

APPLICATION OF MODERATE ALMS TO IMPROVE SOCIAL WELFARE OF THE COMMUNITY

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Abstract

The social welfare of the community is an important indicator in measuring the level of success of a community. within the framework of Islamic teachings, almsgiving has been upheld as a principle of providing assistance to those in need. However, in this modern era, the concept of moderate almsgiving has emerged as a response to complex social and economic dynamics. this research utilizes the desk research method, which involves collecting data from scientific papers and other relevant library materials. The researcher conducted in-depth analyses of sources such as books, scientific journals, statistical references, theses, dissertations, and other internet sources. Before conducting the analysis, the researcher ensured that the sources of scientific information were obtained from reliable sources and were relevant to the topic of the research. moderate religion also has the power to change the paradigm of society from indifference to care and from greed to generosity. it creates a social environment where empathy and care become key drivers in shaping public policy and helping those less fortunate. Moderate almsgiving is not just about giving but also about empowering. by understanding the needs of fellow human beings and providing relevant support, people can form strong and empowered communities. When the principles of moderate almsgiving are applied with wisdom and sustainability, they create an environment where social justice is not a dream but a realizable reality.

Keywords: Social Welfare; Community; Moderate; Almsgiving.

1. INTRODUCTION

The social welfare of a community is an important indicator in measuring the success rate of a community. Within the framework of Islamic religious teachings, alms has been upheld as the principle of providing assistance to those in need. However, in this modern era, the concept of moderate alms emerged in response to complex social and economic dynamics. The success of a society is not only measured by the economic level, but also the extent to which the community has a sense of empathy and concern for others. Moderate almsgiving, which combines the principle of religious obedience with thoughtful and relevant giving, becomes an important instrument in building sustainable social welfare(Hadifa, 2019).

In many countries around the world, the persistent challenge of social and economic inequality remains a pressing issue. Within these societies, distinct groups find themselves on opposite ends of the wealth spectrum – some struggling in poverty, grappling to meet their basic needs, while others enjoy excess wealth and privilege. This stark contrast underscores the urgent need for effective solutions that can bridge the gap and create a more balanced and just society.

Moderate almsgiving emerges as a potential catalyst for positive change. By placing a deliberate emphasis on justice and sustainability, this philanthropic practice has the power to reinforce the intricate social and economic fabric of communities. It transcends mere charity, aspiring to address systemic issues that perpetuate inequality. Moderate alms practices aim to empower economically disenfranchised individuals, offering them equitable access to education and healthcare services.

Through these targeted efforts, moderate almsgiving contributes to the development of an inclusive social environment. It becomes a driving force for economic empowerment, enabling individuals to break free from the cycle of poverty and access opportunities that were once beyond their reach. By fostering equal opportunities, this approach paves the way for citizens from all walks of life to thrive and actively contribute to the collective advancement of society.

Furthermore, the impact of moderate almsgiving extends beyond immediate relief, creating a ripple effect that positively influences the broader community. As individuals are uplifted from poverty and equipped with the tools for self-sufficiency, the overall resilience and vitality of the society grow. This transformative process is essential for building a sustainable foundation that ensures long-term prosperity and social cohesion.

In conclusion, moderate almsgiving represents a pragmatic and holistic approach to addressing the deep-seated issues of social and economic inequality. By combining the principles of justice and sustainability, it not only alleviates immediate hardships but also fosters an environment where all citizens can actively participate in and contribute to the shared progress of society. Embracing such practices is crucial for creating a more equitable, inclusive, and prosperous future for communities worldwide (Winarno, 2014).

However, although the importance of moderate alms is recognized theoretically, its implementation still faces various challenges. One of them is a proper understanding of the principles of moderate alms and how to integrate them in daily life. In addition, there are also obstacles related to the management of alms funds, transparency, and accountability (Hasanah et al., 2023). Therefore, this study aims to dig deeper into the concept of moderate alms and identify effective strategies in implementing it to improve the social welfare of the community. Thus, this research is expected to make an important contribution in strengthening the practice of moderate alms as a concrete solution in achieving more equitable and sustainable social welfare.

