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# Critical Study on Bekerja Program Implementation as Economic Empowerment: Sharia Economic Perspective

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### Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengevaluasi efektivitas program BEKERJA dalam pengentasan kemiskinan di Desa Salutambung dengan mendistribusikan ternak. Ini menilai dampak program pada pemberdayaan ekonomi, ketahanan pangan, dan kepatuhannya terhadap prinsip-prinsip ekonomi Islam, sambil mengatasi masalah seperti kesalahan alokasi sumber daya dan ketergantungan. Metodologi penelitian melibatkan analisis kualitatif untuk menilai efek program di Desa Salutambung melalui wawancara dan pengamatan di tempat. Pengumpulan data melibatkan pemeriksaan pemberdayaan ekonomi, ketahanan pangan, kolaborasi dengan Departemen Urusan Soal, dan kepatuhan terhadap prinsip-prinsip ekonomi Islam. Temuan menunjukkan bahwa program BEKERJA berhasil mengurangi kemiskinan dengan menyediakan ternak untuk rumah tangga yang kurang beruntung, sehingga meningkatkan pemberdayaan ekonomi dan ketahanan pangan. Kemitraan dengan Departemen Urusan Soal telah meningkatkan kesejahteraan dan status ekonomi masyarakat. Namun demikian, inisiatif bantuan sosial seperti BEKERJA menghadapi hambatan seperti kesalahan alokasi sumber daya dan bantuan teknis yang terbatas. Studi ini tidak memiliki analisis mendalam yang dapat menawarkan wawasan untuk meningkatkan program BEKERJA lebih lanjut.

Kata Kunci: Ekonomi Islam, Pemberdayaan Masyarakat, Program Bantuan Sosial

### Abstract

The research aims to assess BEKERJA program's effectiveness in reducing poverty in Salutambung Village by providing farm animals. It evaluates the program's impact on economic empowerment, food security, and its alignment with Islamic economic principles, while addressing challenges like resource misallocation and dependency. The research methodology involves qualitative analysis to evaluate the program's impact in Salutambung Village through interviews and observations as field research. Data collection includes examining economic empowerment, food security, collaboration with Social Affairs Department, and alignment with Islamic economic principles. The study concludes that the BEKERJA program effectively reduces poverty by providing livestock to needy households, enhancing economic empowerment and food security. The program's collaboration with the Social Affairs Department has improved community welfare and economic conditions. However, some social assistance programs, including BEKERJA, face challenges such as resource misallocation and lack of technical support. The research lacks analysis that could contribute to further improving BEKERJA program.

Keywords: Community Empowerment, Islamic Economic, Social Assistance Program

Muh. Ilyas. H, Mahsyar Idris, Syahriyah Semaun, St. Nurhayati Ali, Damirah **Introduction** 

Poverty has emerged as a persistent and contemporary concern in nearly all nations, including Indonesia. Local governments undoubtedly have their own initiatives to address this issue; poverty is a significant economic concern, and throughout its processes, nations recognize poverty as a multifaceted problem due to the fact that it affects a large number of people, irrespective of their social status. Due to the complexities of poverty, there has been an ongoing development of strategies to reduce its prevalence. The government, in particular, assumes a significant role in addressing this issue through various programs designed to empower small businesses, provide social assistance, and empower communities. These initiatives are carried out by various local government components, including the ministry of agriculture.

The Ministry of Agriculture has launched the BEKERJA program to provide aid like poultry coops, feed, and medication to impoverished households. Integrated agricultural activities aim to boost income and animal protein supply for low-income families. The program expanded to 23 provinces in 2019 to accelerate poverty reduction in the agricultural sector, address malnutrition, and improve food security. The government, led by the Ministry of Agriculture, executes the BEKERJA program to alleviate poverty and enhance community welfare by providing livestock assistance to villages in Indonesia. The main goal is to offer direct assistance to impoverished village communities to improve their income and well-being, despite facing challenges such as inadequate planning and target identification, which need to be addressed for long-term effectiveness. Poverty is a widespread issue recognized globally, even in advanced nations like the United States. The research focuses on poverty in the Village of Salumtambung in Indonesia, where many work as fishermen due to the village's location near the sea. The lack of diverse professions leads to financial limitations and dependency on the ocean's resources. The village's vulnerability to natural disasters like tsunamis and floods further exacerbates the situation. To improve the village's economic potential, the social aid program BEKERJA assists in establishing farms and livestock breeding to reduce poverty and dependency on the ocean.

