

The Role of Zakat in Poverty Alleviation: A Comprehensive Review of Economic Impact Assessments

Peran Zakat dalam Pengentasan Kemiskinan: Tinjauan Komprehensif Penilaian Dampak Ekonomi

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ABSTRACT

Zakat, as an obligation in Islam, has significant potential in alleviating poverty and economic empowerment. This research aims to evaluate the effectiveness of various types of zakat in reducing poverty through a comprehensive literature review. The method used is the PRISMA approach to ensure systematization and transparency in literature collection and screening. The research results show that zakat fitrah, zakat mal, and zakat profession play an important role in reducing poverty and improving community welfare. The implications of this research highlight the importance of good, transparent zakat management and the use of digital technology to increase the efficiency of zakat collection and distribution. This research also identifies the need for more in-depth empirical studies and the use of more effective distribution strategies in the context of poverty alleviation.

Keywords: Zakat, Poverty Alleviation, Economic Empowerment, Effectiveness of Zakat, Islamic Economics, Redistribution of Wealth, Community Welfare.

ABSTRAK

Zakat, sebagai salah satu kewajiban dalam Islam, memiliki potensi signifikan dalam pengentasan kemiskinan dan pemberdayaan ekonomi. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengevaluasi efektivitas berbagai jenis zakat dalam mengurangi kemiskinan melalui tinjauan literatur yang komprehensif. Metode yang digunakan adalah pendekatan PRISMA untuk memastikan sistematisasi dan transparansi dalam pengumpulan dan penyaringan literatur. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa zakat fitrah, zakat mal, dan zakat profesi memainkan peran penting dalam mengurangi kemiskinan dan meningkatkan kesejahteraan masyarakat. Implikasi dari penelitian ini menyoroti pentingnya pengelolaan zakat yang baik, transparan, dan penggunaan teknologi digital untuk meningkatkan efisiensi pengumpulan dan distribusi zakat. Penelitian ini juga mengidentifikasi kebutuhan untuk studi empiris yang lebih mendalam dan penggunaan strategi distribusi yang lebih efektif dalam konteks pengentasan kemiskinan.

Kata Kunci: Zakat, Pengentasan Kemiskinan, Pemberdayaan Ekonomi, Efektivitas Zakat, Ekonomi Islam, Redistribusi Kekayaan, Kesejahteraan Masyarakat.

1. Introduction

Zakat, as a form of almsgiving that is mandatory in Islam, is increasingly recognized for its potential in alleviating poverty and economic empowerment. Various studies have evaluated the economic impact of zakat-based programs in reducing poverty in various countries. Anis & Kassim (2016) highlight the effectiveness of zakat-based programs in Bangladesh, especially in empowering poor women in rural areas economically. Choiriyah et al. (2020) emphasizes the significant potential of zakat institutions in Indonesia in contributing to poverty alleviation. Furthermore, Jedidia & Guerbouj (2020) discuss how zakat can reduce short-term poverty for certain groups and contribute to eliminating long-term poverty through investment.

In addition, Ayuniyah et al. (2022) conducted an empirical study showing the importance of zakat distribution in poverty alleviation using qualitative and quantitative approaches. Aziz et al. (2020) as well as other researchers also highlight zakat as an important instrument for reducing poverty and providing initial capital for individuals to improve their economic conditions. Maisyarah (2024) reports that zakat significantly contributes to poverty alleviation at the national level.

The role of zakat in poverty reduction is also explored in various contexts, such as in Indonesia, where zakat institutions play a crucial role in poverty alleviation efforts. Productive zakat has been identified as a strategic mechanism to help reduce poverty, as stated by Kholis & Mugiyati (2021). Furthermore, zakat has been recognized as a tool for economic empowerment, increasing income, and reducing multidimensional poverty (Pratama, 2023).

In conclusion, a comprehensive review of the economic impact of zakat in poverty alleviation emphasizes the importance of zakat as a mechanism to empower the poor, reduce income inequality, and contribute to sustainable economic development. By utilizing zakat effectively, countries can address poverty from the perspective of both short-term aid and long-term investment strategies, ultimately driving economic growth and social prosperity.