2. IMPLEMENTATION METHOD

This research uses literature research methods, which involve collecting data from scientific papers and other relevant library materials. Researchers conduct in-depth analysis of sources such as books, scientific journals, statistical references, theses, theses, dissertations, and other internet sources. Before conducting an analysis, researchers ensure

that sources of scientific information are obtained from sources that are reliable and relevant to this research topic (Sanusi, 2014).

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1. Definition and Principles of Moderate Sadaqah

3.1.1. Definition of Moderate Sadaqah

Moderate alms reflects a thoughtful and balanced approach in providing assistance to those in need. This principle combines adherence to religious teachings with awareness of the real needs of society. Moderate alms is not simply an act of giving, but also involves deep judgment of heart and wisdom in choosing the form of help given. In moderate almsgiving, the excess property owned is wisely identified, and only a fraction of that wealth is given, while the rest of the property is retained to ensure the economic sustainability of the family (Ubaidillah, 2023).

In this context, moderate alms recipients are carefully selected, taking into account their immediate needs. The assistance provided involves more than just the financial aspect; it includes a holistic approach that supports alms recipients in improving their quality of life. This assistance can include providing education, skills training, access to healthcare, or support for starting a small business (Fadilah, 2021). Thus, moderate alms not only creates a short financial change, but also empowers people to build economic sustainability and improve their quality of life in a sustainable manner. This approach builds bridges between religious principles and the practical needs of society, creating harmony between spiritual values and sustainable social progress (Purnomo et al., 2023).

3.1.2. Principles of Moderate Sadaqah

The principles of moderate alms form a solid foundation to ensure that the assistance provided is truly beneficial and sustainable. First of all, justice is the main foundation of moderate almsgiving. In this context, justice includes an equitable distribution of wealth, ensuring that aid is distributed to those in need in proportion to their needs and conditions. The second principle is transparency; Discretion in the management of alms funds as well as clarification on their use and benefits are important to build trust among alms givers and beneficiaries. Furthermore, the principle of sustainability encourages alms givers to look at the long term, focusing on social investments that can provide sustainable benefits to beneficiaries. This includes skills training, education, or assistance to start a business that can create long-term economic opportunities for alms recipients (Fuadi, 2021).

In addition, the principle of community participation plays a key role in the practice of moderate almsgiving. Local communities are involved in the process of identifying needs as well as in planning and implementing alms projects. By actively involving the community, moderate alms not only addresses material needs, but also builds community solidarity and cooperation. This principle enables deeper social transformation and increases feelings of

belonging that encourage active participation in community building. By following these principles, moderate alms becomes more than just a momentary act of kindness; It is a driver of sustainable change that empowers society as a whole (Musta'in. et al, 2022).

3.2. The Role of Moderate Almsgiving in Community Economic Empowerment

3.2.1. Supporting Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)

Moderate alms have a significant impact in supporting the growth and sustainability of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). SMEs are the backbone of a country's economy and are the main source of employment. With moderate alms funds given wisely, SMEs can receive assistance in the form of skills training, product development, and marketing (Singgih, 2007). This assistance opens doors for SME entrepreneurs to improve the quality of their products, expand the market, and ultimately, increase their revenue and business growth. Thus, moderate alms not only provide immediate financial benefits, but also create long-term opportunities for SMEs to develop and contribute to the local economy (Sudjana & Rizkison, 2020).

In addition, moderate alms can also be used to establish education and training programs specifically aimed at SMEs. This training covers business management, finance, marketing, and product development. By supporting this training, moderate alms strengthen the capacity of SMEs in managing their businesses efficiently and highly competitively. This helps address one of the major challenges faced by SMEs, which is the lack of management knowledge and skills. In the long run, improving these skills opens up new opportunities for business growth, creates new jobs, and improves lives for many people (Firdausy, 2021).

