[Research Article]

Strategy of Dompet Dhuafa in Empowering Poor Communities in East Java Province

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Abstract
Dompet Dhuafa is a philanthropic institution sourced from funds from zakat, infaq, alms, and waqf as well as other halal funds aimed at empowering the poor through humanitarian activities and social entrepreneurship. Dompet Dhuafa takes part in community empowerment through activities aimed at reducing poverty in East Java by the second goal of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The data collection used in this study is a literature study based on available references. Dompet Dhuafa has various programs that can be implemented in East Java, namely the Poor Community Empowerment Program by providing training to improve skills. This program is also in line with the RPJPD, RPJMD, and RTRW of East Java Province. However, the dependence of recipients on assistance makes the community not independent. In addition, there is a thought from the recipient that the business capital lent by Dompet Dhuafa is not obligatory to be returned so the recommendations that can be given are that the recipient is expected to be more enthusiastic and participative.

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Abstrak
INTRODUCTION

Since Indonesia's independence, economic issues have always been the main development priority (Al-Qauri, 2017). Poverty is one of the causes of economic problems in society, including in East Java Province. In 2018, the percentage of poor people in Indonesia reached 9.66% and 10.85% or 4.29 million people for East Java Province (BPS Provinsi Jawa Timur in the RPJMD Privinsi Jawa Timur). Meanwhile, in rural areas, the poor population is 15.21%, and in urban areas it is 6.97%. The East Java government has made various efforts to improve the level of welfare of its population, both in terms of improving economic performance and efforts to equalize development, especially in rural areas. Through these efforts, it is hoped that there will be a sustainable reduction in poverty in both rural and urban areas. Indonesia has quite deep and multidimensional problems so it is very important to address them with the support of all stakeholders. Solving economic and social problems in Indonesia requires more than government intervention. This is an opportunity for social entrepreneurship institutions to facilitate the strategic resolution of social problems with innovative and holistic solutions (Al-Qauri, 2017).

In Indonesia, the institution that operates in the field of social entrepreneurship is Dompet Dhuafa. This institution is a Zakat amil institution which has 31 branch offices domestically and 5 branches abroad in 2019, including the East Java branch (Dompet Dhuafa, 2020). This institution has many programs carried out, namely in the fields of education, economics, and empowerment, as well as social and humanitarian. To assist the government in overcoming poverty in East Java, especially in villages that are dominant in national development, as well as being a volunteer in helping community welfare, Dompet Dhuafa took the initiative to empower the community, especially the poor through the Independent and Empowered Village, Livestock Village, Healthy Agriculture Empowerment program (P3S), and Tough Trader.

The pattern of empowering poor communities that are needed is no longer activities that are top-down interventions that do not uphold the aspirations and potential of local communities or institutions to carry out self-help activities, but what is most needed by the lower classes of society, especially those living in villages, is an empowerment pattern that is bottom-up intervention, which appreciates and recognizes that the lower levels of society have the potential to fulfill their needs, solve their problems, and be able to carry out productive businesses with self-reliance and togetherness (Hasanuddin, 2008). Empowerment is a change for the better, namely from being helpless to being empowered. Empowerment is related to efforts to improve living standards to a better level. This article aims to describe the community empowerment and social innovation programs carried out by Dompet Dhuafa East Java in overcoming poverty, their relationship to the Regional Long Term Development Plan (RPJPD), Regional Medium Term Development Plan (RPJMD), and Regional Spatial Plan (RTRW) of East Java Province, as well as the challenges faced and the resulting recommendations.

METHOD

This research was conducted in East Java Province. East Java Province is geographically located between 111.0° E – 114.4° E and 70.12° S – 8.48° S, with an area of 47,963 km² which includes two main parts, namely mainland East Java and the Madura Islands. The land area of East Java is 88.70% or 42,541 km², while the area of the Madura Islands is 11.30% or 5,422 km². The population according to the results of the 2020 Population Census is 40.67 million people with a population growth rate for the 2010-2020 period of 0.79%/year (BPS Jawa Timur, 2021).