Zakat is one of the fundamental pillars of Islamic economics which has a strategic role in efforts to eradicate poverty. Etymologically, zakat means purification, which reflects its main goal, namely to purify the property and soul of the zakat giver. In the context of Islamic economics, zakat functions as an instrument of wealth redistribution which aims to reduce economic inequality and provide a social safety net for underprivileged groups.

As a religious obligation, zakat has a mechanism that is regulated in detail in the sharia, including the types of assets subject to zakat and the percentage that must be paid. Among the most common types of zakat are zakat fitrah, zakat mal, and zakat profession. Zakat fitrah is the zakat that every Muslim must pay in the month of Ramadan before Eid al-Fitr prayers, and is usually in the form of basic food items. Zakat mal, on the other hand, covers various assets including money, gold, property, and agricultural products that have reached the nisab (minimum limit) and haul (one year ownership period). Professional zakat, which is a modern interpretation, is applied to professional income or salaries received regularly. Apart from that, there is also agricultural and trade zakat. Agricultural zakat is imposed on agricultural products after harvest, while trade zakat is imposed on goods that are bought and sold. Each type of zakat has specific rules and calculations, but all of them aim to distribute wealth more evenly and help those below the poverty line.

In efforts to eradicate poverty, zakat functions as a redistribution mechanism that channels some of the wealth from those who can afford it to those who need it. The effectiveness of zakat in alleviating poverty depends greatly on how zakat is collected, managed and distributed. Therefore, analysis of variations in the effectiveness of various types of zakat is very important to ensure that zakat can achieve its main goal, namely reducing poverty and inequality in society. This research aims to explore whether the effectiveness of zakat in alleviating poverty varies depending on the type of zakat, with the hope of providing deeper and more practical insights for zakat managers and policy makers.

The problem of poverty is a serious and ongoing challenge in many Muslim-majority countries. Even though zakat is considered one of the main instruments in overcoming poverty, there are still significant disparities in zakat distribution and its effectiveness. The importance of understanding the effectiveness of each type of zakat in overcoming poverty is crucial in this context. By exploring variations in the effectiveness of various types of zakat, we can identify more appropriate and efficient approaches in utilizing zakat funds to reduce existing levels of poverty.

The fundamental research question in this study is whether the effectiveness of zakat in alleviating poverty varies depending on the type of zakat applied. In the context of Islamic economics, zakat has a crucial role as an instrument of wealth redistribution which aims to

reduce social and economic inequality. However, there is no clear consensus regarding how effective each type of zakat—such as zakat fitrah, zakat mal, professional zakat, agricultural zakat, and trade—in achieving the goal of poverty alleviation. This research aims to fill this knowledge gap by conducting a comprehensive analysis of existing literature, in order to determine the factors that influence the level of effectiveness of zakat in the context of poverty reduction. By exploring these variations, it is hoped that this research can provide deeper insight for zakat managers and policy makers in designing more effective and sustainable zakat distribution strategies.

There are two main gaps in the current literature regarding the analysis of the effectiveness of zakat in poverty alleviation. First, there is a lack of research that provides a comprehensive comparison between various types of zakat such as zakat fitrah, zakat mal, professional zakat, agricultural zakat, and trade in the context of poverty alleviation. Second, there is limited literature that focuses on comparative analysis of effectiveness between these types of zakat, which hinders progress in optimizing zakat distribution strategies.

This research has a high urgency to provide more in-depth information to zakat managers and policy makers. With a better understanding of the effectiveness of various types of zakat, policy makers can optimize zakat distribution strategies to increase their impact in poverty alleviation. The need for more effective solutions is also increasingly urgent, given the complex challenges of reducing poverty levels in Muslim-majority societies. This research will contribute by offering a detailed comparative analysis of the effectiveness of various types of zakat in alleviating poverty. It is hoped that the systematic approach that will be used in this research can fill the knowledge gaps that still exist in the related literature, as well as provide new points of view that have not been explored much before.