Moderate alms can also be used to provide financial access to SMEs that do not qualify for loans from commercial banks. This financial assistance can help SMEs to expand their business, purchase equipment or raw materials, as well as overcome liquidity issues they may face. By supporting financial access, moderate alms enables SMEs to develop faster and create a positive economic impact in their local communities. In this way, moderate alms not only provides financial assistance, but also opens up new opportunities for SMEs to grow and develop, strengthen the local economy, and improve the social welfare of the community as a whole (Rustan, 2020).

3.2.2. Skills Training and Education

Moderate alms play an important role in providing skills training and education to people in need, particularly in the realm of education and skills training. By using alms funds intelligently, education and skills training programs can be designed to empower individuals with knowledge and skills that can increase their chances in the workforce. Through educational aid, moderate alms not only opens the door to access to knowledge and learning, but also creates a solid foundation for intellectual growth and social empowerment (Suharto, 2014).

Skills training programs supported by moderate alms help address skills gaps in society. Trained people have a better chance of entering the job market or starting their own businesses. In this context, moderate alms provides equal opportunities to everyone, including those from low economic backgrounds, to improve their skills and improve their standard of living. Therefore, moderate alms not only provides financial assistance, but also paves the way to economic and social independence for many disadvantaged people.

In addition, education supported by moderate alms funds also includes providing equitable access to primary and higher education services. By helping the education of children from underprivileged families, moderate alms removes any educational barriers that these children may face. It provides a solid foundation for their intellectual development, opens up opportunities to reach their maximum potential, and prepares them to contribute productively in society. In this way, moderate alms not only change the fate of individuals, but also create a widespread positive impact in shaping a brighter future for communities and countries (Latief, 2016).

3.3. Social Impact of Moderate Almsgiving

3.3.1. Poverty Reduction

Moderate alms play a key role in poverty alleviation efforts in society. By targeting aid to groups of people who are in difficult economic conditions, moderate alms opens up opportunities for them to get out of the cycle of poverty. The assistance can be in the form of cash gifts to meet basic needs such as food and clothing, or providing access to health and education services that can reduce the cost burden usually experienced by poor families. By providing targeted financial support, moderate alms help create an environment that supports economic growth and improved welfare for families in need.

In addition, the moderate alms approach in poverty alleviation involves empowering those who are poor through skills training and guidance. By equipping them with the skills needed in the job market, moderate alms helps create job opportunities and micro-enterprises. In the long run, this creates structural changes in society by allowing individuals to become financially independent. In addition, this approach also creates a domino effect, where individuals supported by moderate alms can play an active role in fighting poverty in their communities, creating a positive circle that benefits all parties.

The importance of moderate alms in poverty alleviation is not only limited to financial aspects, but also includes social and emotional aspects. By providing moral and psychological support to poor groups of society, moderate alms helps boost their self-confidence, reduce social stigmatization, and stimulate motivation to achieve positive changes in their lives. In this regard, moderate alms is not only the key to successful poverty reduction, but also a driver for broader social change in an effort to build a just and inclusive society (Maharani et al., 2023).

3.3.2. Access to Education and Health

Moderate alms play a vital role in ensuring equitable access to education and healthcare in society. Through alms funds, scholarship programs and educational assistance can be organized to support children from underprivileged families in getting quality education. This assistance covers school fees, books, uniforms, and learning equipment, removing financial barriers that are often the main reason children drop out of school (Habibi, 2023). By supporting education through moderate almsgiving, society can create a generation of young people who are educated, have the knowledge, and skills to compete in the job market, end the cycle of poverty, and pave the way to a brighter future.

In addition to education, moderate alms also allows equitable access to health services. This assistance can include regular health checks, vaccinations, and needed medication. Underprivileged communities often have difficulty in obtaining proper health care. Moderate alms can be used to set up clinics or health facilities that are affordable and easily accessible to the entire community. By improving access to quality healthcare, moderate alms help prevent disease, reduce maternal and child mortality, and improve overall quality of life (Agustari & Kurniawan, 2022).

In addition to providing direct access to education and health, moderate alms also play a role in raising public awareness of the importance of education and health. Through outreach programs and awareness campaigns supported by alms funds, communities can be empowered with the knowledge and information needed to take proactive steps to safeguard their own health and support their children's education. In this way, moderate alms not only becomes a tool for providing financial assistance, but also an instrument that changes people's mindsets and behaviors, creating a solid foundation for sustainable social and economic development (Iskandar, 2020).

