

# THE REALIZATION OF RELIGIOUS MODERATION THROUGH THE ROLE OF RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTORS IN INCREASING ZAKAT AND WAQF LITERACY IN THE PEOPLE OF PROBOLINGGO CITY (CASE STUDY OF THE MINISTRY OF RELIGION OF PROBOLINGGO CITY)

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## Abstract:

The Ministry of Religious Affairs as one of the pioneers of religious moderation, from nine keywords of religious moderation there are several points that must be emphasized, namely humanity, the benefit of the people, fairness and balance, so through this study, researchers want to analyze the contribution of religious instructors in increasing zakat and waqf literacy and identifying supporting and inhibiting factors. Through a qualitative approach with a case study, the results show that religious instructors in Probolinggo City actively conduct community counseling and education activities, including establishing close cooperation with educational institutions. The strengthening of this cooperation is mainly done by organizing activities in schools and educational institutions, integrating zakat and waqf literacy materials into the curriculum, and providing training to religious instructors. In addition, religious instructors also utilize social media and information technology to reach a wider audience. Literacy campaigns through online platforms, digital content creation, and mobile application development are part of the effective strategies in building public awareness on zakat and waqf practices. Although the role of religious instructors has made a positive contribution, several obstacles such as limited resources and myths that are still inherent are inhibiting factors. The strategy of strengthening cooperation with educational institutions and utilizing social media and information technology opens opportunities to overcome these obstacles. This study concludes that the role of religious instructors in Probolinggo City plays an important role in improving zakat and waqf literacy. By understanding the supporting and inhibiting factors, further strategies can be identified to strengthen the contribution of religious instructors in shaping people's understanding and practices related to zakat and waqf. With the active role of religious instructors in Probolinggo City, it is hoped that the Muslim community will truly realize their obligation to pay zakat in order to transfer wealth from muzakki to mustahik, so that mustahik can fulfill their needs to achieve prosperity.

**Keywords:** *Religious Moderation, Literacy, Zakat, Waqf*

## INTRODUCTION

The number of conflicts as well as issues and differences of interest both ethnic, religious and racial and class become a problem of breaking the unity and unity of the Indonesian nation if not handled properly. Discussion of religious moderation becomes a very important adult, especially in the Ministry of religion. religious moderation emphasizes on nine important points, namely humanity, the benefit of the people, Justice, balance, obedience to the Constitution, commitment, nationality, tolerance, non-violence and respect for tradition. in realizing some important points of religious moderation, namely humanity, the benefit of the people, fair and balanced, the Ministry of religious affairs of probolinggo city has a role in improving the literacy of zakat and Waqf of the people of Probolinggo City

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which is an essential aspect in religious-based socio-economic development. Probolinggo city as an urban entity with the complexity of its community dynamics shows an imbalance in the understanding and practice of zakat and Waqf. This condition is indicated by the lack of public awareness and understanding of the concept of zakat and waqf, as well as the non-optimal use of funds collected for charitable purposes. Seeing the importance of zakat and Waqf in the development of religious life and community welfare, the Ministry of Religious Affairs of Probolinggo city has the responsibility to provide direction and guidance to the community in carrying out their religious obligations. However, in its implementation, there is a need to improve the literacy of zakat and Waqf communities, and that is where the role of religious extension agents becomes crucial. Religious extension agents act as a liaison between understanding the concept of zakat and Waqf with the daily lives of the community, as well as a facilitator in optimizing the benefits of zakat and Waqf funds for the common welfare.

In addition, Probolinggo City is also faced with socio-economic challenges that require inclusive and sustainable development strategies. In this context, community empowerment through zakat and Waqf literacy can be one of the effective solutions to improve welfare and strengthen socio-economic foundations. Therefore, this study was conducted to explore the extent to which the role of religious extension agents from the Ministry of Religious Affairs of Probolinggo city in improving the literacy of zakat and Waqf communities, as well as to provide relevant policy recommendations to support socio-economic empowerment efforts in Probolinggo City. With a deeper understanding of the role of religious extension agents, it is hoped that an effective strategy can be formulated to improve the literacy of zakat and Waqf communities, so that they can make a real contribution to the sustainable development of Probolinggo City.

In the context of zakat and Waqf literacy, the role of religious extension workers in Probolinggo City plays a strategic role in shaping public understanding of the concept, benefits, and implementation of these two religious principles. The community needs to be empowered with sufficient knowledge in order to understand the urgency of zakat and waqf as instruments of sustainable social and economic development. Religious educators can present comprehensive and easy-to-understand materials, as well as design educational programs that are inclusive and sustainable. In addition, religious extension agents are also expected to act as social catalysts that can motivate people to be active in implementing zakat and Waqf. By utilizing effective communication methods and approaches appropriate to the local culture, religious extension workers can build a collective awareness of the importance of sharing and making a positive contribution to the sustainability of Urban Development. However, the challenges faced by religious extension workers are not limited to the counseling aspect alone, but also involve strategies to increase the active participation of the community in the implementation of zakat and Waqf. By identifying the practical and mental barriers that may be faced by the community, religious extension workers can design more targeted and relevant solutions. so that in the end this activity is expected to give awareness to the people of probolinggo city to set aside their wealth to those who are entitled to receive, resulting in the

transfer of wealth from the muzakki to the mustahik. so that the mustahik can meet his and his family's needs.