The BEKERJA program as a solution to poverty serves the purpose of providing social assistance to enhance the economic ability of residence in a certain area. This program was conducted with strict selection of beneficiaries, in which this social assistance was distributed in the form of animals for livestock breeding. The beneficiaries are people classified as households under poverty status and have the empty field as part of their yard to be used as a farm. In order to select the beneficiaries correctly, the ministry of agriculture used data provided by the Central Regional Statistics Bureau (BPS) of Majene. Other than



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this, several persons from the ministry itself were also assigned to perform observation and surveys, ensuring that the program would deliver an optimal result in reducing poverty in the selected area. Further, to ensure the program is worth continuing, evaluations of the progress are conducted every few months, remembering that breeding animals isn't a short process.

Poverty often causes unequal access to opportunities, health care, education, and purchasing power. Poverty hinders access to social services and basic necessities including food, housing, and clothing. This often perpetuates poverty by preventing the next generation from getting quality work and education. Additionally, poverty can lead to criminal conduct, social unrest, and human rights violations (Karyadara et al., 2022). Explained by (Hudani et al., 2021) that poverty gives rise to social instability, hinders political and social participation, restricts an individual's ability to acquire resources, and creates general problems such as limited access to education and health services, escalating unemployment due to income insufficiency, and compromised political and social participation. Before implementing the Prosperous People's Poverty Surgery (BEKERJA) program, the government implemented a number of strategic measures to alleviate poverty. These included the following: enhancing the database for targets and implementing a single card for non-cash distribution; distributing the Family Hope Program (PKH), which was integrated with other forms of aid to promote savings and access to additional services; reforming targeted food and energy subsidies; and optimizing the utilization of resources (Salina et al., 2022).

BEKERJA as a program is aware of many weaknesses, which are: (1) Lack of Needs Analysis: Lack of preparation may mean there is no adequate analysis of the true needs of the community receiving assistance; (2) Lack of Program Planning: The "Prosperous People's Poverty Surgery" program may require a comprehensive and sustainable strategy to overcome poverty problems; (3) Inability to Identify Appropriate Targets: Without sufficient preparation, it may be difficult to properly identify the population groups that need this assistance. (4) Lack of Evaluation and Monitoring: Poor preparation can also hinder the ability to conduct effective program monitoring and evaluation. (5) Lack of coordination: programs such as "Prosperous People's Poverty Surgery" often involve various parties, including the government, donor agencies, and non-governmental organizations. The Indonesian government's BEKERJA Program attempted to alleviate poverty and unemployment, its biggest problems. This program aims to improve community welfare and reduce poverty in disadvantaged Indonesian villages by boosting economic development. The Ministry of Agriculture launched the BEKERJA program to help underprivileged communities improve their quality of life and finances through integrated agriculture. This

Muh. Ilyas. H, Mahsyar Idris, Syahriyah Semaun, St. Nurhayati Ali, Damirah involves helping and empowering people and providing resource management advice to improve the community.

Empirical research has also illustrated about the BEKERJA program regarding its effectiveness, explained by (Latifatunniswah & Meilani, 2023) that The Prosperous People's Poverty Surgery (BEKERJA) effort to reduce agricultural poverty has mixed results. Its main goal is to increase rural community groups' income by involving them in productive activities and offering help on regionally advantageous commodities. The goal is to generate economic value for underprivileged agricultural households with this intervention. It focuses on three subregions of poverty. Although the objective of this program is to enhance the income of impoverished communities by enabling them to produce and sell agricultural products and thereby empower them through the establishment of such enterprises, its execution continues to be beset by a number of obstacles (Saleha & Ma'ani, 2020). A primary issue refers to the community's inadequate training and supervision regarding the cultivation of the aid provided. Consequently, certain individuals resort to reselling the aid due to their lack of comprehension regarding the cultivation process. Further, empirical research by (Mulvani & Firmansvah, 2023) that the program's (BEKERJA) intended beneficiaries, specifically individuals living below the poverty line, are accurate in identification; however, the program does not engage in direct socialization with these beneficiaries. It is not possible to say that the overall objective of this program, which is to enhance the economic situation of breeders, has been met, as breeders have not utilized the assistance to its fullest capacity. Additionally, the aid provider fails to conduct surveillance of the aid recipients, preventing them from assessing the deficiencies of the implemented programs.