This research is expected to provide significant new insights into the distribution and effectiveness of zakat in different contexts. Apart from that, it is also hoped that the research results can provide practical recommendations to zakat institutions and policy makers to improve zakat distribution strategies that are more effective in fighting poverty. Thus, this research has the potential to make a substantial contribution to the literature on Islamic economics and poverty alleviation studies.

2. Research Methods

In conducting this research, the first step was taken by collecting articles from reputable international databases using the PRISMA (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses) method. The PRISMA approach was chosen to ensure that the literature search and screening was carried out systematically and transparently, in accordance with recognized standards of systematic research methodology. Keywords used include "zakat fitrah", "zakat mal", "zakat profession", "effectiveness of zakat", "poverty alleviation", "Islamic charity", and "poverty alleviation", with the use of boolean operators (AND, OR, NOT) to control and narrow the search scope.

This process produces a number of articles taken from databases such as Scopus, Web of Science, and Google Scholar, which are then filtered based on relevance through reviewing the title and abstract. Inclusion criteria include articles published in reputable international journals, which specifically discuss the effectiveness of zakat in alleviating poverty, and focus on one or more specific types of zakat.

On the other hand, articles that were not relevant to the topic, did not pass the peer-review process, or were published in journals with low reputation, were excluded from the analysis to ensure that the data and analysis presented in the study were relevant and evidence-based. With this approach, the research is expected to present a comprehensive and in-depth literature review on the effectiveness of various types of zakat in the context of poverty alleviation, providing an important contribution to the understanding and more effective management of zakat resources in helping communities in need.

3. Results and Discussions

3.1. Zakat concept

Zakat, as one of the fundamental pillars of Islam, is an obligatory form of good deeds which aims to purify an individual's property and soul (Bonang, 2023). As an instrument of wealth redistribution, zakat channels wealth from those who can afford it (muzakki) to those who need it (dhuafa), thereby encouraging the creation of social and economic equality (Isnaniati, 2023). This act of worship in Islam has two dimensions, namely the divine dimension and the social dimension (Zulinda, 2023). Good management of zakat institutions is very important to maintain public trust and ensure the achievement of zakat goals as mandated in the Al-Quran (Mohamad, 2023).

Zakat is not only a personal obligation, but also a socio-economic system regulated by the government, which emphasizes the importance of its systematic implementation. Zakat is considered a crucial economic instrument for achieving socio-economic justice (Zainuddin, 2023). In addition, zakat is complexly related to sustainable economic development, which describes broad characteristics beyond just economic variables (Muliadi, 2020). The core objectives of zakat and Islamic social finance are in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), indicating the importance of adhering to Islamic principles in the distribution of zakat (Hassan, 2023).

In the realm of Islamic finance, zakat stands as the first pillar of the Islamic economic system, highlighting the importance of this foundation (Muneeza, 2017). The role of zakat extends to shaping community welfare through moral, social and economic values (Asiati & Nopriyansah, 2021). Furthermore, zakat is seen as a commandment in Islam, making it the main focus in Sharia accounting objectives (Felani et al., 2020). The intention to fulfill zakat obligations is closely related to individual religiosity and commitment to Islamic beliefs (Farouk et al., 2018). In conclusion, zakat represents a complex concept in Islam, not only as a religious obligation but also as a mechanism for social welfare, economic equality, and sustainable development. Proper management, governance and distribution of zakat is very important to realize its goals and maintain the principles of justice and compassion in Islamic teachings.

