

Empowering Local Communities through Zakat to Achieve Sustainable Development Goals

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Abstract: The Prosperous Village Livestock Program at LAZNAS Nurul Hayat Kediri City serves as a model for utilizing zakat to bolster local communities towards sustainable development goals. This qualitative case study employs document analysis, interviews, and field observations to delve into the efficacy of this program. Despite challenges in zakat fund administration and economic limitations, findings indicate its effectiveness in community empowerment through livestock company financing, training, and social network enhancement. This study uniquely focuses on zakat-driven empowerment to combat poverty and foster sustainable development at the grassroots level. By addressing the research problem of how zakat can be leveraged for long-term community development, it fills a critical gap in existing literature. Phenomenologically, the subject of this study encompasses individuals involved in or affected by the Prosperous Village Livestock Program, while the object is the empowerment process facilitated by zakat utilization.

Keywords: prosperous village livestock program, long-term development, sustainable development, local communities, zakat

Abstrak: Program Peternakan Desa Sejahtera di LAZNAS Nurul Hayat Kota Kediri menjadi model pemanfaatan zakat untuk mendongkrak masyarakat lokal menuju tujuan pembangunan berkelanjutan. Studi ini menggunakan metode kualitatif dengan analisis dokumen, wawancara, dan observasi lapangan untuk menggali efektivitas program ini. Meskipun ada tantangan dalam administrasi dana zakat dan keterbatasan ekonomi, temuan menunjukkan efektivitasnya dalam pemberdayaan masyarakat melalui pembiayaan perusahaan peternakan, pelatihan, dan peningkatan jaringan sosial. Studi ini secara unik berfokus pada pemberdayaan berbasis zakat untuk memerangi kemiskinan dan mendorong pembangunan berkelanjutan di tingkat akar rumput. Dengan mengatasi masalah penelitian tentang bagaimana zakat dapat dimanfaatkan untuk pengembangan masyarakat jangka panjang, hal ini mengisi kesenjangan kritis dalam literatur yang ada. Secara fenomenologis, subjek penelitian ini mencakup individu-individu yang terlibat atau terkena dampak Program Peternakan Desa Sejahtera, sedangkan objeknya adalah proses pemberdayaan yang difasilitasi oleh pemanfaatan zakat.

Kata kunci: program peternakan desa sejahtera, pembangunan jangka panjang, pembangunan berkelanjutan, masyarakat lokal, zakat

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INTRODUCTION

Purvis et al. (2019) define sustainable development as an approach that emphasizes the balance of economic, social, and environmental aspects in an effort to improve the quality of life and welfare of today's society without sacrificing the needs and rights of future generations. The United Nations (UN) launched the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to guide countries around the world to achieve sustainable development by 2030 (UN, 2018). Zakat, as a religious duty in Islam, has the potential to be a significant tool in efforts to achieve sustainable development goals and empower local communities (Munir & Salahuddin, 2023; Shaikh & Ismail, 2017). The notion of Sustainable Development focuses on attaining economic growth that not only fits the demands of current generations, but also future generations (Holden et al., 2014). The attainment of sustainable development goals is a challenging due to the existence of multiple interconnected components such as economic, social, environmental, and cultural (Andreoni & Miola, 2016).

Zakat is one of Islam's five fundamental pillars and is an obligation for Muslims who are able to give a portion of their resources to the needy (Mustafida et al., 2020). Zakat's primary goal is to reduce social inequality, combat poverty, and provide a more equitable distribution of wealth in society (Masyhuri., 2020). In this perspective, zakat, as one of the cornerstones of Islamic teachings, has a significant potential to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs (Darsono et al., 2019). Zakat is a religious requirement that also has a substantial social and economic component (Hafandi & Helmy, 2021). Zakat refers to Muslims obligation to share some of their wealth to needy people, with the primary goal of decreasing social disparity and offering aid to the less fortunate (Hussain Kakar et al., 2022). Furthermore, the notion of zakat is linked to the SDGs, including poverty alleviation (SDG 1), access to quality education (SDG 4), access to appropriate food (SDG 2), and equal economic opportunity (SDG 8).

TDS Program run by Laznas Nurul Hayat in Kediri City is a clear example of efforts to empower local communities through zakat in order to achieve sustainable development goals. In this program, zakat is used to provide initial capital, training, and assistance to rural communities to be able to develop livestock businesses independently. Through economic and social empowerment of rural communities, this program not only has the potential to reduce poverty and unemployment rates, but also improve access to education, health, and community welfare.

However, there have not been many studies that comprehensively analyze the impact of zakat programs such as TDS on achieving sustainable development goals and empowering local communities. This research will fill this knowledge gap with a landscape of research on zakat programs, focusing on impact of achieving sustainable development goals and empowering local communities, presents a critical gap in understanding. Consequently, this research aims to address this gap by delving into the concrete impacts and mechanisms of TDS Program in driving sustainable development and community empowerment.