East Java is one of the provinces that is a service zone for Dompet Dhuafa and Zakat representative institutions to optimize empowerment programs to overcome various social problems in the East Java region. This research uses descriptive qualitative research. According to Noor (2016), qualitative research is research that emphasizes processes and meanings that are not studied strictly or have not been measured in terms of quantity, amount, intensity, or frequency. The data source comes from secondary data resulting from literature studies. The approach used in this research emphasizes the socially constructed nature of reality through literature study.
RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Several programs have been launched by Dompet Dhuafa to alleviate poverty and improve the quality of human resources in communities in need. This program has a multipurpose labor-intensive concept, namely a program that has various plans with a focus on empowering communities, especially those on the poverty line and marginal areas, by prioritizing the use of resources, labor, and location technology to improve the quality of these communities. The programs implemented by Dompet Dhuafa are of course in line with the goals of sustainable development or Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) initiated by The United Nations (UN), namely through community empowerment in the fields of agriculture, animal husbandry, fisheries, and Small and Medium Enterprise (SMEs) which are in line with The first goal of the SDGs, namely no poverty. The Dompet Dhuafa Institute, which is present in East Java Province, is actively involved in efforts to increase the empowerment of the East Java community through the activities it produces. The following will explain recommendations for Dompet Dhuafa programs that can be implemented in East Java along with their implementation, recommendations, and challenges faced in implementing the program.

1. Dompet Dhuafa Program for Community Empowerment

Dompet Dhuafa not only focuses on the aspect of zakat distribution as its main program but developing the quality of human resources is one of Dompet Dhuafa's vision and missions in alleviating poverty. The scope of Dompet Dhuafa's activities is not only focused on the island of Java but extends to all regions of Indonesia and even actively participates in volunteer activities abroad, so that what originally Dompet Dhuafa focused on distributing zakat, began to shift to developing human and economic resources. The following are several Dompet Dhuafa programs that can be implemented in East Java, namely:

Economics Program

The economic program owned by Dompet Dhuafa prioritizes improving rural communities, one of which is the independent and empowered village area program. This program is a service and empowerment by providing training and
education to the community in an area to create an independent community in improving the economic level of the community. Raising regional potential and improving the quality of education and health (Abudalisa & Baidlowi, 2021). Reporting from memorandum.co.id, the East Java Provincial Government is currently trying to improve the community’s economy in the Micro PKPM situation. The economic program implemented by Dompet Dhuafa has the potential to help middle and lower-middle-class people who experience economic difficulties and need assistance in the form of capital and training to improve the economic level of society.

Livestock Village
The livestock village (kampung ternak) program is implemented to optimize community potential in the livestock sector. Intensive training and assistance to people who make their living as livestock breeders is expected to be able to improve the quality and welfare of the livestock breeders themselves. In research conducted by Al-Qurai (2017) with a case study of Binjai District, it was explained that the livestock village program implemented by Dompet Dhuafa aims to map the distribution of breeders in certain areas, the formation of breeder groups, the distribution of financing for livestock activities, the existence of business networks, and breeders, or what is known as local cadres can run and manage livestock cooperatives. Apart from that, Dompet Dhuafa also provides a market for farmers through the Sacrificial Animal Distribution program.

Healthy Agricultural Empowerment Program (P3S)
The agricultural empowerment (pemberdayaan pertanian sehat) program aims to create an independent, prosperous, and sustainable society through agricultural aspects. The form of contribution provided is assistance in the form of materials to support agricultural activities, such as rice seeds, fertilizer, and pest poison according to community needs by adjusting the predetermined budget plan (Susilawati, 2016). With this assistance, it is hoped that an improvement will be created in terms of the community’s economy so that they can start living an independent life.

Tough Trader
The tough trader (pedagang tangguh) program is Dompet Dhuafa's effort to empower the community, especially those who are entrepreneurs. Dompet Dhuafa is committed to forming and strengthening the existence of traders so that they can continue to trade independently and are trusted by the community. For example, in the Malang case study (Abudalisa & Baidlowi, 2021), Dompet Dhuafa empowered meatball traders in Malang, such as capital business assistance in the form of barrows and supporting facilities, increasing the capacity of partners, as well as assistance from Dompet Dhuafa to meatball traders during one year. Apart from that, capacity strengthening is also carried out by holding partner training, such as entrepreneurial strategies and financial management.