BEKERJA has designated Salutambung Village, which is situated in the Ulumanda District of the Majene Regency in the province of West Sulawesi, as one of its beneficiary villages. Within the confines of Salutambung Village, this initiative aims to augment the income and protein supply of impoverished households (RTM) by providing chickens, cage construction expenses, feed, and medication through livestock assistance endeavors. Salutambung Village faces significant poverty problems, with 236 out of 379 heads of families (KK) categorized as poor. This level of poverty shows that the economic situation of the Salutambung Village community is still not advanced, even though the village has strong local wisdom, such as the nature of mutual cooperation. This program (BEKERJA) provides assistance in Salutambung Village in the form of chickens, cage construction costs, feed, and medication, with the overarching objective of enhancing community welfare and alleviating poverty in the area. Additionally, this program engages in partnership with the Ministry of Social Affairs to foster societal prosperity through the provision of empowerment and aid,



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along with guidance on effective resource management. The BEKERJA Programme is anticipated to significantly contribute to the economic empowerment of the village community, including Salutambung Village, in this manner. Therefore, the objective of this paper is to analyze the effectiveness of the BEKERJA program in alleviating poverty in the Salutambung Village Region of Majene. In its process, this paper will also explain this program from a sharia economic perspective on its attempted act as a community empowerment program.

### **Methods**

This research is qualitative, using a field research approach to provide a systematic illustration of the BEKERJA program implemented in the village of Salutambung, Region of Majene. During the process of this research, the data was collected using an interview, with a total of 10 informants. The paper will gather relevant data aligned with the purposes of this research. The observation also conducted in this research. The aims of the observation are to provide real-time evidence of how the interaction of the people in the location of this research will reflect natural situations that are actually happening without any alternation, providing an advantage to this research. After collecting data, this research will go through several steps in order to make sure that the data are valid and relevant to this research and have similarity to this research and have similarity with any other empirical evidence, which will highlight that the findings of this research were not fabricated and provide true facts regarding the topic of this research. This research was conducted in a few steps. The early research on the BEKERJA program was the first step to ensure that the location had been on the program for quite some time. This research was conducted to evaluate not only the implementation but also how the program had managed to improve the economic ability of residence in general. Informants in this research were selected and divided into two groups to obtain information on both the perspectives of the beneficiaries and the local government. After finding the informant, the observation of beneficiaries was also conducted, both on the farm and on the overall financial condition of the families.

There are four steps in order to ensure the quality of the data in this research which is (1) Credibility test were conducted in deep continuous observation, gathering more information through empirical research, and comparing the result with any other empirical research; (2) Transferability test conducted by ensuring that the condition by the end of this research resemble any other condition, in order to achieve this in depth interview were conducted; (3) Dependability test were conducted by consulting the result of this research with supervisor and co-author in order to evaluate the overall progress and process of this

Muh. Ilyas. H, Mahsyar Idris, Syahriyah Semaun, St. Nurhayati Ali, Damirah research; and (4) Confirmability test were conducted by analyzing the overall result in order to detect anomaly in result and ensuring that all the process were fulfilled and written in this research, the lack of this test can cause bias and cause confusing condition where there are result which aren't valid or appear out of nowhere.

The credibility test is carried out, among other things, by extending observations, increasing persistence in research, triangulation, discussions with colleagues, negative case analysis, and member checks. A transferability test is an external validity test that shows the degree of certainty or applicability of research results to the population from which the sample was taken. This transfer value relates to the question, so that the research results can be applied in other situations. The dependability test is carried out by auditing the entire research process. It often happens that researchers do not carry out the research process in the field but can provide data, and finally, the confirmability test, which is similar to dependability testing, can be carried out simultaneously. Testing confirmability means testing research results linked to the research process carried out so that the research has met confirmability standards.