The specific research problem to be addressed is twofold: first, to analyze the extent to which TDS Program contributes to achieving sustainable development goals, particularly in the context of poverty alleviation, education access, food security, and economic opportunity; and second, to assess the program's effectiveness in empowering local communities economically, socially, and environmentally. These problems are crucial to understanding the role of zakat in sustainable development and community empowerment, providing insights into the strengths, challenges, and potential areas for improvement in zakat-driven initiatives. The findings of this study will not only shed light on the practical implications of zakat programs but also provide valuable insights for policymakers, practitioners, and stakeholders in designing and implementing sustainable development initiatives centered around zakat. Thus, this research aligns with the overarching theme of sustainable research by exploring concrete strategies for leveraging zakat to promote lasting social, economic, and environmental progress in local communities.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Community Empowerment through Zakat

Community empowerment refers to attempts to give people control over their lives and environments, to allow them to participate actively in decision-making, and to provide them with resources and opportunities that can improve their quality of life (Ani et al., 2017). Community empowerment entails not just giving support or resources but also developing the community's capacity and independence to overcome difficulties and seize opportunities for a better future (Addison et al., 2019). Communities with access to and control over economic resources such as land, capital, and training have the potential to build micro, small, and medium-sized businesses that can boost their income and wellbeing (Badriyah et al., 2023). Economic empowerment includes not only the creation of jobs but also the enhancement of skills, creativity, and added value in local economic sectors (Surya et al., 2021). In this context, services such as entrepreneurship training, venture capital support, and market access can all play a significant role in economically empowering people.

Participation of the community in local decision-making, cooperative project development, and advocacy for social change are concrete instances of social empowerment. In a larger sense, social empowerment entails increasing people's and groups' ability to communicate, negotiate, and adapt to changes in their environment (Kozlowski & Ilgen, 2006). Education also plays an essential role in community empowerment. People's intellectual ability and skills can be improved by providing them with access to a high-quality education. Education not only opens doors to knowledge, but it also helps people develop a critical attitude, creativity, and a stronger grasp of their rights. Through education, communities can participate more actively in the development process, identify better solutions, and comprehend the ramifications of decisions made by governments and other organizations (Herwina & Mustakim, 2019).

Community empowerment is not a straightforward procedure. A number of issues must be addressed, including unequal access to resources, cultural or social constraints, and a lack of competence in society. As a result, efforts to community empowerment must be holistic and integrated, taking into account the diversity of local situations and requirements. Collaboration among the government, non-governmental groups, the commercial sector, and academics is also essential in establishing an environment that promotes community empowerment (Rahmawati & Astuti, 2019). Communities can take an active part in crafting a more sustainable, egalitarian, and inclusive future by empowering themselves economically, socially, and educationally. Community empowerment is not the final objective but rather a long-term path toward self-sufficiency and progress (Simatupang, 2022).

Zakat has traditionally been used to empower communities in attempts to achieve social justice and sustainable development. Zakat, as one of the Islamic teachings foundations, is not only a religious responsibility but also has social and economic components that can benefit those in need (Manurung, 2014). Zakat is the practice of donating a portion of one's wealth to those in need in order to reduce societal disparity and generate more equitable wellbeing. Zakat empowers communities in a variety of ways, including economic, educational, health, and social. The formation and support of micro and small businesses is one kind of economic empowerment through zakat. Zakat can benefit neglected areas by offering capital assistance to underprivileged local enterprises. Zakat funding can also be used to promote programs like entrepreneurship training, company mentoring, and market access, thereby encouraging inclusive economic growth (Agriyanto & Aprilia, 2020).

Furthermore, zakat has the ability to enhance educational access. Schools can be built or refurbished with zakat funds, giving children from low-income families better access to an education. Zakat scholarships can also help those who have potential but are restricted by financial constraints to further their studies. Zakat empowers individuals while also boosting the quality of human resources, which is the foundation of sustainable growth (Mawardi et

al., 2022). In the area of health, zakat also plays a significant role in providing those in need with access to health services. Zakat can be used to build or maintain health institutions, buy medical equipment, or provide medical aid to underserved areas. Zakat provides financial security and improves the community's overall quality of life by enabling improved access to healthcare.

However, community empowerment through zakat is not without difficulties. One of the major issues is ensuring efficiency and openness in the collection, distribution, and management of zakat monies. Zakat institutions must carry out their obligations with professionalism and responsibility in order for zakat revenues to be utilized properly and efficiently. Furthermore, teaching the public about the value of zakat as an instrument of empowerment is essential so that people are more aware of the potential and role of zakat in effecting positive change in their lives (Yasin, 2022). Community empowerment through zakat is crucial. This notion is inherently compatible with the SDGs, which prioritize poverty eradication, gender equality, excellent education, and access to health care. Zakat can bridge the gap between social justice and global development goals by uniting religious beliefs with concepts of sustainable development (Fadilah et al., 2019).

