

Philanthropy of Pesantren Towards Socio-Economic Welfare (Study At Markaz Bayt Al-Musaadah Social Institution, Mambaus Sholihin Gresik Islamic Boarding School)

M. Havy Sa'dullah, Nurhayati, Sirajul Arifin

UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya, Indonesia

xadoellab@gmail.com, nurbayati@uinsa.ac.id, sirajul.arifin@uinsa.ac.id

Abstract

The misappropriation of social funds has hindered the effectiveness of empowerment initiatives aimed at the poor and marginalized individuals. This article aims to highlight the role of social institutions within Pesantren Mambaus Sholihin, which are now tasked not only with educating a religiously knowledgeable generation but also with serving as a foundation for Islamic economics. This study employs a qualitative research method with a case study approach to investigate the economic empowerment initiatives and the management of charitable funds by Markaz Bayt Al-Musa'adah. This approach involves thorough data collection and diverse information sources, along with active field participation. Findings indicate that Markaz Bayt Al-Musa'adah has successfully implemented community economic empowerment through vocational training programs and assistance for underprivileged students. The management of social funds is conducted with transparency and accountability, adhering to Islamic philanthropic principles, where managers operate without seeking profit, motivated solely by the desire to serve Allah and fulfill their commitment to the community.

Keywords: *Philanthropy, Socio-Economic, Empowerment, Welfare.*

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Introduction

In Indonesia, pesantren serve a vital function beyond merely providing religious education; they also address various social and economic issues within communities. As educational institutions, pesantren strive to develop individuals who possess both moral and spiritual values along with strong interpersonal skills. Within a structured setting, they instill principles such as discipline, honesty, and responsibility, fostering a generation that is self-sufficient and actively contributes to societal welfare. Furthermore, pesantren significantly enhance educational access for marginalized groups, thereby aiding in the improvement of the Human Development Index (HDI) in their respective regions (Ambarwati, 2023).

As a participant in the United Nations (UN), Indonesia is dedicated to realizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with a specific focus on reducing poverty. To support government initiatives aimed at combating poverty, efforts are being made to enhance the quality of poverty-related data. The Indonesian government, at both national and local levels, has introduced several community empowerment initiatives aimed at elevating the economic well-being of its citizens. These initiatives are intended to equip communities with the tools they need to become self-sufficient and competitive in today's globalized environment (Habib, 2021) begitu mendewakan industrialisasi dan mekanisme trickle down effect (efek rambatan).

However, in addition to government efforts, charitable actions are essential for addressing numerous social issues, especially those related to poverty. At its core, philanthropy refers to the voluntary provision of assistance to alleviate the struggles of others and has been an integral part of Indonesian tradition for generations. Across different countries, philanthropic initiatives have successfully complemented governmental approaches to poverty reduction. These efforts are instrumental in redistributing resources, fostering social innovation, and tackling economic disparities. Philanthropy not only responds to immediate needs but also promotes long-term social and economic well-being (Anderson, 2013; Nasrul et al., 2021).

Charitable giving also plays a crucial role in enhancing individuals' well-being by fostering better social, economic, environmental, cultural, and political circumstances, all of which are vital for personal growth and

realizing one's potential. (Tonon et al., 2021) Furthermore, engaging in charitable endeavors has been demonstrated to enhance overall life satisfaction, as greater philanthropic involvement is linked to improved subjective well-being in various nations (Williams et al., 2023) the 'Well-being Economy and Health in All Policies: Fostering Action', highlights the need for societal change in the way we think about health and well-being. It brings two separate but related concepts together—the well-being economy and Health in All Policies (HiAP).

Philanthropy involves the voluntary provision of support aimed at assisting those in need, alleviating suffering, and addressing the challenges faced by disadvantaged individuals. In Western contexts, philanthropy is defined as an individual effort to supply resources or services for the benefit of the community. (Barman, 2017). Philanthropic initiatives aimed at alleviating poverty have shown to be both successful and impactful in supporting government social assistance programs. This effectiveness is largely attributed to the practicality of philanthropy, as it is often conducted by individuals who are familiar with the circumstances of the beneficiaries, or *mustahiq*. Furthermore, philanthropic programs can be implemented with fewer bureaucratic hurdles and less stringent procedures. In contrast, government social aid programs sometimes face criticism from low-income individuals due to issues like inaccurate data or overly complicated requirements (Silalahi, 2020).

