

ABSTRACT

This study aims to analyze the level of knowledge of Kudus community leaders regarding cash waqf, their perceptions of the practice as an instrument of Islamic philanthropy, and identify its potential for development in Kudus Regency. Kudus Regency, with the second-highest per capita GRDP in Central Java and a predominantly Muslim population, has significant potential for cash waqf development. However, public understanding and trust in cash waqf remain suboptimal.

This study employed a descriptive qualitative approach using phenomenological methods. Data were collected through in-depth semi-structured interviews and documentation with four key informants: the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the Kudus BWI (Indonesian Islamic Boarding School), Muhammadiyah figures, Nahdlatul Ulama figures, and academics from UIN Kudus who also hold concurrent positions at the BWI.

The results indicate that the level of knowledge of Kudus community leaders is quite good, although the general public's understanding is still dominated by the concept of land waqf. Community leaders generally accept cash waqf as a potential instrument of Islamic philanthropy, but with the condition that it emphasizes trustworthiness, transparency, and the readiness of the managing institution. The potential for developing cash waqf in Kudus is significant, supported by strong socio-religious capital, regional economic strength, and existing institutional networks.

Keywords: cash waqf, Islamic philanthropy, community leaders, Kudus, perception