Sustainable Development in the Field of Poverty Alleviation

Poverty alleviation is one of the primary pillars of the sustainable development philosophy, which stresses human wellbeing, equality, and social justice (van Niekerk, 2020). Poverty not only impedes individual development, but it also hurts society and impedes the attainment of overall sustainable development goals. Sustainable development in the field of poverty reduction attempts to assist those who are less fortunate with better access to economic opportunity, education, health, and other fundamental necessities. Firstly, sustainable development in the realm of poverty alleviation advocates initiatives centered on the economic empowerment of the poor. Economic empowerment programs, such as skills training, microcredit, and small company development, enable poor individuals and groups to boost their incomes and lessen their reliance on social assistance (Septiana et al., 2023). The impoverished can start productive firms and enhance their standard of living in a sustainable way if they have access to the appropriate capital and skills.

Secondly, in order to reduce poverty, sustainable development focuses on education. Sustainable development gives individuals chances for emancipation from knowledge restrictions and empowers them to take an active role in social and economic development by providing access to excellent and inclusive education at all levels of society. Scholarship programs, inclusive schools, and access to vocational training are some examples of poverty reduction efforts through education (Wallenborn, 2009). Furthermore, poverty frequently inadequate access to proper health services. As a result, programs that provide access to basic health services, vaccines, and reproductive health care are critical to eliminating poverty.

Social assistance programs, such as family allowances, food assistance, and vulnerable protection, provide a safety net for people living in poverty. A strong social protection system reduces the chance of slipping into poverty as a result of unforeseeable catastrophes such as natural disasters or economic downturns. Cooperation between governments, international organizations, civil society, and the corporate sector is crucial for achieving sustainable development in the field of poverty reduction. This teamwork is required in order to create effective policies, allocate resources wisely, and implement programs that have a genuine impact. Furthermore, extensive community participation in the conception, execution, and monitoring of poverty alleviation programs guarantees that people's needs and aspirations are adequately met.

Finally, sustainable development in poverty reduction is about offering chances and enabling individuals and communities to alter their own lives, not only delivering help. Sustainable development is vital in reducing poverty and building a better society for all because it prioritizes human well-being, equality, and social justice.

RESEARCH METHOD

This research employs a qualitative phenomenological approach to delve into the Prosperous Village Livestock Program executed by LAZNAS Nurul Hayat, Kediri City. Phenomenology is chosen to explore the lived experiences and perceptions of individuals involved in or impacted by the program, aiming for a deeper understanding of how zakat implementation influences community empowerment and long-term development goals. In this study, the subjects refer to individuals directly engaged in the program, such as program beneficiaries, members of the implementation team, and stakeholders within the local community. The objects encompass the experiences, perceptions, and impacts of the Prosperous Village Livestock Program on these subjects. The units of analysis or respondents are those individuals who provide qualitative data through interviews and observations.

The research methods encompass document analysis, interviews, and field observations. Document analysis involves scrutinizing various written materials like implementation reports and planning documents to glean insights into program frameworks, policies, and strategies. Interviews serve as the primary means of data collection, enabling researchers to gather qualitative data from program participants, beneficiaries, and stakeholders. Structured and open-ended questions are utilized to ensure comprehensive data collection. Additionally, field observations offer direct insights into program implementation dynamics, interactions between implementing teams and beneficiaries, and real-time conditions in the field.

Data collected from these methods are subjected to thematic analysis. Thematic analysis involves identifying recurring patterns, themes, and relationships within the data. Through this analysis, researchers can discern program strengths, weaknesses, and impacts on community empowerment

and long-term development goals. The synthesis of research results involves consolidating these thematic findings to form a comprehensive understanding of the Prosperous Village Livestock Program's effectiveness in empowering local communities through zakat implementation. Recommendations for program improvement or further development are derived from these synthesized findings.

By employing a phenomenological approach and utilizing qualitative methods, this research aims to provide nuanced insights into the role of zakat in community empowerment and long-term development (Iser, 2022). The findings are expected to contribute significantly to understanding zakat's efficacy as a tool for social and economic development at the local level.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Prosperous Village Livestock Program

As a zakat management organization, LAZ Nurul Hayat Kediri City has carried out its duties in accordance with established regulations and has also assisted in relieving part of the burden of *mustahiq* existence in Kediri City. The goal of zakat is to increase the number of property owners so that it is not limited to the wealthy (Ma'is, 2011). One of the zakat distribution systems at LAZ Nurul Hayat Kediri City is utilized to increase productive enterprises where zakat is supplied in productive forms such as business capital or capital such as TDS Program.

