

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**THE LEVEL OF AWARENESS
ZAKAT OBLIGATIONS AMONG
STAFF AT DEPARTMENT OF
ISLAMIC RELIGION PAHANG
(JAIP)**

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ABSTRACT

Zakat is the pillar of the Islamic faith, representing an important mechanism for fostering social equality and reducing poverty in Muslim societies. As one of the five pillars of Islam, zakat is a mandatory obligation for eligible Muslims, aimed at redistributing wealth to support the less fortunate. This study aimed to identify knowledge gaps or misconceptions about zakat, measure the importance of fulfilling zakat obligations by the Department of Islamic Religious Pahang (JAIP) employees, and examine the level of awareness of zakat obligations among JAIP employees. This study used a quantitative approach, with data collected through a questionnaire distributed to 103 JAIP employees. The analysis identified factors such as lack of awareness, distrust of zakat management, and the influence of materialistic culture. The data collected was analyzed using the Statistical Package of Social Science (SPSS) to determine the relationship between these factors. This study also proposed solutions such as religious education, training, and awareness programs to increase staff understanding of the importance of zakat. The results of the study provide useful insights to strengthen zakat management, increase community trust, and support the socio-economic development of the Muslim community.

Keywords: Zakat, JAIP, Zakat management, Awareness of Zakat

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

Zakat is a cornerstone of Islamic faith, represents an essential mechanism for fostering social equity and alleviating poverty within the Muslim community. As one of the five pillars of Islam, zakat is a compulsory obligation for eligible Muslims, aimed at redistributing wealth to support the less fortunate. This chapter explores the background, challenges, and scope of Zakat administration, particularly focusing on the Department of Islamic Religion Pahang (JAIP). It delves into the issues associated with zakat management, the critical role of staff awareness, and the potential improvements in zakat distribution systems. The chapter also outlines the research questions, objectives, and the significance of this study in enhancing the efficiency of zakat practices, ultimately contributing to the broader goals of social justice and economic equity.

1.2 Research Background

Since zakat is one of the five pillars of Islam, all qualified Muslims are required to pay it. It is an essential tool for income redistribution, helping the less fortunate members of Muslim society and lowering economic inequality (Hafidhuddin, 2019)The main goal of zakat is to promote social justice and economic equity by dividing riches among the impoverished. The correct comprehension and execution of zakat requirements by those in charge of its administration are critical to zakat's efficacy in accomplishing these objectives (Rosele, 2022).

In Malaysia, state Islamic religious councils, such as the Department of Islamic Religion Pahang (JAIP), are in charge of zakat administration. The vital responsibility of obtaining zakat from qualified Muslims and allocating these monies to the underprivileged in the state of Pahang falls on JAIP (Owoyemi M. Y., 2020). The