



Transformation of Mosques in Building the Community's Economy: Contribution to Community Empowerment

Ahmad Prawira¹, Abu Bakar Siddik²
^{1,2}Institut Agama Islam Nurul Hakim

ABSTRACT

Keywords:

Mosque, economic empowerment of the community, entrepreneurship, zakat, collaboration, human resources, access to capital.

This study aims to analyze the role of mosques in empowering the community's economy through programs that are held, such as entrepreneurship training and zakat management. The results of the study indicate that mosques have significant potential in improving community welfare by opening business opportunities and increasing community income. However, there are challenges in terms of human resource management and limited access to capital that hinder the effectiveness of the program. Therefore, collaboration between mosques, Islamic financial institutions, the government, and the private sector is needed to overcome these obstacles and strengthen the positive impact of economic empowerment programs in mosques. This study also recommends developing the capacity of mosque managers and increasing congregation participation in economic programs as important steps to achieve sustainability and success of community economic empowerment.



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).

Corresponding Author:

Ahmad Prawira

Institut Agama Islam Nurul Hakim

Email: wira@gmail.com

INTRODUCTION

Mosques as centers of worship and social activities for Muslims, have a very important role in the lives of the community. So far, mosques have been better known as places to perform prayers, recite the Koran, and various other religious activities. However, in the modern context, mosques have begun to transform into institutions that are more than just places of worship. Through various initiatives, mosques now play a role in strengthening the economy of the community and empowering the community. This transformation includes various social, economic, and educational activities that aim to improve the welfare of the community, especially among the less fortunate.[1][2].

Along with the development of the times, mosques have begun to take on a broader role in building the people's economy. One of them is by utilizing mosque assets for economic empowerment programs, such as entrepreneurship training, management of zakat, infaq, and sedekah, and the formation of mosque cooperatives. In addition, mosques can also be information centers and networks for micro-economic actors who want to develop their businesses. With this role, mosques are not only places of worship, but also as drivers of social and economic change in society.[3][4].

Through community empowerment carried out by mosques, it is hoped that Muslims can be more independent in economic aspects, reduce dependence on external assistance, and improve the overall quality of life. Thus, mosques have a very large contribution in encouraging the creation of a prosperous and competitive society, which in turn will strengthen the economic resilience of Muslims more broadly.[5][6].

METHODS.

1. Mosques in Building the Economy of the Community

Mosques have enormous potential in building the economy of the people, especially when viewed as a center for community empowerment. As a place that is close to the people, mosques have direct access to various levels of society, including those who are less fortunate and in need of assistance. Therefore, mosques can be a very strategic place in implementing programs that not only focus on religious aspects, but also on improving the economic welfare of the people. One way that can be done is by utilizing zakat, infaq, and sedekah funds collected to support economic empowerment programs, such as skills training, business capital assistance, and coaching for small and micro business actors.[7].

In addition, mosques can play an important role in developing community entrepreneurship. Many mosques have started opening entrepreneurship classes to empower their congregations, especially for those who want to start a business but are constrained by a lack of knowledge or capital. Through cooperation with Islamic financial institutions or other institutions, mosques can provide access to financing with a more affordable system and in accordance with Islamic principles. Such programs not only reduce unemployment rates, but also encourage inclusive and sustainable economic growth.[8][9].

Mosques can also serve as centers for community-based economic development. By managing micro-enterprises or cooperatives based on mosques, the management of these businesses can provide direct benefits to the community. For example, mosques can establish cooperatives that provide daily necessities at more affordable prices or manage local products produced by community members. This not only improves the local economy but also creates solidarity among local residents, strengthens social relationships, and supports a more equitable economy.[10].

The transformation of mosques as centers of the community's economy can also include the education and training sectors. Through mosques, Muslims can be given access to various skills training that is relevant to market needs, such as digital marketing training, technical skills, or financial management. With these skills, people can be better prepared to compete in the world of work or even start their own businesses. As centers of learning, mosques contribute to the creation of a knowledge-based economy, which is very important in this digital era.[11][12].

