

BMT Maslahah's Contribution to the Economic Development of the Community in the Surrounding Area

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Abstract

Sharia cooperatives are cooperative institutions that carry out all business activities, financial management and member services based on Islamic sharia principles. The purpose of this study is to explore and explain how to apply SWOT analysis to the Wonorejo branch of the BMT Maslahah Cooperative in order to support the development of the people's economy in the Wonorejo District area. The results of these activities demonstrate that BMT Maslahah plays a crucial role in strengthening the community's economy through the provision of microfinance, business mentoring, and increasing Sharia financial literacy. This research uses qualitative research. The tangible impact is evident in the increased business capacity of members, the creation of new economic opportunities, and growing public awareness of Sharia-compliant financial practices. Thus, the presence of BMT Maslahah has been proven to provide a positive and sustainable contribution to the economic development of the community in its environment.

Keywords: BMT Maslahah; community economy; sharia financing; micro business empowerment

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INTRODUCTION

Development in Indonesia has undergone various changes due to the influence of various parties, particularly in the economic sector. However, the focus of development is often only on economic growth. Economic conditions can be used to gauge the extent of a country's success in managing its government and resources. Indicators such as economic development, unemployment rates, community income, and poverty rates are used as benchmarks to assess the achievements and success of economic development in Indonesia. As a form of commitment to strengthening the people's economy, the President of the Republic of Indonesia provides full support for the development of cooperatives throughout the country. One concrete step taken by the government is to initiate the Merah Putih Village/Sub-District Cooperative, a village-based cooperative that aims to strengthen the community's economy through collective business activities. This cooperative provides various services such as a basic needs center, savings and loan units, pharmacies, village clinics, goods distribution services, and even a digital platform to market local products. (Widyaningsih, 2025)

The main objective of cooperatives is to improve the welfare of their members in particular, and society in general. In addition, cooperatives also play a role in supporting the national economic order to create an advanced, just, and prosperous society in accordance with Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution (Law No. 25 of 1992 Article 3). This makes cooperatives the backbone of the Indonesian economy and it is hoped that they will be able to compete with other business entities. To achieve these objectives, cooperatives carry out various activities that benefit their members. These diverse motivations and needs

have given rise to various types of cooperatives that are tailored to the conditions and needs of their respective environments.(Putra, 2023).

BMT is a microfinance institution that operates based on profit-sharing principles. One of the businesses run by BMT is the Sharia Cooperative, as seen in KSPPS BMT Maslahah. The BMT Maslahah Sharia Cooperative focuses on savings and loans as well as other sharia financial services. This institution's main objective is to empower the community, especially those in low to middle economic conditions. In carrying out its activities, the BMT Maslahah Sharia Cooperative upholds sharia values, adheres to the teachings of the Qur'an and Sunnah, prioritizes Islamic brotherhood, complies with applicable sharia and legal provisions, and emphasizes mutual assistance and respect for every customer.

Some experts explain that Islamic cooperatives are based on the principle of mutual cooperation and reject monopolistic practices by certain parties. Profits are distributed fairly and proportionally, while losses are borne jointly, in accordance with the principle of justice in Islamic economics. This principle is in line with (Mundir et al., n.d.) that communities based on specific cultures or values can optimize internal resources to achieve economic prosperity through independent economic development.

METHOD

The type of research used in this study is qualitative research. Qualitative research is conducted by utilizing scientific logic to understand a phenomenon. In this approach, humans, in this case society, become the main object and instrument of research. The research method uses a qualitative approach so that the findings can be directly applied to the object being studied. Qualitative research aims to gain a comprehensive understanding of a phenomenon related to the subject's experience, such as behavior, observation, motivation, and actions. This understanding is presented in the form of verbal descriptions in accordance with the specific natural context, utilizing various naturalistic approaches. (Safrudin et al., 2023)

This research was conducted at the BMT Maslahah Sharia Cooperative, Wonorejo branch, located next to the Wonorejo market, Wonorejo subdistrict, Pasuruan district, East Java Province. The research subjects included the management of the BMT Maslahah Sharia Cooperative. The data used was sourced from primary and secondary data. Data collection techniques were carried out through documentation, interviews, and direct observation of the research object to see the influence of the BMT Maslahah Cooperative on the economy, particularly the role of cooperatives in improving community welfare. Data analysis used an interactive model developed by Miles and Huberman, including data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing. In the data reduction stage, the researcher selected, focused, simplified, and transformed the raw data obtained so that it was easier to understand and process. (Hutagalung & Batubara, 2021).