In Indonesia, Islamic philanthropy takes four primary forms: Zakat, Infak, Alms, and Waqf. (Naisabur et al., 2023) Islamic philanthropy is a topic of significant relevance in the realms of social and economic studies. It is a subject that often sparks discussions among economists and researchers from both Muslim and non-Muslim backgrounds. (Hasan, 2010) This is due to the fact that Islamic philanthropy serves as a powerful tool for alleviating poverty and addressing social inequality in today's world. (Naisabur et al., 2023) Nonetheless, the full potential of managing Islamic philanthropic funds has yet to be realized, obstructing the attainment of this objective.

Philanthropic practices in Islam are grounded in the principles outlined by Sharia law. Islamic teachings offer a framework for charitable actions among Muslims, which includes zakat, infaq, sadaqah, and waqf. According to these teachings, Allah SWT instructs His followers to engage

in charitable giving, promising rewards in return. The contrast between Islamic and Western approaches to philanthropy becomes apparent when Islamic charitable efforts are viewed as being in service to Allah. Nonetheless, philanthropy is a worldwide phenomenon that lies at the core of various social movements. This movement has emerged as a prominent trend within Indonesia's charitable sector (Hardi, 2021).

The Mambaus Sholihin pesantren in Gresik serves as a notable example of a boarding school embodying the principles of Islamic philanthropy. In 2017, the pesantren founded Markaz Bayt Al-Musa'adah, a social organization engaged in a variety of charitable activities. These initiatives encompass emergency disaster response, educational programs, healthcare, and economic empowerment for disadvantaged communities. The goal of this institution is to enhance the role of pesantren as a center for religious education while also contributing to social welfare improvement (FH, personal communication, January 12, 2023).

Islamic philanthropy encompasses four primary forms: zakat, infaq, sadaqah, and waqf. (Naisabur et al., 2023) Numerous researchers, regardless of their religious backgrounds, have explored the impact of Islamic philanthropy on tackling poverty and social inequality. While Islamic philanthropy holds significant promise for addressing these challenges, the management of philanthropic funds within Indonesia remains sub-optimal, hindering the complete realization of poverty alleviation goals (Hasan, 2010; Naisabur et al., 2023).

Philanthropic organizations run by pesantren, like Markaz Bayt Al-Musa'adah, offer a renewed sense of hope amid diminishing public confidence in charitable institutions following the fund misappropriation by Aksi Cepat Tanggap (ACT). The Financial Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre (PPATK) has identified 176 additional philanthropic organizations suspected of misusing public funds. This situation undoubtedly impacts poverty alleviation efforts in Indonesia, making institutions with a strong commitment to integrity and transparency, such as Markaz Bayt Al-Musa'adah, increasingly vital (CNN, 2022; Vioni et al., 2022).

Research by Hilman Lathief indicates that pesantren serve not just as centers for religious education but also as vital sources of social and economic strength for the Muslim community. Their goal is to cultivate a generation that is spiritually devout while also being self-sufficient and ca-

pable of addressing societal social and economic issues. The philanthropic activities undertaken by these pesantren significantly support marginalized groups through various initiatives, including scholarships, disaster relief efforts, and training in entrepreneurship (Dinana et al., 2021; Latief, 2016).

During the initial phase of establishing Markaz Bayt Al-Musa'adah, K.H. Masbuhin Faqih consistently urged the management, students, and his own children in evaluation meetings to: "*Dunyomu gak bakal entek lek seneng sbodaqab, gak ono critane wong mlarat perkoro seneng sbodaqab*". This message has always resonated deeply with the leadership of Markaz Bayt Al-Musa'adah, ensuring that the institution not only remains active but also continues to thrive today (H, personal communication, January 23, 2023).

