

**UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA**

**A CASE STUDY ON AWARENESS OF  
THE IMPORTANCE OF ZAKAT  
FITRAH AMONG STAFF IN  
JERANTUT DISTRICT ISLAMIC  
RELIGIOUS OFFICE**

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## ABSTRACT

Zakat fitrah is very important in our lives. Either the person who receives zakat or the person who issues zakat. Awareness of the importance of zakat to our society is low. The reason why the payment of zakat is important is because the purpose of zakat itself is to help the poor and needy. With the help of zakat fitrah, at least they can change their lives as with the help of zakat earned, they can cover the increasingly high cost of living nowadays. This has been supported through this study from the factors that affect the insensitivity of zakat payment. As a result, the main purpose of this study is to study and find factors that encourage all Muslims to be less sensitive to the importance of zakat fitrah. This study was conducted on the staff of the Jerantut District Islamic Religious Office (PAID). This study is based on data from a questionnaire survey that was distributed to 40 officers and staff and only 34 people were selected as a sample for this study. After analyzing the data, the research findings show that the officers and staff have a good understanding of the science of zakat fitrah, but their level of awareness about the importance of zakat fitrah should be further improved. As a result of this study, zakat institutions and society need to improve from all aspects to create more awareness of the importance of zakat fitrah. Suggested solutions are also written in this study to increase the level of awareness to be more sensitive to the importance of zakat fitrah.

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**Keywords:** Zakat fitrah, factors, solution

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# **CHAPTER ONE**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Research Background**

Islam prioritizes the establishment of a just, united and humane society. The elements that must be present in the rules of a just society are protecting people from hunger, guaranteeing social security and human dignity. Rasulullah SAW stated that hunger is one of the most severe forms of social pressure. Therefore, Islam proposes the institution of zakat as a mechanism which saves people from starvation, assistance from the perspective of everyday necessities that enable individuals to ensure socioeconomic justice in society and create an environment conducive to fulfilling obligations to Allah SWT (Patmawatie, 2008).

Zakat is a mandatory contribution for Muslims, and it can only be utilized for the reasons specified in the Quran. Islam makes it very evident that the impoverished and deprived partake in the wealth of the affluent. The purpose of the zakat and sadaqah systems is to prevent money from becoming concentrated in the hands of a few greedy individuals and to ensure that income is dispersed equitably in the Islamic economy. Islam ensures that basic needs such as food, clothes, shelter, medical care, and education shall be available to all. It has an innate mechanism for supporting an equitable income and wealth distribution through the sadaqah and zakat systems, which prohibit the concentration of wealth in a small number of hands (Saiful and Noor, n.d.).

According to Nik Hassan (1987), Ghazali et al. (1990), and Htay and Salman (2014), cases pertaining to these were handled by Majlis Agama Islam Negeri, also known as the State Islamic Religious Councils (SIRC), with the remaining non-Islamic matters being handled by the British civil and criminal law systems. They added that all Islamic matters, including zakat, were then supervised by the Majlis Ugama Islam dan Istiadat Melayu, a state-level organization. (Council of Religion and Malay Customs). The imam of each village is now able to oversee the zakat administration in their respective area thanks to the new system of governance. Previously, the local imam was responsible for providing for the poor on his own and was assumed to be in charge of overseeing the collection and distribution of zakat (Sapingi et al., 2020).