

Productive Waqf: Concepts and Its Impact on Improving Community Economy

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Abstract

Productive waqf refers to the use of waqf assets to invest in productive businesses that generate economic benefits. The purpose of this study is to understand the concept of productive waqf and analyze its impact on encouraging community economic growth. The research method used is literature analysis, by collecting data from various sources such as books, journals, and reports related to productive waqf and the community's economy. The data collected was analyzed qualitatively to identify general patterns, trends, and impacts seen in the existing literature. The results of this study indicate that productive waqf has great potential in improving the community's economy. Through investment in waqf assets in productive sectors, productive waqf can create new jobs, increase income, and reduce poverty. In addition, productive waqf also plays a role in building a culture of sustainability and wise resource management.

Keywords: Productive Waqf, Investment, Community Economy

A. Introduction

In the Muslim society, waqf has long been recognized as a powerful instrument for enhancing the social and economic well-being of the community. However, in the last few decades, waqf has often been limited to the management of land or buildings for religious purposes, such as the construction of mosques or educational institutions. Meanwhile, the potential of waqf to drive the overall community economy has often not been fully utilized (Muntaqo, 2015).

In many countries, including Indonesia, there still exists a significant portion of the population living in challenging economic conditions. They face obstacles such as poverty, unemployment, and limited access to economic resources (Yulianto, 2022). A strong and inclusive economy is a crucial factor in the development of a country. However, many communities are trapped in a cycle of poverty and struggle to achieve significant economic advancement. Obstacles such as limited capital, access to funding, and a lack of business opportunities pose difficult challenges to overcome (SE, 2020).

In this context, productive waqf emerges as one potential solution to enhance the community's economy. Productive waqf enables the utilization of waqf assets or funds for economic activities that generate sustainable income. By developing productive waqf, communities can overcome capital limitations and gain access to the resources needed to initiate or expand businesses (Syamsuri et al., 2021).

Furthermore, productive waqf also has broader impacts on improving the community's economy. This practice can create new employment opportunities, stimulate the growth of the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector, and expand economic prospects for the less privileged members of society (Cantika, 2015). By utilizing waqf funds in a productive manner, the economic potential of the community can be optimized.

However, despite the significant potential of productive waqf, there are still challenges in its development. Some of these challenges include the awareness and understanding of the community regarding productive waqf, supportive policies and regulations, and effective management of waqf asset administration (Muslich, 2017).

This article will delve deeper into the concept of productive waqf and how its implementation can have a positive impact on improving the community's economy. By comprehending the potential and challenges associated with productive waqf, it is hoped that it will encourage more concrete and sustainable steps in developing productive waqf as a strategic instrument to enhance the economic conditions of the community.

B. Literature Review

Waqf is a concept within Islam that refers to the act of setting aside a portion of wealth or assets for charitable or public utility purposes, including enhancing the welfare of the community (Nopitasari & Nursanti, 2023). Waqf has been an integral part of the tradition and values of Muslim communities for centuries. Productive waqf, on the other hand, is a waqf approach that aims to allocate waqf assets in a way that generates sustainable income and economic benefits for the community. This approach differs from charitable waqf, which might only provide social benefits without directly generating economic income (Rizal, 2016).

Muhammad Kurniawan in his article titled “WAKAF PRODUKTIF DAN PEMBERDAYAAN EKONOMI UMAT”, Muhammad Kurniawan explains in his article that waqf is one of the Islamic financial institutions, along with zakat, infak, and sadaqah, that represents a potential alternative to address the issues faced by Indonesian society, particularly concerning poverty. Through productive waqf management, it is hoped that this can assist the government in finding solutions to these problems. However, the initial step that needs to be taken is to change the public's understanding, as many still consider waqf solely related to immovable assets that cannot be used productively (Kurniawan, 2013).

Furthermore, Syamsuri et al. explain that fundamentally, waqf holds significant influence in the economy, aiming to fulfill the welfare of the community and alleviate poverty if professionally and productively managed. Waqf embodies the true essence of perpetual charity (sadaqah jariyah) due to its enduring and broad impact and value. As an instrument for economic development, waqf can also assist in addressing economic issues such as poverty and usury practices (Syamsuri et al., 2021).

C. Research Methods

This study employs a literature review or library research approach, involving the collection of relevant theories related to the issues under investigation by the researcher. The approach utilized in this research is qualitative, as expounded by Moleong, wherein it provides a comprehensive and systematic depiction and analysis of factual conditions, factors, characteristics, and relationships among the studied phenomena, leading to conclusions and foundational accumulations (Moleong, 1995).