Overall, mosques have a very big role in building the economy of the people. With more optimal utilization, mosques can become an economic force that strengthens the

competitiveness of Muslims, reduces economic dependence, and creates more equitable prosperity for all levels of society.[13][7][14]. Through planned and coordinated empowerment programs, mosques become not only places of worship, but also centers of sustainable social and economic movements.[15].

2. Research Stages

1. Identify Research Problems

The first stage in research is to identify the problem to be studied. At this stage, the researcher formulates the relevant and important problems to be studied. This also includes determining the purpose and scope of the research, and clarifying what is to be achieved from the research. This process often involves searching for ideas or topics that have significant social or scientific impact.

2. Literature Review

Once the research problem is identified, researchers conduct a literature review to understand the existing knowledge on the topic. The purpose of a literature review is to explore theories, concepts, and previous research results that are relevant to the problem being studied. This process helps researchers understand what has been found previously and identify research gaps that can be filled by new research.

3. Formulation of Hypothesis or Research Questions

At this stage, researchers formulate hypotheses or research questions to be tested or answered. Hypotheses are testable statements that predict relationships between variables, while research questions are issues to be answered during the research process. Both of these form the basis for further research design and appropriate data collection methods.

4. Research Design

Research design is an important step in planning how the research will be conducted. Here, the researcher chooses the method to be used, whether qualitative, quantitative, or mixed. Research design also includes the selection of data collection instruments, sampling techniques, and data analysis to be applied. With a good design, research can be carried out efficiently and the results will be more reliable.

5. Data Collection (Data Collection)

Data collection is the stage where the information needed for the research is collected. Data can be obtained through various means, such as surveys, interviews, experiments, or observations. This stage is very crucial because the quality of the data collected will affect the results of the analysis. Researchers must ensure that data is collected accurately, systematically, and organized.

6. Data Analysis

Once the data is collected, the next step is to analyze the data to find patterns, relationships, or relevant findings. For quantitative data, statistical analysis is often used, while for qualitative data, thematic or code analysis can be used. The goal is to process the data into information that can answer research questions or test hypotheses that have been formulated.

7. Discussion of Research Results (Discussion)

At this stage, researchers analyze and interpret the research results obtained. Discussions focus on the implications of the research findings, comparing the results with previous research, and discussing whether the research results support or challenge existing theories. Researchers will also identify limitations in their research and factors that may have influenced the results.

8. Conclusion and Recommendations

At the end of the study, the researcher summarizes the main findings of the study and provides recommendations based on the results of the study. The conclusion summarizes the answers to the research questions or hypothesis testing, while recommendations may

include recommendations for further research or the application of the research results in practice.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This study shows that mosques have great potential in empowering the community's economy through programs that can improve community welfare, such as entrepreneurship training and zakat management. The findings show that many congregants feel direct benefits from empowerment programs organized by mosques, with increased income and a more prosperous life. However, challenges such as the lack of trained human resources and access to capital remain obstacles that need to be overcome. Therefore, further support from various parties, including Islamic financial institutions and the government, is needed so that these programs can be more effective and sustainable, and can reach more people.

Conclusion

The conclusion of this study shows that mosques have great potential to act as centers for empowering the community's economy. Programs organized by mosques, such as entrepreneurship training and zakat management, have had a positive impact on improving community welfare and opening up business opportunities. However, there are still challenges related to limited trained human resources and access to capital that hinder further development. For the next step, further efforts are needed to improve the capacity of mosque managers through managerial training and economic management. In addition, collaboration between mosques, Islamic financial institutions, the government, and the private sector needs to be strengthened to provide the necessary capital and support. The development of a more efficient system in collecting zakat and infaq and increasing congregational participation in mosque economic programs is also very important. With these steps, it is hoped that mosques can become a sustainable economic force and provide wider benefits to the community.