TDS Program has been running for approximately four years, from TDS Program in 2019 until now *mustahiq* who joined the LAZ Nurul Hayat Kediri Prosperous Village Livestock program are still continuing and there are more and more members. *Mustahiq* who have long been TDS members will be watched to see how their livestock is doing even though they no longer receive help. LAZ Nurul Hayat teaches *mustahiq* independence through rearing goats and sheep. LAZ Nurul Hayat thinks that by doing so, *mustahiq* will be able to become more self-sufficient in the future, as there are still many *mustahiq* who require support. So far, the Prosperous Village Livestock initiative is working effectively; however, there are some flaws. TDS Program is able to function due to the assistance of *muzakki* as well as program personnel who have worked tirelessly by monitoring and counseling.

Apart from the results of the analysis obtained by LAZ Nurul Hayat in TDS Program, researchers made observations on *mustahiq* based on the results of the analysis obtained by LAZ Nurul Hayat. The observations revealed that *mustahiq* felt aided by TDS Program, as did Mr. Somowaris, Mr. Sidin, Mr. Sunardi, Mr. Malik, and other *mustahiq* who were recipients of the program. As a zakat management organization, LAZ Nurul Hayat Kediri City diligently carries out its duties in accordance with established regulations, aiming to alleviate the burden of *mustahiq* existence in Kediri City. The ultimate goal of zakat, as elucidated by Ma'is (2011), is to broaden the circle of property ownership, transcending mere wealth accumulation.

One of the pivotal zakat distribution systems at LAZ Nurul Hayat Kediri City is geared towards fostering productive enterprises, whereby zakat is channeled into forms conducive to productivity, such as business capital. The flagship initiative under this program, has been operational for approximately four years, witnessing a steady increase in membership since its inception in 2019. LAZ Nurul Hayat adopts a proactive approach towards the sustainability of this program, ensuring that former beneficiaries continue to thrive independently post-assistance. This approach is rooted in the organization's ethos of promoting self-sufficiency among *mustahiq*, particularly through goat and sheep rearing.

However, despite the program's effectiveness, shortcomings persist. The sustainability of TDS Program hinges on the dedication of both *muzakki* contributions and program personnel who tirelessly monitor and counsel beneficiaries. Moreover, LAZ Nurul Hayat is committed to continually refining the program to address emerging challenges and ensure long-term success. Researchers conducted firsthand observations on *mustahiq* to provide a more holistic understanding of their experiences. Direct quotations from *mustahiq*, such as Mr. Somowaris, Mr. Sidin, Mr. Sunardi, and Mr. Malik, shed light on the tangible impact of TDS Program on their lives.

To delve deeper into the transformative impact of income improvement facilitated by TDS Program, a comprehensive exploration of its ripple effects on various aspects of *mustahiq's* lives is essential. Through qualitative interviews with program participants, profound insights emerge regarding the multifaceted implications of increased income. Mr. Somowaris, a long-time participant in the program, shared his perspective on how the increased income from livestock rearing has positively influenced his family's access to education. He stated, "Before joining the program, affording my children's education was a constant struggle. But now, with the additional income from selling livestock, I can provide them with better educational opportunities. My eldest daughter is even pursuing higher education at a nearby university."

Similarly, Mr. Sidin highlighted the significant improvement in his family's health due to the program's financial support. He remarked, "With the extra income, we can now afford nutritious food and healthcare expenses. Our overall health has improved, and we no longer worry about falling ill and not being able to afford treatment." Furthermore, the program's impact on social interaction among *mustahiq* is evident from Mr. Sunardi's testimony. He shared, "The program not only improved our financial situation but also brought our community closer together. We now collaborate with other participants, sharing knowledge and resources to collectively enhance our livelihoods."

In addition to participant perspectives, reflecting on the researcher's own experiences and interactions with *mustahiq* provides valuable insights into the research process. By actively engaging with participants and immersing oneself in their realities, the researcher gains a deeper understanding of the program's efficacy and its real-world implications.

Table 1. Earning Increasing of *Mustahiq*

No.	<i>Mustahiq</i>	Before	After
1	Somowaris	1.500.000	2.415.000
2	Sidin	1.200.000	2.140.000
3	Sunardi	1.800.000	3.000.000
4	Malik	1.450.000	2.575.000
5	Eko	1.300.000	2.100.000
6	Sutoyo	1.600.000	2.500.000
7	Karmini	1.500.000	2.250.000
8	Ali	1.700.000	2.875.000
9	Karno	1.650.000	2.350.000
10	Supono	1.700.000	2.600.000
11	Soleh	1.500.000	2.500.000
12	More Wine	1.400.000	2.440.000
13	Karsan	1.200.000	2.000.000

TDS Program is extremely beneficial to *mustahiq* in terms of improving their revenue. It is demonstrated by the notable increase in their monthly income, which serves as a catalyst for boosting the local economy. With a steady rise in earnings, *mustahiq* households experience improved financial stability and greater purchasing power, thereby contributing positively to the overall economic landscape of Kediri City. Moreover, the success of a zakat program like TDS holds the potential to bring about transformative changes in the lives of *mustahiq* recipients. Over time, as *mustahiq* witness tangible improvements in their economic conditions, they are likely to transition from being beneficiaries to contributors. This shift reflects the transformative power of zakat in empowering individuals and communities towards self-sufficiency (Rusli, 2023).