3.2. Types of Zakat

Zakat, one of the Five Pillars of Islam, includes various types that aim to improve social welfare and economic justice in the Muslim community. Some types of Zakat include Zakat Fitrah, Zakat Maal, Zakat Professi, as well as Zakat agriculture and trade. Zakat Fitrah is a compulsory charity paid during the month of Ramadan to purify individuals and provide assistance to the less able (Harahap, 2023). Zakat Maal includes subcategories such as Zakat gold and silver, Zakat trade, Zakat agriculture, Zakat livestock, Corporate Zakat, Zakat stock, Mining Zakat, Professional Zakat, and Zakat on found goods (Rikaz) (Mujahidah & Akbar, 2022). Professional Zakat is particularly related to income obtained through expertise, knowledge, and personal skills (Hakimi et al., 2021).

Management and distribution of Zakat is crucial to obtain optimal impact. Institutions such as the National Zakat Amil Agency (BAZNAS) and the Zakat Amil Institute (LAZ) in Indonesia, as well as the Sudan Zakat Chamber (SZC) in Sudan, have an important role in ensuring the proper collection and distribution of Zakat funds (Febriandika, 2024). In addition, digitalization of Zakat management has been raised as a way to increase efficiency and transparency in collecting Zakat from eligible Muslims and distributing it fairly to recipients, thereby encouraging the creation of a just society (Fadhilah, 2021).

Furthermore, Zakat plays an important role in alleviating poverty and economic empowerment. Studies have shown that Zakat has the potential to significantly reduce poverty levels and contribute to economic growth by optimizing its use in agricultural and professional aspects (Pratama & Yuni, 2020). Professional Zakat, in particular, is identified as a tool to

improve community welfare and individual economic empowerment (Junaidi, 2024). The implementation of Zakat, including Professional Zakat, is not only a religious obligation but also a means for social and economic development in Muslim society (Febriandika et al., 2023).

In conclusion, Zakat includes various types that function as an important mechanism in the distribution of wealth, alleviating poverty, and improving community welfare in Islamic societies. Good management, transparent distribution, and the use of digital tools are crucial to maximizing the impact of Zakat in promoting economic justice and social welfare.

3.3. Poverty Alleviation Theory

Poverty is a complex problem that can be measured by various indicators, such as the ratio of poor family heads, poverty gap index, poverty severity index, and Basic Needs Shortage Index (BNDI) (Choiriyah et al., 2020). Another approach to understanding poverty is through multidimensional measurements such as the Energy Poverty Index (FPI), which combines the characteristics of poverty into one comprehensive measure (Charlier & Legendre, 2019). In addition, a lack of material goods, especially among workers, can result in the phenomenon of 'worker poverty' (Crettaz, 2014).

Zakat, which is rooted in Islamic economic principles, plays an important role in overcoming poverty by reducing economic inequality through the collection and redistribution of resources from the rich to the less fortunate, including orphans, widows and the poor (Aziz et al., 2020). Zakat-based programs have been proven to increase average monthly income, asset ownership, and household expenditure, which significantly contributes to poverty reduction and economic empowerment, especially among marginalized women (Anis & Kassim, 2016). Effective Zakat management is very important for sustainable development and the creation of a just society, thus facilitating efforts to eradicate poverty (Zulkifli, 2022).

Extensive research shows that Zakat is effective in reducing poverty and income inequality, especially when managed strategically (Ayuniyyah et al., 2022). The productive Zakat initiative, which focuses on supporting entrepreneurs, is considered an effective strategy for reducing poverty (Kholis & Mugiyati, 2021). In addition, Zakat is recognized as a sustainable approach with great potential to contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (Ariyani, 2016). In conclusion, Zakat emerges as an effective tool in reducing poverty by overcoming economic inequality, empowering marginalized communities, and encouraging sustainable development. By optimizing Zakat management, integrating it into broader poverty alleviation programs, and ensuring efficient distribution, Zakat can play an important role in reducing poverty and improving social welfare.

3.4. Distribution and Use of Zakat

3.4.1. Zakat Fitrah

The Zakat Fitrah distribution process involves collecting obligatory alms during the month of Ramadan and then distributing them to those in need (Khairuddin, 2020). Zakat Fitrah plays an important role in alleviating poverty by providing funds for productive activities that improve the economic welfare of society (K, 2023). The importance of Zakat distribution is not only limited to meeting basic needs but also includes productive forms such as providing business capital to enable recipients to become independent (Rahmadita, 2023). Effective Zakat management is very important to ensure that the funds reach the right recipients and are used efficiently (Wahyu & Anwar, 2020).