The research is entirely based on a literature review or literature research. Thus, it possesses the characteristics of library research. The data collected and analyzed are derived from literature and other documentary sources, such as journal articles and other relevant and still pertinent media sources concerning the research topic. In this study, two types of data are gathered: primary data and secondary data.

The data collection technique employed in this research involves searching for data related to the chosen research topic. Relevant data are gathered through literature studies, literature searches, and internet research. Data analysis is conducted using qualitative

analysis techniques with a deductive approach, wherein the researcher employs general theories to draw more specific conclusions. Furthermore, data analysis also employs an inductive approach related to specific and concrete event facts, subsequently deriving general conclusions from these findings.

D. Result and Discussion

1. The Concept of Productive Waqf in Islam

Productive waqf is a concept within Islam that refers to the practice of endowing wealth in the form of waqf for use in economic activities that generate income and long-term benefits for the community. In productive waqf, the endowed assets or funds are utilized for economic purposes that yield sustainable income (Syakir, 2016).

In the context of productive waqf, the endowed assets can include land, buildings, cash, stocks, or other business equipment. The utilization of these assets is aimed at creating businesses or economic activities that can provide sustainable benefits to the community (Rizal, 2016).

The income generated from productive waqf is typically used for various social purposes, such as supporting education, healthcare, community economic empowerment, and poverty alleviation (Abiba & Suprayitno, 2023). The primary goal of productive waqf is to create a positive impact in enhancing social welfare and community economy sustainably (Virgiawan, 2022).

Through productive waqf, waqf funds can be invested in economic sectors with the potential to generate income and long-term benefits. Examples of productive waqf implementation include establishing or supporting Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), developing infrastructure, providing social services, and establishing education or healthcare centers (Ridwan, 2018). By applying the principles of productive waqf, it is hoped that waqf funds can be effectively managed to strengthen the community's economy, create job opportunities, enhance quality of life, and reduce poverty rates.

It's important to note that the concept of productive waqf is not limited to the Islamic context but can also be applied in other social and economic contexts. The principles of productive waqf can serve as inspiration in building financial and investment models aimed at creating sustainable social and economic impacts (Suryani & Isra, 2016).

The concept of productive waqf refers to the management of waqf assets with the goal of generating sustainable economic benefits for the community. This concept prioritizes the productive and efficient use of waqf assets, focusing on establishing businesses, making investments, or undertaking other economic projects that can enhance the community's economy (Ridwan, 2018). Here are some key points in the concept of productive waqf:

a. Waqf Assets

Productive waqf involves the management of waqf assets, which can include land, buildings, money, or other assets designated for public benefit. These waqf assets are used as capital to develop profitable economic activities.

Productive waqf assets are a form of waqf assets with the purpose of generating income that can be used to enhance the community's economy. In the context of waqf, productive assets can encompass various types of properties or business ventures that yield profits. Productive waqf assets can take various forms, such as agricultural land, commercial properties, Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), and financial instruments (Kasdi, 2006).

Essentially, productive waqf assets possess distinct characteristics from conventional waqf assets that do not generate income. Productive waqf assets are designed to optimize asset utilization in generating sustainable income. The income derived from productive waqf assets can then be used to improve community welfare, develop infrastructure, empower MSMEs, or support other social programs.

b. Productivity

This concept emphasizes the productive use of waqf assets to create added value. Waqf assets are not merely preserved or left inactive; instead, they are used to generate income, job opportunities, and economic benefits for the community.

Enhancing the productivity of productive waqf can be achieved through effective management, smart investment diversification, regular monitoring, and efficient utilization of the generated income. By boosting productivity, productive waqf assets can provide greater benefits to the community and contribute to sustainable economic and social development (Abiba & Suprayitno, 2023).

c. Principles of Islamic Economics

The principles of Islamic economics in the context of productive waqf are based on the perspective that assets and resources endowed in waqf should be managed productively to generate sustainable economic benefits for the community. Here are some relevant principles of Islamic economics concerning productive waqf (Suryani & Isra, 2016):

1) Shared Ownership

The principle of shared ownership (*musyarakah*) can be applied in productive waqf. This involves a partnership between the waqf managers and beneficiaries in jointly managing the waqf assets. The profits generated are divided fairly based on the percentage of ownership of each party.