LAZ Nurul Hayat Kota recognizes the pivotal role of the TDS Program in fostering economic development among *mustahiq* recipients. The program's impact is underscored from the standpoint of addressing basic needs, which are fundamental for the well-being and progress of individuals and households. The program's emphasis on basic needs aligns with the principles of zakat, which seeks to alleviate poverty and promote social equity. Through the provision of livestock and other productive assets, *mustahiq* are empowered to generate sustainable income streams, thereby reducing their reliance on external assistance (Fathurrahman, 2022). TDS Program serves as a catalyst for economic empowerment among *mustahiq* recipients, driving positive changes in their financial status and overall well-being. As LAZ Nurul Hayat Kota continues to highlight the program's role in meeting basic requirements and fostering economic development, *mustahiq* recipients are poised to become active contributors to the community's prosperity in the future.

Food

Food is a fundamental necessity for human survival, encompassing a range of basic dietary requirements that must be met to ensure overall well-being (Sharma et al., 2022). *Mustahiq* recipients' access to nutritious food is vital for sustaining health and livelihoods. It has been observed that *mustahiq* families receive sufficient resources to ensure they have meals twice a day, contributing to their overall food security and nutritional intake. This regular provision of meals plays a crucial role in fulfilling the dietary requirements of *mustahiq* and their families. By incorporating a diverse range of food items into their diets, including meat, fish, or eggs at least once a week, *mustahiq* families ensure they receive essential nutrients essential for growth and development. The provision of nutritious food items not only addresses immediate hunger but also contributes to long-term health outcomes and overall quality of life among *mustahiq* recipients (Aziz, 2023). This strategic approach underscores its holistic commitment to enhancing the well-being and resilience of *mustahiq* households.

Clothing

Clothing is one of the most fundamental demands that must be satisfied. In TDS Program, implemented by LAZ Nurul Hayat Kediri City, clothing provision stands out as a crucial aspect of support for *mustahiq* recipients. Acknowledging the diverse clothing needs of *mustahiq* families, the program ensures access to attire suitable for various activities, including work, school, and religious. Each family member receives at least one new set of clothes annually, fostering dignity and self-worth. This emphasis on clothing aligns with Sustainable Development Goals 1 and 10, contributing to poverty alleviation and social inclusion efforts (Niaz, 2022). Overall, the TDS Program plays a pivotal role in meeting *mustahiq's* clothing needs, enhancing their participation in daily life and advancing broader objectives of sustainable development.

Board

In the Prosperous Village Livestock program by LAZ Nurul Hayat in Kediri City, *mustahiq* participants are provided with decent housing, ensuring comfort and security. This housing serves as a sanctuary, offering protection from environmental elements and promoting a sense of safety and tranquility. Despite potential size limitations, *mustahiq* families receive spacious homes that accommodate all members comfortably. Access to adequate housing supports Sustainable Development Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities, contributing to inclusive, safe, and resilient urban development (Mirzoev et al., 2022). Furthermore, it enhances *mustahiq's* quality of life and aligns with broader objectives of poverty reduction and social equity. The Prosperous Village Livestock program ensures *mustahiq* participants have access to decent housing, promoting their well-being and stability while advancing sustainable development and social inclusion goals.

Health

Health is paramount for *mustahiq* participants in TDS Program, ensuring their well-being and livelihoods. When ill, they promptly seek medical aid from pharmacies, and if needed, transport family members to health facilities like puskesmas or hospitals. Despite financial constraints, they prioritize family health. BPJS and KIS programs notably improve healthcare access for *mustahiq* recipients, easing financial burdens. This aligns with Sustainable Development Goal 3, fostering healthy lives and well-being (Sukmana et al., 2021). *Mustahiq's* proactive health measures, supported by healthcare access, highlight health's significance in community welfare and development.