Research has shown that productive Zakat, given in the form of business capital, can gradually improve the economic status of recipients, thereby helping to eradicate poverty (Akmal et al., 2021). By implementing a productive Zakat scheme, society can see an increase in prosperity and a reduction in material poverty levels (Efendi & Fathurrohman, 2021). In addition, strategic management of Zakat, especially in productive forms, has been identified as

an effective tool for alleviating poverty in areas with a predominantly Muslim population (Wahyuningsih & Makhrus, 2019).

Efforts to optimize Zakat as a social capital instrument to combat poverty are recognized as a viable solution, emphasizing the importance of managing Zakat productively and professionally to realize its potential in empowering society (Dzikrulloh & Permata, 2019). Organizations such as the National Zakat Amil Agency play an important role in the efficient collection and distribution of Zakat to ensure its impact in reducing poverty is maximized (Hayatika et al., 2021). In conclusion, effective distribution of Zakat Fitrah and implementation of productive Zakat schemes are important mechanisms in reducing poverty. By ensuring transparent and professional Zakat management, society can optimize Zakat's potential to empower individuals economically and contribute significantly to efforts to eradicate poverty.

3.4.2. Zakat Mal

The mal zakat distribution mechanism involves various processes such as determining recipients (mustahik), defining distribution areas, evaluating performance based on certain indicators, and ensuring timely distribution (Safinal & Riyaldi, 2021). In the context of poverty alleviation, the effectiveness of zakat mal has been studied in depth, especially in the form of productive zakat distribution. Productive zakat distribution aims to empower the economy of the poor by providing interest-free financing to support entrepreneurial activities (Juliani, 2020). Studies show that the distribution of productive zakat, both in cash and in kind, significantly impacts the success and ability of recipients to develop their businesses and improve their economic well-being (Jaili et al., 2020; Yunira et al., 2021). By distributing productive zakat to micro-entrepreneurs, institutions such as Baitul Mal Aceh have succeeded in improving the welfare of recipients and contributing to poverty reduction (Alwi & Sari, 2019).

In addition, proper management and transparent handling of zakat by institutions such as Baitul Mal is very important to prevent fraud and ensure that zakat funds are used effectively for poverty alleviation (Wahyuningsih et al., 2023). Implementation of creative and innovative zakat distribution programs, such as zakat for productive livestock, can further stimulate economic development in society (Fahmi & Nashirudin, 2022). In addition, an individual's level of knowledge and positive attitudes regarding zakat can influence their willingness to donate zakat funds, thereby supporting poverty alleviation efforts (Muhammad et al., 2023).

In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, zakat institutions have adapted their distribution processes to meet the changing needs of recipients, including in-person visits to mustahik locations, bank transfers, and enhanced supervision to ensure appropriate use of zakat funds (Arifin & M, 2021; Athiyah, 2023). The strategic use of productive zakat, especially during a crisis such as a pandemic, can be a vital source of funding to improve community welfare (Arifin & M, 2021). In conclusion, the distribution of zakat mal, especially through a productive approach, plays an important role in poverty alleviation efforts. By ensuring transparent management, encouraging innovative distribution programs, and adapting to changing situations such as the pandemic, zakat institutions can effectively contribute to improving the economic conditions of the less fortunate.

3.4.3. Profession Zakat

The practice of professional zakat distribution involves individuals donating a portion of the income earned through their professional skills (Salma & Malik, 2022). This form of zakat has great potential in alleviating poverty if managed effectively (Wahyuningsih & Makhrus, 2019). Productive zakat distribution is a model that helps recipients achieve their goals by distributing zakat to them, allowing them to gain significant benefits from its use (Faqih et al.,

2022). In Indonesia, professional zakat has developed over time to include contemporary forms such as share zakat, investment zakat, and deposit zakat (Fitri & Rahmi, 2021).