## **Result And Discussion**

Several findings have emerged from this research upon its completion. These findings have been categorized into sections, each of which represents a variety of results. The findings of this study will be systematically discussed in order to comprehend the effectiveness of the BEKERJA program in the Village of Salutambung Region of Majene.

### The Form of BEKERJA as Economic Community Emporwerment

The implementation of the "Bedah Kemiskinan Rakyat Sejahtera" program in Desa Salutambung aims to alleviate poverty by enhancing economic empowerment through providing poultry and goats. The program offers 50 chicken chicks, funding for coops, medication, vitamins, and two goats per recipient. Collaboration with the Social Affairs Department ensures program effectiveness and beneficiary data reliability. The program has assisted 66 households with chickens and 15 with goats, impacting the community's welfare positively by providing resources for food and economic improvement. The BEKERJA program in Desa Salutambung is successful in implementation, effectively distributing assistance to the community and promoting economic empowerment and food security through targeted support. Collaboration with the Social Affairs Department further ensures beneficiary data reliability, highlighting the program's structured and potentially effective approach. The BEKERJA program has significantly improved welfare and economic conditions in Desa Salutambung, providing sustainable aid for the community's benefit.



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Form of social assistance have many variety, this were also become an interest subject to research on, many empirical evidence illustrated the effectiveness of social assistance in their research, such as (Dewi & Andrianus, 2021) The social assistance program discussed in the paper is the Bantuan Langsung Tunai (BLT), which translates to Direct Cash Assistance. This program was first introduced in Indonesia in 2005 with the aim of reducing poverty. The effectiveness of the BLT program is highlighted through its positive impact on decreasing poverty levels and increasing household consumption in Indonesia from 2006 to 2019. Another research by (Melani, 2023) The paper discusses a social assistance program named "BEKERJA" aimed at improving the income of poor households in villages through the provision of KUB chicken livestock assistance. The findings reveal varied responses, including rejection of the assistance package, acceptance, and enthusiastic support for the program. However, there are issues with the program's implementation, such as diseases affecting the poultry and feeding problems. In order to ensure the success of this program, the household must develop motivation to develop the commodity further, which seems not to be applied. The form of social assistance was often misused; people often understood it as charity, resulting in little to no effect at all. Empirical research by (Melati et al., 2021) discussed general government spending on social welfare programs, referred to as "Belanja Bantuan Sosial" (Social Assistance Spending). The paper evaluates its effectiveness in reducing poverty levels in districts and cities within West Java Province during the years 2015-2019. The findings indicate that social assistance spending did not have a significant impact on reducing poverty. The ineffectiveness is attributed to the small benefits received from such spending. However, when combined with education and health spending, social assistance contributes significantly to poverty reduction, with these three types of spending collectively contributing 88.85% to the reduction in poverty levels.

Social assistance provides help to the poor. The BEKERJA program in Desa Salutambung gives poultry and goats to the community. Beneficiaries get 50 chicken chicks, funding for coops, medication, vitamins, and two goats each. The program aims to boost economic empowerment and food security by providing animal protein sources and income opportunities. The BEKERJA program's effectiveness is shown by assisting 66 households with chickens and 15 with goats. This indicates a significant impact on welfare, offering immediate food resources and long-term economic prospects. Collaboration with the Social Affairs Department ensures reliable beneficiary data, highlighting the structured approach of the program. Overall, the program focuses on providing tangible resources like livestock and support for their care to enhance economic welfare and food security within the community.

Implementation of BEKERJA as Economic Community Empowerment Program

Muh. Ilyas. H, Mahsyar Idris, Syahriyah Semaun, St. Nurhayati Ali, Damirah The implementation of the BEKERJA program in Salutambung involves several key aspects as identified through research on similar programs in other villages. These aspects include:

- Socialization of Activities: The first step is to inform the community about the BEKERJA
  program through socialization efforts at the Salutambung village office. This aims to
  provide information on assistance, building animal pens, giving vitamins and
  medications, and managing the assistance.
- 2. Identification of Suitable Recipients: It is important to identify suitable individuals for BEKERJA program assistance to distribute aid effectively. The program is new in the community, and people lack readiness and knowledge in managing the assistance.
- 3. Distribution of Assistance: Distribution of aid occurs at Salutambung village office with the participation of village government and community members. Assistance like chickens is given after pen construction. Recipients must have proper infrastructure before receiving aid to care for livestock.