3.4. Challenges and Solutions in the Implementation of Moderate Almsgiving

3.4.1. Financial Challenges

While it has great potential to create a positive impact, moderate alms also face significant financial challenges. One of the main challenges is the sustainability of funds. The needs of people in need often exceed the amount of funds available, and consistent financial resources are needed to keep alms programs running moderately. Therefore, the search for sustainable sources of funding, such as community-based fundraising approaches or partnerships with philanthropic institutions, is key to ensuring these programs last in the long term (Sholikhah, 2021).

In addition, transparency and accountability of funds is another challenge in the implementation of moderate almsgiving. The importance of ensuring that the funds provided actually reach those in need, and are used efficiently and effectively. Therefore, transparent and accountable fund management involves careful documentation of the use of funds, as well as open reporting to alms givers and the general public. A robust surveillance system is also needed to address the risk of misuse of funds and ensure that every dollar given away has the maximum impact on people's well-being.

Furthermore, public awareness of the importance of moderate alms is also an important challenge. In many cases, society may not fully realize the positive potential of moderate alms in creating significant change. Therefore, an effective community empowerment approach and information campaign are needed to increase awareness and understanding of the value of moderate alms (Coryna & Cape, 2015) . By raising this awareness, communities will be more likely to engage in moderate alms practices, creating a stronger foundation to support sustainable and inclusive social programs.

3.4.2. The Importance of Public Awareness

The importance of public awareness of the concept of moderate alms cannot be overstated. This awareness is not just about giving, but also understanding the impact that such acts of kindness have bringing. In the context of moderate almsgiving, community awareness describes a deep understanding of the needs of the surrounding community and how the right assistance can change their lives. This awareness involves understanding that wise and effective alms practices not only create short-term benefits, but also provide a solid foundation for long-term change. By having this awareness, the community can take concrete steps to support moderate alms initiatives and encourage others to get involved(Huriani et al., 2022).

In addition, public awareness of moderate alms creates a climate of greater empathy and concern in society. By understanding the challenges faced by those less fortunate, society becomes more open to the needs of others and feels a moral obligation to provide support. This awareness changes the perspective of society from individualism to a sense of collective responsibility towards social welfare. This forms a more inclusive and empathetic community, where people support each other in efforts to create positive change in society(Fuadi, 2021).

In addition to providing tangible social and economic benefits, public awareness of moderate alms also builds sustainability in this practice. When people are aware of the value and importance of moderate almsgiving, they are more likely to continue this practice from generation to generation. It creates a growing legacy of kindness, creating a sustainable effect in creating a just and empathetic society. Thus, public awareness is not only about knowing, but also about living the values of moderate almsgiving, creating positive cultural changes that reflect social welfare and caring for others(Musta'in. et al, 2022).

4. CONCLUSION

Moderate alms is not just an act of kindness, but a philosophy of life that has a profound impact on the sustainable development of society. Through moderate alms practices, communities can build a strong foundation for equitable and inclusive social welfare. The importance of education and public awareness cannot be missed. Awareness of the needs of fellow human beings and the importance of empowering them through education and access to health is key to creating meaningful change. With the right help, moderate alms are able to open doors of opportunity, provide hope, and shape a brighter future for those in need. In addition, moderate alms also has the power to change the paradigm of society from indifference to concern, from greed to generosity. This creates a social environment where empathy and caring are key drivers in shaping public policy and helping those less fortunate. In an era where social inequality is still a major challenge, moderate alms is a practical solution that promotes social inclusion and entitles all to the benefits of economic and social development.

Finally, moderate alms is not just about giving, but also about empowering. In understanding the needs of fellow human beings and providing relevant support, communities can form strong and empowered communities. When the principles of moderate alms are applied with wisdom and sustainability, they create an environment where social justice is not a dream, but a reality that can be realized. Therefore, the practice of moderate alms is an investment in a fairer and better future, where everyone has the opportunity to develop and reach his or her full potential .

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