

Increase the Understanding of University Students on Quadruple Helix and Mosque-Based Economic Empowerment to Boost Potential in Solving Economic Problems

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ABSTRACT

This activity was organized by the "ZISWAF Laboratory" of the Indonesian Islamic University (UII) in collaboration with Amil Zakat Institution "Dompot Dhuafa". The aim of implementing the activity is to provide insight into the synergy of the Quadruple Helix in mosque-based economic empowerment. The participants are new Islamic Economics study program students at Universitas Islam Indonesia. This community service was planned offline but was done online because of funding constraints. A total of 99 participants joins the program on the Zoom platform. The speakers suggest that students can be involved in mosque-based economic empowerment by turning mosques around campus into living laboratories, and academics can play a role in research to test the financial & social impact of empowerment programs. Participants stated that this activity was very beneficial, and their knowledge of the topic increased after the activity.

INTRODUCTION

The introductory section is here; You can provide logical and phenomenological reasons for doing or the background of your service process. You are also required to provide a clear explanation of your community service contribution. It could be present in the description of a niche sample (capturing a unique sample), theory enrichment, or an interesting result (novelty if available). A brief and direct introduction to the subject matter is very important in this service process. Economic empowerment has an important role in a country's economic development. Chakraborty & Abraham (2021) analyze quantitatively using primary data from inhabitants in Bangladesh and show that the association between financial inclusion and economic development was substantially mediated by economic empowerment. The sample is the poorer 40% of the population. Furthermore, Lal (2021) examines, using socioeconomic empowerment as mediation, how financial inclusion affects the economic growth of underprivileged populations. The study's findings show that, through social and economic empowerment, financial inclusion has a direct and substantial impact on the economic development of underprivileged populations. Social and economic empowerment is a comprehensive method of shifting power dynamics in favor of impoverished households, resulting in greater social equality (Lal, 2021).

Mosque-based economic empowerment has gained momentum in the Malay world, with Malaysia and Indonesia leading the way in the publication of documents on the mosque economy. Mosques are not only places of worship but can be optimized to improve the economy of the surrounding community. Indonesia is a leader in the economic empowerment of mosques. Even if the percentage of mosques that have adopted economic empowerment programs is still quite small, many of them have done so. Indonesian mosques provide funding for their economic empowerment initiatives through waqf, zakat, infaq, and shadaqah (Fahmi et al., 2023). However, mosque cash funds are very large but have not been fully utilized properly. The synergy of several parties can be a solution to this problem. The quadruple helix synergy in mosque-based economic empowerment includes four actors, namely academics, business, society, and government (Soya Sobaya et al., 2022).

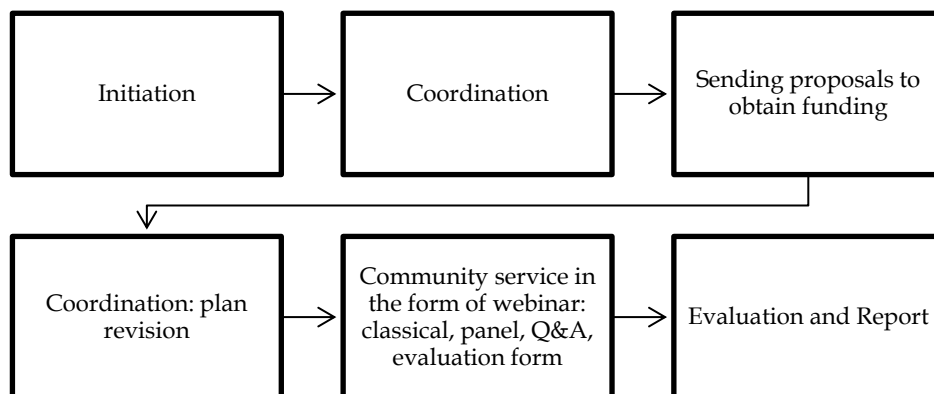
Dompot Dhuafa (DD) is one of the Amil Zakat (LAZ) Institutions in Indonesia which has contributed a lot to the country. With an emphasis on local resources through practical initiatives in a variety of life sectors including health, education, the economy, and social development, DD empowered communities. DD also increases the potential of mosques for the economic empowerment of the community. In 2022 DD organized activities that bring in administrators from 52 mosques in Yogyakarta province to optimize the 5 roles of mosques. The philanthropreneur model is a model for empowering MSMEs promoted by DD. One of the village development potentials that has so far received little attention and minimal support is the existence of village empowerment actors. The model initiated by DD utilizes "local heroes" as village empowerment agents. The local heroes play an important role. For example, in Cibodas Village, Lembang, West Bandung, the local hero (named Ade Sukmana) coordinated young men who

