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Distribution of Zakat towards Poverty Alleviation

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Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui dampak penyaluran zakat terhadap upaya pengentasan kemiskinan di Kota Medan. Dengan fokus pada peran zakat dalam membantu kelompok masyarakat rentan, penelitian ini menyelidiki sejauh mana penyaluran zakat dapat memberikan kontribusi positif dalam menurunkan angka kemiskinan di kota ini. Metode penelitiannya meliputi analisis data kuantitatif dan kualitatif, meliputi survei dan wawancara terhadap penerima zakat, lembaga pengelola zakat, dan pemangku kepentingan terkait. Temuan penelitian memberikan wawasan mendalam mengenai efektivitas penyaluran zakat dalam memberikan bantuan kepada kelompok masyarakat yang membutuhkan. Hasil analisis data menunjukkan bahwa penyaluran zakat dapat memberikan dampak positif terhadap pengentasan kemiskinan di beberapa wilayah di Kota Medan. Namun terdapat beberapa tantangan yang juga ditemukan, antara lain ketimpangan distribusi dan kurangnya transparansi dalam mekanisme distribusi zakat. Selain itu, kesadaran masyarakat tentang zakat dan pemahaman mengenai pengelolaan dana zakat juga berperan penting dalam efektivitas penyalurannya. Oleh karena itu, disusun rekomendasi untuk meningkatkan transparansi, kesadaran masyarakat dan pengawasan dalam upaya meningkatkan efektivitas penyaluran zakat sebagai instrumen pengentasan kemiskinan di Kota Medan. Penelitian ini diharapkan dapat memberikan landasan bagi lembaga pengelola zakat, pemerintah dan masyarakat untuk mengoptimalkan peran zakat dalam upaya penurunan angka kemiskinan di Kota Medan, serta memberikan kontribusi untuk memahami lebih jauh dinamika penyaluran zakat dan dampaknya terhadap kesejahteraan masyarakat.

Kata Kunci: *Penyaluran Zakat, Pengentasan Kemiskinan*

Abstract

This research aims to investigate the impact of zakat distribution on poverty alleviation efforts in Medan City. By focusing on the role of zakat in helping vulnerable community groups, this research investigates the extent to which zakat distribution can make a positive contribution to reducing poverty levels in this city. The research method involves quantitative and qualitative data analysis, including surveys and interviews with zakat recipients, zakat management institutions, and related stakeholders. The research findings provide in-depth insight into the effectiveness of zakat distribution in providing assistance to community groups in need. The results of data analysis show that zakat distribution can have a positive impact on poverty alleviation in several areas in Medan City. However, several challenges were also found, including unequal distribution and lack of transparency in the zakat distribution mechanism. Apart from that, public awareness about zakat and understanding regarding the management of zakat funds also play an important role in the effectiveness of distribution. Therefore, recommendations have been prepared to increase transparency, public awareness and supervision in an effort to increase the effectiveness of zakat distribution as an instrument for poverty alleviation in Medan City. It is hoped that this research can provide a basis for zakat management institutions, the government and the community to optimize the role of zakat in efforts to reduce poverty levels in Medan City, as well as contribute to further understanding of the dynamics of zakat distribution and its impact on community welfare.

Keywords: Zakat Distribution, Poverty Alleviation

INTRODUCTION

Zakat distribution has an important role in poverty alleviation efforts. Zakat, as one of the pillars of Islam, is an obligation for Muslims to give part of their wealth to those in need. Zakat enables the redistribution of wealth from those who are better off to those who need it. In this way, economic disparities can be reduced, and resources more evenly distributed among members of society (Adi dan Purnama, 2022).

Zakat can be used to provide initial capital for small entrepreneurs or community groups who want to start a small business. By providing financial support to those less fortunate, zakat can help create new economic opportunities, which in turn can reduce poverty levels. Zakat distribution can be allocated to education and skills training programs. Good education and improved skills can increase employment opportunities and help poor people escape the cycle of poverty.

Zakat can also be used to finance affordable health services for underprivileged people. This includes access to medical care, medicines, and public health programs to improve general well-being. Zakat can also be given in the form of direct social assistance

to families in need. This assistance can cover basic needs such as food, clothing and shelter, which can directly help families in poverty.

A portion of zakat can also be allocated for the development of social infrastructure, such as the construction of clean water, sanitation and decent housing facilities. This infrastructure can help create a better environment for underprivileged communities. It is important to note that zakat distribution must be carried out transparently, fairly and effectively. Zakat organizations and amil institutions that are responsible for collecting and distributing zakat must carry out their functions with full responsibility so that the benefits can be felt by people in need (Anwar, 2017).

