reported by Anas bin Malik - RA - he said: "Prices rose during the time of the Messenger of Allah - SAW -, and people said: 'O Messenger of Allah, would you set prices for us?' He replied: 'Verily, it is Allah who constrains and grants abundance, who provides, and sets prices. Indeed, I hope to meet Allah Almighty without anyone having a claim against me for an injustice concerning blood or property'" [9].

This hadith indicates the prohibition of setting prices and considers it an injustice and restriction on the people and traders.

Reason: They argue that setting prices causes harm and restricts people in their property. It is not customary to constrain a person to sell at a specified price [11].

Imam Al-Shafi'i said: "People have authority over their own wealth; no one may take it or anything of it without their consent, except in matters legally obligatory, and this does not fall under such obligations" [21].

It may be appropriate in the coming periods to expand the use of technology to support this field (Ahmed, Alharbi, & Elfeky, 2022; Elbyaly & Elfeky, 2023a, 2023c, 2023e, 2023f, 2023g, 2023h, 2023i; A. Elfeky, 2017; A. I. M. Elfeky & Elbyaly, 2016, 2019, 2023a, 2023b, 2023c, 2023e, 2023f, 2023g; A. I. M. Elfeky, Najmi, & Elbyaly, 2023, 2024a, 2024b; Elfekyand, 2016; Masada, 2017; Masadeh & Elfeky, 2016).

Conclusion on the Regulation of Pricing and the Control of Prices Relating to the Quality and Health Standards of Airport Restaurant Products

Realistically, the economic system sees that the market operates on the interaction of supply and demand forces. For demand to be effective, financial capability must exist when there is a desire to purchase. Thus, the theory of supply and demand forms the basis for airport restaurant products, meaning that when the price of a commodity increases, the quantity demanded decreases, and when the price decreases, the quantity demanded increases. Consumer preferences also play a role in price variation. Amidst this momentum related to prices, we must not forget that these foods and beverages must meet high standards of quality concerning health regulations.

3. CONCLUSION

The study has reached several conclusions, notably:

1. Transactions are defined as Shariah rulings related to worldly matters, conducted between two parties for the purpose of profit through buying, selling, leasing, and similar transactions.
2. Muslims universally agree on the legality of financial transactions in general, as people need what others possess.
3. Eating to satisfaction in restaurants involves some establishments fixing a specific price for a meal until full satiation.
4. The ruling on eating to satisfaction in restaurants is considered minor Gharar (uncertainty), which is pardonable and does not affect the validity of the transaction.

5. Eating from an open buffet is permissible because it involves minor Gharar, which is pardonable and does not affect the validity of the transaction.
6. The high prices at airport restaurants are due to the supply and demand theory, which forms the basis.
7. It is essential not to forget that these foods and beverages must maintain high quality concerning health standards.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Investigate and clarify contemporary restaurant transactions for public awareness.
2. Link the legality of certain foods to health stipulations.

5. ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The authors are thankful to the Deanship of Graduate Studies and Scientific Research at Najran University for funding this work under the Student Research Funding Program grant code (NU/SRP/SEHRC/13/350-1).

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