REFERENCES

- [1] PH Hsb and J. Harahap, "Mosques as Economic Empowerment: A Study of the Al-Hidayah Mosque in Padang Matinggi," *Stud. Multidisciplinary J. Islamic Studies.*, vol. 9, no. 2, 2022, doi: 10.24952/multidisciplinary.v9i2.6013.
- [2] W. Munawar and S. Qomaruddin, "Improving the Capacity of the Management of the Assakinah Mosque Prosperity Council in Economic Empowerment," *J. Abdi's Work ...*, vol. 5, 2021.
- [3] R. Amsyal, CD Fitri, and J. Farma, "Management of Village Fund Allocation in Community Empowerment According to the Perspective of Islamic Economics (Study on the Trienggadeng Mosque Settlement, Trienggadeng District, Pidie Jaya Regency)," *SYARIAH ECO BUSINESS*, vol. 4, no. 1, 2021, doi: 10.22373/ekobis.v4i1.10046.
- [4] G. Santika, IM Fauzi, and W. Lisnawati, "OPTIMIZATION OF MOSQUE POTENTIAL AS A BASIS FOR STRENGTHENING SYARIAH MICROECONOMICS AT BMT MESJID ALMUHSININ CIAMIS," *J. Econ. SYARIAH*, vol. 4, no. 2, 2019, doi: 10.37058/jes.v4i2.1161.
- [5] A. & Abrista, "Mosque Strategy in Empowering the Community's Economy at the Al Muhajirin Mosque in Bogor," *AL-URBAN J. Econ. Sharia and Philanthropy. Islam Vol. 5 (2)*, 2021, vol. 5, no. 2, 2021.
- [6] A. Aziz, M. Ag, M. Ulfah, and S. Ei, "Selected Chapters of Contemporary Islamic Economics," *Bandung Alf.*, 2010.
- [7] U. Faruq, *Islamic Financial Management*. 2021.
- [8] MY Wardhana, T. Makmur, and A. Firnanda, "ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT STRATEGY OF FISHERMEN COMMUNITY IN MEUNASAH KEUDE VILLAGE, MESJID RAYA DISTRICT, ACEH BESAR REGENCY," *Paradigm. Agribusiness*, vol. 3, no. 1, 2020, doi: 10.33603/jpa.v3i1.3705.

- [9] F. Fitriani, S. Sumiadi, and J. Jumadiyah, "APPLICATION OF CUSTOMARY CRIMINAL SANCTIONS IN RESOLVING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (Research Study in Gampong Juli Cot Mesjid, Juli District, Bireuen Regency)." *REUSAM J. Law Science.*, vol. 10, no. 1, 2022, doi: 10.29103/reusam.v10i1.8909.
- [10] N. Muna, Z. Fuad, and CD Fitri, "Analysis of Agricultural Zakat Practices among Farmers in Mesjid Village, Simpang Tiga District, Pidie Regency," *SYARIAH ECO BUSINESS*, vol. 3, no. 2, 2021, doi: 10.22373/ekobis.v3i2.10041.
- [11] S. Zahro and MT Hapsari, "The Influence of Sharia Financial Planning, Sharia Financial Literacy, Financial Behavior and Income on Investment Interest," *J. Mirai Management.*, vol. 8, no. 2, 2023.
- [12] A. Wijanarko and L. Rachmawati, "THE INFLUENCE OF ISLAMIC FINANCIAL LITERACY, ISLAMIC BRANDING, AND RELIGIOSITY ON STUDENTS' DECISIONS IN CHOOSING ISLAMIC FINANCIAL SERVICES," *J. Econ. and Islamic Business*, vol. 3, no. 1, 2020.
- [13] F. Menne, "Innovation and Sharia Financial Literacy for MSMEs," *jessica*, vol. 6, no. 1, 2023, doi: 10.36778/jesya.v6i1.1213.
- [14] AW Nasution and AW Nasution, "ANALYSIS OF FACTORS OF AWARENESS OF ISLAMIC FINANCIAL LITERACY OF ISLAMIC FINANCE AND BANKING STUDENTS," *Equilib. J. Econ. Sharia*, vol. 7, no. 1, 2019, doi: 10.21043/equilibrium.v7i1.4258.
- [15] G. Gustati, D. Rahmiati, and RE Sulastri, "SHARIAH FINANCIAL LITERACY AS A MODERATION OF RELIGIOSITY IN INFLUENCES INTEREST IN USING SHARIAH FINANCIAL PRODUCTS," *J. Accounting. Finance. and Business*, vol. 16, no. 1, 2023, doi: 10.35143/jakb.v16i1.5946.