Implementation of social assistance often faces many difficulties. In this matter, the role of the government in ensuring this program's effectiveness doesn't always go according to plan; there are setbacks and miscalculations. The same issue was often found in past research, as social assistance programs were only given sometimes without a brief explanation of what their true intentions were, leading to the misperception that social assistance is a form of charity from the government. Empirical research by (Fadhli & Nazila, 2023) identified a significant setback in the implementation of the social assistance program, particularly with the BPNT (Bantuan Pangan Non Tunai), which was the issue of targeting accuracy. This included problems such as the misidentification of beneficiaries, where aid was sometimes received by individuals who were not the intended needy recipients, and issues with the amount of aid provided not being appropriate or sufficient. This issue were also faced by (Lindiasari & Ramadhani, 2019) in a different form this research highlighted several setbacks in implementing social assistance programs in Indonesia, including inefficiencies and ineffectiveness of social protection programs, many cases where the poor and vulnerable did not receive comprehensive protection, and a minimal reduction in poverty rates, with only a 0.29% decrease per year over the last four years. Research by (Takasaping et al., 2023) also faced the same problem, in which the research found that the social assistance program did not significantly reduce poverty levels in the Sangihe Islands Regency. Contrary to government expectations that social assistance would help cut poverty rates, the study revealed that social assistance actually contributed to an increase in poverty in the area. In summary, the problem that is often found in implementing social assistance



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programs is their distribution. The distribution often misses some of the priority people who are supposed to receive the benefits. Another problem is that the program objectives are often not completed due to the fact that social assistance programs are viewed as charities.

BEKERJA, like other social assistance programs, faced setbacks due to inadequate preparation in identifying beneficiaries, leading to resource misallocation. Recipients' lack of knowledge on managing assistance hindered program success. Limited field facilitators made it challenging to provide support to all beneficiaries, affecting program effectiveness. Implementation of BEKERJA in Salutambung faced setbacks due to lack of preparation, resulting in misallocation of resources. Recipients lacked knowledge to manage assistance, hindering program success. Insufficient initial data collection on aid criteria made it difficult to accurately identify those in need, risking fund misuse. Thorough preparation and initial data collection are crucial to ensure aid reaches those in genuine need and can manage it effectively.

The people of Salutambung responded positively to social assistance from the BEKERJA program. Mr. Haris, a beneficiary, thanked the program for providing economic support through goats. He is dedicated to caring for the assistance, showing optimism for its economic benefits. This response demonstrates the community's gratitude for the support and hope for better economic well-being. Beneficiaries believe BEKERJA assistance differs from other programs by offering livestock for economic improvement. Mr. Haris highlighted how goats could help him financially in the future. He vowed to look after the assistance, displaying responsibility and hope for program benefits. The approach of the BEKERJA program, focusing on economic empowerment resources, is seen as valuable and unique by beneficiaries.

### Effect of BEKERJA as Economic Community Empowerment Program

The BEKERJA program in Salutambung has not yielded significant impacts on the economic empowerment of the local community. Beneficiaries face challenges such as insufficient livestock feed and inadequate assistance from program officers. These issues can negatively affect livestock growth, health, and expected yields. The imbalance between program officers and productive poor households hinders technical support for agricultural production. The program's effectiveness in improving the community's welfare is hindered by resource distribution and technical support gaps. This program faces challenges with livestock feed supply and assistance from officers, impacting livestock growth, health, and yields. The imbalance between officers and households hinders technical support for agricultural production and program effectiveness.

