

Community Social Empowerment in Zakat Community Development

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Abstract. A large portion of the zakat utilization program is something needed in order to have long-term benefits of zakat and to increase the socio-economic value of zakat funds, one of which is the community's social empowerment program. BAZNAS (the National Zakat Amil Agency) of West Java, which has an intermediary function, conducts the Zakat Community Development (ZCD) program to empower the community. This study aims to determine the profile of social empowerment in the ZCD program. The research method applied is a case study and descriptive approach with data collection techniques through observation, in-depth interviews, and documentation. The results show that the effectiveness of zakat utilization can be increased through community social empowerment programs that are carried out in stages, namely the stage of mental development, group activities, and capacity building activities. Such a method aims to divide the empowerment process and identify competencies and community development.

Keywords: zakat funds, baznas, zcd program

Introduction

Discussion on poverty both socially and economically is a topic that has been and still will be discussed by faith-based organizations in conducting social welfare services. The activities of these religious groups have existed several centuries ago with the main similarity related to humanitarian values (Adi, 2013). In this case, the activities require agents of change (those who make social change) and beneficiaries (those who receive services) or their target communities (Adi, 2013).

Accordingly, the government must be present to encourage and develop various policies and regulations, especially related to the achievement of social welfare. Here, the role of the government as an agent of change must be clarified and enhanced. The government must support various efforts, especially the development of small community businesses (MSMEs) in the form of home industry processing through related regional organizations and regulations to encourage companies to issue Corporate

Social Responsibility (CSR) funds. In the community, those religious-based non-government empowerment organizations exist to implement poverty alleviation programs through community empowerment or community development. This empowerment agency program is unique and different from the model carried out by the government through all its tools.

There are many problems faced by developing countries, especially social and economic problems. As one of the developing countries, Indonesia also faces the same problem, particularly, the province of West Java (Bappeda Jawa Barat, 2018). Solving this problem must involve many parties, one of them is BAZNAS of West Java Province. The role of West Java BAZNAS distribution and other zakat institutions have been considered effective because its performance indicators are only seen from the beneficiaries. On the other hand, the portion of empowerment is still in the range of 20% -30% (BAZNAS West Java Province, 2017). It is expected that the

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