were former drug addicts to become farmers. Through the "Farmer Village Program" initiated by Dompot Dhuafa West Java, the land which was originally only 2.5 hectares, is now managed by the local hero and 54 program beneficiary families to become almost 13 hectares of agricultural, livestock, and edu-agrotourism areas. This program was successful and received the Zakat Award in 2022 (Prima Hadi Putra, 2023).

Before empowerment by DD, farmers' income was Rp. 800.000 to Rp. 1.000.000 in a month. After being successfully empowered by DD, their income increased to Rp. 2 million per month. The implementation of the philanthropreneur model in Yogyakarta is "Rasane Vera" in Gunung Kidul Regency which cultivates Aloe Vera and processes them into various beverage and food products. ZISWAF is an acronym for zakat, infaq, shadaqah, and waqf. The Islamic Economics Study Program (PSEI) of Universitas Islam Indonesia, which has one of its scientific focuses on ZISWAF, has a ZISWAF Laboratory. University students are actors of change. Study Group (KS) ZISWAF Laboratory at PSEI UII was formed to promote the active role of students in contributing through ZISWAF to stakeholders. This community service activity aims to increase student's knowledge regarding the theory of the quadruple helix model and the practices carried out in zakat amil institutions, increase the potential of academics and zakat amil institutions in quadruple helix synergy, and bring academics closer to practitioners for collaborative opportunities for community economic empowerment.

IMPLEMENTATION AND METHODS

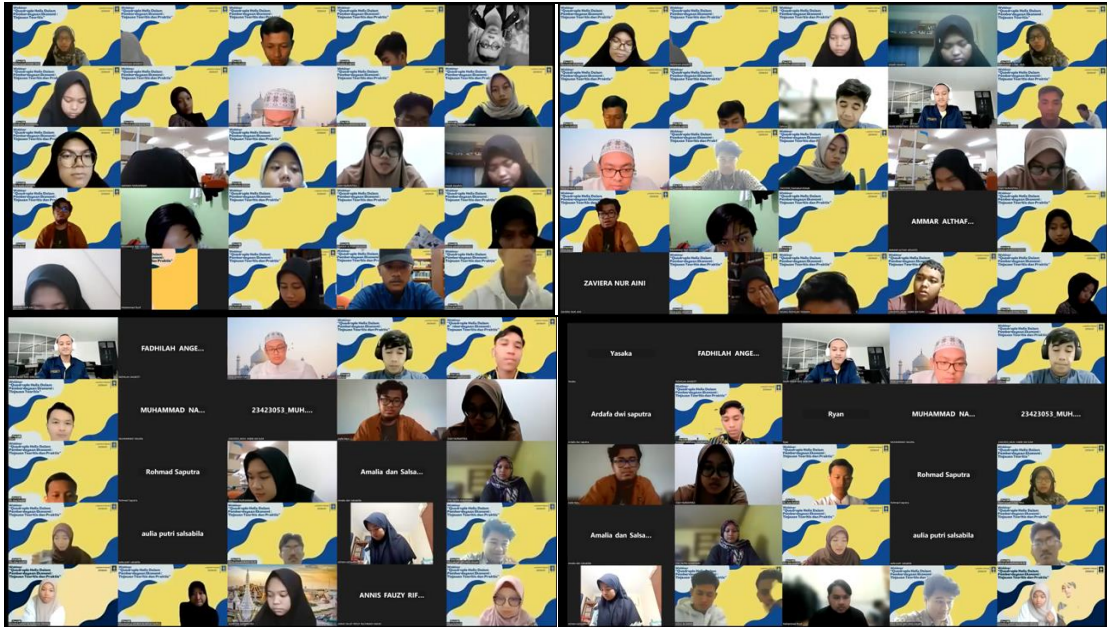
This activity began with an initiation by the UII "ZISWAF Laboratory" Study Group, followed by a coordination meeting to determine topics and speakers, sending funding proposals, coordinating meetings for activity plan revisions, and implementing activities. Implementation of activities includes an introduction to the Study Group, delivery of material by the two speakers on a panel, question and answer session, discussion regarding the potential for collaboration between academics and practitioners, and filling out an evaluation form. The visual representation of the community service method is shown in Figure 1.