Effect of each social assistance program are different, some were able to provide benefits, other just add more complication due to its ineffective use, this will lead evaluation

Muh. Ilyas. H. Mahsyar Idris, Syahriyah Semaun, St. Nurhayati Ali, Damirah of each program for future improvements, some of this empirical research were by (Habibullah, 2019) particularly focusing on non-cash social assistance, reveals that while these programs are designed to improve financial inclusion among the poor, their impact on poverty reduction and financial behavior change is limited. The transition to non-cash social assistance was expected to foster a culture of saving among beneficiaries, vet in practice, it has only facilitated access to financial services without significantly altering the use of these services. This superficial financial inclusion has not led to meaningful poverty alleviation, as the decrease in poverty rates could be attributed to the assistance itself rather than an actual increase in recipients' income. On the same topic of this research (Nugraha et al., 2020) research focus specifically on BEKERJA program in Kediri Regency, has had a transformative effect on the local farmer groups, "Tani Jaya" and "Tani Maju," by focusing on the empowerment through Joper Chicken farming. This program was selected for its potential to generate high economic value based on the comparative advantage of the area. The program is so effective in which in order to reach its maximal potential the need for community emporwerment steps including increasing knowledge on business recordkeeping and maximizing human resources in cultivation efforts are expected to significantly improve the motivation, knowledge, and overall productivity of the farmer groups involved in the BEKERJA program. Another form social assistance program effect research by (Luthfi, 2019) specifically the Program Keluarga Harapan (PKH), has had a significant impact on improving the welfare of families in Indonesia. The program aims to alleviate poverty by providing financial aid and support services to impoverished families, ensuring that children can continue their education up to the high school level, pregnant and lactating women, as well as infants, receive adequate nutrition, and families can meet their basic food needs. This targeted assistance is designed to utilize resources, facilities, and infrastructure effectively to achieve the goal of enhancing the well-being of these families. The effectiveness of the PKH social assistance program in achieving its objectives is evident, as it has been utilized optimally for the intended purposes, aligning with theories of resource utilization for goal achievement.

The BEKERJA program in Salutambung faces challenges like inadequate livestock feed supply and insufficient program officer assistance, limiting its effectiveness. These issues hinder the program's ability to empower the local economy and improve community welfare. Inadequate feed supply affects livestock growth, health, and expected yields, especially during the harvest period. The imbalance between program officers and poor households makes it difficult to obtain necessary technical support for agricultural production. Suggestions for improvement include ensuring adequate feed supply, increasing



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program officers or using technology for remote assistance, implementing training programs for beneficiaries, establishing a monitoring and evaluation framework, and involving the community in decision-making for better program effectiveness.

### Islamic Economic Perspective on Social Assistance Program (BEKERJA)

BEKERJA, a social assistance program by the government's ministry of agriculture in Desa Salutambung, aims to alleviate poverty and empower economically. It aligns with Islamic economic principles by providing livestock, seed development, training, and mentoring for business. The initiative reflects Islamic economic empowerment concept by enabling and supporting communities to develop their economic potential. It helps meet food needs, enhances access to resources, and embodies Islamic economic principles of justice, prohibition of uncertainty and gambling, and the principle of blessing. The principle of justice (Adl) is vital in the program to ensure fair distribution of aid and business opportunities in Desa Salutambung. Islamic economics emphasizes fair resource distribution through this principle. Prohibition of gharar and maysir in the program prevents uncertainty and gambling in transactions for a stable economic environment. The principle of blessing (keberkahan) promotes moral support and cooperation among participants, leading to positive changes in their lives and welfare in Desa Salutambung. It brings material benefits and enhances harmony within families.

Social assistance program namely in Indonesia which is a large Muslim country are oriented on the principle of Islam, in which the effect its aims are not solely for invidual advantanges but for tht greater good and beneficial to many. Several empirical research showed the islamic principle alignment with social assistance program such as by (Arafah, 2021) explained that there are similarity in Zakat and government social assistance in which explained that islamic principle of social assistance is reflected in the moral obligation of the wealthy to support those who are less fortunate and unable to help themselves. This principle is manifested through the act of zakat, which is not only a form of social assistance but also a means to alleviate poverty and suffering within the Muslim community. Zakat serves to shift some of the welfare burden from the government to the community, particularly to the families and neighbors of the individuals in need, thereby reducing pressure on government budgets. This demonstrates that zakat and government welfare are aligned in providing social assistance to those who require it. Another empirical research by (Sari & Sanjani, 2023) emphasizes the importance of social protection as a means to achieve social welfare through the fulfillment of obligations towards work, family, society, and the state. This is rooted in Islamic teachings that stress the significance of work and effort as the primary means of social protection, the responsibility of the family in fulfilling obligations such as paying zakat, the societal duty to support one another through zakat, and the state's