2) Profit Sharing

The principle of profit sharing (*mudharabah*) can also be applied in productive waqf. The income generated from productive waqf assets is shared between the waqf managers and beneficiaries based on a pre-agreed arrangement. This profit sharing reflects the spirit of justice and active involvement of all parties in productive endeavors.

3) Prohibition of Usury

The principle of prohibiting usury (*riba*) is crucial in the context of productive waqf. Transactions or financing involving interest or usury are not allowed in managing waqf assets. Instead, Sharia-compliant financial principles such as profit-sharing or other financing schemes aligned with Sharia principles are utilized.

4) Justice and Social Benefit

The principles of justice (*adl*) and social benefit (*maslahah*) are also crucial in productive waqf. The management of waqf assets should consider the interests and well-being of the community at large. The income generated should be used to improve social conditions, reduce economic disparities, and enhance general welfare.

Through the implementation of Islamic economic principles in productive waqf, it is expected that a sustainable, fair, and beneficial economy can be created for the

broader community. These principles guide the management of waqf assets to generate sustainable income, promote partnerships and active participation, and encourage fair profit distribution and the use of waqf funds for socially beneficial purposes.

d. Professional Management

Productive waqf emphasizes professional and transparent management. Waqf asset managers should possess expertise in economics, finance, and business to ensure efficient and optimal management. Professional management in the context of productive waqf refers to an approach that efficiently and effectively manages waqf assets using sound management principles (Rizal, 2016). The following is a description of professional management in productive waqf (Malaka, 2014):

1) Professionalism and Competence

Professional management requires adequate skills and knowledge in management, finance, investment, and Sharia. Managers of productive waqf must have the necessary competence to manage assets well, identify profitable investment opportunities, manage risks, and optimize generated income.

2) Strategic Planning

Managing productive waqf requires well-thought-out strategic planning. This involves developing a long-term vision and mission, setting clear objectives, and formulating and implementing appropriate strategies to achieve those goals. Strategic planning helps guide the management of waqf assets to yield optimal results.

3) Transparent Financial Management

Transparency in financial management is vital in productive waqf. Managers should have a robust accounting system to track income, expenses, and investments related to waqf assets. Clear and reliable financial reports must be prepared regularly to provide accurate information to stakeholders.

4) Investment Diversification

Professional management in productive waqf involves investment diversification. Managers should conduct thorough market analysis and choose various types of investments that align with Sharia principles and have the

potential to generate stable income. Investment diversification helps reduce risk and enhances the chances of achieving better returns.

5) Risk Management

Productive waqf management should encompass effective risk management. This involves identifying, assessing, and managing risks that may arise in waqf asset management. Managers should adopt appropriate policies and procedures to mitigate investment risks, legal risks, financial risks, and operational risks.

6) Monitoring and Evaluation

Professional management requires continuous monitoring and evaluation of waqf asset performance. Managers should monitor generated income, investment performance, and achieved social impact. Regular evaluations should be conducted to identify improvement opportunities, measure goal achievements, and make informed decisions for waqf asset management.

Professional management in productive waqf aims to maximize the potential income of waqf assets, enhance sustainability, and ensure sustainable economic benefits for the community. By applying good management principles, financial transparency, investment diversification, effective risk management, as well as thorough monitoring and evaluation, productive waqf management can become more efficient and yield optimal results.

2. The Impact of Productive Waqf in Enhancing Community Economy

Productive waqf has a significant impact on enhancing the community's economy.

Here are some key impacts of productive waqf in the context of the community economy:

a. Job Creation

Creating job opportunities is a crucial benefit of productive waqf. Through the productive management of waqf assets, various businesses or projects can be established, thereby creating employment opportunities for the local community.

Productive waqf can play a role in generating new job opportunities. By establishing businesses, making investments, or undertaking other economic projects, waqf assets can be used to create jobs for the local population. This has a positive

effect on reducing unemployment, increasing individual income, and overall economic well-being (Abiba & Suprayitno, 2023).

Through job creation, productive waqf contributes to reducing unemployment rates, enhancing the economic well-being of the community, and strengthening social sustainability. This not only provides economic benefits but also builds resilience and improves the quality of life for the involved community (Kasdi, 2006).

b. Income Enhancement

Income enhancement is a primary goal of productive waqf. Through the productive management of waqf assets, generated income can be increased. Businesses or investments supported by productive waqf can yield profits that can be used to improve community welfare, fund social activities, or redistributed to the community through dividends or social programs (Blora, 2019).