Source: Author (2024)

Figure 1. Community Service's Methods

This service activity was carried out on October 6, 2023. The activity was carried out online using the Zoom platform for 3 hours. The team had planned offline activities but was constrained by funding, so the activities were carried out online. The number of participants reached 99 people including students, Amil Zakat Institution practitioners, and lecturers. The duration of the webinar exceeded the plan because the discussion and question and answer activities were quite long.



Picture 1. Capture of the Webinar Participants on the Zoom Platform

Two speakers in this activity came from the lecturer and practitioner professions. The lecturer speaker is the author of a book on the topic of the Quadruple Helix in Mosque-Based Economic Empowerment. The practitioner speaker was the head of the Amil Zakat Institution "Dompot Dhuafa" Yogyakarta Branch. The community service, which takes the form of a webinar, carries the theme "Quadruple Helix in Economic Empowerment: Theoretical and Practical Overview." The title was revealed in two topics presented by the two speakers entitled (1) Quadruple Helix Synergy in Mosque-Based Economic Empowerment and (2) Philanthropreneur as a Comprehensive Model of Mustahik Empowerment.

At the end of the webinar, participants are asked to fill out an evaluation form. The question in the form include:

1. Estimated duration of listening to the webinar until the end.
2. Knowledge regarding Quadruple Helix after attending the webinar.
3. Knowledge regarding "The Role of LAZ in Empowering MSMEs" after attending the webinar.
4. How beneficial is this webinar for Islamic Economics students?
5. The most memorable topic or the most effective topic during the webinar.
6. Suggestions for similar activities.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This program commenced with an initiation phase. This initiation was conducted by the "ZISWAF Laboratory" Study Group, Department of Islamic Economics, Islamic University of Indonesia. The initiation is driven by several reasons. The Study Group must have an active role in optimizing ZISWAF in the economy. The first activity carried out was to provide insight to new students regarding the potential of ZISWAF in empowering the community's economy. Furthermore, initial internal coordination was held between the Study Group, a staff, and a lecturer. Staff and lecturers are involved in providing considerations regarding topics, speakers, and activity concepts. The activity is determined to be in the form of a public lecture for new students in the UII Islamic Economics Study Program to provide an overview of ZISWAF's contribution from an academic and practitioner perspective.

Study group Prepare proposals to obtain funding for activities. Apart from that, the team also contacted lecturers and practitioners who would be speakers. Practitioner speakers, namely Dompot Dhuafa Yogyakarta, were willing to take part in the activity. However, there is an obstacle that the funds obtained do not match the budget plan. The team held a coordination meeting to make changes to the activity concept. Activities planned to be carried out offline must be changed to online. The speakers did not object to the change in the concept of activities becoming online. The first speaker from academics delivered material entitled: Quadruple Helix Synergy in Mosque-Based Economic Empowerment. Before delivering the material, the speaker gave a poll using the menti.com application. Participants agreed that mosques should not only focus on da'wah and worship, but mosques can play a role in empowering the community's economy.



