

Socialization of Cash Waqf Management in Universities in Malaysia

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ABSTRACT

This community service activity titled "Socialization of Cash Waqf Management in Universities in Malaysia" is a collaboration between the Islamic Economics Program, Faculty of Economics and Business, Syiah Kuala University, and Waqf Advisory Consultancy, Malaysia. The activity aims to enhance the understanding and skills of lecturers and students in managing cash waqf professionally and in accordance with sharia principles. Conducted on Tuesday, June 28, 2024, from 09.00 to 11.00 Malaysian time at Sakura Elite Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, the event featured Dr. Razali Bin Othman from Waqf Advisory Consultancy, Malaysia, as the keynote speaker. Utilizing the service learning (SL) method, the activity involved lecturers and students from the Islamic Economics Program as participants. Pre-test and post-test evaluations showed a significant increase in participants' understanding of cash waqf management, with comprehension rising post-activity. Participants also demonstrated increased practical skills and high satisfaction with the materials presented. The results indicate that the participants are ready to apply the knowledge gained, with some proposing cash waqf projects in their universities. The activity supports the achievement of the SDGs, particularly Goal 4 (Quality Education) and Goal 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). Despite some challenges such as limited time and technical issues with digital platforms, the activity successfully met its objectives and provides a model for similar future initiatives. This community service activity contributes to the development of knowledge and technology in cash waqf management and fosters its application in academic settings and beyond.

Keywords: Cash Waqf Management, Community Service, Service Learning, University

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INTRODUCTION

At the global level, cash waqf management is increasingly recognized as one of the important instruments in supporting social and economic development (Ibrahim et al., 2013; Saiti et al., 2021). Cash waqf has great potential to fund various public welfare and sustainable development programs (Qurrata et al., 2021; Shaikh et al., 2017). However, the effective implementation and management of cash waqf remains a challenge, especially among universities that can act as agents of change (Mustofa et al., 2020; Qurrata et al., 2021).

A major problem faced by the academic community in Malaysia is the lack of knowledge and understanding of cash waqf management (Ali & Markom, 2020; Khamis & Salleh, 2018). This is highly relevant to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly goal 1 (Eradicate Poverty), goal 4 (Quality Education), and goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth). The inability to optimally utilize cash waqf hinders its potential contribution in achieving these SDGs targets.

In the literature review, cash waqf management has been widely discussed, both theoretically and empirically. Studies show that good management can improve social and economic welfare (Hassan & Ab Rahman, 2018; Khamis & Salleh, 2018). Reports from previous community service activities also show a gap between theory and practice in the field, especially among academics and students (Halim, Kesuma, et al., 2024; Halim, Kesuma, Siregar, Riyaldi, et al., 2023; Halim, Novindra, et al., 2024; Halim, Permata, et al., 2024; Halim, Ramadhani, et al., 2024; Iskandarsyah et al., 2023; Riyaldi, Halim, et al., 2024; Yusrizal et al., 2024)). This gap emphasizes the importance of immediate solutions to improve the effectiveness of cash waqf management in higher education.

This problem-solving plan involves the use of new technologies and approaches in cash waqf management socialization and training. This innovation involves the use of digital platforms for training as well as collaboration with experienced waqf consultants such as Dr. Razali Bin Othman from Waqf Advisory Consultancy, Malaysia. This approach is expected to provide a more in-depth and practical understanding for the participants.

The purpose of this community service activity is to learn the best practice of waqf management from Dr. Razali Bin Othman and apply it at Syiah Kuala University. The writing of this article aims to document the process and results of community service activities, as well as to contribute to the development of science and technology in the field of cash waqf management.

The contribution of this article is expected to provide new insights for the development of science and technology in the field of cash waqf. In addition, this article is also expected to support the achievement of SDGs, particularly in terms of economic empowerment and quality education.

METHOD

The target community in this community service activity are lecturers and students of the Undergraduate Program in Islamic Economics, Faculty of Economics and Business, Syiah Kuala University. They are a group that has great potential in utilizing and developing cash waqf management in the academic environment. The total

participants involved in this activity were around 15 people, consisting of 12 lecturers and 3 students. Their role in this activity is vital as they will be the agents of change who implement the knowledge and best practices of cash waqf management in their universities.

This activity involved several main parties. Undergraduate Program in Islamic Economics, Faculty of Economics and Business, Syiah Kuala University, acted as the organizer who organized and coordinated the activities. Waqf Advisory Consultancy, Malaysia, acted as the main partner that provided an experienced resource person, Dr. Razali Bin Othman. Dr. Razali Bin Othman, a waqf expert from Waqf Advisory Consultancy, will provide materials and best practices in cash waqf management. His expertise and experience are expected to provide new insights and practical skills for participants.



Figure 1. Presentation of Materials by Spreaker

This service activity uses the service learning (SL) method with several stages (Agus Afandi et al., 2022). The first stage is planning, where the needs of the participants are identified, and the training curriculum is designed with partners from Waqf Advisory Consultancy. The second stage is socialization, where the objectives and benefits of the activity are conveyed to the participants. The third stage is implementation, which involves interactive training sessions with materials from Dr. Razali Bin Othman, covering the theory and practice of cash waqf management. The final stage was evaluation, where feedback from participants was collected to assess the effectiveness and impact of the activity.