The achievements of Markaz Bayt Al-Musa'adah align with the Gresik Regency government's primary initiative for poverty reduction. H. Fandi Ahmad Yani, the Regent of Gresik, emphasized that zakat and other philanthropic contributions play a crucial role in alleviating poverty. When effectively utilized, these funds can significantly enhance government efforts to improve the welfare of the community.(Sholahuddin, 2022) As per Mollick's theory, philanthropic organizations act as intermediaries between contributors and beneficiaries, enabling collective donations to aid different charitable initiatives, and offering greater accessibility compared to traditional financial institutions. (Hardi et al., 2022; Mollick, 2014)

Based on the aforementioned problem background, the author is motivated to investigate the philanthropic activities of Markaz Bayt Al-Musa'adah at the Mambaus Sholihin Gresik Islamic Boarding School. This focus addresses a notable gap, as many Islamic educational institutions in Indonesia have not extensively engaged in such initiatives. This research is deemed essential because the very foundation and growth of pesantren are rooted in philanthropy and community support. Preserving and enhancing this philanthropic spirit is crucial to maintaining the identity of the pesantren, which should serve as a model of self-sufficiency for the community rather than relying solely on government aid (NU Online, 2023).

This article will explore three important aspects concerning the contributions of Markaz Bayt Al-Musa'adah to charitable initiatives. Firstly and secondly, it discusses the rationale behind the establishment of Markaz

Bayt al Musaadah and its focus on economic empowerment through the management of social funds. The organization operates transparently and is accountable, adhering to the principles of Islamic philanthropy. This approach aims to guarantee that social assistance is distributed efficiently and effectively to those in need. Thirdly, the approach to enhancing philanthropic outreach is examined, focusing on the initiatives implemented to broaden the impact of Markaz Bayt Al-Musa'adah's charitable efforts. This strategy aims to ensure that a greater and more varied community can experience the advantages of these social programs.

Methods

The research discussed in this article pertains to empirical studies conducted at Markaz Bayt Al-Musa'adah within the Mambaus Sholihin Gresik Islamic Boarding School. The author opted for a qualitative research approach, emphasizing observations of real-life phenomena rather than relying on statistical methods, allowing for the exploration of findings that arise organically in practice. (Moleong, 2018). Qualitative research can be described as a method utilized to investigate philanthropic phenomena present within society (Hafith, 2022) causing the pole inequality relations between men and women. Therefore, in this study wanted to dismantle the detail view of some theories, both social and feminist about gender relations in the family. Each of these theories (structural functional, conflict and feminist.

Qualitative research is employed to observe phenomena within the research subject, producing findings that are represented not through numerical data but rather through images, words, or descriptive information. The primary aim of qualitative research is to comprehend social phenomena or behaviors by emphasizing a holistic understanding of the phenomenon being examined, rather than dissecting it into individual, interconnected variables (Murdiyanto, 2020). The author adopts an inductive approach to explore the issue, seeking to draw conclusions about the socio-economic welfare challenges addressed by Markaz Bayt Al-Musa'adah at the Mambaus Sholihin Gresik Islamic Boarding School based on diverse relevant information.

This study was carried out at the Mambaus Sholihin Islamic Boarding School, located at St. KH. Syafi'i No. 07 in Suci Village, Manyar District, Gresik Regency, where Markaz Bayt Al-Musa'adah

was founded. The decision to conduct research in this area was based on several factors, including convenient access, the availability of data, and the rapid development of Markaz Bayt Al-Musa'adah, making it an intriguing subject for investigation.

The data gathered for this study comprises both primary and secondary sources. Primary data includes information collected through site visits and direct interviews with the central management of Markaz Bayt Al-Musa'adah, leaders of the pesantren, various administrators from the OSPMS (Santri Pondok Pesantren Mambaus Sholihin Organization), and the central management of HIMAM (Mambaus Sholihin Alumni Association), as well as community members who receive philanthropic support. Secondary data consists of information sourced from relevant agencies, including notebooks, official documents, organizational statutes (AD/ART), reports, and various written materials such as articles, books, online resources, newspapers, and other pertinent documents (Moleong, 2018; Murdiyanto, 2020).

