# Sustainable, Pro-Poor and Humane Waqf Management: A Literature Study of Evidence-Based Success Criteria of Waqf Managers

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#### **ABSTRACT**

In this paper, literature on the keys to <code>waqf</code> managers' success in managing <code>waqf</code> was studied. Data from 522 journal articles that used the keyword "the success of <code>waqf</code>" suggest that the success of <code>waqf</code> managers was due to running <code>waqf</code> programs that were <code>pro-poor</code> (i.e. collaboration with microfinance institutions, venture capitals, educational foundations, NGOs, and crowdfunding). The success of <code>waqf</code> institutions that collaborate with Islamic or conventional banks and <code>waqf</code> managers' compliance with sharia are the recommended topics for further <code>waqf</code> development research. The decline of papers on <code>waqf</code> is an alarm about the need for <code>waqf</code> publication with simple techniques but answers all these issues. This study reveals that there is a need to (a) undertake research that explores new questions of Islamic strategies on modern <code>waqf</code>; (b) focus on new benefits for <code>waqf</code> stakeholders; (c) establish the robustness of the findings.

**Keywords:** Literature study, the success of *waqf* managers, pro-poor programs

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## **INTRODUCTION**

There have been many studies discussing the proper waqf models to be applied. Data extracted from the Scopus' CSV multiplatform suggest that among 522 journal articles published since 1914, 10.5% of them reported on the success of waqf. A total of 55 journal articles on waqf success discussed such sub-topics as waqf for strengthening the economy, and its pro-poor programs and humanitarian missions, and its sustainability, covering waqf practices in Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Turkey, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Pakistan, Syria, Palestine and other countries in Asia and Africa. Empirical studies that have examined waqf, among others, are Abu-Dayyeh (2019), Bekiroglu (2019), Carroll (2001), Hennequin (2019), Khan (2019), Layish (1997), Salameh et al. (2008), Suleiman & Home (2009), Tajudin et al. (2020), and Zuhur (2008). The latest article on the success of waqf was entitled "Financing with heart and intelligence: Augmenting intimacy and sustainability through Islamic fintech" written by Tajuddin et al. (2020).

However, as adopting one specific model that is most suitable for their institution is a complex task, wagf managers should consider some of these models and select one that suits their institution and the targets they want to achieve. To the best of authors' knowledge, this present article is the first study that examines earlier studies from different sub-topics of waqf. The main purpose of the study is to understand the keys to the success of waqf as written in Scopus-indexed journal articles. Research ideas on waqf managers' development are also discussed in this study. Based on this background, the present paper is divided into four sections. Section 2 surveys and discusses existing literature in each sub-topic of *waqf*, namely strengthening the economy, alleviating poverty, and waqf roles in humanity and sustainability. Lastly, section 3 discusses the main objectives and key lessons for waqf to be successful including recommendations for waqf institutions and future researchers

## **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

This research went through several stages of criteria to obtain the best recommendations for waqf managers and for further studies. The stages were as follows: (1) identification of all papers on waqf published in Scopusindexed waqf journals; (2) sorting the papers containing success stories into their sub-topics; and (3) presenting a summary of success stories of waqf managers in the form of analysis tables as suggested by Narayan and Phan (2019). In determining the research design to study the literature on wagf, this study benefited from previous researchers' insights regarding the appropriate methodology (Aguinis and Glavas, 2012; Hoque, 2014; Snyder, 2019). One such methodology was proposed by Aguinis and Glavas (2012) and also Snyder (2019) in which papers were classified based on their author, discipline and contribution. This classification is vital to enabling readers to look into the state of certain topics. Furthermore, Hoque (2014) and Snyder (2019) stressed that the motivation for conducting a literature study is to ensure the quality of the selection process and to select only quality in certain topics. Lastly, we presented meaningful recommendations that may be helpful for waqf institutions.

