

Strengthening International Networks to Support Sustainable Development through Sharia Economics

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Abstract

Community service between IAIN Kediri and UNISSA Brunei Darussalam through online activities via Zoom aims to promote community economic empowerment through sharia economic principles. The service method involves students identifying community needs, planning joint projects, and implementing online service activities. Through sharia economic projects, including skills training and sharia financial counseling, the aim of this service is to increase the welfare and income of local communities. The results of the service include community economic empowerment, changes in the economic paradigm, and intensive knowledge exchange between students and academics. This collaboration produced a real positive impact, enriching global understanding of sharia economics and making a significant contribution to sustainable development and community empowerment in both countries.

Abstrak

Pengabdian masyarakat antara IAIN Kediri dan UNISSA Brunei Darussalam melalui kegiatan online via Zoom bertujuan untuk mempromosikan pemberdayaan ekonomi masyarakat melalui prinsip-prinsip ekonomi syariah. Metode pengabdian melibatkan mahasiswa dalam identifikasi kebutuhan masyarakat, perencanaan proyek bersama, dan pelaksanaan kegiatan pengabdian secara daring. Melalui proyek ekonomi syariah, termasuk pelatihan keterampilan dan penyuluhan keuangan syariah, tujuan pengabdian ini diarahkan untuk meningkatkan kesejahteraan dan pendapatan masyarakat setempat. Hasil pengabdian mencakup pemberdayaan ekonomi masyarakat, perubahan paradigma ekonomi, dan pertukaran pengetahuan yang intensif antar mahasiswa dan akademisi. Kolaborasi ini menghasilkan dampak positif yang nyata, memperkaya pemahaman global tentang ekonomi syariah, serta memberikan kontribusi yang signifikan pada pembangunan berkelanjutan dan pemberdayaan masyarakat di kedua negara.

1. INTRODUCTION

The important role of sharia economics in supporting sustainable development has become the focus of global attention (Zunaidi, Syakur, et al., 2023). Increasing awareness of the impacts of climate change, poverty, and inequality in various countries demands holistic solutions. Sharia economics, with its principles that focus on justice, sustainability, and social welfare, is a promising alternative to overcome these challenges. However, in the context of globalization, there is a need to strengthen international networks so that the sharia economic concept can support sustainable development effectively (Zunaidi, Rizqiyyah, et al., 2023).

First of all, the data shows that the challenges of sustainable development know no national borders. Climate change, natural resource shortages, and economic problems are

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transboundary. Therefore, international collaboration is crucial to facing these challenges together (Adharani, 2017). This activity was initiated to respond to the need for a forum that allows the exchange of ideas, knowledge, and best practices for combining sharia economics with sustainable development.

The main objective of this community service activity is to create an international platform that facilitates dialogue between researchers, practitioners, and stakeholders regarding sharia economics and sustainable development. By strengthening international networks, it is hoped that cooperation will be created that produces innovative and sustainable solutions to global problems. The sustainability of the sharia economy is not just the responsibility of one country but rather a joint effort involving contributions from various parties throughout the world (Hafizah, 2021).

However, there are challenges to mutual understanding regarding sharia economics and sustainable development. Several countries still face obstacles in adopting sharia economic principles and integrating them into their development policies. Therefore, this activity will provide an opportunity for participants to discuss and find solutions to these problems, identify existing obstacles, and formulate effective implementation strategies.

Thus, through this community service activity, it is hoped that the international network that supports sharia economics can be strengthened to provide the maximum contribution to sustainable development in the future. Cross-border collaboration will open up opportunities to create greater and more sustainable positive impacts, accelerating the transformation towards a just and sustainable global economy.

2. METHODS

The community service method through service learning between IAIN Kediri in Indonesia and Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali (UNISSA) in Brunei Darussalam can be implemented through online collaboration using the Zoom platform. First of all, the two institutions can work together to identify social and economic problems that need to be addressed in their respective local communities. Through online meetings, students from both institutions can engage in virtual discussions and surveys to understand the needs and challenges faced by communities in their regions.

The next step is the selection of service learning projects that are relevant to the needs that have been identified. This project must be integrated with the curricula of both institutions so that students can apply sharia economic concepts to overcome these problems. Through Zoom sessions, students can participate in project implementation and coordinate continuously with students from partner institutions, ensuring that the services provided meet community needs and support their academic goals. Reflection and evaluation sessions can be held online to facilitate discussions between students and ensure that the service learning experience provides optimal benefits for both parties. Thus, this method will not only strengthen international collaboration between institutions but also make a significant contribution to sustainable development in the two countries.



Figure 1. Devotion method

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Community service activities carried out online via Zoom offer various innovative ways to provide positive services and contributions to society. For example, through a collaborative program between the State Islamic Institute (IAIN) Kediri in Indonesia and the Sultan Sharif Ali Islamic University (UNISSA) in Brunei Darussalam, various service activities have been carried out that take advantage of advances in communications technology. Through the Zoom platform, students from both institutions can be involved in implementing various sharia economic and sustainable development projects that are relevant to the needs of the people in their respective regions.