Results and Discussion

Philanthropy is essential in improving people's lives by tackling social, economic, and political inequities, while also enhancing community welfare through both immediate assistance and sustained transformative initiatives (Miller, 2023). The reasons for engaging in philanthropic activities vary widely, encompassing altruistic feelings, emotional connections, and economic or sociocultural influences. These motivations are deeply rooted in human nature, with studies indicating that both altruism and philanthropy may have evolutionary origins. (Adloff, 2016; Parr, 2015). Philanthropy serves as a means of influence, impacting public policy and societal priorities. This is evident in the significant contributions of affluent individuals and foundations in shaping the fields of education and scientific research (Reich et al., 2016).

Philanthropy encompasses not just substantial financial gifts from affluent donors but also smaller donations and volunteer efforts from people across various income brackets, showcasing a widespread culture of generosity (James, 2017; Leat, 2016). In essence, philanthropy reflects humanity's ability to show compassion and solidarity, driving social advancement and enhancing the overall well-being of individuals and

communities globally (McCarthy, 2013). Philanthropic efforts by boarding schools play a crucial role in the economy by fostering sustainable development, economic self-sufficiency, and social capital within communities. In Indonesia, Islamic boarding schools, known as pesantren, have transformed from solely traditional religious institutions into diverse organizations that engage in education, social initiatives, and economic enterprises (Hardi et al., 2022).

Markaz Bayt al-Musa'adah is a philanthropic Islamic organization affiliated with the Mambaus Sholihin Islamic boarding school. It is dedicated to offering moral and social support to individuals in need, irrespective of their religion, race, or ethnic identity. The organization was founded with the purpose of reducing human suffering, enhancing social welfare, and positively impacting the creation of a better society, particularly for Muslims (R, personal communication, March 1, 2023). Markaz Bayt Al-Musa'adah was established by KH. Masbuhin Faqih, the caretaker of the Mambaus Sholihin Islamic boarding school. His vision arose from observing the troubling social and economic conditions within the community, particularly among those living near the boarding school, who were in need of support. He emphasized that both the students (*santri*) and the pesantren should be socially responsible, highlighting that their role extends beyond the dissemination and advancement of Islamic knowledge; they must also embody compassion and care for others in their communities (H, personal communication, February 28, 2023).

The inception of Markaz Bayt Al-Musa'adah began with a meeting of four senior students under the guidance of KH. Masbuhin Faqih to discuss and establish the organizational structure and work program for the center. The participants included Agus Friendis Syani Amrullah (the grandson-in-law of KH. Masbuhin Faqih), Mr. Ahmad Rizal (the Head of Suci Village), Mr. Muh. Hilaluddin (who serves as the driver and personal assistant to KH. Masbuhin Faqih), and Mr. H. Khoirul Huda (a member of the Gresik Regional Parliament) (H, personal communication, February 28, 2023).

Markaz Bayt al-Musa'adah is an Islamic philanthropic organization that plays an important role in providing assistance and services to people in need. The importance of the principles upheld by this institution as follows (AD/ART MBM, 2023). *First*, Humanitarian Principles: A funda-

mental principle embraced by Markaz Bayt al-Musa'adah is the concept of humanity. The organization is dedicated to assisting and serving the community, irrespective of individuals' ethnicity, religion, or background. This principle highlights the significance of treating everyone with respect and recognizing all individuals as equals with inherent rights. *Second*, Principle of Justice: Markaz Bayt al-Musa'adah places great importance on the principle of fairness in delivering assistance and services to the community. They are committed to ensuring that support reaches those in need while also being distributed justly and equitably, without any form of discrimination or misuse. *Third*, Principle of Community Involvement: The organization places a high value on community engagement and participation. They collaborate closely with local residents to gain insights into their needs and challenges, ensuring their involvement in both the planning and execution of assistance programs. This approach makes the support offered more pertinent, sustainable, and empowering for the community. *Fourth*, Sustainability Principle: Markaz Bayt al-Musa'adah is firmly committed to the principle of sustainability. Rather than offering merely temporary aid, the organization focuses on enhancing the community's ability to become self-sufficient and tackle long-term issues. It offers various forms of support, including training, infrastructure improvements, and economic empowerment initiatives, aimed at enabling communities to escape the cycle of poverty. *Fifth*, Principles of Transparency and Accountability: The organization prioritizes transparency and accountability regarding the utilization of the funds and resources it acquires. They are dedicated to providing clear and open reports on how these funds are used and the outcomes of their programs. These reports are generated monthly and distributed in hard copy, as well as shared via the pesantren's official social media channels and with alumni. This approach fosters trust among the community and donors in the institution.