# **Existing research**

This literature survey research is divided into four subtopics, namely *waaf* for strengthening the economy, propoor programs, humanitarian missions, and sustainability. Furthermore, the discussion on each sub-topic is presented in Tables 1 to 4. It identifies the keys to success from 522 journal articles.

## Success of waqf in strengthening the economy

Documentation via Geographical Information System (GIS) in an effort to maximize *waaf* in strengthening the economy is recommended by Asni *et al.* (2020). GIS allows *waaf* managers to analyse the area they want to develop in order to examine whether it fulfils the criteria for *istibdal*.

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In addition, the benefits of wagf for the economy are stated by Asni & Sulong (2019) who recommended that to increase the productivity, a motivation to apply the magashid sharia must be possessed. Algudah (2018), Chabou (2019), Khan (2019), Mansouri Daneshvar & Bagherzadeh (2013) examined waaf for the economy with recommendations of strengthening the social, economic, geological, topographical, geophysical and petro graphical awareness of waqf managers. Khan (2019) specifically mentioned how waaf would help the economy through a circular scheme by funding small businesses so that they would be successful and impactful for the community. In that sense, waqf should be inclusive in its human development, and should give service to the society and preserve the ecological environment. Through the venture waqf scheme with capital protection as its primary concern and return on investment (ROI) as its secondary concern, this scheme simultaneously lends fund to the business and at the same time promotes it, using a financial mechanism called as equity at default (EaD), essentially replacing collateral and foreclosure requirements with compassion and responsibility. Moreover, Md Zabri & Mohammed (2018) examined a potential cash wagf to provide affordable Islamic home financing in Malaysia. This scheme would use a musharakah mutanagisah. The challenges were that cash waaf need to present a correct business model, implement a good governance structures and employ the right people. However, this study was hypothetical and has yet to be implemented. (Fianto et al., 2019). In addition, Abdelhamid (2001) showed that waqf management has significant environmental and social impacts which in turn affects the economy. The highlights of the study are presented in Table 1 below.

**Tabel I.** *Waqf* to strengthen the economy

Sub-topic	Papers	Findings
	(Asni et al.,	Geographical Information System (GIS) for waqf administrators helps the economic
	2020)	circulation
	(Asni & Sulong,	The application of <i>maqashid sharia</i> by <i>waqf</i> management helps economic circulation
	2019)	
	(Chabou, 2019)	Social, geological and petro graphical awareness must be strengthened among waqf
	(Chabou, 2019)	manager
	(Khan, 2019)	Waqf must support the circulation of community businesses through financing
Waqf to		schemes that provide guarantees (the perpetuity of capital)
strengthening	(Alqudah et al.,	The benefits of waqf assets are restored by performing topographical and
0 0	2018)	geophysical analysis
economy	(Mansouri	A waqf management structure should follow the needs of socially beneficial projects
	Daneshvar &	
	Bagherzadeh,	
	2013)	
	(Salameh et al.,	Waqf creates benefits for the external environment
	2008)	
	(Abdelhamid,	Waqf managers must possess business ideas
	2001)	

According to Table 1, <code>waqf</code>'s role in strengthening the economy is manifested by creating circular economy and business projects that benefit the surrounding community by delivering <code>waqf</code> program information through GIS and meeting the objectives of the religion (<code>maqashid sharia</code>). The creation of multi-benefit activities by itself will drive the economic cycle.

# Success of waqf in alleviating poverty

Studies by Elesin (2017), Hassan et al. (2019), Muhammad (2009), Omar & Sanyinna (2018), Razak (2020), Ziyaviddinovna & Sagdullaevich (2020) explored the efficiency of poverty alleviation missions by waaf. Poverty alleviation programs begin with a religious approach followed by building community awareness and selfreliance, and finally improving the economy, education, health, and welfare, Elesin (2017) examined how waaf is used in Nigeria. Although knowledge about waaf is limited, there is an attempt to raise awareness among Muslim communities and scholars in Nigeria. This study also highlighted the support needed from the government to provide incentives and regulatory frameworks for waaf institutions. Bekiroğlu (2019) conducted research using a hadith interpretation approach and recommended seven waqf management suggestions that must be performed by nazhirs (waaf managers). In relation to this, Atan & Johari (2017), Gamon & Tagoranao (2018), Khan (2019), Mohamed Azmi et al. (2019), Yakubu & Abdulaziz (2019) found that poverty alleviation through waaf and zakat can be executed by strengthening government's waaf regulations. Razak (2020) specifically recommended the stakeholders to use cash waaf and zakat collection and distribute them through Islamic banks and takaful in Malaysia.