Birth Control

In the context of TDS Program, *mustahiq* participants have access to birth control services if they wish to regulate their family planning. Despite being in the childbearing age, *mustahiq* recipients can opt for birth control methods available at contraceptive service facilities, which offer modern contraceptives. Encouraging family planning aligns with Sustainable Development Goal 5: Gender Equality and Goal 3: Good Health and Well-being (Venkatesh, 2022). By empowering *mustahiq* participants to make informed choices about their reproductive health, the program supports gender equality and promotes maternal and child health. Access to birth control services ensures *mustahiq* participants can plan their families responsibly, contributing to their overall well-being and socioeconomic stability. It also underscores the program's commitment to addressing broader societal goals of gender equality and health promotion.

Education

Education within TDS Program is pivotal for empowering *mustahiq* families and combating poverty. Despite limited educational backgrounds, *mustahiq* recipients, supported by the program, prioritize their children's education. Children aged 7 to 15 benefit from enrollment in general and religious education, facilitating holistic development. This provision empowers *mustahiq* families to invest in their children's future, equipping them with essential skills for personal and socioeconomic growth.

The program's focus on education resonates with Sustainable Development Goal 4: Quality Education, advocating for inclusive and equitable education opportunities (Muslikhah & Isbah, 2022). By facilitating access to education, the program contributes to breaking the cycle of poverty, fostering social mobility, and reducing intergenerational disparities. Through initiatives like TDS Program, *mustahiq* families, including individuals like Mr. Somowaris, Mr. Sidin, Mr. Malik, Mr. Sunardi, and others, are empowered to secure a brighter future for themselves and their communities by investing in education.

Savings

Savings among the beneficiaries of the Prosperous Village Livestock program signify a step towards financial stability and resilience. While the accumulated savings may not be substantial, they serve as a valuable resource for addressing various needs, including education expenses. These savings reflect *mustahiq* recipients' commitment to securing their families' future and investing in their children's education. Despite financial constraints, *mustahiq* families prioritize setting aside funds for schooling and other essential expenses, demonstrating their determination to break the cycle of poverty. Access to savings aligns with Sustainable Development Goal 1: No Poverty, which aims to eradicate poverty in all its forms (Tay et al., 2022). By accumulating savings, *mustahiq* beneficiaries take proactive steps towards financial independence and resilience, contributing to broader poverty alleviation efforts. The ability to save underscores the effectiveness of initiatives like the Prosperous Village Livestock program in empowering *mustahiq* families economically. While the savings may not be substantial, they represent a significant achievement for *mustahiq* beneficiaries of the Prosperous Village Livestock program, offering a pathway towards financial stability and supporting broader objectives of poverty reduction and sustainable development.

Family and Social Interaction

Beneficiaries of the Sejahtera Village Livestock Program families are often active in activities such as reading together, mutual cooperation, community social work, and other village activities with social aims. Participation in social activities like this not only strengthens family relationships but also strengthens ties with the surrounding community. Active presence in village activities also contributes to achieving the SDGs 11, which emphasizes the importance of active participation in the lives of local communities. Through this social interaction, beneficiaries not only strengthen their social networks but also build a sense of solidarity and togetherness in fighting for common prosperity.

The program can enhance the *mustahiq* economy. This is demonstrated by the usage of productive zakat, which runs from 2019 until now. It's merely that the beneficiaries of goats should be increased so that they are more equitably divided and feel more fruitful zakat in the form of these goats. Although the outcomes were not immediate, they could serve to enhance the economy of the *mustahiq* in Kediri City. Looking at the outcomes of the program, the *mustahiq* are economically self-sufficient thanks to the supervision and mentoring. Its management can also manage independently. The following are the benefits of keeping religion, soul, reason, descendants, and property in terms of improving the *mustahiq* economy based on Islamic perspectives.

Preserving Religion (Ad-Din)

Mustahiq, who received religious assistance through the Prosperous Village Livestock Program, was doing well at first. However, they stated that after receiving direction and guidance from LAZ Nurul Hayat Kediri City, they became more involved in spiritual matters and increased their worship. Because Nurul Hayat also provides spiritual formation for *mustahiq*, they grow not only materially but also non-materially or spiritually. According to research findings, there has been an increase in *mustahiq* worship and religious knowledge, which has resulted in an increase in religious practice. For example, in Islam, the Qur'an states, "And whatever you give as zakat, surely Allah knows." (Qur'an, 2:270). This shows that giving zakat not only has material consequences but also spiritual ones (Ahmad, 2022). With increased religious awareness and understanding of religious obligations, *mustahiq* become more involved in worship and deepen their spiritual connection with Allah SWT. Therefore, LAZ Nurul Hayat's role in providing spiritual guidance to *mustahiq* has a significant impact on improving the non-material or spiritual dimensions of their lives.

