UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

EXPLORING THE LEVEL OF ZAKAT PAYMENT AWARENESS AMONG STAFF AT PEJABAT AGAMA ISLAM DAERAH TEMERLOH

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ABSTRACT

Every Muslim is obliged to fulfill the fourth pillar of Islam, which is paying zakat as it plays an important role in fostering social and economic well-being. The level of awareness regarding the importance of paying zakat among Muslims is still low even though it is a major pillar in the Islamic economic system. This is because a lack of awareness and understanding of zakat knowledge causes a few people to fail to fulfil their obligations in paying zakat as a Muslim. The aim of this study is to evaluate the level of awareness of paying zakat among PAID Temerloh staff and as well as focusing on the factors that influence a person's sensitivity in paying zakat. The study uses quantitative methodology, using Krejcie and Morgan's formula (1970) to determine the sample size from the population of 30 staff at PAID Temerloh. Data was collected using Google Form and only distributed to 28 staff who were selected as a sample. After analyzing the data, it was found that staff at PAID Temerloh have a good understanding of zakat, but their awareness of the importance of zakat knowledge remains low. The study findings show that almost all staff know about the obligation to pay zakat, but there are still gaps regarding how to implement zakat. This study concludes that zakat authorities need to further increase their efforts in promoting zakat obligations so that the amount of zakat fund collection can be increased each year.

Keywords: Awareness of zakat, the importance of zakat payment, Pejabat Agama Islam Daerah Temerloh (PAID).

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CHAPTER ONE INTRODUCTION

1.1 Research Background

Zakat is one of the pillars of Islam and is an obligation for every Muslim to carry out. The primary goal of zakat is not only to help the needy but also to cleanse the soul from greed and as a sign of gratitude for the blessings that have been bestowed by Allah S.W.T (Rahman *et al.*, 2021). This is because Islam has clearly explained that a person's surplus property that is sufficient for nisab and haul needs to fulfil the obligation to pay zakat. In addition, zakat is not just a religious obligation but rather to strengthen the country's socio-economic system (Al-Haddad *et al.*, 2024). However, each individual's level of awareness regarding zakat payment may vary because it is influenced by various external factors. In this study, the Pejabat Agama Islam Daerah Temerloh is an institution that plays an important role in promoting Islamic values and related to the spread of religious knowledge. Furthermore, civil servants in religious institutions like this should have a deep understanding of zakat because they not only act as professionals but act as an influence on Muslims in fulfilling their zakat obligations.

Therefore, this research aims to determine the current level of awareness of civil servants at the Temerloh District Islamic Religious Office regarding the obligation to pay zakat. This research will provide a true picture of their knowledge and understanding of zakat. This is because the level of awareness of zakat will affect the amount of zakat collection. With this, researchers can identify gaps and challenges in their understanding of zakat and can subsequently suggest strategies that can increase their compliance and awareness of zakat.