Since its establishment in 2017, Markaz Bayt Al-Musa'adah, affiliated with the Mambaus Sholihin Islamic boarding school, has significantly influenced the lives of those receiving aid, both economically and socially. This positive change is largely due to the commitment and dedication of the administrators at Markaz Bayt Al-Musa'adah in effectively implementing their programs. An illustrative example of this impact can be seen in the families of students who benefit from donations and work within the pesantren cooperative, as noted by Hilaluddin, a member of the Markaz

Bayt Al-Musa'adah executive team: "Certainly! Students benefiting from donations provided by MBM experience significant economic relief". Firstly, they receive complimentary education at the boarding school, which alleviates the financial strain on their families. Secondly, upon graduation from the pesantren, they gain access to skills training and entrepreneurship resources, empowering them to achieve economic independence (HH, personal communication, March 6, 2023).

Chalid's theory suggests that social and economic dimensions are interconnected and cannot be viewed in isolation from one another (Chalid, 2014). Economic activities are intrinsically linked to social interactions, and nearly all social actions inevitably involve economic considerations. This perspective is echoed by Mohammad Nadzir, who defines economic empowerment as a range of initiatives aimed at enhancing economic capabilities. These initiatives can be direct, such as providing capital for businesses and facilitating access to consumption funds, or indirect, including training in economic skills and offering support and advocacy for the impoverished through campaigns or social media platforms (Nadzir, 2015).

Empowerment and Social Fund Management

After thoroughly researching and validating data regarding philanthropy-focused economic empowerment initiatives led by the Mambaus Sholihin Islamic boarding school, the author outlines the programs implemented by Markaz Bayt Al-Musa'adah to enhance the economic conditions of the community. Below is a comprehensive overview of these initiatives.

Entrepreneurship and Skills Training Program

Markaz Bayt Al-Musa'adah conducts entrepreneurship and skills development programs aimed at equipping individuals with the knowledge and capabilities needed to launch and manage their own businesses. The curriculum covers various areas, including business management, leadership, marketing, finance, and technical skills tailored to meet local demands. Initially, the program targets the students of Mambaus Sholihin and the surrounding community. However, due to limited staffing and the program still being in its developmental phase, the primary focus is currently on the santri. Below is our interview with Hilaluddin, a member of the executive team at Markaz Bayt Al-Musa'adah:

"Currently, our primary focus remains on the students themselves.

Since MBM is still in its early stages, all the administrators are also in the process of learning how to implement this program gradually. While we do aim to assist the underprivileged residents in the village of Suci, our limited workforce and the small number of administrators have prevented this from happening thus far. However, we are dedicated to expanding our efforts; as the institution and management grow and gain more experience from our activities, we will involve the villagers in this initiative” (HH, personal communication, March 8, 2023).

The individuals who benefited from the assistance provided by Markaz Bayt Al-Musa’adah were highly motivated and dedicated to fulfilling the responsibilities of the program. They were chosen through a stringent selection process managed by Markaz Bayt Al-Musa’adah, ensuring that only those from genuinely disadvantaged families who are deemed eligible for support were included. In an interview with Ust. Haikal, the field coordinator of Markaz Bayt Al-Musa’adah, he stated: “The individuals receiving donations from MBM have undergone a rigorous selection process. Initially, potential beneficiaries must obtain a certificate of need from the local village head. Next, they need to provide their electricity bills for the past three months. Additionally, a member of our MBM team collaborates with the nearest HIMAM to conduct a home survey of the applicant. Once all the criteria are met, the santri is eligible to receive philanthropic support from MBM” (H, personal communication, February 29, 2023).

Education Scholarship Program

Mambaus Sholihin Islamic Boarding School has established itself as a prominent educational institution, focused on delivering comprehensive religious education to its students. Recognizing the significance of equal access to education, Markaz Bayt Al-Musa’adah, a charitable organization affiliated with Pondok Pesantren Mambaus Sholihin, has initiated the Philanthropy-Based Education Scholarship Program. This program is designed to assist and enhance educational opportunities for talented students who face financial challenges.

