

Implementation of zakat, infaq, and sadaqah fund distribution through the Sanggar Genius program at the National Zakat Institution Yatim Mandiri Jember

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Volume

6

Issue

2

Edition

November

Page

682-687

Year

2025

Article History

Submission: 26-05-2025

Review: 02-06-2025

Accepted: 24-06-2025

Keyword

Distribution of ZIS;
Sanggar Genius;
Zakat Management;

How to cite

Lestari, I. D., & Siswanto, A. (2025). Implementation of zakat, infaq, and sadaqah fund distribution through the Sanggar Genius program at the National Zakat Institution Yatim Mandiri Jember. *Jurnal Pengabdian Masyarakat*, Volume 6(2), 682-687 <https://doi.org/10.32815/jpm.v6i2.2690>

Abstract

Purpose: This study aims to analyze the mechanism of ZIS fund distribution through the Sanggar Genius program at LAZNAS Yatim Mandiri Jember and assess the impact of ZIS fund distribution in the implementation of the Sanggar Genius program at Laznas Yatim Mandiri Jember.

Method: This study uses a descriptive qualitative method with a purposive approach, namely by selecting informants based on certain criteria. A total of 9 informants were selected, including the Head of the Yatim Mandiri Branch, Yatim Mandiri Program Staff, 5 guidance counselors, and 2 beneficiaries. Data collection techniques were carried out through direct observation in the field, interviews with relevant informants, and collection of relevant documents.

Practical Applications: The National Zakat Agency Yatim Mandiri, through the Sanggar Genius program, seeks to improve access to education for orphans and poor families through free tutoring outside of school hours. This program is a form of ZIS fund distribution that focuses on tutoring, character building, and scholarships. Its implementation includes needs surveys, coordination with villages, recruitment of local teachers, and distribution of funds for teacher salaries, learning facilities, and social assistance.

Conclusion: The results of this study show that the process of distributing zakat, infaq, and sadaqah (ZIS) funds through the Sanggar Genius Program by LAZNAS Yatim Mandiri Jember Branch has been carried out in a systematic and structured manner, and refers to the principles of Islamic law and applicable regulations, particularly Law Number 23 of 2011 concerning zakat management. The impacts include an increase in the number of Sanggar Genius centers, academic and character development among students, and alleviating the economic burden on parents through free education and intensive mentoring.



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Introduction

Within the framework of Islamic economics, zakat is not merely a ritual obligation, but also a socio-economic instrument that serves to redistribute wealth from the wealthy to the poor (mustahik) (Anggi Luthfiah Pane et al., 2025). Distributive justice is a fundamental pillar in the Islamic economic system, emphasizing the fair and equitable distribution of wealth among members of society (Latif Mahmudi et al. 2020). In the Islamic view, the distribution of wealth is not only seen as a matter of economic efficiency, but also as a moral and social obligation that must be carried out with the principles of justice, balance, and equity (Moh Husni Mubarak et al., 2024). One of the main objectives of wealth distribution is to prevent the accumulation of wealth in the hands of a few individuals and to ensure that wealth can be enjoyed by all levels of society (Kalsum, 2018). In fiqh zakat, infaq, and sadaqah, the main principles of wealth distribution are social justice, benefit, and equity (Nurul Syafriani et al., 2025). In Indonesia, the main regulation is Law Number 23 of 2011 concerning Zakat Management (Law 23/2011), which stipulates that the management of zakat, infaq, and sadaqah (ZIS) must be carried out in an orderly and accountable manner. When transparency and fairness are achieved, the trust of recipients and the community in the institution will increase, which indirectly supports the effectiveness of zakat as an instrument of redistribution and empowerment.

LAZNAS Yatim Mandiri, as one of the zakat management institutions in Jember, strives to address the issue of children's education, especially orphans and the poor, through the Sanggar Genius Program. As a National Zakat Institution, Yatim Mandiri is committed to improving the social welfare of orphans and the poor through ZISWAF (Zakat, Infaq, Shodaqoh, Wakaf) funds, as well as other funds sourced from individuals, groups, or companies and institutions that are halal and legal. As part of the educational development under the auspices of LAZNAS Yatim Mandiri, the Sanggar Genius program is one of the initiatives undertaken. Sanggar Genius is a learning assistance program for orphans that focuses on two main aspects, namely mathematics and morals. The aim of this program is to complement the children's activities outside of school. Not only does it emphasize academic aspects, but the program also includes guidance on Islamic values, such as faith and morals, learning the Qur'an, and memorizing the Qur'an.