Picture 2. Participants' Opinion on Whether Mosques Could Contribute to Economic Empowerment

In addition to being places of worship, mosques also support local economies, provide social services, empower communities, and offer educational opportunities (Chandra et al., 2022). Economic empowerment rooted in mosques is in line with Ibn Khaldun's *Asabiyah* theory, which holds that mosques act as social hubs for Muslims (Fahmi et al., 2023). Utami et al. (2023) provide a friendly mosque movement. The goal of the friendly mosque movement is to promote the mosque as the cornerstone of the people's economic empowerment. Four programs can be implemented: 1) Eco-Masjid Program; 2) Independent Mosque Program; 3) Productive Mosque Program; and 4) Child Friendly Mosque Program.

Based on research by the first speaker, the mosque takmirs agreed that the mosque wanted to participate in empowering the economy. However, they don't know where to start. Quadruple helix synergy is one solution. There are 4 dimensions of the quadruple helix which is abbreviated as ABCG. Academia, Business, Civil Society, and Government. We cannot see mosques only as religious symbols. Mosques have cash piling up to billions of rupiah in Yogyakarta province. There will be a lot of cash remaining if the mosque's cash is only used for mosque operations. The piling up of mosque cash has been happening for a long time. At the end of the 19th century, mosque funds were invested, used to build hospitals, and even for savings and loan activities. Mosque cash is funds from the community that must be distributed for the benefit of the community in a trustworthy manner. Factors that influence the decisions of Muslims in Indonesia to donate money through mosques are studied empirically by Kasri & Ramli (2019). Mosque management must foster, uphold, and strengthen the trust. They must also enhance the services they offer to the public and support philanthropic endeavors through prominent figures like ulama and celebrities. In addition, they should work with other stakeholders including the government and Muslim communities to enhance donation accessibility and optimize its impact.

The first speaker explained the role of each Quadruple Helix actor in empowering the mosque-based economy. First, Academia plays a role in preparing human resources for mosque managers, through mosque-based "Real Work Lectures", MBKM "free learning program", economic empowerment of mosques around campus, literacy improvement programs, and research. Second, the Business acts as a funder, mentor, intermediary, and co-creator. Third, Civil Society plays a role in inter-mosque networking. The problem that arises with the third actor, based on observations and interviews by the speaker, is that cooperation between mosques is very minimal. Mosque takmirs are reluctant to give mosque cash to other mosques. Apart from inter-mosque networks, civil society is also optimizing itself as an Islamic community organization and Islamic boarding school. Fourth, the Government can act as an enabler, facilitator, and regulator. The second material was delivered from a practitioner. He is the of Amil Zakat Institution "Dompot Dhuafa" Yogyakarta City. The title of the material presented is Philanthropreneur as a Comprehensive Model of Mustahik Empowerment.



Picture 3. Material from Practitioner

Before conveying the Philanthropreneur model, the speaker conveyed the mosque-based economic empowerment program that had been carried out by Dompot Dhuafa (DD). In 2022, DD held a mosque congress in Yogyakarta Province which was attended by representatives from 52 mosques. This activity was carried out to optimize the five roles of mosques so that they are not just places of worship. The role of the mosque is as Baitullah, Baitul Tarbiyah, Baitul Maal, Baitul Dakwah, and Baitul Muamalah. DD also held an "empowering mosque academy" which equips mosque takmirs to encourage poverty alleviation around the mosque. Programs implemented by DD can be grouped based on two variables, namely the budget amount and the number of beneficiaries. If the budget is small and the number of beneficiaries is large, an example of a program that can be implemented is providing free food. If it exceeds the poverty line, productive ZISWAF can be implemented through a Philanthropreneur scheme.

