

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

## Islamic prayer assist app

### TL;DR

1. Prayer Assist App tracks prayer movement of a person using phone sensors and provides real time notification on mistakes such as praying extra rakat, missing a sujood, performing a sujood before rukhoo etc.
2. No need to hold the phone in hand rather the magic happens in their pocket to prevent distractions.
3. Designed for Muslims to reduce prayer mistakes and enhance prayer commitment overtime for Allah's sake via recommendations and prayer quality reports.
4. Correct and on time prayers will result in donations made in the worshipper's name.
5. A prayer report is generated that highlights prayer quality and if prayer is improving overtime.
6. Valuable for new Muslims without guidance to build a correct praying habit.
7. In my opinion (not part of the document), a lot can be accomplished with a person's prayer session data as it contains intrinsic value to the Muslim community and outside.

### Context

In Islam people pray in rakats. In a rakat, an individual would start off by standing then bowing down at a 90 degrees angle (rukho), to prostrate twice while staying seated (sujood). Many people miss the rukho step and move on to sujood without realising, or some people forget to perform sujood twice due to rush or other reasons, and for most cases the person forgets which rakat they are in. This leads to tension and confusion in people's hearts on whether they have performed their prayers correctly or not. Also, the question arises in their heart if they need to repair their prayer for making a mistake at the end of their prayer or not.

### Solution

The prayer assist app would track an individual's motions of prayer during prayer to detect whether a prayer is performed correctly. This includes monitoring a full rakat prayer in order from standing to rukho to performing sujood twice. If a person misses a step or performs an extra step than needed then the prayer app would buzz a notification alerting the ibadi (worshipper) that he/she has made a mistake or the prayer app would voice prompt the person with the missed step e.g. 'You have missed 1 sujood out of two'. This would allow the person to finish their prayer in peace knowing that they would have to amend their prayer at the end. Also, a report with the number of mistakes would be generated for the user's attention, so the ibadi can consciously try to reduce the amount of mistakes they make. For long term tracking a monthly report would be generated with their prayer performance

compared to past month's prayer performance or overall performance. The report would include information such as month A missed sujood: 4 , month B missed sujood: 1; 'You have improved your prayer performance by 75% within a month MashAllah'. Purpose of these reports is to motivate Ibadis to improve their prayer by making them aware of their mistakes in a tangible way and ease their mind during uncertain prayer situations.

## Target audience

Islam is the fastest growing religion in the world, and we have a lot of brothers and sisters joining us everyday. New Muslims who are learning to pray would greatly benefit from this app as they would know how many rakats they need to pray, and have real time notification alerts as a reinforcement to execute a prayer correctly. This app would greatly help them get into the habit of praying salah correctly while no one in presence is guiding them to pray. Moreover, general Muslims who rush their prayer or lose attention during prayer can receive great assistance from this app, letting them know if they have made any mistakes or if they need to make any amendments during or after their prayer. This can strengthen a believer's iman by pushing them to perfect their daily prayers into almost zero mistakes.

## Minutiae of the prayer app

The Ibadi (worshipper) would download the app on their mobile device, when they are prepared for prayer, initiating the start button within the app grants them a 20-second interval to place their phone in their pocket before the app commences monitoring their prayer session. The app will use phone sensors to detect change in human body motion e.g. standing, to sitting down to prostrating. Observing human gestures in prayer would allow the app to count the number of rakats a single person has prayed, including any misses of crucial chronological steps to complete a rakat. The app will provide notifications to alert the user if they miss or perform an extra prayer step. This feature is implemented to address the different ways of rectifying any errors or omissions in prayer steps, as there are specific procedures the ibadi has to perform to amend their prayer for both cases (performing extra steps or underperforming steps).

