

BUILDING THE PHILANTHROPY SPIRIT OF YOUNG ISLAM THROUGH ISLAMIC HIGHER EDUCATION

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Abstract: *Philanthropy has become a serious discourse along with introducing the concept of Civil Society to society, because its emergence is related to the topic of the independence of Civil Society which develops in society. It is important to realize that philanthropy is a narrative of social life that emphasizes natural human values. Philanthropy is also a concern for the younger generation to take part in carrying out various philanthropic activities. Conceptually, philanthropy is an activity that is very suitable to be instilled for the younger*

generation of Muslims today to be accustomed to caring for others with various voluntary social service activities in helping those in need as an expression of love between fellow human beings. The research method used in this article is descriptive qualitative research by analyzing the process..

Keyword: *Philanthropy, Islamic Youth, Islamic Higher Education*

A. Introduction

Philanthropy is generally interpreted as an attitude of generosity that is carried out by humans. This generosity aims at social change and justice which includes poverty, human rights, education, health, gender, environment and socio-cultural issues. The spirit of philanthropy or generosity carried out by mankind on earth is an effort to reduce social disparities that exist in the midst of social life.

The term philanthropy itself is closely related to the values of Islamic teachings. We can find this in several verses of the Koran with various terms, namely al-'ata al-ijtima'i (social giving), al-takaful al-insani (human solidarity), or khayri (giving for good), al-birr. (good deeds) or as-sadaqah (alms) (Ibrahim, 2008). Meanwhile, according to Merle Curti (1957) philanthropy is one of the main and key aspects of social and cultural development. Philanthropy itself is actually part of an implicit social contract that continues to expand and revitalize economic prosperity.

Philanthropy has been developing for a long time in Indonesia, but in its development it has not been categorized as a success, because it is still an awareness carried out by certain communities. Philanthropy must be a spiritual matter for all mankind, so that it becomes a culture that provides benefits and benefits to mankind itself.

Philanthropy has also become a serious discourse along with the exposition of the concept of Civil Society to society, because its emergence is related to the topic of the independence of the Civil Society that develops in society. It should be realized that philanthropy is a narrative of social life that puts forward human values naturally (Abidin, 2016). Philanthropy is also currently not only carried out by adults, but along with the development of today's progress, philanthropy is also a concern for the younger generation to

take part in carrying out various philanthropic activities. Conceptually, philanthropy is an activity that is very suitable to be instilled for the younger generation of Muslims today to be accustomed to caring for others with various voluntary social service activities in helping those in need as an expression of love between fellow human beings. Because these philanthropic activities are a requirement for values that must be instilled in the younger generation so that one day they become a generation that has good social sensitivity, is not individualistic, and has materialistic capitalist fibers. Because this is an attitude that is not good if it is embedded in the younger generation.

Building a spirit of philanthropy for the younger generation, especially the Muslim youth, is something that must be done. Given the current rapid development in the era of globalization that has changed the basic paradigm of humans, causing the erosion of human values that tend to be individualist attitudes that have led to a crisis of care among others. The young generation of Muslims today must have the spirit of philanthropy as a voluntary action in fulfilling the public interest, as a consequence of taking part in making various changes in social life in a positive direction that is beneficial (Latief, 2010).

For this reason, the role of Islamic tertiary institutions in this case becomes a strategic consideration as higher education institutions that can facilitate the pure goals of philanthropy. Islamic tertiary institutions as an intellectual platform that creates the young generation of Islam as a dignified generation are the starting points for preparing and facilitating the younger generation of Muslims in building the spirit of philanthropy (Mujiatun, 2020). The inculcation of philanthropic values through Islamic tertiary institutions is a very important action to prepare the younger generation of Muslims who have social concerns based on voluntary values which also come from the values of Islamic teachings. There are many academic and non-academic agendas of Islamic universities that can be synergized with the spirit of philanthropy for the younger generation of Islam.

The development of philanthropy through Islamic tertiary institutions which is practiced by the younger generation of Islam is a form of creativity which is a requirement for values and achievements. Already when Islamic universities build the identity of the spirit of philanthropy for students as the younger generation in building civilization in a nation. For this reason, this article will describe descriptively the steps that Islamic universities can take in building a spirit of philanthropy for the younger generation of Islam.

Method

The research method used in this article is descriptive qualitative research by analyzing the process (Sugiyono, 2015). This research was conducted at the Faculty of Islamic Studies, University of North Sumatra. Data collection techniques were obtained from primary and secondary data sources through interviews and literature studies. Respondents in this study were the Head of the Islamic Faculty of UMSU, the Head of the Study Program and several students who were members of student organizations.