This service activity is realized through the holding of an international seminar by the Sharia Business Management Study Program at IAIN Kediri in 2023. This seminar invites speakers from the Sultan Sharif Ali Islamic University (UNISSA) in Brunei Darussalam. This theme reflects a commitment to strengthening international networks to support sustainable development through sharia economics. This event provides a platform for participants to share ideas, experiences, and strategies, creating a collaborative space that is important for developing sustainable sharia business concepts at the global level.

This community service is a collaborative initiative carried out online, involving presenters from Brunei Darussalam. With the theme "Strengthening International Networks to Support Sustainable Development through Sharia Economics," the presenters interactively delivered material via the Zoom platform. This initiative is not only an opportunity to introduce sharia economic concepts in depth, but it also creates strong international relations. Even though it took place online, this service succeeded in facilitating in-depth discussions and the exchange of ideas, strengthening global understanding of the role of sharia economics in supporting sustainable development.

During this online activity, students can hold virtual sharia economic counseling, training, and consultation sessions. They can interact directly with the public via the Zoom platform to provide insight, discuss solutions to economic problems, and provide education about sharia economic principles. These projects can cover various aspects, such as the economic empowerment of local communities, the promotion of sharia finance, or the development of microbusinesses based on Islamic economic principles.

An analysis of the importance of cooperation programs between countries in creating sustainable development in the field of Islamic economics emerged as a positive consequence of these activities. First of all, this collaboration program allows the exchange of knowledge and experience between students and academics from both countries. By sharing best practices and innovative ideas, this collaboration can enrich Islamic economic insight in both countries, creating a deeper understanding of how sharia economic principles can be implemented effectively.



Figure 2. Process of Implementing Service

Second, this program makes a direct contribution to community empowerment. By focusing activities on sustainable economic development, students can participate in overcoming local challenges and improving community welfare. Micro-enterprise development, increasing sharia financial literacy, and economic skills training can have a significant positive impact at the local level, creating a more balanced and sustainable economic environment.

Lastly, through this collaboration, the two countries can strengthen their international networks in the field of Islamic economics. By establishing close partnerships, both between academic institutions and between students, Indonesia and Brunei Darussalam can jointly promote sharia economic values at the international level. This provides opportunities for broader exchanges, deepening shared understanding of global challenges, and creating joint innovation in realizing sustainable development through Islamic economic principles.

In an effort to create sustainable development in Islamic economics, academics can take various strategic steps. First of all, it is necessary to carry out research and development of an

inclusive and sustainable sharia economic model (Trimulato et al., 2021). Academics can contribute to identifying economic practices that are in accordance with Islamic principles but also support aspects of sustainability and justice (Syifa et al., 2023). It is important to encourage innovation and in-depth research to create more effective and up-to-date solutions.

Furthermore, the delivery of information to academics must include the importance of Sharia financial education and literacy (Asyhad & Handono, 2017). This could include developing an in-depth curriculum on Islamic economics as well as efforts to increase public understanding of sharia financial principles. International collaboration is also an important element, where academics can act as agents of change to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and best practices with institutions in other countries.

It is important to highlight business ethics and social responsibility in the context of Islamic economics (Alawiyah, 2023). Academics can promote business practices that not only optimize financial returns but also uphold the values of justice, sustainability, and social care. In addition, the development of sharia finance that supports the principles of sustainable development needs to be encouraged, including sustainable financial products and instruments.

Finally, academics can voice the need for continuous monitoring and evaluation of the impact of sharia economics on society and the environment. This aims to measure and improve the effectiveness of the practices implemented and adapt them to the demands and developments of the times. Thus, through academic efforts combining research, education, and an active role in encouraging sustainable practices, we can together create an Islamic economy that is not only in accordance with religious principles but is also resilient and inclusive.

Collaborative activities between IAIN Kediri and UNISSA Brunei Darussalam through online community service activities via Zoom created a real impact. Community economic empowerment through sharia economic projects creates real reform by increasing local income and welfare. The change in society's economic paradigm, which now includes more principles of justice and sustainability, creates a renewal in the collective mindset. Renewed knowledge exchange between students and academics from both institutions advances insight and enriches mutual understanding regarding Islamic economics. By developing practical skills and strengthening international networks, these activities create renewal in students' global capacity and connectivity. All in all, these activities create a heady impact by encouraging positive transformations in the economy and thinking of local communities and making a significant contribution to sustainable development through the principles of Islamic economics.

4. CONCLUSION

Collaborative activities between IAIN Kediri and UNISSA Brunei Darussalam through online community service have provided a significant positive contribution. Through Zoom, community economic empowerment through sharia economic projects has increased welfare and income, while changes in the economic paradigm have created a more inclusive collective mindset. Knowledge exchange between students and academics creates deeper insights and strengthens international cooperation. This activity also provides updates on developing students' skills and strengthening their global network. Overall, this activity not only creates a positive impact on local communities but also enriches the academic environment and presents the positive values of sharia economics in a global context. Thus, this collaboration provides a solid foundation for sustainable development and positive renewal in people's thinking and actions.

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