The scholarship program is thoroughly structured to offer students with outstanding potential the chance to nurture their talents through high-quality education. The primary aim of this initiative is to promote educational equity, ensuring that all students have equal access to a quality education without the weight of financial constraints. Within this scholar-

ship program, Markaz Bayt Al-Musa'adah is dedicated to offering financial support that encompasses tuition fees, living costs, and other related expenses during the students' time at the pesantren. Recipients of this scholarship will enjoy the complete educational experience at Pondok Pesantren Mambaus Sholihin without the stress of financial obligations weighing them down (HH, personal communication, March 11, 2023).

The selection process for this scholarship program is conducted with great care and impartiality. Candidates for the scholarship undergo a thorough evaluation that includes assessments of their academic performance and moral character, carried out by their respective educational institutions, whether at the Madrasah Tsanawiyah, Madrasah Aliyah, or UNKAFA college level. This approach ensures that the chosen students genuinely possess exceptional talent and a strong dedication to academic achievement and personal growth.

The effectiveness of this scholarship program is clearly reflected in the academic success and personal growth of its recipients. Many have attained remarkable accomplishments across various fields, including winning the MQK Musabaqah Qiraatil Kutub competition among pesantren in the Gresik district, with some even representing East Java in this year's National MQK. These successes not only instill a sense of pride in the individuals but also enhance the reputation of Mambaus Sholihin Islamic Boarding School as an institution that cultivates graduates of high quality and integrity (Nugresik, 2023).

People's Economic Social Assistance Program

Markaz Bayt Al-Musa'adah, a charitable organization known for its dedication to humanitarian efforts, has been instrumental in executing this socio-economic assistance initiative. They acknowledge that economic inequality is a significant issue affecting society, and guided by the principles of compassion, justice, and solidarity, they aim to address social disparities through this program.

This socio-economic assistance initiative aims to support individuals and families facing challenging financial situations. The primary beneficiaries of this program include disadvantaged residents of the Holy Village, orphans, dhuafa, widows, and low-income families of alumni. In collaboration with Mambaus Sholihin Islamic Boarding School, Markaz Bayt Al-Musa'adah offers aid in the form of essential needs, including food,

clothing, shelter, and access to healthcare services (H, personal communication, February 28, 2023).

The process of selecting beneficiaries is carried out with great care and transparency. The team at Bayt Al-Musa'adah Markaz undertakes surveys and directly verifies the eligibility of potential beneficiaries. They gather detailed data and insights regarding the social and economic situations of families requiring support. This thorough approach ensures that aid is directed toward those who genuinely need it, maximizing its effectiveness in enhancing their well-being. In an interview with Hilaluddin, he stated: "The process of selecting beneficiaries for this assistance needs to be rigorous; otherwise, many individuals may falsely claim to be in need despite actually being capable. Therefore, we visit each resident's home accompanied by Rizal, the head of MBM, and the village chief of Suci to ensure a fair and objective assessment of who qualifies for support from MBM" (HH, personal communication, March 12, 2023).

The support offered through this program is designed to be both ongoing and sustainable. Markaz Bayt Al-Musa'adah is dedicated to delivering long-term aid to recipient families, continually assessing their needs. They actively involve these families in both the planning and execution phases of the program to promote self-sufficiency and lasting economic development.

Philanthropy Area Expansion Strategy

Markaz Bayt al-Musa'adah is a charitable organization affiliated with the Mambaus Sholihin Islamic boarding school, which has grown to assist numerous individuals across various regions. This expansion of their philanthropic reach enhances the reputation and impact of Markaz Bayt al-Musa'adah as a charitable institution. When the organization successfully creates a meaningful difference in diverse communities, its status as a catalyst for positive change is bolstered. This heightened reputation can facilitate partnerships with other philanthropic entities and attract interest from donors and volunteers. With increased influence, these organizations can have a more significant role in shaping policies and mobilizing resources to benefit communities in need.