Result and Discussion

The development of Islamic philanthropy in Indonesia is growing rapidly and is inseparable from the enthusiasm of middle-class Muslims who volunteer to get involved socially and politically in their country (Fauzia, 2013). The development of philanthropy has begun to shift in practice, from traditional philanthropy to modern philanthropy. The difference between these two patterns can now be felt in the current era, where modern philanthropy has

goals and programs that are planned and targeted. Meanwhile, traditional philanthropy emphasizes philanthropic behavior with individual patterns. Philanthropy also according to Laila (2019) can not only be done by parents or the rich. But all elements and strata of society today can carry out philanthropic practices as a soul calling or charity that comes from the consciousness of each individual named human.

According to Erna Witoelar (2016), forms of philanthropic practice can be done through knowledge / skills, time / energy, voice / aspiration, networking, love, and funds. One form of philanthropy that all groups can do is energy philanthropy. One of the philanthropic practices in the form of energy is to donate the energy and time they have to carry out various activities or programs that are human-oriented that do not expect anything in return. Because philanthropy in this form cannot be limited to having a certain amount of property or money. So, from that, the Muslim youth in this case becomes one of the elements of society that can realize philatropic activities with this energy pattern, and it does not rule out that Muslim youths can also carry out other forms of philatropic activities.

The potential of Muslim youth to carry out voluntary human-oriented philanthropic activities and programs is very much needed in an era that we cannot deny. Human life is full of tough challenges from various lines of life whether it is based on resources. Humans who are humble and natural disasters that never stop and take turns whack this earth. For this reason, with the phenomenon of philanthropy which is increasingly in demand by all groups, including Muslim youth, the spirit of Islamic youth must continue to be improved and directed to be able to carry out various philanthropic activities that are even better.

The role of Islamic tertiary institutions is very much needed in building this spirit, considering that this institution is an institution that produces a young generation of Islam based on intellectual values of Islam. The intellectuality of the younger generation of Muslims who are educated at Islamic universities is required to be able to apply it in a variety of voluntary activities to help humanitarian problems on this earth.

Putting philanthropic values in the educational process that is being carried out by the younger generation of Islam in higher education is very important to strengthen the charitable attitude of Islamic youth. The agenda that can be carried out either begins with an understanding of philanthropy at the concept and theory level accompanied by its practices that can be carried out by the younger generation of Islam. Moreover, the younger generation of Muslims in higher education are actually accustomed to carrying out philanthropic activities by implementing various existing programs in student organization activities. Cultivating an attitude of sharing or giving from a young age is needed as an effort to build a human mentality to be able to help each other in kindness which is the values of Islamic teachings (Qorib, 2014).

For example, the youth philanthropy program carried out at the Islamic Faculty of Muhammadiyah University of North Sumatra in collaboration with the Zakat, Infaq and Sadaqah Muhammadiyah Institute of Medan City (Lazismu Kota Medan). The program was initiated by Lazismu Kota Medan to build the spirit of the young generation of Muslims at the Muhammadiyah University of North Sumatra, especially the Faculty of Islam. As for the youth philanthropy program, which is carried out by providing a tin-shaped piggy bank provided by Lazismu Kota Medan to spark the enthusiasm of students to share at any time by setting aside the money to share with others. Once a month Lazismu Medan City officers will quote any savings or piggy bank that has been provided.

The fundraising that will be carried out will later be distributed to members of the community who need it will also be allocated for scholarships for underprivileged students, provided that 70% of the results obtained will be used to support the youth education program at FAI UMSU. And 30% will be used by Lazismu Medan City to support various philatropic

programs at the institution. Seeing this phenomenon, it is very appropriate for Islamic universities to become a forum in building the spirit of philanthropy for the younger generation of Islam. The strategic role of Islamic tertiary institutions in preparing intellectual and philanthropic young generations of Islam must be a priority agenda, so that later the younger generations of Muslims who have graduated from their education can really play a role in making various changes in the midst of people's lives (Arfandi, 2016).

The social conditions in the current era really really need the role of the Muslim youth generation to be able to play a role as an agent of changing. The philanthropic attitude of the younger generation of Islam is one of the most indispensable attitudes in building the humanitarian crisis that exists in people's lives. Thus, it is hoped that the role of the younger generation of Islam in various modern philanthropic activities by realizing philanthropic attitudes that are in accordance with their characteristics as intellectual youths through their knowledge and skills or other activities as expressed by Erna Witoelar.

Conclusion

The development of Islamic philanthropy in Indonesia is growing rapidly and cannot be separated from the enthusiasm of middle-class Muslims who volunteer. The potential of Muslim youth to carry out voluntary human-oriented philanthropic activities and programs is very much needed in an era that we cannot deny. Human life is full of tough challenges from various lines of life whether it is based on resources. Humans who are humble and natural disasters that never stop and take turns whack this earth. For this reason, with the phenomenon of philanthropy which is increasingly in demand by all groups, including Muslim youth, the spirit of Islamic youth must continue to be improved and directed to be able to carry out various philanthropic activities that are even better.

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