Preserving the Soul (An-Nafs)

Mustahiq, beneficiaries of the Prosperous Village Livestock Program, initially fared well. However, they attested that after receiving guidance from LAZ Nurul Hayat Kediri City, they became more immersed in spiritual pursuits and intensified their worship. With Nurul Hayat's provision of spiritual education, *mustahiq* experience growth not only in material aspects but also spiritually. Research findings indicate a surge in *mustahiq's* devotion and religious knowledge, leading to heightened religious observance. For instance, in Islam, the Qur'an states, "And whatever you give as zakat, surely Allah knows." (Qur'an, 2:270). This verse illustrates that zakat, beyond its material implications, carries spiritual significance (Belabes, 2022). Enhanced religious consciousness and comprehension of religious duties prompt *mustahiq* to engage more actively in worship, fostering a deeper spiritual connection with Allah SWT. Thus, LAZ Nurul Hayat's endeavor to provide spiritual mentorship to *mustahiq* profoundly impacts the intangible or spiritual aspects of their lives.

Nurturing Reason (Al-Aql)

Mustahiq is concerned about their child's education when it comes to nurturing. According to the findings of research conducted by researchers, youngsters from *mustahiq* can attend high school or its equivalent. If they are unable to take their children to school owing to financial constraints, LAZ Nurul Hayat Kediri City can assist them through the leadership school program and Indonesian kid scholarships. It is hoped that *mustahiq* will send his children to the best schools available, in the hope that his life will be better than theirs.

Preserving Offspring (An-Nasl)

When LAZ Nurul Hayat Kediri City provides assistance for TDS Program, which makes mosques or prayer rooms a means of formation, the results of participating in religious activities in mosques or prayer rooms are in the form of religious strengthening, which increases *mustahiq* insight. *Mustahiq* is employed to teach their respective children as a result of this growth in understanding. So as to produce offspring of character, as indicated by the findings of interviews indicating that *mustahiq's* descendants have never been caught up in drugs or criminal activity. In this scenario, *mustahiq* has taken care of their children so that it can be done better.

Preserving Property (Al-Maal)

They use the assistance they must receive to meet their requirements. Furthermore, people work according to their talents and work roughly, the most important thing is that the work is halal. *Mustahiq* did not take other people's property, instead they used it in accordance with religious law. According to the findings of the researchers' investigation, *mustahiq* can defend his property. In this case, the Prosperous Village Livestock Program from LAZNAS Nurul Hayat Kediri City is very useful in helping *mustahiq* to increase their income and strengthen the economy compared to before receiving assistance from TDS Program.

Program Analysis Empowering Local Communities through Zakat to Achieve Sustainable Development Goals

Poverty alleviation and achieving sustainable development goals are two interconnected characteristics that play a critical role in attempts to establish a more just, wealthy, and sustainable society. Local projects for community empowerment through zakat are becoming increasingly important in the face of increasingly complex global concerns. TDS Program, run by the Nurul Hayat Amil Zakat, *Infak*, and Alms Institute (LAZNAS) in Kediri City, is one example of this initiative. This program seeks to use zakat as a tool for community economic empowerment through livestock business growth, with the purpose of assisting in the fulfillment of long-term development goals.

Empowerment Approach through Zakat

TDS Program exemplifies how zakat can be used as a vehicle for long-term economic empowerment. This strategy is founded on Islamic economic concepts that promote the economic empowerment of communities, particularly those that are disadvantaged and impoverished. Laznas Nurul Hayat manages zakat as a religious commitment to be empowered in the form of livestock enterprises that bring long-term economic benefits to zakat recipient communities. This technique enables recipients to become self-sufficient enterprises, decreases reliance on social aid, and improves local economies.

Impact of Economic Empowerment

This initiative has significantly bolstered local community economic empowerment by leveraging zakat funds to kickstart animal businesses, including poultry, goat, or cattle farming, among others. Providing initial capital enables individuals to initiate lucrative ventures and diversify their income streams. Consequently, this has the potential to mitigate poverty, elevate household incomes, and foster long-term economic sustainability within the community. Recent research on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) corroborates these findings, emphasizing the critical role of income generation and poverty alleviation in achieving sustainable development.

For instance, SDGs 1 aims to eradicate poverty in all its forms by promoting inclusive economic growth and ensuring equal access to resources (Kamran et al., 2023). By facilitating entrepreneurship and income-generating activities among local communities, initiatives like the Prosperous Village Livestock Program align with SDGs 1 objectives, contributing to poverty reduction and economic empowerment. Additionally, SDG 8 underscores the importance of promoting sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all (Zehri et al., 2024). By empowering individuals to establish viable businesses and create employment opportunities, initiatives like the Prosperous Village Livestock Program contribute to advancing SDGs 8 targets and fostering economic resilience and prosperity at the grassroots level. The implementation of animal businesses through Zakat funds has a transformative impact on local community economic empowerment, aligning with the overarching goals of sustainable development outlined in the SDGs.