Education programs
The program implemented by Dompet Dhuafa does not only focus on developing entrepreneurial activities but also on educational aspects. Providing achievement scholarships to outstanding students and female students who experience financial difficulties in carrying out their study activities is carried out to improve the quality of Indonesian education. Apart from that, there are also Quran Houses (rumah Quran), Rural Schools (Sekolah pelosok), Great Teachers (guru hebat), and Learning Houses (rumah belajar) in Dompet Dhuafa activities which are Dompet Dhuafa's work program in the field of education.

2. Social Innovation Related to Empowerment Programs
This empowerment program was carried out to anticipate the occurrence of wrong targets in the distribution of zakat funds. Apart from that, this method is considered more objective in the formation of an independent society, which will then turn from being obliged to receive zakat funds into people who are obliged to receive zakat. This great hope then became the rationale for carrying out an empowerment program for the poor in Dompet Dhuafa, East Java.

The approach taken by Dompet Dhuafa East Java in carrying out the empowerment program is through direct recommendations from institutions, and Dompet Dhuafa East Java partners, and there are also direct submissions...
from Mustahik. Then proceed with conducting a survey through ARM (Analysis of Raw Materials) of the local community. If the proposed program matches the program category in Dompet Dhuafa East Java, then an MPP (Program Planning Matrix/Matrik Perencanaan Program) is created and followed by a Focus Group Discussion (FGD). After completing the FGD, a Large Budget Plan (RAB/Rancangan Anggaran Besar) was created to implement the program proposed by Dompet Dhuafa East Java to Dompet Dhuafa central government.

Meanwhile, to determine the areas that will be the objects of the empowerment program, Dompet Dhuafa goes directly to the community to conduct surveys related to problems occurring in the community. That's not enough, Dompet Dhuafa carries out direct communication (dialogue) with the community regarding the various problems they face so that they conclude the most basic problems. With these conclusions, Dompet Dhuafa then created a program to overcome this.

**Assistance in Realizing Empowerment Programs**

Mentoring and empowerment are a package that cannot be separated. Because empowerment is sustainable in nature, a companion is needed who can guide and direct the community in carrying out its activities, so that the planned program can be realized well and in a targeted manner. The companion's closeness to the surrounding community is very necessary, so it is not wrong if Dompet Dhuafa East Java assists in two ways, namely:

First, Dompet Dhuafa's collaboration process with local partners, such as communities or institutions that are willing to act as companions in implementing community empowerment. This collaboration is carried out to facilitate intense communication between companions and the community because after all, it is the local community who understands more about the environmental conditions or psychology of the community. This collaboration is also carried out if a community or institution submits a request for a collaboration program proposal. However, they are not immediately accepted but rather make a selection first on the proposed program. If the program is by the existing program at Dompet Dhuafa East Java, then it is recommended.

Second, open recruitment is carried out openly, but by going through various processes first, for example; interviews, psychological tests, and medical tests were carried out. Apart from that, no less important thing to consider is the issue of sufficient experience and skills related to the field of the community empowerment program.

After determining the companion, the next process is to hold training related to mentoring materials and also related empowerment program issues that will be implemented in the area that has been determined through a survey first. After going through various briefings carried out by Dompet Dhuafa East Java and deemed sufficient, the assistants were deployed to the communities they accompanied to carry out monitoring, and then report on the situation and developments.

Dompet Dhuafa East Java, in this matter of assistance, only supervises the development of the community being assisted through regular coordination meetings and Monitoring and Evaluation (MONEV). This effectiveness is of course also a consideration when assisting. Mentoring will be effective if the companion functions properly. The role or function of mentoring as explained above includes several things, including: motivation, providing awareness and skills training, self-management, resource mobilization, network building, and animator. Considering that Dompet Dhuafa is a large institution and resides in Surabaya, it is impossible to provide direct assistance from the institution's administrators, but the institution only carries out coordination, evaluation, and monitoring.

**3. Program relationship with RPJPD, RPJMD, and RTRW**

The relationship between the East Java Dompet Dhuafa Program and the RPJPD of East Java Province

Poverty is one of the strategic issues in the 2005-2025 East Java Province RPJPD and poverty reduction is one of the development policy directions in East Java. Poverty is indeed a challenge in East Java. If not addressed, poverty will have a domino effect, such as social inequality, regional inequality, increasing unemployment, low economic growth in the real sector, declining quality of existing human resources, low community access to various...
public services, and even loss of opportunities for the poor. To improve their bargaining position and carry out vertical mobility to improve their standard of living (Biro et al., 2009).