MSME-Based Economic Empowerment at DD uses the Philanthropreneur model initiated by Parni Hadi, founder of DD. This model includes 3 aspects, namely product, market, and capital. In the product aspect, DD encourages beneficiaries to carry out research or increase production capacity so they can enter the market. In the capital aspect, DD encourages beneficiaries to be able to create business products and run them. A business analysis of at least 2 years for further development is also made. The institutional aspect is also important to strengthen so that control between beneficiaries is strong and there is no fighting over it. Criteria for the philanthropreneur model to be done include the availability of economic commodities; the availability of local wisdom regarding production; and appropriate local ecology and climate. Apart from that, there is a need for individuals as candidates who can be projected as 'local heroes'. To implement the philanthropreneur model, there must already be a basic empowerment program running. A quick way to expand the program into advanced empowerment is with a grant proposal strategy as well as strengthening institutional productive networks.

Implementation of the philanthropreneur model includes "Rasane Vera" in Gunung Kidul. The product "Rasane Vera" is a processed aloe vera product. The Local Hero in the program is Alan Efendhi, who at the start of the program was also a private employee in Jakarta. He encouraged people to cultivate aloe vera. Furthermore, dozens of women farmer groups (KWT) were involved in cultivating aloe vera. Currently, this product has been licensed and has collaborated with LIPI and BRIN.



Picture 4. "Local Hero" as One Requisite in the Philanthropreneur Model

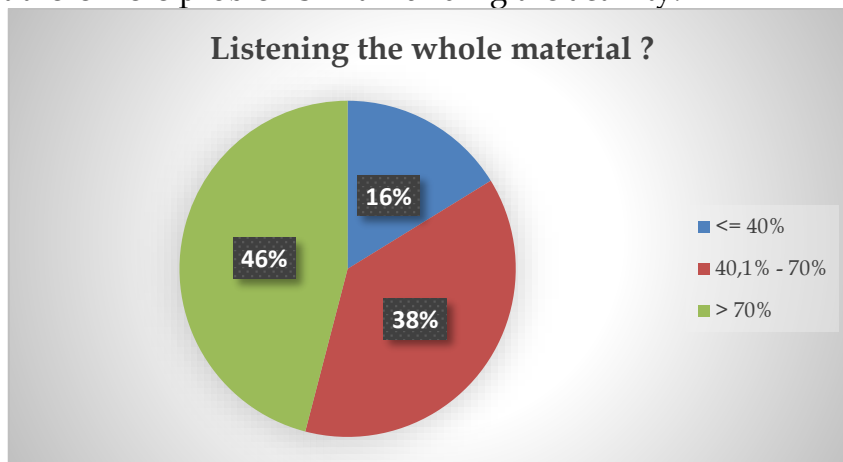
The portfolio of philanthropreneur programs already exists in various areas in Yogyakarta, including "DD Farm" which is a sheep farming center in Sentolo Kulonprogo and Pundong Bantul. In the agricultural sector, there is "Mina Padi" which is agricultural empowerment with a hybrid system of rice and fish commodities in Sedayu Bantul. Then there is empowerment in white yam farming for export purposes in Kalasan Sleman. The role of the quadruple helix actor in the philanthropreneur model was also explained by the second speaker. First, the government plays a role in making policies, assisting with legality/licensing, and developing strategic partnership networks. Second, business or private entities play a role in product development, market networking, and mentoring. Third, society/communities have a role as "local heroes", supportive & active participants, and are active in programs based on local potential. Fourth, academics play a role in research related to potential development, research to study the impact of programs, and community service activities. Research examines impacts including social impact and financial impact. According to the second speaker, the role of media is very important so here there is Penta Helix synergy by adding media as an element that accelerates the socialization process.

According to Chandra et al. (2022), there is a need for assistance and increasing the capacity of subjects in optimizing mosque-based economic potential which is carried out through workshops with the following outcomes: 1) increasing understanding of the subject of assistance regarding the role of mosques in improving the economy of the people; 2) increasing knowledge in identifying assets owned and potential for development; and 3) increasing

knowledge in designing appropriate mosque-based economic programs according to their potential. They formulated a potential map of 20 mosques in Cirebon. Potential maps can be grouped based on their nature. Namely, the potential that is intangible and tangible.