Knowledge and Skills Empowerment

This initiative, in addition to providing capital, also provides knowledge and skill training to zakat recipient communities. The training includes a variety of topics, including livestock management, animal health, raising practices, and business financing. Empowering these knowledge and abilities is critical to ensuring the survival of livestock enterprises and assisting communities in dealing with various difficulties that may occur. People become better suited to face change and conduct business more efficiently as their knowledge and abilities expand.

Social and Environmental Impacts

Active community participation fosters social cohesion and collaboration, strengthens social bonds, and promotes mutual support among members. This aligns with SDGs 11, which emphasizes the importance of creating inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable communities. Moreover, the program's emphasis on ecologically friendly practices contributes to environmental sustainability (Salleh et al., 2023). By promoting sustainable business operations and implementing animal welfare and environmental conservation measures, the program aligns with SDGs 12, which focuses on

ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns (Tepliuk et al., 2023). These efforts support the conservation of natural resources and contribute to mitigating environmental degradation, thus advancing the broader environmental conservation goals outlined in the SDGs.

Furthermore, the collaborative approach to cattle business management underscores the significance of community engagement in achieving sustainable development outcomes. This aligns with SDG 17, which highlights the importance of partnerships for the goals of mobilizing and sharing knowledge, expertise, technology, and financial resources to support sustainable development initiatives (Goyeneche et al., 2022). TDS Program not only delivers economic benefits but also generates positive social and environmental impacts by fostering community collaboration, promoting sustainable practices, and advancing the broader goals of sustainable development outlined in the SDGs.

Challenges and Obstacles

DS Program encounters several challenges that hinder its effectiveness. One significant challenge revolves around the efficient management and distribution of zakat funds, which requires robust and transparent governance mechanisms to ensure responsible utilization. This aligns with SDGs 16, which emphasizes the need for effective, accountable, and transparent institutions to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development (Thaidi et al., 2023). Additionally, the program faces obstacles related to fluctuations in the economy and market conditions, which can affect the profitability and sustainability of livestock businesses. This highlights the importance of implementing strong risk management strategies to mitigate the impact of economic uncertainties. While TDS Program has demonstrated considerable benefits, addressing challenges related to zakat fund management and economic volatility is essential for sustaining its impact and advancing the broader objectives of sustainable development outlined in the SDGs.

Opportunities and Implications

TDS Program presents significant opportunities for replication and expansion by other organizations aiming to achieve sustainable development goals. Economic empowerment initiatives leveraging zakat funds can serve as effective models for poverty alleviation with long-term positive outcomes. This aligns with SDGs 1, which aims to end poverty in all its forms everywhere (Fauzi et al., 2023). By involving communities in the design and implementation of economic empowerment programs tailored to local needs, organizations can foster inclusive development and community ownership (Adera & Abdisa, 2023). This aligns with SDGs 17, which underscores the importance of partnerships for the goals of mobilizing resources and knowledge to support sustainable development initiatives (Zunaidi et al., 2023).

From the data presented, several new elements or novelty can be identified in TDS Program and related research results. First, the program's success in significantly increasing the income and welfare of *mustahiq* is the only economic model driven by zakat, highlighting the innovative potential of this approach in overcoming poverty and promoting economic sustainability. This reflects a step forward in the use of zakat funds to empower communities economically, which may be an example for similar programs in various global contexts. In addition, the program's focus on sustainable economic development, taking into account environmental aspects and animal welfare, demonstrates an increased awareness of the importance of environmentally friendly business practices, providing a model that can be adopted by other initiatives to realize sustainable development goals. Furthermore, the active collaboration between communities and the public and private sectors bridged by this program highlights the power of cross-sector collaboration in achieving inclusive development goals, offering opportunities for different parties to come together to support the success of programs like this. By bringing these elements together, TDS Program and its research results bring significant innovation in approaches to overcoming poverty, promoting economic sustainability, and building inclusive and resilient communities.

CONCLUSION

The findings of this research underscore the transformative impact of TDS Program on the economic, social, and environmental dimensions of *mustahiq* communities. The program's success in enhancing income, improving access to basic necessities, fostering social cohesion, and promoting environmentally sustainable practices highlights its significance in addressing poverty and promoting sustainable development. The contributions of this research lie in providing empirical evidence of the program's efficacy and shedding light on its multifaceted implications, from economic empowerment to social integration and environmental stewardship. However, certain limitations exist, including challenges in zakat fund management, potential economic risks, and the need for continuous monitoring and evaluation. Future research could explore the long-term impacts of the program, delve deeper into its mechanisms of change, and assess its scalability and replicability in diverse contexts. Additionally, investigating the role of technology and innovation in optimizing program outcomes and exploring synergies with other development initiatives could further enrich our understanding of effective poverty alleviation strategies and contribute to advancing the Sustainable Development Goals agenda.

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