Comparatively, ideally (in theory), zakat management in Islamic economics functions as an instrument of wealth redistribution and empowerment of mustahik based on the principles of justice, transparency, and accountability. Based on sharia and the provisions of Law No. 23 of 2011, the Zakat Institution should distribute funds to eight groups (asnaf) in a targeted, open manner, as well as being oriented towards increasing the independence of recipients through productive and sustainable programs. In practice at Sanggar Genius, the Zakat Institution has implemented some of these ideal principles through non-formal education activities for orphans and the poor, such as tutoring and character building (). This program is a tangible form of mustahik empowerment in the field of education, which not only focuses on financial assistance but also on improving human resource capacity. However, strengthening the aspects of transparency in reporting and program evaluation is still necessary so that zakat management is more in line with the principles of justice and accountability, which are the basis of the theory of zakat distribution in Islamic economics.

Method

This study used a descriptive qualitative method with a purposive approach, namely by selecting informants based on certain criteria. A total of nine informants were selected, including the head of the independent orphan branch, independent orphan program staff, five guidance counselors, and two beneficiaries. Data collection was conducted through interviews, observation, and documentation (Heni Julaika Putri et al., 2025). Data validation was carried out through source triangulation and member checking of the interview results. This study used descriptive analysis techniques as a data analysis method, in which the

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researcher described the objective conditions of the research subjects and presented them in the form of sentences.

The selection of the research location in Jember district was based on the fact that Jember is one of the regions that is active in implementing the Sanggar Genius program, which is a non-formal education program managed by a zakat institution and has shown significant progress in improving access and quality of learning for children from underprivileged families. Thus, Jember is considered a representative location for examining the implementation of zakat as an instrument of empowerment and improvement of human resource quality.

Result

The results of the study show that the National Zakat Institution Yatim Mandiri, through the Sanggar Genius program, seeks to improve access to education for orphans and poor families through free tutoring activities outside of school hours. This program is a means of distributing zakat, infaq, and alms (ZIS) funds, which are focused on tutoring, character building, and scholarships. The implementation began with a needs assessment survey, coordination with the village government, and recruitment of assistant teachers from the local area. ZIS funds were distributed in the form of teacher salaries (*fisabilillah*), the provision of learning facilities, merit-based scholarships, and other social assistance.

During the implementation of the Sanggar Genius program, several obstacles were encountered in the field, including participant discipline issues, which were likely caused by a lack of supervision from parents and the influence of their social environment. The solution implemented was routine coaching and regular meetings with parents to strengthen communication and shared responsibility. In addition, the influence of gadget use has also become a challenge, mainly due to the lack of positive alternative activities outside of school hours. To overcome this, the institution held digital literacy programs and online creative activities to channel interests more productively. The results of this study are in line with the findings (Fina Dwi Wijayanti, 2022) which show that zakat-based tutoring programs are effective in improving participants' academic performance. However, this differs from the results of a study (Khanana Nihla, 2023) which revealed challenges in the sustainability of the program without support from formal institutions. This program has proven to have a positive impact, with around 70% of participants experiencing an increase in academic achievement, especially in mathematics, and showing changes in attitude towards greater independence, discipline, and religiosity. Additionally, skills training and religious activities further develop participants' creativity and strengthen their character. The number of centers has increased from 5 to 13 over the past two years, indicating positive progress in the implementation of this non-formal education-based empowerment program.

Discussion

Based on the research findings, the LAZNAS Yatim Mandiri Jember Genius Studio program distributes ZIS funds in a structured manner through regional mapping, village licensing, and beneficiary selection through RGTS. This program provides free tutoring, moral guidance, and financial assistance to orphans and the poor, including accompanying teachers. Monthly evaluations are conducted to maintain effectiveness, with the aim of empowering underprivileged children to continue their education and expanding benefits through the addition of studios in various regions. The Sanggar Genius LAZ Yatim Mandiri Jember program has shown positive impacts in various aspects, such as an increase in the number of studios, academic achievement, character building, and economic relief for families.