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Sharia Cooperative

Sharia Cooperatives or Sharia Financial Services Cooperatives (KJKS) are a form of economic activity carried out based on cooperative principles grounded in the principles of kinship and applying sharia provisions. Sharia Financial Services Cooperatives function as economic and financial institutions that are managed democratically, effectively, and socially, and provide opportunities for member participation, with all operations guided by ethics and morals in accordance with Islamic teachings. The main concept in the Sharia

system is the application of the profit-sharing principle and the prohibition of interest in all financial transactions. This principle is one of the advantages of Sharia cooperatives over conventional cooperatives. Based on Law Number 25 of 1992 concerning Cooperatives, cooperatives are based on Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution with the principle of kinship as their main value. (Hutagalung & Batubara, 2021)

The purpose of cooperatives is to improve the welfare of members and society at large, while strengthening the national economy in order to realize a developed, just, and prosperous nation in accordance with the values of Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution. (Gojali & Ardiansyah, 2025).

Baitul Maal wa Tamwil

Baitul Maal wa Tamwil (BMT) has two main elements. Baitul Maal functions as an institution that manages social and non-profit funds, such as zakat, infaq, and sadaqah. Meanwhile, Baitul Tamwil plays a role in collecting and distributing funds that are productive and profitable. BMT is a sharia-based microfinance institution that operates on a profit-sharing principle and has a function similar to a cooperative. Its main focus is to support micro-business development and improve the welfare of low-income communities. Etymologically, Baitul Maal means “house of wealth” or a place for managing social funds, while Baitul Tamwil means “house of financing” or a place for managing economic enterprises. The structure of BMT is inspired by the Islamic financial system during the time of the Prophet Muhammad until the middle of the Islamic civilization era. Thus, BMT can be understood as a simple yet effective Islamic financial institution in encouraging the improvement of community economic activities based on sharia principles in all of its operations. (Melina, 2020).

BMT has a similar function to banks, but on a smaller scale, resembling savings and loan cooperatives (KSP) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). In addition to managing business capital, BMT also carries out social fund collection activities such as infaq, zakat, and alms. As an institution oriented towards a people's economy, BMT adheres to sharia principles that provide a sense of security and comfort for both fund owners and users. According to experts, a role can be understood as a dynamic form of a position or status. When a person exercises their rights and obligations, it means that they are fulfilling their role. Roles are also often associated with the functions inherent in a social position. Status and role cannot be separated; there can be no role without status, and vice versa. Every individual holds various roles in social life, and these roles determine the opportunities given to them by society. The implementation of these roles is governed by prevailing social norms. As is well known, the general role of sharia cooperatives is that BMTs are the economic and social engines of many communities and drive the implementation of sharia economics, connecting the rich (aghniya) and the poor (dhuafa) and serving as a means of informal education to realize the principle of *Dzikir Qalbiyah* through spiritual communication with God. (Putra, 2023).

BMT Maslahah accepts zakat, infaq, and sadaqah from non-members in the form of zakat maal, which is then distributed to mustahik. Thus, BMT Maslahah's role is not only oriented towards productive businesses, but also carries out a social mission as a link between those who are able and those in need in order to create mutual assistance. Many economic actors in the community are not yet able to be independent due to limited access to formal financial institutions. The main obstacle they face in developing micro businesses is the lack of capital. This condition causes some people to choose to borrow from loan sharks, which ultimately makes them vulnerable to getting caught up in bad

credit.(Subhan, 2018). In improving the welfare of the community, BMT El-Mizan Annafii has made efforts to provide loan and financing facilities.