Muh. Ilyas. H, Mahsyar Idris, Syahriyah Semaun, St. Nurhayati Ali, Damirah responsibility to meet the needs of its citizens through lawful sources of funding, including taxes. This comprehensive approach to social protection not only aims to meet basic needs but also focuses on sustainable empowerment, aligning with the Islamic values of mutual support, charity, and the equitable distribution of wealth to ensure the well-being of the entire community.

BEKERJA in this area reflects Islamic principles by reducing poverty effectively without going against Islamic economic principles. The program aligns with key Islamic economic principles like justice, prohibition of uncertainty and gambling, and the principle of blessing. It offers equal opportunities, fair treatment, and fair distribution of resources, reflecting the principle of justice. By focusing on sustainable economic empowerment and skill development, it avoids relying on uncertain income sources, following the prohibition of uncertainty and gambling. The program encourages cooperation, collaboration, and moral support among participants, leading to positive changes in their lives. This holistic approach embodies the principle of blessing by improving welfare and harmony in the community.

Sometimes social assistance program are not going according to its target, the effect of the social assistance program can vary from actuall use to being viewed as charity, one of recent research stated this that a form of dependency or "addiction" among recipients generally refers to the concern that individuals may become overly reliant on these forms of aid, reducing their motivation to seek employment or improve their economic situation independently (Haimah et al., 2022). The core of this issue lies in the balance between providing necessary support to those in need and encouraging self-sufficiency and economic independence among beneficiaries. Misuse of social assistance programs can indeed lead to more negative effects rather than achieving their intended positive outcomes. While the sources do not explicitly detail cases of misuse, they do highlight a scenario where social assistance programs do not significantly impact poverty reduction, which can be considered a negative outcome if the programs are not reaching their intended goals or are not efficiently utilized (Putri et al., 2023). Inefficacy of social assistance program could be due to unexecuted expenditures for social assistance across various health and social insurance programs created by the central and state governments, leading to fewer social assistance requests from city governments, this indicate that without proper implementation and targeting, social assistance programs may not effectively reduce poverty, potentially wasting resources and not benefiting those in dire need.



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### **Conclusion**

This article assesses the BEKERJA program in Salutambung Village, Majene, which provides chickens and goats to needy households to reduce poverty. The program, in partnership with the Social Affairs Department, aims to improve economic empowerment and food security, showing success in enhancing the community's well-being. However, social assistance programs, including BEKERJA, face challenges like resource misallocation and lack of technical support. Recommendations for improvement involve ensuring adequate livestock feed, enhancing technical support, capacity building, monitoring and evaluation, and involving the community in decision-making. The BEKERJA program follows Islamic economic principles, emphasizing justice, avoiding uncertainty and gambling, and the principle of blessing, which forms its ethical basis in poverty alleviation. Concerns about dependency and misuse of social assistance stress the need for proper implementation and targeting to effectively reduce poverty. This program, like others in Indonesia, may lead to dependency on social assistance, requiring a comprehensive evaluation to determine its continuation under the Ministry of Agriculture.

The BEKERJA program in Desa Salutambung has demonstrated positive outcomes in alleviating poverty and ensuring food security, in accordance with practical needs and Islamic economic principles. To maximize the impact of social assistance programs, challenges such as resource allocation, technical support, and community participation need to be addressed. Successful execution and precise targeting are essential to address concerns about dependency and misuse, ensuring these initiatives effectively contribute to poverty reduction. Recommendations are suggested to overcome challenges faced by social assistance programs like BEKERJA and ensure their efficient implementation and funding: Improve Livestock Feed Supply, Enhance Technical Assistance, Capacity Building, Monitoring and Evaluation, and Community Engagement.

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