There is another group of literature on waqf managers that focus on understanding the determinants of poverty alleviation. Wulandari (2019) recommended waqf managers to use the qordh al-hasan, a financing model in collaboration with Baitul Maal wat-Tanwiil (BMT) to reduce poverty. The target of this qordh al-hasan financing is people at the very bottom of the economic pyramid in Indonesia. In addition, Abdul-Majeed Alaro & Alalubosa (2019), Abdullahi (2020), Amuda et al. (2019), N. R. M. Zain et al. (2019) recommended the use of both fiqh and conventional laws to formulate waqf management strategies and standards in defining what constitutes poor families. The highlights of the studies are presented in Table 2 below.

Tabel II. Waqf for poverty alleviation

Sub-topic	Papers	Findings
	(Razak, 2020)	Zakat-waqf are used in combination to reduce poverty levels
	(Ziyaviddinovna &	Reducing poverty through waqf in Uzbekistan is performed by campaigning
	Sagdullaevich, 2020)	the benefits of waqf
	(Bekiroğlu, 2019)	Waqf administrators must comprehend waqf legal bases namely the Quran
	(Bekirogiu, 2019)	and hadith provisions concerning Islamic social finance
	(Khan, 2019)	To reduce poverty, a labor-intensive waqf venture is the recommended
		model
	(Yakubu & Abdulaziz,	In Nigeria, poverty alleviation through waqf is carried out by providing
	2019)	basic education through high school (using <i>waqf</i> funds)
	(Mohamed Azmi <i>et al.</i> ,	The success of waqf in reducing poverty in Islamic countries begins with the
	2019)	mastery of <i>fiqh</i> , fundamental Islamic laws, and conventional laws.
	(Wulandari, 2019)	Waqf must collaborate with BMTs to finance the poor using waqf linked
	(Wulanuari, 2019)	deposit funds
Waqf for	(Abdul-Majeed Alaro &	In Bangladesh, cash waqf administrators' compliance with Islamic
poverty	Alalubosa, 2019)	principles is the main key to poverty alleviation
alleviation	(N. R. M. Zain et al.,	There are waqf crowdfunding innovations for poverty alleviation programs
aneviation	2019)	
	(Amuda <i>et al.</i> , 2019)	In Nigeria, waqf financing agribusiness and potential economic sectors is a
		poverty alleviation project scheme
	(Abdullahi, 2020)	In OIC countries, waqf administrators are recommended to care about the
	, ,	environment
	(Omar & Sanyinna,	Assets of personal waqf as a benefit to the poor
	2018)	
	(Gamon & Tagoranao,	The Government must reform <i>waqf</i> regulations to reduce poverty
	2018)	
	(Hassan <i>et al.</i> , 2019)	The importance of fairness and equitable distribution of income principles
	(Elesin, 2017)	Some <i>waqf</i> is in the form of wells, agricultural land, and educational facility
		buildings
	(Atan & Johari, 2017)	Zakat and waqf are for economic productivity
	(Muhammad, 2009)	Some waqf administrators have initiatives for poverty alleviation programs

Table 2 presents poverty reduction through *waqf* that can be done using a micro-finance institution collaboration scheme. In addition, training in *waqf* management and benefits distribution can be done in collaboration with educational institutions. Collaboration with related parties (microfinance, educational foundations, venture capitals, *waqf* crowdfunding, and other social institutions) is aimed at increasing public awareness and *waqf* beneficiary transparency.