## USP / Convenience

1. **Prayer Report** - The Ibadi will be able to see how many mistakes they made in a month and how long it took them to perform each prayer. Also, there will be a feature to compare their previous prayer performance to current performance. This will motivate the user to push further in connecting to the path of Allah and praying properly for the sake of Allah! InshAllah!
2. **Minimal interactions** - Similar to a pedometer that counts walking steps automatically without the need for constant interaction, the prayer app will function in a similar manner. It will detect whether a person is performing the prayer correctly without the need to open the app during prayer times. This is achieved by synchronising the app with prayer timings and identifying the specific prayer being performed. Furthermore, users will have the freedom to personalise their settings for

rakat counting, allowing them to configure the app to accommodate any missed or nafl (extra) prayers.

3. **Seamless** - Notably, the app does not require visual input during prayer such as having phone camera on, as all its functions can be conveniently accessed from the user's pocket, and the user does not need to visit the app to turn on tracking rather they can turn on tracking from 1 click of a notification. Choose a type of prayer (Fajr (Farz) , Magrib (Sunnah) etc) , put phone in pocket and say Bismillah then start praying IshAllah. On finish, the user has to tap their phone hard, the pressure sensor in their phone will pick up that they have finished praying (no need to take phone out).
4. **Reward system** - The ibadi will be informed of the amount of good deeds they have earned from a full day of prayer (sources for good deeds count will be from hadiths). Giving the ibadi stronger faith, patience, reliance and love towards Allah. To top it all off, a donation will be given to charity from company profits in their name for performing all 5 prayers in time with zero mistakes a day or more than a day. Imagine the happiness it would bring to the believer that by properly praying each day they are helping their community and other people in need around the world.

## Concerns

**Concern 1:** A person is not allowed to correct another Muslims Prayer, and this is what my app will be doing in a sense.

*My solution:* Yes, absolutely correct, in a mosque if I see a brother performing salah (meeting with Allah) and I verbally tell him you missed a sujood then that is absolutely wrong as Allah nor the person gave me the permission to humiliate him in public. However, if a person consents to another to monitor their prayer and let them know about their mistakes after they have finished their prayer or during prayer then would that be wrong? To support my point, in a congregation prayer like Jhummah, we can collectively correct an Imam's recitation or shout out 'Allahu Akbar' to let him know he missed a sujood etc. I believe, new Muslims will greatly be benefitted from live monitoring of their prayer with real time voice prompt feedback during their prayer as they will be able to understand their mistake and rectify them immediately more until it becomes a habit to pray properly.

**Concern 2:** People will become too reliant on this app.

*My solution:* That is a valid concern, as technology has proven to make us lazier day by day to the point where we can order food to our doorstep from a click of a button haha. I can envision people rushing their prayer and taking less time performing a prayer as they will be confident that the prayer assist app will appraise their mistakes in real time during prayer, so they can easily amend their prayer or quickly ask for forgiveness for making mistakes after prayer. That is not my intention with this app at all, but people can easily abuse this app. Therefore, I will track individuals' prayer time and number of mistakes they make. Overtime,

if I notice a significant drop in prayer time (meaning the person is rushing their prayer), and increase in mistakes (meaning the person is not taking prayer seriously and relying too much on the app unless they are new Muslim then that is different) then the person would be suspend from the app for 30 days. I do not want anyone to have the opportunity to take advantage of salah because that is the most sacred worship that connects us to the most powerful from the dunya. Also, I would give the person recommendations in the app to better perform their Salah e.g. Recite dua “a’oodhu billaahis-samee’-il-’aleemi minash-shaytaan-ir-rajeem, min hamzihi, wa nafkhihi, wanaftih” to expel the two satan assigned to you by Iblees before you start a prayer. This will give you better 1:1 connection with Allah and improve your prayer. The Muslim can check their prayer report to see if this has actually helped InshAllah.

**Concern 3:** Please let me know your Fatwas and whether I should continue developing this app or not.

*Your solution:* ...

Thanks to Allah, all of Allah’s help, motivation and skills he granted me, I am very determined and motivated to complete this project, and also cheerlessly ready to drop the project for the sake of Allah. Alhamdulillah if this does not work out and Alhamdulillah again because Allah is guiding me to the correct path.

If you have read till the end. Thank you very much for your time and effort. May Allah grant you Jannatul Ferdous InshAllah, and your valuable feedback would be very generous to me.