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Between Doctrine and Custom: A Sociological Study on the Distribution of Zakat to Santri

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Abstract: This research evaluates the practice of zakat distribution to santri in Aceh through the sociology of Islamic law approach. In Acehnese society, religious figures such as Davah, Teungku, and Abi have high authority that influences socio-religious practices, including the allocation of zakat. This respect forms a social doctrine that prioritizes santri as zakat recipients, even though their economic status is not always categorized as fakir (destitute) or miskin (poor) in the classical zakat provisions. This research uses qualitative methods, in-depth interview techniques, and participatory observation involving Tgk Imum, amil, and Davah leaders in ten villages. The results identified three main factors shaping zakat distribution: community perceptions of santri, the strength of social networks, and the role of 'urf (local custom). Santri are positioned as fighters in the cause of Allah (fi sabililläh), and their proximity to religious authorities strengthens this legitimacy, Based on sahih 'urf. this practice integrates sharia principles with local socio-cultural dynamics.

Keywords: Zakat Distribution, Sociology of Islamic Law, Santri, 'Urf

Abstrak: Penelitian ini mengkaji praktik pendistribusian zakat kepada santri di Aceh melalui pendekatan sosiologi hukum Islam. Dalam masyarakat Aceh, tokoh-tokoh agama seperti Dayah, Teungku, dan Abi memiliki otoritas yang tinggi sehingga mempengaruhi praktik-praktik sosialkeagamaan, termasuk dalam hal pengalokasian zakat. Penghormatan ini membentuk doktrin sosial yang memprioritaskan santri sebagai penerima zakat, meskipun status ekonomi mereka tidak selalu dikategorikan sebagai fakir atau miskin dalam ketentuan zakat klasik. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif dengan teknik wawancara mendalam dan observasi partisipatif, yang melibatkan Tek Imum, amil, dan pimpinan Davah di sepuluh desa. Hasil penelitian menejdentifikasi tiga faktor utama yang membentuk distribusi zakat: persepsi masyarakat tentang santri, kekuatan jaringan sosial, dan peran 'wf (kebiasaan lokal). Santri diposisikan sebagai pejuang di jalan Allah (fi sabililiāh), dan kedekatan mereka dengan otoritas keagamaan memperkuat legitimasi ini. Berdasarkan 'urf yang sahih, praktik ini mengintegrasikan prinsip-prinsip syariah dengan dinamika sosial-budaya lokal.

Kata Kunci: Distribusi zakat, Sociologi Hukum Islam, Santri, 'Urf

Sociological Odysseybrief Custom

Roger B. M. Cotterrell

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