

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**ZAKAT AL-MAL: THE LEVEL OF
UNDERSTANDING & AWARENESS AMONG
PASIR PUTEH'S RELIGIOUS OFFICE STAFF**

WAN NURUL BALQIS BINTI ZAIHAN MARICAN

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ABSTRACT

Zakat is a basic Islamic rule and every Muslim needs to understand and practice it. This study aims to measure the level of understanding and awareness of Zakat Al-Mal among the staff of the Pasir Puteh Religious Office, Kelantan. The background of this study starts from the challenges faced by religious office staff in adapting themselves to Zakat Al-Mal. The main objective of this study is to study and evaluate the level of understanding and awareness of Zakat Al-Mal among the staff of the Pasir Puteh Religious Office and to analyze the extent to which staff carry out the payment of Zakat Al-Mal according to Islamic principles. This qualitative study involves in-depth interviews with 8 respondents who are staff members of the Pasir Puteh Religious Office. The study found that the PAJPP staff have a good understanding and awareness of Zakat Al-Mal, including its obligations. However, their awareness of the role of zakat in the social and economic context needs to be improved, as many see it as a personal obligation without realizing its impact on poverty and social justice. This study suggests further research involving a larger sample from religious offices in other districts to expand the understanding of Zakat Al-Mal, education programs and more effective awareness campaigns in the workplace need to be implemented to increase the understanding of zakat in the social and economic context and encourage its active implementation.

Keywords: Level of understanding of Zakat Al-Mal, Level of Awareness of Zakat Al-Mal, Importance of Understanding Zakat Al-Mal.

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Research Background

Zakat is one of the Islamic duties and one of the Five Pillars of Islam. What zakat means is purification or cleaning. In its religious context, Zakat refers to the need to give up a portion of one's resources or earnings to those worthy of it, such as the impoverished, the needy, debtors, Muslims, and recently immigrated Muslims (mu'allaf). The hadiths of the Prophet Muhammad SAW are expounded upon in the Qur'an and zakat is declared. Apart from its financial obligation, zakat is seen as an important aspect of worship and social justice (Muhammad Abdullah, Vol 8, 2011)

Zakat is the most essential and significant system in an Islamic order. When considering its nature, structure, and purpose in the context of the broader Islamic way of life, it becomes clearer. Therefore, it is imperative to elucidate the core tenets of Islam and highlight Zakat as an essential institution of social order. Since zakat is an essential part of Islamic religion, it plays a crucial role in Muslims' social and spiritual life.

According to research from (Ibrahim, 2016) it gives a definition where there are two forms of zakat which are Zakat Al-Fitrah and Zakat on Wealth. Before the Eid prayers, all Muslims are required to donate to Zakat Al-Fitrah during the month of Ramadan. It also said that the Quran and Hadith establish specific kinds of zakatable assets about the Zakat on wealth, which include trade goods, livestock, agricultural products, hidden treasures (rikaz), minerals, gold, and silver. Zakat is a method Muslims use to redistribute wealth, help the poor, and reduce social inequity. Zakat is usually calculated as a tiny percentage of a person's property, 2.5% of the total amount held after one Hijri calendar year has passed and certain prerequisites have been satisfied (nisab). Furthermore, there are particular rules for various property types under zakat, such as money, silver, gold, and goods.

For the purposes of this study, a qualitative approach will be used to understand the perceptions, experiences, and views of individuals regarding zakat al-mal. This approach allows researchers to explore the factors that influence the understanding and