## RESEARCH METHODS

This study uses a qualitative descriptive approach. Data that has been collected and analyzed data by describing the data in the form of sentences. The method combines inductive patterns, which draw general conclusions based on specific data, and deductive ones that draw conclusions based on specific data. The study used three techniques of data collection, documentation, observation and in-depth interviews. Doceumentation is mainly related to the role of religious leaders as well as other documents related to the implementation of zakat and Waqf literacy. The observation is aimed at observing the implementation activities of the Ministry of Religious Affairs of Probolinggo City. In-depth interviews addressed to the extension agents on duty as well as the head of religious extension Probolinggo City. The results will be discussed after the collection of data is prepared and clarified and then analyzed and interpreted in the form of simple sentences and easy to understand so that the data can be taken to reach the conclusion of the study.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. The realization of religious moderation through the role of religious extension agents to increase Zakat and Waqf literacy

The role of religious extension agents in Probolinggo city contributes significantly to increasing the literacy of zakat and Waqf in the community. Through community counseling and education activities, they managed to convey in-depth information and stimulate public awareness of the importance of zakat and Waqf practices in the context of religious and social life. This contribution is seen in the increasing number of people who have a better understanding of the concepts, laws, and benefits of zakat and Waqf. The religious extension managed to build awareness of the role of zakat and Waqf in alleviating poverty, improving social welfare, and providing support to the needy. This is in accordance with the embodiment of religious moderation. Within a certain period of time, increased community participation in the practice of zakat and Waqf is also an indicator of the success of the contribution of religious extension workers. In addition, the contribution of religious extension workers is also reflected in the community's understanding of the positive impact of zakat and Waqf on Community Development. The community not only sees zakat and waqf as a religious obligation, but also as an instrument that can encourage economic growth, education, and social empowerment in their environment. Thus, religious extension agents effectively help improve the literacy of zakat and Waqf by stimulating changes in people's attitudes and behavior.

2. Zakat and Waqf Literacy Improvement Strategy

The first strategy in increasing the literacy of zakat and Waqf is through strengthening cooperation with educational institutions. Religious extension workers in Probolinggo City are actively working with schools, colleges, and other formal and non-formal educational institutions to incorporate zakat and Waqf literacy materials into the curriculum. This includes the development of literacy modules that can be

integrated into religious learning and moral education. Increased cooperation with educational institutions not only ensures that zakat and Waqf literacy become part of formal learning, but also creates space for the organization of extracurricular activities, seminars, and workshops. Thus, literacy messages can be passed on to the younger generation, forming a solid foundation of understanding early on. In addition, religious extension agents play an active role in providing training to teachers and educators on how to effectively deliver zakat and Waqf literacy materials. It aims for teaching to be not only informative but also build deep understanding and encourage learners to engage in the practice of zakat and Waqf within and outside the educational environment.

The second strategy is the utilization of social media and Information Technology in improving literacy of zakat and Waqf. Religious extension workers understand the importance of adaptation to the development of information technology, so they actively use social media platforms, digital content creation, and technology-based applications to reach a wider audience. Religious extension agents design creative and interesting zakat and Waqf literacy campaigns on social media platforms. Multimedia content such as educational videos, infographics, and podcasts are used to explain the concepts of zakat and Waqf thoroughly. Through social media, extension workers can interact directly with the community, answer questions, and respond to myths or misconceptions that may arise.

In addition, the use of Information Technology also includes the development of mobile applications or online platforms that make it easier for people to access information related to zakat and Waqf. This application can provide a practical guide, zakat calculator, as well as the latest information on literacy programs organized by the Ministry of Religious Affairs of Probolinggo City. By combining online and offline approaches, religious extension agents are able to reach diverse groups of people, especially the younger generation who tend to be more connected to the digital world. The utilization of social media and Information Technology also creates opportunities to engage digital volunteers and influencers who can extend the reach of zakat and Waqf literacy messages to a wider level. With the strategy of strengthening cooperation with educational institutions and the use of social media and Information Technology, religious extension workers in Probolinggo city provide a solid foundation for increasing zakat and Waqf literacy. By utilizing a variety of modern communication channels, they not only keep up with technological developments, but also ensure that literacy messages can reach and be accepted by as many layers of society as possible, forming a better understanding of the practice of zakat and Waqf in everyday life.

## CONCLUSION

The conclusion of this study is the role of religious extension in Probolinggo city has a significant impact in increasing the literacy of zakat and Waqf community. Through various activities of counseling, education, and cooperation with educational institutions, religious extension managed to bring positive changes in the understanding and participation of the community related to zakat and Waqf. The increase in literacy of zakat and Waqf can be seen from the increasing public

understanding of the concept, law, and benefits of zakat and Waqf. The religious extension managed to open public awareness of the role of zakat and Waqf in social and economic welfare, as well as providing support to the needy. Community participation in the practice of zakat and Waqf has also increased, showing the effectiveness of the contribution of religious extension workers in changing attitudes and behavior. and the realization of religious moderation through increased literacy of zakat and Waqf conducted by religious extension agents is expected to create humanity, justice, the benefit of the people and balanced according to nine important points of various moderation values.

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