## Waaf for humanitarian missions

For humanity, waqf can be conducted in projects that take care of prisoners, foreign workers, and natural disasters, religious associations, orphanage houses, as well as other humanitarian missions. According to Fadhilah et al. (2017), Harun et al. (2017), Saad et al. (2019), Yusuff et al. (2017), the effectiveness of waqf for humanity can be achieved in collaboration with universities, healthcare institutions, and other humanitarian facilities. Furthermore, the universities and institutions should implement

governance that supports humanitarian activities through waqf. Saad et al. (2019) study showed that waqf for books procurement can be done in Yamen, whether it is Islamic books or science books. Yemeni scholars gave attention to this type of humanitarian project. Fauzia (2008), Mansor et al. (2015), Salleh et al. (2015) found that fostering a sense of humanity through waqf can be accomplished by building public facilities such as mosques, hospitals, Islamic boarding schools, educational institutions, and other facilities that support the achievement of humanitarian missions.

According to Isin & Üstundağ (2008) waqf for humanity can be performed through cooperation between waqf institutions and the government as well as humanitarian institutions as practiced in Turkey. Their study showed that waqf can be distributed especially for women in support of their role in taking care of the family. The results of the 12 studies are presented in Table 3 below.

Tabel III. Waqf for humanitarian mission

Sub-topic	Papers	Findings
Waqf for humanitarian mission	(Saad <i>et al.,</i> 2019)	In Yemen, <i>waqf</i> is managed using investment schemes to have an impact on socio-economic, educational and humanitarian development
	(Yusuff <i>et a</i> 2017)	l., Waqf at educational institutions can support income distribution and humanitarian security
	(Harun <i>et a</i> 2017)	l., Waqf governance regulations play a role in benefiting humanity
	(Fadhilah <i>e</i> 2017)	<i>Waqf</i> for humanity can be done through the cooperation of public and private universities
	(Mansor <i>et</i> 2015)	al., Historic mosques tourism can support waqf for humanity

(Salleh <i>et al.</i> ,	Land waqf can be maximized with humanitarian social projects such as
2015)	establishing orphanages, temporary markets, and disaster posts
(Fauzia, 2008)	The history of waqf will support the practice of waqf for humanity
(Kachkar, 2017)	Empowerment projects for refugees using waqf funds help humanitarian
(Kaciikai, 2017)	missions
(Isin & Üstundağ,	Humanitarian <i>waqf</i> to raise women status is a multi-benefit creation strategy
2008)	-

# Waqf for sustainability

Articles on waqf sustainability are the most prevalent among other categories. The literature on waqf sustainability varies. Tajudin et al. (2020), N. R. M. Zain et al., (2019), examining waqf management in Finland and Malaysia, concluded that Islamic fintech that separate the features of waqf, zakat, infaq and charity have a potential to attain waqf sustainability. N. S. Zain & Muhamad Sori (2020) conducted an exploratory study of musharakah to explore sustainable and responsible investment (SRI) scheme of waqf-linked sukuk for waqf asset development in Malaysia. They believed this would attract more investment and would be feasible to be implemented. The SRI sukuk scheme could also be structured to support the financial of waqf assets development into viable incomegenerating assets that can help social programs.

Research by Tahiri Jouti (2019) claimed that waqf sustainability can be achieved through publicizing social issues both by individuals and government to businesspeople using funding schemes that meet Islamic principles. The study also offered an idea to build an Islamic social finance ecosystem that will enhance effectiveness from its specific instruments in terms of financing and investment. These include waqf, sadaqah, zakat, qard hasan, and so on. In this case, we can see how Islamic banks play their role as an Islamic social financial institution that will pool these