Income enhancement in productive waqf is essential for creating sustainability and reinforcing the resulting social impact. The obtained income can be utilized to support social programs, community empowerment, infrastructure development, or other beneficial activities. By optimizing income, productive waqf can provide greater and sustainable economic benefits to the served community (Kalimah, 2020).

c. Community Economic Empowerment

Empowering the community's economy through productive waqf refers to efforts aimed at improving the economic well-being of the community by utilizing waqf assets productively. Productive waqf provides opportunities for the community to actively engage in economic activities. This encourages entrepreneurship and skill development within the community, enabling them to become more self-reliant economic actors and actively contribute to local economic growth (Hadi, 2018).

Through community economic empowerment, productive waqf plays a role in enhancing overall economic well-being. By creating job opportunities, empowering small and medium-sized enterprises (UMKM), improving skills and knowledge, and providing access to capital and resources, productive waqf assists communities in achieving economic self-sufficiency, reducing poverty, and strengthening the local economy (Muchtar, 2012).

d. Infrastructure and Social Services

Infrastructure and social services are two crucial aspects of productive waqf. Productive waqf can be used to build or enhance infrastructure needed by the community and provide beneficial social services. Through productive waqf, generated funds can be allocated for the development of better infrastructure and social services. For instance, waqf funds can be used to construct schools, hospitals, transportation networks, or other public facilities. This helps improve community access to essential services and enhances overall quality of life (Syafiq, 2018).

By utilizing income from productive waqf assets, adequate infrastructure and effective social services can be provided to the community. This not only improves their quality of life but also reinforces social and economic sustainability. Productive waqf plays a role in building a better society where necessary infrastructure is available and beneficial social services can be accessed by all segments of the community (Sa'adah, 2008).

e. Local Economic Development

Local economic development is a vital aspect of productive waqf. Through the productive management of waqf assets, waqf can significantly contribute to driving economic growth at the local level.

Productive waqf can strengthen the local economy by fostering the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises as well as other economic sectors. This creates an environment conducive to local investment, business partnerships, and sustainable economic development that has a wide-ranging impact on the prosperity of the local community (Cantika, 2015).

f. Poverty Alleviation

Poverty alleviation is a primary objective of productive waqf. Through the productive management of waqf assets, waqf can contribute to reducing poverty rates and enhancing community well-being.

Through these various efforts, productive waqf plays a significant role in poverty alleviation. Productive waqf doesn't just provide short-term assistance but also empowers communities to address poverty sustainably by developing skills,

improving access to resources, creating jobs, and enhancing their quality of life (Kalimah, 2020).

Through these impacts, productive waqf has the potential to become a powerful tool in enhancing the community's economy, expanding access to economic opportunities, and improving overall quality of life.

E. Conclusion

Productive waqf is a concept in which waqf assets are efficiently and productively utilized to enhance the community's economy. Through professional and competent management, productive waqf can have various positive impacts on improving the community's economy. Some of these impacts include:

1. **Increased Income:** Productive waqf can boost community income through diversified income sources, optimized utilization of waqf assets, enhanced operational efficiency, and increased value addition. This income enhancement provides stability and economic well-being to the served community.
2. **Economic Empowerment:** Productive waqf empowers the community's economy by creating job opportunities, supporting SMEs, offering skill training, and providing access to capital and resources. This helps individuals become economically self-sufficient, improve their quality of life, and reduce poverty.
3. **Improved Infrastructure and Social Services:** Productive waqf can be used to build or enhance much-needed physical infrastructure, such as roads, bridges, or healthcare centers. Additionally, it can provide beneficial social services, such as education, healthcare, or social assistance. This enhances accessibility and quality of services for the community.
4. **Local Economic Growth Stimulation:** Productive waqf contributes to driving local economic growth through job creation, SME development, community economic empowerment, and infrastructure development. This creates an environment conducive to investment, increased productivity, and overall improved quality of life for the community.

With professional management and proper utilization, productive waqf holds significant potential for sustainable community economic enhancement. Through

economic empowerment, poverty alleviation, improved access and quality of services, and local economic growth, productive waqf brings substantial positive impacts to the served community. In implementing productive waqf, it's crucial to involve competent managers and adhere to Islamic economic principles to ensure the benefits of waqf are felt by the broader community.

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