Evaluation

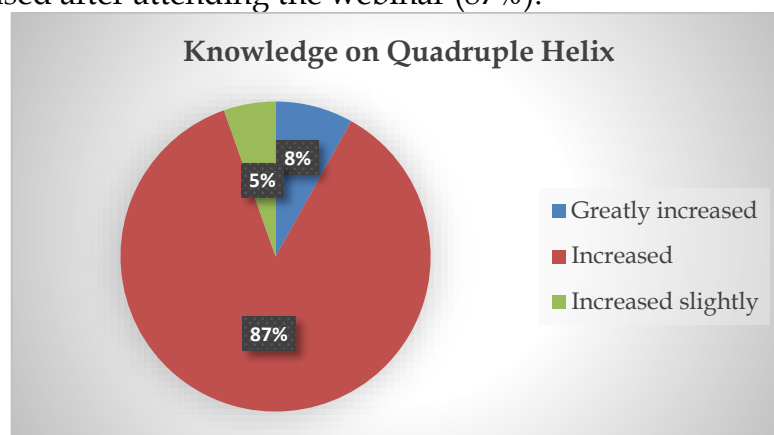
At the end of the webinar, participants are asked to fill out an evaluation form. Based on the evaluation form, almost 50% of student participants listened to more than 70% of the material. There were still 16% of student participants who only listened to no more than 40%. There are several suggestions, among others "It is better to make this activity offline or face to face so that the material can be understood more clearly". Initially, this activity was going to be held offline but there were problems with funding the activity.



Source: Primary data processed (2024)

Picture 5. Estimated Duration of Listening to the Whole Webinar

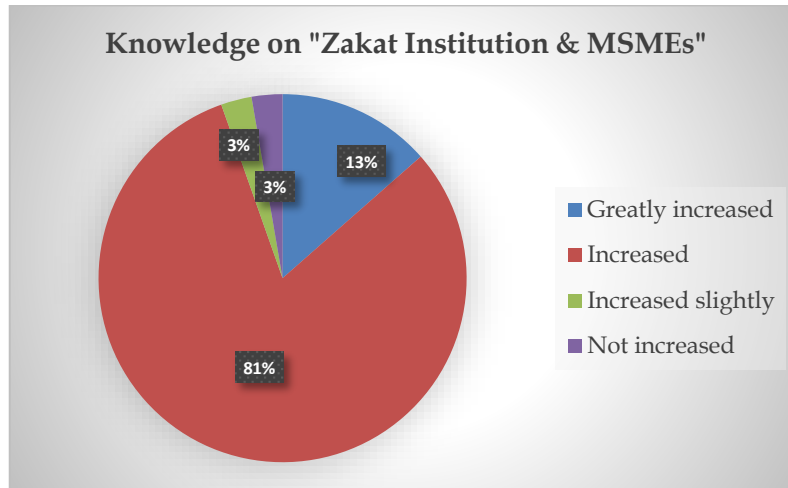
The contribution of the webinar to the participant's knowledge is also asked on the evaluation form. They stated that knowledge about the Quadruple Helix increased after attending the webinar (87%).