Efficient zakat management can be a significant source of funding to help improve community welfare, especially in difficult situations such as the COVID-19 pandemic (Arifin & M, 2021). Professional zakat is considered important and must be managed seriously and actively promoted to become an effective force for good (Bahri et al., 2020). For Muslims, zakat is a mandatory instrument for poverty alleviation (Annisa et al., 2021). The concept of zakat and waqf is seen as a solution to provide fair distribution of income and improve social welfare (Sheila, 2023).

Factors that influence professional zakat payments among civil servants include the source of wealth, which can come from salary, wages, professional services, or investments that meet certain criteria (Taqiyyah & Auwalin, 2021). The legitimacy of professional zakat in Indonesia is the subject of debate, with some parties questioning whether it should be classified as property zakat or treated similarly to agricultural products (Hamdan et al., 2018). Implementation of professional zakat should be carried out when income reaches the nisab threshold, such as gold or silver, rather than requiring monthly deductions (Munandar & Ridwan, 2022). In conclusion, professional zakat, when managed and distributed well, can make a significant contribution to poverty alleviation and community welfare. By adhering to zakat principles and ensuring transparent and efficient distribution, professional zakat can fulfill its role in supporting those in need and encouraging economic empowerment.

3.4.4. Agriculture and Trade Zakat

The agricultural and trade zakat distribution mechanism involves various aspects that must be considered carefully. Agricultural zakat has certain conditions, such as grain and fruit that must reach the nisab before being issued (Lestari et al., 2022). On the other hand, trade zakat also plays an important role in alleviating poverty if managed well (Wahyuningsih & Makhrus, 2019). The distribution of productive zakat, one of which is agricultural and trade zakat, is expected to provide benefits to zakat recipients (mustahik) by providing business capital (Yuniarti, 2023).

Case studies of the effectiveness of agricultural and trade zakat in alleviating poverty show that zakat can be an effective instrument in reducing poverty if managed appropriately. Zakat has the potential to improve the standard of living of mustahik by increasing income and reducing poverty levels (Efendi & Fathurrohman, 2021). In this context, proper zakat management can be a source of funds that helps the government improve people's welfare, especially in the midst of a pandemic like the one currently being experienced (Arifin & M, 2021).

Apart from that, in efforts to eradicate poverty, social capital also plays an important role. Social capital has been proven to have a strong influence on development outcomes, including poverty alleviation (Sabono et al., 2019). The concept of zakat and waqf is also considered a solution to provide equitable income to improve community welfare (Sheila, 2023). Thus, through effective management of agricultural and trade zakat, as well as the use of social capital and the concept of zakat and waqf, it is hoped that it can make a significant contribution to efforts to eradicate poverty and improve community welfare.

3.5. Comparative Analysis

3.5.1. Comparison of the Effectiveness of Various Types of Zakat

In comparing the effectiveness of various types of zakat, there are several important factors that influence the results. One significant factor is professional and accountable zakat management, which can increase the effectiveness of economic empowerment of the people (Alhubbullah et al., 2019). Implementing a sharia crowdfunding system can also contribute to the effectiveness of collecting zakat, infaq and shadaqah funds (Nurhalima, 2024).

The use of technology, such as online zakat, has been proven to increase zakat payments and the effectiveness of their management (Sakka & Qulub, 2019). Digitalization of zakat allows for more efficient and transparent management, which in turn can increase the effectiveness of zakat distribution (Yati & Rahmani, 2022). The effectiveness of zakat can also be measured through Basic Needs Deficiency Index (BNDI) analysis, which measures zakat's ability to alleviate poverty (Khairunnisa, 2022). Studies show that zakat, infaq, and shodaqoh have an important role in reducing poverty levels in Indonesia (Purbasari et al., 2020).