The image shows learning activities at Sanggar Genius Yatim Mandiri Jember, a non-formal education program aimed at orphans and underprivileged children. A group of children can be seen sitting in a circle on the floor with small folding tables, participating in learning activities guided by a teacher. They are dressed modestly and wear skullcaps, reflecting the

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religious and educational atmosphere of the learning environment. Overall, this image depicts the tangible implementation of the educational empowerment program for orphans and underprivileged children through tutoring, character building, and academic improvement in a simple but meaningful atmosphere.

Figure 1. Learning activities: Example of a genius program implementation by Sanggar



Sumber: Private Documentation, 2025.

The distribution of ZIS funds through the Sanggar Genius Program run by LAZ Yatim Mandiri Jember has had a significant and positive impact in various aspects. First, in terms of program development, there has been a rapid expansion in the number of Sanggar Genius centers. Initially, there were only five centers, but now the program has expanded. This shows that the program has been well received by the community and has strong potential for sustainability. Second, there has been an improvement in the academic performance of students. This can be seen from the increase in report card scores in both formal schools and internal studio assessments. This improvement is particularly evident in subjects such as mathematics. In addition, this program also contributes to character building in children, especially in terms of instilling moral and religious values such as morals and manners. Third, from a family economic perspective, the program is considered to have a significant impact. Many parents feel financially assisted because their children have access to additional education for free. In addition, support in the form of intensive learning assistance and spiritual reinforcement provides peace and hope for beneficiary families. Fourth, there has been a positive behavioral change in children participating in the program. They show a positive attitude towards their children.

Conclusion

Based on the results of the discussion, it can be concluded that the distribution of ZIS funds through the Sanggar Genius Program by LAZNAS Yatim Mandiri Jember Branch has been carried out in a systematic and structured manner, and refers to the principles of Islamic law and applicable regulations, particularly Law Number 23 of 2011 concerning Zakat Management. First, the process of distributing these funds includes several important stages, starting from initial planning, mapping the target areas, the beneficiary selection process, to the implementation of activities and periodic evaluations. This program is not only limited to financial assistance, but also contributes to non-formal education, such as tutoring services and character building for children, which are carried out consistently every week. Second, the impact of the program's implementation is felt in various aspects. First, in terms of institutional development, the number of Genius Studios has grown significantly, from five initial locations to thirteen. This shows a positive response from the community and stronger program sustainability. Second, there has been an increase in student academic achievement, reflected in improved grades, especially in mathematics, as well as progress in better and more polite attitudes and behavior. Third, from a socioeconomic perspective, this program has been proven to ease the financial burden on parents, as their children have access to free additional education and intensive learning assistance. In addition, the presence of active

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mentor teachers also has a positive influence on children's academic and character development.

Several strategic steps are needed to develop the Sanggar Genius program. From the perspective of zakat management, institutions need to implement a periodic monitoring and evaluation system to ensure the effectiveness and accountability of ZIS fund usage. Program innovation also needs to be developed through the integration of technology into Sanggar Genius learning, which is a strategic step to increase learning effectiveness and appeal. Through the use of digital media and e-learning platforms, the learning process becomes more interactive, flexible, and accessible. In addition to strengthening academic abilities, this integration also helps shape children's character to be adaptive to developments in the digital era. With positive results, this program is worthy of replication in other regions with similar social and economic characteristics so that its benefits can be felt more widely.

Acknowledgements

The researchers would also like to express their deepest gratitude to the National Zakat Agency Yatim Mandiri Jember, which has provided the opportunity and platform to conduct research on the distribution of ZIS funds through the Sanggar Genius Program. Gratitude is also extended to all Yatim Mandiri Jember staff, especially the Branch Manager, program staff, Sanggar Genius assistant teachers, mustahik involved, and the community who have always been donors and supported the continuity of the Sanggar Genius Program, so that this research could be carried out and completed properly. The author also thanks the supervising lecturer for the guidance, direction, and support provided.

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