Program Diversification

The organization has employed multiple strategies to broaden its philanthropic efforts. Firstly, they have diversified their charitable programs to

address various aspects of the lives of those in need, including education, healthcare, community development, and social support. In the education sector, they offer scholarships to underprivileged children. Regarding health, they have established hospitals that provide affordable medical and nursing services, basic healthcare, and assistance in accessing low-cost medications. Additionally, they run community empowerment initiatives, such as skills training and entrepreneurship programs. In the social arena, they provide food assistance to vulnerable populations and those impacted by disasters.

Strategic Partnerships

Markaz Bayt al-Musa'adah establishes strategic alliances with organizations affiliated with the Mambaus Sholihin Foundation. These collaborations enable them to amplify their philanthropic efforts by broadening their reach and increasing their available resources. Through this collaboration, Markaz Bayt Al-Musa'adah coordinates programs and campaigns with other organizations to enhance the effectiveness and visibility of their philanthropic initiatives. These partnerships also enable them to secure funding and garner support from donors who align with their vision and objectives. Furthermore, Markaz Bayt Al-Musa'adah has formed a partnership with the alumni organization of Mambaus Sholihin boarding school, HIMAM (Mambaus Sholihin Alumni Association), which is involved in all aspects of their programs, from fundraising to distribution. This collaboration typically includes HIMAM members in the areas receiving assistance. A response from HIMAM's chairman, Maftuh, during our interview as follows. "One key strategy employed by MBM to gain the community's trust and extend its reach is the enthusiastic and voluntary support from the HIMAM members. Their motivation is centered on serving others rather than seeking financial rewards; none of the MBM administrators receive payment, as their efforts are entirely dedicated to Allah" (M, personal communication, March 15, 2023).

Utilization of Media Technology

Markaz Bayt al-Musa'adah leverages social media and information technology to broaden the reach and enhance the visibility of its philanthropic initiatives. They actively utilize various online platforms for fundraising, community outreach, and volunteer engagement. By maintaining a presence on social media, they can connect with a larger audience, raise awareness about important issues, and encourage community involve-

ment in charitable activities. The technological tools they employ include the Al-Fikrah YouTube channel, WhatsApp groups for the institution and HIMAM, Facebook, the official Instagram account, and MY MBS FM Radio Channel (H, personal communication, March 18, 2023).

The effects of these philanthropic outreach initiatives are considerable. They have effectively enhanced access to education and healthcare for disadvantaged groups. Initiatives such as scholarship programs, the construction of hospitals, and the establishment of free clinics have provided direct support to numerous students and communities. Families of santri and local residents who previously faced challenges in accessing affordable educational and healthcare services now have the chance to elevate their quality of life (HH, personal communication, March 07, 2023).

The effects of this strategy extend beyond merely broadening the reach of philanthropic efforts; it also enhances the effectiveness of the initiatives implemented by MBM. For instance, in our plan to establish a hospital for the dhuafa', the extensive fundraising efforts have attracted significant donations. Contributions have come from alumni located outside of Java, as well as from the guardians of students, all of whom support this noble cause. We are particularly thankful to the alumni organized under HIMAM, as their support greatly aids the programs conducted by MBM.

This approach to broadening philanthropic efforts also plays a vital role in community empowerment. By offering skills training and fostering self-employment opportunities, Markaz Bayt al-Musa'adah has enabled numerous beneficiaries to achieve economic independence. Rather than merely offering temporary support, they equip individuals with the tools and knowledge necessary for sustainable living and prosperity. Additionally, participants receive spiritual guidance throughout each program, which enhances their religious values and faith—essential elements for attaining happiness in both this life and the hereafter.

This study also responds to the suggestion made by Hardi et al. in their previous research, advocating for the inclusion of the alumni association of Mambaus Sholihin pesantren in philanthropic endeavors (Hardi et al., 2022). In contrast to previous studies that focused solely on specific alumni groups, this research encompasses a broader spectrum, targeting not just alumni but also all members of the pesantren community, including students, guardians, alumni, and local residents in need of assistance.

The researcher aspires for both studies to positively influence the community's social and economic conditions and to serve as a model for other Islamic educational institutions.