In the context of zakat management, it is important to pay attention to effective zakat fund management (Susilowati & Setyorini, 2018). This includes aspects such as distribution of funds in accordance with sharia principles and the proportion of allocation of funds to the eight asnaf who are entitled to receive zakat. Thus, to increase the effectiveness of zakat, professionalism is needed in management, application of appropriate technology. These factors can synergistically strengthen the impact of zakat in creating economic and social prosperity for society

3.5.2. Geographical and Socio-Economic Context

The effectiveness of zakat is influenced by various factors, including geographic variations and socio-economic conditions. Geographical variations can influence the distribution of zakat by considering environmental conditions. Meanwhile, socio-economic conditions play an important role in the effectiveness of zakat distribution because zakat is considered an indicator that answers the needs of economically weak communities (Syahputra et al., 2022). In a socio-economic context, zakat is seen as an instrument for achieving social justice in society (Rohim, 2019). The distribution of zakat not only has an impact on the mustahik's material welfare, but also their spiritual welfare. A concrete example is the productive zakat program from BAZNAS Microfinance in Sawojajar Village which has succeeded in improving the welfare of mustahik through providing business capital (Efendi & Fathurrohman, 2021).

The effectiveness of zakat distribution also depends heavily on good zakat fund management. Increasing effectiveness is not only seen from the sharia aspect but also from the proportion of the amount of funds received by each asnaf who is entitled to receive zakat (Susilowati & Setyorini, 2018). Zakat management institutions such as BAZNAS play an important role in improving community welfare and regional economy, as seen in Magelang City (Muqorobin & Kartini, 2022). Apart from that, zakat also plays a role in monetary policy, especially during the pandemic, to distribute income and wealth fairly for the welfare of society (Cintana, 2022).

To increase the effectiveness of zakat, digitalization of zakat management is important. Digitalization enables increased efficiency, effectiveness and optimization in the collection and distribution of zakat (Makarim, 2024). Professionalism and accountability in zakat management also play a key role in empowering the people's economy (Alhubbullah et al., 2019). Thus, the effectiveness of zakat is influenced by various factors including geographic variations and socio-economic conditions. It is important to pay attention to these aspects in an effort to increase effective zakat distribution and have a positive impact on the welfare of zakat recipient communities.

4. Conclusions

The concept of zakat in Islam not only functions as a religious obligation but also as an important socio-economic instrument. Various types of zakat, including zakat fitrah, zakat mal, and zakat professions, play a significant role in reducing poverty, promoting economic equality, and improving community welfare. Effective management and distribution of zakat is very important to ensure that the funds reach those in need and are used for productive purposes.

Research shows that zakat can contribute significantly to sustainable development and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

4.1. Implications

This research has several important implications for zakat management and public policy. First, good and transparent zakat management must be a priority to ensure public trust and effectiveness in the distribution of zakat funds. Second, zakat institutions must consider the use of digital technology to increase the efficiency of zakat collection and distribution. Third, the government and related institutions must support initiatives that promote zakat as a tool for economic empowerment, especially among marginalized groups. Lastly, the integration of zakat in poverty alleviation strategies can strengthen sustainable economic development efforts.

4.2. Limitations

This research has several limitations. First, the scope of this research is limited to the available literature and may not cover all important aspects of zakat and its management. Second, this study does not conduct direct empirical analysis, so the findings and implications are more theoretical. Third, variability in the implementation of zakat in various countries and regions may affect the generalizability of this research's findings. Fourth, this research does not consider specific cultural and social factors that might influence the effectiveness of zakat in various communities.

4.3. Future Research

Future research could focus on several relevant areas. First, more in-depth empirical studies are needed to evaluate the effectiveness of different types of zakat in different contexts. Second, further research is needed to explore the use of digital technology in zakat management and its impact on efficiency and transparency. Third, comparative studies between countries can provide insight into best practices in zakat management. Fourth, research on the role of zakat in supporting the SDGs and how the integration of zakat in public policy can be optimized would be very useful. Lastly, further research on the cultural and social factors that influence zakat practices can help in designing more effective strategies for poverty alleviation and economic empowerment.

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