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**EXTENDED ABSTRACTS**

**e-BOOK**

# EXTENDED ABSTRACTS e-BOOK

THE 13th INTERNATIONAL  
INNOVATION, INVENTION &  
DESIGN COMPETITION 2024



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# **ZERO POVERTY CAMPUS PROGRAM: EMPOWERING STUDENT NEEDS BASED ON THE ZAKAT SYSTEM**

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## **ABSTRACT**

The Campus Zero Poverty Program is an initiative at UiTM Perak Branch under the Zakat, Sedekah, and Wakaf Unit, aimed at achieving the goal of no poverty, which is the first of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) initiated by the United Nations. The mission of this program is to ensure that all diploma and degree students have sufficient educational financial resources to cover the minimum cost of educational needs for a semester. To achieve this mission, three objectives have been outlined. Firstly, establishing an inclusive zakat application system for needy students to ensure that every student in need has been given the opportunity to apply for zakat. Secondly, implement a fair zakat distribution method based on student individual financial needs. Thirdly, working on ensuring adequate zakat distribution rate compared to the minimum cost of educational financial needs of zakat recipients. The zakat needs calculation system is developed using a Google Sheet application that is automatically linked with Google Forms software as a medium for collecting application information. The individual zakat needs of applicants are automatically calculated using a specific formula to identify the budget deficit faced by the applicants by examining their financial shortcomings in covering the minimum learning costs for the current semester. Besides being used to determine the zakat distribution rate to recipients, the data obtained is also used to illustrate the level of campus poverty faced at UiTM Perak Branch in external zakat contribution applications. The performance indicator for the Campus Zero Poverty Program is measured by referring to the percentage of zakat funds collected for the current semester that sustains the overall financial deficit of the applicants for that semester.

**Keyword:** Zakat in Higher Education, Campus Poverty, Zero Poverty, Sustainable Development Goals

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Generally, the term poverty refers to the economic status of a family. However, in the context of higher education in Malaysia, almost all students from poor families or those in the B40 category have undergone interventions in the form of educational sponsorships, either through loans or scholarships. As a result, these interventions have created a new polarisation of students in higher education institutions in terms of financial needs. With the amount of sponsorship received, students from poor families may enjoy the same or nearly the same financial status, or even better, compared to students from well-off families. The Campus Zero Poverty Program is implemented based on smart collaborations to create a sustainable poverty eradication ecosystem on a campus level through the implementation of a zakat system, specifically the returns of zakat obtained from the Perak Islamic Religious and Malay Customs Council and corporate zakat contributions from various parties.

The implementation of this program involves achieving three main objectives: inclusivity, fairness, and efficiency. Inclusivity refers to a zakat distribution system that can identify all students in need. It is by opening zakat applications to all students with financial problems without being tied to family background conditions, however easy to be managed even when receiving a high number of applications. Fairness refers to the use of a zakat distribution calculation method that ensures each recipient receives an amount of zakat corresponding to their financial needs. The aim is to achieve the zakat goal of relieving recipients from the financial difficulties they face. Based on this objective, each recipient's financial need is equal to the student's zakat need. This is determined by assessing the student's financial shortcomings in covering the minimum study costs for the current semester. Efficiency means the sufficiency of zakat funds to cover the overall financial needs required to lift students out of the campus poverty they face. The efficiency rate of zakat funds is measured based on the ratio or percentage of zakat funds for a given semester compared to the overall financial needs required to address the financial shortcomings of the students involved in that semester. The efficiency rate percentage is accepted as an indicator of the achievement of the zero-campus poverty objective at UiTM Perak Branch.

## 2. METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Campus Poverty

Campus poverty is identified by understanding the gap between the number of financial resources needed to move recipients from a state of need to a state of sufficiency, as well as their current financial status. Zakat needs are determined by subtracting the minimum educational expenses from the financial resources, as shown in Figure 1 below.

**Table 1** The Model for Calculating Zakat Needs at UiTM Perak Branch

<b>Educational expenses</b>	<b>Financial resources</b>	<b>Zakat needs</b>
Food		
Education fees	Parents	
Accommodation	+	
Transportation	-	
Course work	Sponsorship	= Zakat
Personal needs	+	
PTPTN debt	Others	
Medical costs		

### 2.2. Estimation of Minimum Financial Need

The student's minimum learning needs are estimated by looking at the requirements for meals, tuition fees, accommodation, transportation, course-related expenses for a semester, repayment of PTPTN loans, and medical costs if using sponsorship funds at the current study level, as stipulated periodically, as shown in Table 1 below:

**Table 2** Minimum Needs Rate for UiTM Perak Branch Students in 2024

	<b>Educational Expenses</b>	<b>Rate</b>
1	Foods	RM 16 per day (varies according to the average)
2	Tuition fees	Actual
3	Accommodation	Maximum RM 150 per month x 5 months
4	Transport (Sabah Sarawak)	Maximum RM 500 round trip
5	Transport (Peninsular)	Maximum RM 150 round trip
6	Transportation (campus)	Maximum RM 50 per month x 5 months
7	Personal needs	Maximum RM 50 per semester
8	Course work	Varies by program & semester (survey)
9	PTPTN debt	Actual if using sponsored money
10	Medical cost	Actual if using sponsored money

### 3.1. Data collection and Zakat Calculation

The information required to identify students' financial weaknesses is gathered through zakat applications using the Google Form application, which is synchronised with the Google Sheets application that has been equipped with the calculation formulas mentioned above. To ensure the accuracy of the information provided, applicants are required to upload documents verifying family income information, sponsorship documents, or confirmation of non-receipt of sponsorship.

## 3. FINDINGS

In 2024, utilising the campus poverty data from 2023, UiTM Perak Branch successfully obtained a corporate zakat contribution from Cagamas Berhad amounting to RM461,700.00. A comparison of campus poverty at UiTM Perak Branch for the semester of September 2023 – February 2024 (20234) and the semester of March – August 2024 (20242).

**Table 3** Campus Poverty Comparison

<b>Semester</b>	<b>20234</b>	<b>20242</b>
Campus poverty before zakat	RM 961207.60	RM 611916.53
Distribution of zakat to asnaf campus	RM 378241.25	RM477092.80
Distribution Rate	39.5%	78%
Campus poverty rate after zakat	60.6%	22%

## 4. CONCLUSION

Poverty eradication effort heavily relies on accurate data. In the context of higher education institutions, campus poverty refers to the need to cover minimum educational expenses. To obtain comprehensive and accurate information, there are two main challenges to address: first, ensuring that all students facing financial difficulties apply for zakat; second, specifying the minimum rates for each item in determining the minimum learning costs for students. This requires effective promotional methods and an efficient research handling system. It is suggested that Zakat Management in higher education institutions establish strategic relationships with student associations of each study program as mechanisms for promotion and dissemination of survey forms.

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