The idea of a welfare economy, which emphasizes human potential, equality, and sustainability, is in harmony with philanthropic objectives as it promotes comprehensive development that transcends simple economic advancement (Dalziel et al., 2018; Hensher, 2023; Navickas & Kontautienė, 2011). This method highlights the significance of social connections, mental well-being, and general life fulfillment, aspects frequently neglected by conventional economic metrics, yet essential for sustained economic success and the welfare of society (Diener & Seligman, 2013). Consequently, philanthropy serves not only to address urgent social challenges but also to establish a framework for enduring economic growth and a more equitable society.

Conclusion

The purpose of this study is to examine the economic empowerment initiatives implemented by Markaz Bayt al-Musa'adah in relation to enhancing socio-economic welfare. It also focuses on the management of social funds and the strategies employed by the organization to broaden its philanthropic efforts.

Economic Empowerment: The findings indicate that Markaz Bayt al-Musa'adah has successfully fostered economic empowerment among individuals through a range of programs and initiatives. The organization offers skill development training and mentorship to disadvantaged students. By employing this strategy, Markaz Bayt Al-Musa'adah enables beneficiaries to achieve economic self-sufficiency, alleviate poverty, and enhance their quality of life. This economic empowerment is implemented across multiple sectors, including livestock farming, the food industry, and small-scale enterprises.

Social Fund Management: The management of social funds at Markaz Bayt al-Musa'adah is characterized by transparency, accountability, and adherence to the principles of Islamic charity. The administrators do not receive any compensation for their efforts; their work is motivated solely by a desire to serve Allah and fulfill their duty to the community. They handle the funds with great care, ensuring that resources are utilized efficiently and effectively for charitable initiatives. The organization also

benefits from a robust monitoring and evaluation system overseen by a board of trustees comprised of respected kyais and ulama. This ensures that financial resources are directed toward those in need, maximizing their impact.

Philanthropy Area Expansion Strategy: Markaz Bayt al-Musa'adah has adopted a successful strategy for broadening its philanthropic efforts. The organization offers a variety of programs that concentrate on social services, education, health, and community development. Furthermore, it has formed a strategic alliance with HIMAM (Mambaus Sholihin Alumni Association). This collaboration is particularly advantageous due to the extensive network of Mambaus Sholihin alumni throughout Indonesia, which allows Markaz Bayt al-Musa'adah to access more financial resources, exchange valuable insights, and enhance the impact of its philanthropic initiatives. Additionally, the organization leverages social media and information technology to widen its outreach and boost the visibility of its charitable programs.

This study demonstrates that Markaz Bayt al-Musa'adah has effectively promoted the economic empowerment of the community through its charitable initiatives. One of the institution's notable strengths is its transparent and inclusive management of social funds. The approach of broadening the scope of philanthropic efforts highlights Markaz Bayt Al-Musa'adah's dedication to delivering a more substantial and meaningful social impact for those in need. Consequently, this research enhances our comprehension of the vital role that philanthropic activities undertaken by pesantren institutions play in advancing the socio-economic welfare of the community.

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- H (2023, February 28). Interview—The Advisor of Markaz Bayt Al Musaadah [In-Depth Interview]
- H (2023, February 28). Interview—The Advisor of Markaz Bayt Al Musaadah [In-Depth Interview]
- H (2023, February 28). Interview—The Advisor of Markaz Bayt Al Musaadah [Whatsapp Voice Call]
- H (2023, Januari 23). Interview—The Advisor of Markaz Bayt Al Musaadah [In-Depth Interview]
- HH (2023, March 11). Interview—The Vice Head of Markaz Bayt Al Musaadah [Whatsapp Voice Call]
- HH (2023, March 12). Interview—The Vice Head of Markaz Bayt Al Musaadah [Whatsapp Voice Call]
- HH (2023, March 6). Interview—The Vice Head of Markaz Bayt Al Musaadah [In-Depth Interview]
- HH (2023, March 7). Interview—The Vice Head of Markaz Bayt Al Musaadah [Whatsapp Voice Call]
- M (2023, March 15). Interview—The Vice Head of Markaz Bayt Al Musaadah

dah [In-Depth Interview]

R (2023, March 1). Interview—The Head of Markaz Bayt Al Musaadah [In-Depth Interview]

H (2023, March 18). Interview—The Advisor of Markaz Bayt Al Musaadah [Whatsapp Voice Call]