To deal with poverty and improve the bargaining position of the poor against all forms of exploitation and superordination, what is needed are truly real economic facilities (kemudahan ekonomi) and social opportunities that favor the poor and unemployed (Biro et al., 2009). In this case, economic convenience is an opportunity and increasingly open access for poor people to various sources of capital and business opportunities without being burdened with difficult requirements, while social opportunities are efforts to increase opportunities for poor people to carry out vertical socio-economic mobility through fulfilling basic needs, one of which is education (Syuraidah, 2011; Ismail et al., 2018; Yusuf, 2018). This can be done not only by the government. Humanitarian institutions such as Dompet Dhuafa can be important actors in overcoming poverty in East Java through various existing programs (Table 1).

The existence of institutions that help in overcoming poverty in an area has a very positive impact on that area. The various programs carried out by Dompet Dhuafa East Java are indirectly in line with several agendas contained in the 2005-2025 East Java Province RPJPD. It is hoped that this will help the East Java Government achieve success in its long-term regional development plans by reducing the poverty index in East Java.

**The relationship between the East Java Dompet Dhuafa Program and the RPJMD of East Java Province**

The development direction in the RPJMD refers to the main targets in the RPJDP of East Java Province for 2005-2025. RPJMD for East Java Province 2019-2024 follows or refers to the main development targets of Stage III (2015-2019) and Stage IV (2020-2024) in the RPJPD for East Java Province 2005-2025. One of the missions of the East Java Province RPJMD 2019-2024, specifically mission 2, namely "Creating Socially Just Welfare, Fulfiling Basic Needs, Especially Health and Education, Providing Employment Opportunities by Paying Attention to Vulnerable Groups", with goal 1 being The Reduction of Poverty Rates with the target of reducing Rural Poor Population. The strategies implemented include: 1) synchronizing poverty reduction programs between central and regional levels, between sectors with specific locations and targets, 2) increasing the sustainability of micro and small businesses to reduce poverty rates, 3) expanding and improving the quality Joint Business Groups, 4) improving the welfare of

### Table 1. The Relationship between the East Java Dompet Dhuafa Community Empowerment Program and the East Java Province RPJPD 2005-2025

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Policy Direction</th>
<th>Stages</th>
<th>Agenda</th>
<th>Dompet Dhuafa Program</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stage II (2010-2014)</td>
<td>Productive economic business facilities for poor communities</td>
<td>Independent and Empowered Village, Livestock Village, Healthy Agricultural Empowerment (P3S), Resilient Traders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty Alleviation</td>
<td>Stage III (2015-2019)</td>
<td>Facilitate access for poor children who excel at secondary and higher education levels</td>
<td>Scholarships, Quran Houses, Rural Schools, Great Teachers, and Learning Houses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stage IV (2020-2024)</td>
<td>Skills development for poor communities in developing business capabilities</td>
<td>Independent and Empowered Village, Livestock Village, Healthy Agricultural Empowerment (P3S), Resilient Traders</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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communities in areas vulnerable to access (disadvantaged, outermost, innermost), and 5) increasing development, empowerment and guidance of village communities (Biro et al., 2009).

The Governor and Deputy Governor of East Java have more firmly expressed their support (affirmative) for the poor through an economic growth strategy that is a pro-poor community, which is based on the idea that growth and equality must occur simultaneously. This requires the importance of coordination and synergy of planning and financing for East Java Province with programs and activities from ministries and institutions so that the impact of central fund allocations can be managed efficiently to support the resolution of regional problems, such as poverty, inter-regional disparities, and problems other development.

The community empowerment program carried out by Dompet Dhuafa East Java can help the East Java Government in carrying out its strategies. Moreover, the Governor and Deputy Governor of East Java clearly stated that coordination and synergy are needed in planning and financing. In this case, Dompet Dhuafa, which acts as a non-profit institution, is expected to be able to more efficiently allocate the funds obtained without any influence from other parties so that it can help the East Java Government achieve the success of the regional development goals and objectives for the 2019-2024 period which have been planned in terms of poverty alleviation.