In the midst of dynamic economic and social development in Medan City, the issue of poverty is one of the main challenges that needs to be overcome to improve community welfare. Zakat, as a social financial instrument in Islam, has great potential to contribute to reducing poverty levels if distributed effectively and evenly. However, there is uncertainty regarding the extent to which zakat distribution has had a significant impact on poverty alleviation efforts in Medan City. In fact, previous research shows that there is inequality in the distribution of zakat, both in terms of regions and beneficiary groups. This inequality can result in some groups of society being marginalized, while others may not benefit optimally (Dinas Sosial Kota Medan, 2023).

Apart from that, deficiencies in coordination between zakat management institutions and lack of transparency in the use of zakat funds are also a concern. This can create opportunities for misuse of zakat funds or their ineffective use in addressing the root causes of poverty. This research aims to deepen understanding of the zakat distribution mechanism in Medan City and the extent of its contribution to poverty alleviation. By analyzing the distribution of zakat from geographical aspects, beneficiary groups, and the effectiveness of the use of funds, this research is expected to provide better insight into the role of zakat in fighting poverty.

This research will also include a review of public awareness regarding zakat, approaches that have been taken in managing zakat, as well as recommendations for increasing the effectiveness of zakat distribution in the context of poverty alleviation in Medan City. Through a deeper understanding of this problem, it is hoped that this research can make a positive contribution to improving the zakat distribution system to achieve the goal of more inclusive and sustainable poverty alleviation..

Zakat, as the main pillar in Islamic teachings, not only has a religious dimension but also a social and economic dimension. The concept of zakat is directed at distributing wealth

fairly in society and providing support to those in need, including community groups who are in poverty. Zakat is based on the principles of social justice in Islam, where wealth and resources given by Allah are considered the common right of all people. The obligation to pay zakat is a way to balance the distribution of wealth and ensure justice in society.

Zakat is based on the principles of social justice in Islam, where wealth and resources given by Allah are considered the common right of all people. The obligation to pay zakat is a way to balance the distribution of wealth and ensure justice in society. The main function of zakat is to distribute wealth from wealthier groups to those less fortunate (Kementerian Agama Republik Indonesia, 2016).

This creates lower economic inequality and helps in minimizing the gap between social groups. Zakat is not just financial assistance; it also functions as a tool for community empowerment. By distributing zakat funds intelligently, people who receive zakat can use it to build their economic sustainability through small businesses, education and skills development.

One of the main goals of zakat is to alleviate poverty. By providing resources to those in need, zakat can provide direct support to those struggling to meet their basic needs, such as food, clothing, and housing. Zakat strengthens social ties in Muslim communities by creating a sense of solidarity (Rachman, 2021).

Through zakat contributions, individuals and community groups actively participate in helping others, creating a greater sense of social responsibility. Through the obligation to pay zakat, individuals are taught a lesson not to love worldly possessions and material wealth too much. This can help control greed and direct attention to spiritual and social values.

By embracing the role of zakat as a social and economic instrument, Muslim societies can achieve better balance in the distribution of wealth, reduce inequality, and create a more just and empowering environment. The city of Medan, as the center of economic and trade activities in North Sumatra, faces significant poverty challenges in several areas. It is hoped that the distribution of zakat in this city can be an effective instrument in alleviating poverty, strengthening sustainable development and improving community welfare.

Zakat plays a significant role in efforts to reduce poverty levels in Medan City. Proper distribution of zakat can provide direct assistance to families or individuals who are in difficult economic conditions. Zakat is not just a form of financial assistance, but also functions as a tool for economic empowerment. By distributing zakat to small businesses,

skills training, or local economic development programs, zakat can help improve the economic sustainability of the people of Medan City.

Zakat distribution can be directed to support the education and health sectors in Medan City. Zakat assistance can provide better access to education and health services to those who are less fortunate. Zakat can be used to fulfill basic needs such as food, clothing and shelter for people in need. This helps ease the burden of life for those who may be experiencing economic difficulties.

Through paying zakat, the people of Medan City can form stronger social bonds. Active involvement in zakat creates a sense of solidarity and social responsibility, which can strengthen togetherness amidst the diversity of society. Zakat plays a role in overcoming economic inequality in the city of Medan. By distributing wealth fairly, zakat can help create a society that is more equal in opportunity and access to resources.

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Zakat Problems

1. Unequal Distribution of Zakat

Several previous studies have shown that there is inequality in the distribution of zakat in various regions. Factors such as differences in the level of public awareness, economic infrastructure, and zakat distribution policies can influence the impact of zakat on poverty alleviation.

2. Transparency and Supervision in Zakat Distribution

The importance of transparency and supervision in the zakat distribution mechanism is the focus in related literature. Non-transparency in the management of zakat funds can hinder the effectiveness of zakat in reducing poverty levels.