Source: Primary data processed (2024)

Picture 6. Knowledge on Quadruple Helix After Webinar

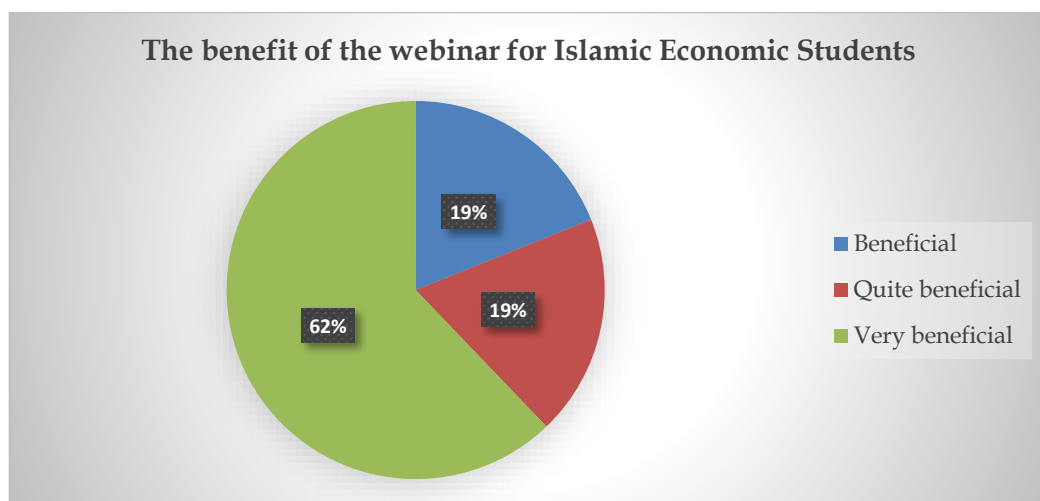
Knowledge regarding the role of the Amil Zakat Institution in empowering MSME's also increased after participating in this community service. Most participants, namely 81%, stated that their knowledge had increased, and 15% stated that it had greatly increased. There are still 6% of student participants who feel that their knowledge about this topic has not increased and has increased slightly.



Source: Primary data processed (2024)

Picture 7. Knowledge on Zakat Institution & Msmes After Webinar

Participants stated that the most memorable/impressive topic was the role of Mosques in improving the community's economy; mosques are not only for worship/preaching. The other topics they remember most are Quadruple Helix and Economic Empowerment. Overall, all the participants felt that the webinar was beneficial. Most participants stated that the webinar was very beneficial (62%). One participant suggested that "a follow-up discussion should be held regarding this theme."



Source: Primary data processed (2024)

Picture 8. Participants' Opinions about the Program Benefit

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The quadruple helix synergy in mosque-based economic empowerment includes four actors, namely academics, business, society, and government. First, Academia plays a role in preparing human resources through mosque-based "Real Work Lectures", MBKM "free learning program", economic empowerment of mosques around campus, etc. Second, the Business acts as a funder, mentor, intermediary, and co-creator. Third, Civil Society plays a role in inter-mosque networking. Fourth, the Government can act as an enabler, facilitator, and regulator. If beneficiaries' income exceeds the poverty line, productive ZISWAF can be implemented through philanthropreneur model. The Philanthropreneur model initiated by Parni Hadi, founder of "Dompot Dhuafa". There are requisites for the philanthropreneur model to be done. It includes the availability of economic commodities; the availability of local wisdom regarding production; and appropriate local ecology and climate. Apart from that, there is a need for individuals as candidates who can be projected as 'local heroes'. To implement the philanthropreneur model, there must already be a basic empowerment program running. A quick way to expand the program into advanced empowerment is with a grant proposal strategy as well as strengthening institutional productive networks,

Students and universities can play an active role in strengthening the mosque-based economy by turning mosques around universities into living laboratories. The role of media is very important so here there is Penta Helix synergy by adding media as an element that accelerates the socialization process. Participants stated that the most memorable/impressive topic was the role of Mosques in improving the community's economy; mosques are not only for worship/preaching. Most participants stated that the webinar was very beneficial (62%). The understanding of participants on the topic increases. They (87%) stated that knowledge about the Quadruple Helix increased after attending the webinar. Knowledge regarding the role of the Amil Zakat Institution in empowering MSME's also increased (81%) and greatly increased (15%). However, there are still a few participants (3%) who feel that their knowledge about this topic has not increased. A participant suggested that "a follow-up discussion should be held regarding this theme."

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