The relationship between the East Java Dompet Dhuafa Program and the RTRW of East Java Province

Apart from being in line with the RPJPD, the preparation of the RPJMD of East Java Province 2019-2024 must pay attention to and consider regional spatial planning objectives and policies, spatial structures, spatial pattern plans, as well as directions for space utilization as stated in Regional Regulation Number 5 of 2012 concerning the East Java Province RTRW 2011-2031. In general, the development of East Java's spatial structure has led to the dominance of urban areas, thereby affecting the economy of rural areas (Peraturan Daerah Provinsi Jawa Timur, 2009). Urbanization and regional agglomeration are phenomena that continue to grow and lead to greater urban hierarchies.

To control the development of developing urban areas that tend to continue to grow and have the potential to encourage mega-urban development, balance urban development and control the development of built-up areas in urban areas in harmony with rural areas by the carrying capacity and principles of sustainable development, the spatial structure of the East Java region is divided into 7 (seven) development areas (WP) in the Urban System Plan Article 19 Section 3, namely (1) Germakertosusila Plus WP, (b) Malang Raya WP, (c) Madiun WP, (d) Kediri WP, (e) Probolinggo-Lumajang WP, (f) WP Blitar, (g) WP Jember, and (h) WP Banyuwangi, which always supports services in the social, educational, health and other fields, such as human resources, agriculture, economics and tourism (Biro et al., 2009). This is in line with the second mission in the RPJMD of East Java Province 2019-2024, namely Creating Socially Just Welfare, Fulfilling Basic Needs, Especially Health and Education, and Providing Employment Opportunities by Paying Attention to Vulnerable Groups.

The existence of 7 (seven) development areas in the RTRW of East Java Province 2011-2031 is expected to be able to reduce the inter-regional disparities that occur in East Java. This is also in line with various community empowerment programs carried out by Dompet Dhuafa East Java, especially poor communities in rural areas by prioritizing the use of resources and workforce in the area to improve the quality of the community and the region.

4. Challenges Encountered and Recommendations that Can Be Made

Challenge

Beneficiary dependency, such as the enthusiasm of the beneficiaries in accepting the program, is more short-term, they always hope for fast funding, while the empowerment program implemented aims to build independence. This indirectly hinders the implementation of the program because of the dependence on other people which causes the self-reliance process to take longer. Apart from dependency, awareness of returning loan funds is also a challenge. Beneficiaries assume that the business capital loans provided are not required to be repaid, which has an impact on the realization of subsequent capital loans for those
who are in arrears and influences the running of the empowerment program. Furthermore, there is a lack of knowledge in financial management. This can be seen from the way they manage finances in their business which tends to be more towards consumptive use so that the business they run develops slowly. Characters who tend to be different also pose a challenge. The members' different characters and thoughts when implementing the program, egotism, and laziness still often appear. This can be seen from the level of participation, but it is also influenced by the beneficiary's routine, making it difficult to carry out assistance.

**Recommendation**

Beneficiaries value enthusiasm and participativeness in implementing empowerment programs because this can influence Dompet Dhuafa's enthusiasm to continue to help and strive for the best. Apart from that, support is also needed from the government, such as in facilitating local poor data which will further assist the Dompet Dhuafa team in selecting beneficiaries who will be included in the empowerment program. Mentors and training providers also need to be optimized so that they have entrepreneurial skills that can support economic life. Recipients of empowerment through funding and assistance should maximize the funds received so that they are managed well and utilize the provision or training received to increase their capacity to improve their economic life. The government also needs to select potential beneficiaries so that the assistance provided is more targeted at those who need it.

**CONCLUSION**

Dompet Dhuafa as a zakat distribution institution has had various innovations to distribute zakat to alleviate poverty in Indonesia. Through its various innovation programs, Dompet Dhuafa does not just give zakat but rather assists, and provides guidance and training so that the funds can be used as working capital so that zakat recipients obtain a decent and independent income.

Armed with training, several Dompet Dhuafa programs also encourage people to think creatively and innovatively. In implementing its innovation programs, this institution pays attention to the potential of the target area. The area is mapped according to its potential so that the right program is obtained to improve the standard of living of the people in the area.

**REFERENCE**