3. Public Awareness regarding Zakat

The level of public awareness about zakat obligations and their understanding of how to manage zakat funds can influence the success of zakat distribution in alleviating poverty. This increased understanding can support active community participation in the zakat program.

4. Challenges and Opportunities for Poverty Alleviation

Apart from discussing the challenges of zakat distribution, the research also includes identifying opportunities and innovations in zakat management that can increase its effectiveness as an instrument for poverty alleviation.

RESEARCH METHOD

Sample Data Collection Instrument:

- Quantitative Survey: Structured questionnaire to obtain quantitative data regarding zakat distribution, its impact on poverty alleviation, and characteristics of zakat recipients.
- Qualitative Interview: Interview guide to gain in-depth insight from zakat management institution staff and stakeholders.
- Observation: Direct observation of zakat distribution activities and implementation of poverty alleviation programs.

Data Analysis:

- Quantitative: Using statistical analysis such as regression to identify the relationship between zakat distribution variables and the level of poverty alleviation.
- Qualitative: Thematic analysis of interview and observation data to identify emerging patterns, themes, and perspectives.

Data Processing and Reporting:

- Data processing using statistical software.
- Preparation of research reports detailing quantitative and qualitative findings and providing recommendations based on research results.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This research aims to evaluate the impact of zakat distribution on poverty alleviation efforts in Medan City. By involving respondents from community groups who receive zakat, zakat management institutions, and related stakeholders, this research explores the extent

to which zakat can make a positive contribution to reducing poverty levels in this city. The research results show that zakat distribution has a positive influence on poverty alleviation in Medan City.

This is shown by the coefficient of determination (R^2) of 0.671, which means that 67.1% of the variance in poverty in Medan City can be explained by the distribution of zakat. Regression analysis shows that the zakat distribution variable has a positive regression coefficient of 0.252, which means that every 1% increase in zakat distribution will cause a reduction in poverty of 0.252%.

The results of this research are in line with the results of previous research conducted by various parties. Research conducted by Amalia and Kasyful Mahalli (2012) shows that zakat is able to reduce the number of poor families in Medan City from 84% to 74%. Research conducted by Siti Halida Utami and Irsyad Lubis (2016) also shows that BAZNAS Medan City's productive zakat has a positive influence on business growth and welfare of mustahik in East Medan District.

Based on the results of this research, it can be concluded that zakat distribution is an effective instrument in alleviating poverty in Medan City. To increase the role of zakat in alleviating poverty, the following efforts need to be made:

1. Increase public awareness about paying zakat.
2. Increasing the effectiveness of zakat management.
3. Expanding the scope of zakat distribution.
4. Encourage the use of zakat for productive activities.

Key Findings

1. Effectiveness of Zakat Distribution: - Zakat distribution has had a positive impact on a number of areas in Medan City, especially in terms of fulfilling basic needs such as food, clothing and housing.
2. Economic Empowerment: - Zakat helps economic empowerment through support for small businesses and skills development programs, increasing the capacity of communities to be economically independent.
3. Inequality of Distribution: - Despite the positive impact, inequality was found in the distribution of zakat in some regions, which may affect its effectiveness in reducing economic inequality.
4. Role of Public Awareness: - Public awareness about zakat and understanding regarding the management of zakat funds plays a key role in the effectiveness of distribution.

Recommendation:

1. Increased Transparency: - Increase transparency in the zakat distribution mechanism to ensure that aid actually reaches those in need.
2. Strengthening Zakat Education: - Intensifying zakat education efforts to increase public understanding of the role of zakat and its benefits in alleviating poverty.
3. Empowerment Program Development: - Develop a more sustainable economic empowerment program to support the sustainability of zakat recipient communities.

CONCLUSION

The realization of cooperation and contribution of partners in research on the Effect of Zakat Distribution on Poverty Alleviation in Medan City has gone well. Partners have provided invaluable support for the smooth running of the research. In the first year of research, the contributing partner was LAZNAS. LAZNAS provides support in the form of mustahik data and facilitates meetings with mustahik representatives.

The mustahik data provided by LAZNAS is very useful for researchers in conducting research. Meetings with mustahik representatives also provided researchers with a deeper understanding of the conditions of mustahik in Medan City. In the second year of research, the contributing partner was the Medan City Social Service. The Medan City Social Service provides support in the form of poverty data and facilitates meetings with representatives of zakat management institutions.

Poverty data provided by the Medan City Social Service is very useful for researchers to analyze the effect of zakat distribution on poverty alleviation. Meetings with representatives of zakat management institutions also provided valuable information to researchers about zakat programs that have been implemented by zakat management institutions in Medan City.

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