In this activity, participants will be introduced to the concept and practice of modern cash waqf management. The training materials include the use of digital platforms for waqf management, as well as transparent and accountable management methods in accordance with sharia principles. The tools and materials used in this activity include digital and print-based training modules, digital platforms for waqf management

simulation, and questionnaires to measure participants' understanding and skills before and after the training.

Data for this activity was collected through several techniques. Direct observation was conducted during the activity to see the participation and engagement of the participants. Questionnaires were filled out by participants before and after the training to measure the improvement of their understanding and skills. In addition, in-depth interviews were conducted with selected participants to gain deeper insight into their experiences and views on this activity.

The success of this activity was measured based on several indicators. The participants' increased understanding of cash waqf management was measured through pre-test and post-test. The application of the knowledge gained in real projects at the university was also a measure of success. In addition, the participants' level of satisfaction with the training materials and methods is assessed to see the effectiveness of the activity. The data collected will be analyzed using descriptive statistical methods to see changes in participants' understanding and skills before and after the training. Interview results will be analyzed qualitatively to gain a deeper understanding of the impact of this activity.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of this service activity are relevant to the objectives and methods that have been planned. The socialization of cash waqf management activities at Syiah Kuala University aims to improve the understanding and skills of lecturers and students in managing cash waqf professionally and in accordance with sharia principles.



Figure 2. Activity Documentation

This activity was held on Tuesday, June 28, 2024, from 9:00 am to 11:00 am Malaysia time, at Sakura Elite Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. From the results of the pre-test and post-test, there was a significant increase in the participants' understanding of cash waqf management. Before the activity, only 50% of the participants had a basic understanding of cash waqf, while after the activity, 85% of the participants showed

good and excellent understanding. The following table shows the results of the pre-test and post-test:

Table 1. Pre-test and post-test results

Indicator	Before Activity (%)	After Activity (%)
Basic understanding	50%	85%
Practical skills	55%	75%
Satisfaction with the material	65%	90%

Source: Primary Data (processed), 2024

The activity also showed positive results in the application of the knowledge gained. Some participants started proposing cash waqf projects in their universities, which shows that they not only understand the theory but are also ready to apply it in a real context.

The results obtained from this activity are in line with previous theories and studies regarding the importance of education and socialization in improving the understanding and skills of waqf management. For example, a study conducted by Qurrata et al. (2021) shows that intensive and continuous training can improve the ability of waqf managers to manage waqf funds effectively and efficiently. This activity is also in line with other community service results that emphasize the importance of capacity building through education and training (Halim, Kesuma, Siregar, Syahrizal, et al., 2023; Jalaluddin et al., 2024; Khan & Abdullah, 2019; Riyaldi, Umuri, et al., 2024; Utami et al., 2024).

The success of this activity can be used as a best practice for other community services, especially in the context of cash waqf education in the academic environment. The increased understanding and skills of the participants not only contribute to the development of science and technology, but also support the achievement of several SDGs goals, such as goal 4 (Quality Education) and goal 17 (Partnerships to Achieve Goals).

Although this activity succeeded in achieving its main objectives, there were some obstacles encountered. One of the main obstacles was time constraints, where the two-hour duration of the activity was not enough to explore all the material presented. In addition, some participants experienced difficulties in accessing the digital platform used for the waqf management simulation, due to technical and infrastructure limitations in some areas.

These barriers are beyond the control of the implementation team and can be understood as common challenges in the implementation of community service activities. Previous studies have also shown that limited time and access to technology are often obstacles in training and socialization (Halim, Kesuma, & Siregar, 2023).

Overall, this activity successfully achieved its objectives and made a positive contribution to the development of cash waqf management at Syiah Kuala University. The results and discussion are expected to be a reference and inspiration for other community service activities in the future.

CONCLUSION

The socialization of cash waqf management at Syiah Kuala University succeeded in achieving the set objectives, namely increasing the understanding and skills of lecturers and students in managing cash waqf professionally and in accordance with sharia principles. Based on the pre-test and post-test results, there was a significant increase in participants' understanding of cash waqf management, from 30% before the activity to 85% after the activity. In addition, participants showed improved practical skills and high satisfaction with the material presented.

The results of this activity are supported by data showing that participants started proposing cash waqf projects in their universities, indicating their readiness to apply the knowledge gained in a real context. This activity not only contributes to the development of science and technology, but also supports the achievement of several SDGs goals, such as goal 4 (Quality Education) and goal 17 (Partnerships to Achieve Goals).

The implication of this activity is the increased capacity and readiness of lecturers and students of the Islamic Economics Study Program, Faculty of Economics and Business, Syiah Kuala University in managing cash waqf. This is expected to be a driving force for the development of cash waqf management in the academic environment and the wider community. This activity can also be used as a model or best practice for similar community service in the future, especially in the context of education and waqf management. Thus, this community service activity provides real benefits for participants and supports efforts to improve cash waqf management in the academic environment, as well as making a positive contribution to the achievement of SDGs.

Thank-you note

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