Sharia Cooperative

a. Murobahah Financing

This financing is carried out based on the principle of sale and purchase, namely the determination of the price of goods in the form of the cost price plus an agreed profit margin. In this mechanism, BMT Maslahah acts as the seller, while members act as buyers. Payments can be made in installments as agreed by both parties. This financing scheme is ideal for business owners who need additional assets to support their business activities but do not have sufficient funds to make cash payments.(Melina, 2020).

b. Mudharabah Financing

Mudharabah financing is carried out based on the principle of profit sharing in accordance with the proportion agreed upon by both parties. This financing can be provided to various business sectors, such as trade, industry, and agriculture, and is intended for MSME players and traders in the Cianjur area and its surroundings. Through this scheme, BMT Maslahah helps build the confidence of the community, especially traders and small entrepreneurs, in entering into financing agreements to develop their businesses.(Khaerunnisa et al., 2025)

Examples of businesses include small traders who need additional capital to expand their businesses. Businesses with assets of no more than IDR 50 million and a turnover of IDR 100 million are classified as micro businesses. BMT provides financing in the form of murabahah and mudharabah contracts to its members. The range of financing provided is between Rp 500.000.00 and Rp 5.000,000.00 for new customers.

Savings or Deposits

BMT Maslahah aims to reduce the practice of mobile banking, which often involves usury. This institution encourages the public, especially its members, to switch to sharia-based financial services so that they can more easily access and become accustomed to lending and borrowing activities that are in accordance with sharia principles.

a. Principal Savings

A basic deposit is a deposit that must be paid by a member when they first join a cooperative, and the amount is determined by the cooperative (SAK No. 27, 1998). The basic deposit at the BMT Maslahah cooperative is Rp 100,000.00. (Asmita, 2020).

b. Mandatory savings

Mandatory savings according to PSAK are “A certain amount of savings, which does not have to be the same, that members must pay to the cooperative at a certain time and on certain occasions.” Details of mandatory savings at the BMT Maslahah cooperative are IDR 10.000.00 per month.

c. Saving

Voluntary savings differ from basic savings and mandatory savings. Voluntary savings are not mandatory for all members. In terms of quality and quantity, BMT El-Mizan Annafii is capable of improving the community's economy.

The existence of BMT Maslahah provides various benefits for the community and its members because it is able to help fulfill primary, secondary, and tertiary needs. Primary needs include daily necessities required to sustain life. Secondary needs are supporting needs, such as motorcycles or household furniture. Meanwhile, tertiary needs include additional needs that are generally enjoyed by the middle and upper classes, such as car ownership, garden land, and the like.

BMT Maslahah always adheres to the principles of Islamic cooperatives in establishing partnerships, namely using a profit-sharing system agreed upon with the community. Through the application of these principles, BMT Maslahah is able to foster a healthy business climate within the community and provide facilities for investment activities. In addition, BMT Maslahah assists its members by providing financing and guidance to develop their businesses. This institution also facilitates access to investment, especially for small traders and other business actors who need capital support.

Welfare is one of the important roles played by BMT Maslahah in its efforts to achieve economic independence for the community, especially in the Cianjur area. This effort is carried out by enhancing the potential and capabilities of the community based on the values of the Qur'an. The establishment of an independent economy will encourage the community to be able to face economic problems and find the best solutions to overcome them. In the process of improving welfare, there are two interrelated parties, namely the community as the beneficiary, and BMT Maslahah as the institution that plays a role in providing welfare support.

CONCLUSION

BMT Maslahah Sharia Cooperative, as a financial service institution, performs its role as a typical sharia cooperative, namely as a driver of economic and social activities in the community, a pioneer in the application of sharia economic principles, and a link between the wealthy and the poor. BMT Maslahah's role in improving community welfare is realized through various programs, such as mudharabah financing, murabahah financing, and savings or deposit services that include basic deposits, mandatory deposits, and voluntary deposits.

In all its activities, BMT Maslahah adheres to the principle of profit sharing in accordance with sharia provisions so that it is able to harmonize the social, economic, and religious aspects of the community. Thus, BMT Maslahah not only pursues economic profits but also contributes to improving the quality of the community's social and spiritual life. This study is expected to serve as a reference for further research on the role of cooperatives in improving community welfare. In addition, it is hoped that this study can be developed further to become a more comprehensive study.

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