funds (Herianingrum et al., 2019). According to Abd Jalil et al., (2019), M. Sulaiman & Zakari (2015), S. Sulaiman et al. (2019), Yumarni et al. (2019) a combination of wagf, zakat, infaq, and charity through easy access to financial facilities, government regulations and human resources improvement for waqf managements are keys to waqf sustainability. Study by M. Sulaiman & Zakari (2015) determined four components to measure financial sustainability and vulnerability, i.e. equity balance, administrative costs, revenue concentration, and operating margin. The study found that two waaf institutions from Selangor and Trengganu, Malaysia, had generated significant results to keep their institutions sustainable financially in the future. S. Sulaiman et al. (2019) also studied how to maintain waaf sustainability through unit trust waqf. Unit trust waqf models are foreseen to become alternative models of Islamic social finance in multiplying the generated revenue for beneficiaries and creating more job opportunities for recipients through direct engagement with real economic activities. Furthermore, Abduh (2019), Tonkiss & Passey (1999), Trussel & Parsons (2012), Walter et al. (2002) claimed that waqf sustainability is achieved through psychological approaches, maintaining good relations and creating benefits for waqf stakeholders. Table 4 presents a summary of the sub-topic of waqf sustainability.

Tabel IV. Waqf for sustainability

Papers	Findings
(Tajudin et al.,	Feature separation between waqf, zakat, charity and infaq on Islamic fintech
2020)	supports the development of social financial technology
	The musharakah SRI scheme of waqf-linked Sukuk develops waqf assets
	Political and economic cooperation and social care of waqf administrators are
	important
	Food demands are met using waqf.
	Social finance and social impacts support waqf sustainability
*	Profit-sharing schemes in waqf management (mudharib, nazhir and mauquf
	'alaih) support the continuity of waqf
	Waqf is distributed and collected through crowdfunding technology
	Social information by individuals and governments to businesses helps achieve
	sharia compliance
	It is necessary to raise the quality of <i>waqf</i> administrators' human resources and
•	strengthen waqf regulations
	Stakeholders' trust in <i>waqf</i> , <i>zakat</i> , <i>infaq</i> , and charity must be maintained
	Danage' commitment to warf is related to transparent and accountable
	Donors' commitment to waqf is related to transparent and accountable information
	Easy access to financial facilities is related to the development of competent
	human resources in social Islamic finance
	numan resources in social islanic infance
	Appropriate financial reports must be provided
	rippropriate infancial reports intot be provided
,	
	(Tajudin et al.,

(Walter <i>e</i> 2002)	Trust and how benefits are created among waqf stakeholders are related
(Tonkiss	The sociological approach and waqf organizations' self-confidence are the
Passey, 1	strengths of <i>waqf</i> sustainability

It can be seen that Table 4 recommends the separation of waqf accounts from other Islamic social financial accounts. Good governance and good relations between waqf, nazhir, and mauquf 'alaih' to provide multi-benefit impacts supported by state regulations as presented in transparent and accountable reports are further strategies that need to be done. Maintaining the trust of the community is very helpful for waqf sustainability. Social solidarity and sociological approaches are waqf's long-term sustainability strategies.

## CONCLUSION

On the sub-topic of *waqf* for strengthening the economy, there are eight supporting articles (14.5% of the total *waqf* success literature). Successful *waqf* managers are those who can create projects that benefit the community. Managers' good communication, mutual relations, and digital skills in data reporting are key points in this subtopic. Moreover, the poverty alleviation sub-topic with 33% of the total *waqf* success literature informs *waqf* managers to do numerous collaborations such as with microfinance institutions, venture capitals, educational foundations, NGOs, and crowdfunding institutions. The main objective of the collaboration is to raise awareness and provide greater benefits for both parties so that *waqf* could better drive and boost the economy.

On the sub-topic of *waqf* success for humanity, the articles constitute 22% of the total. Waqf managers who are tolerant and familiar with the basic principles of muamalah in waqf will fully support humanity. The success of waqf for humanity has been achieved in various sectors: education, healthcare, religious facilities provision, disaster response, and economic independence. The sustainability sub-topic accounts for 30.5% of the total literature. An honest and reliable waqf manager easily leads to the sustainability of waqf. The honesty is proven by a manager's willingness to separate waaf accounts, audit waaf reports, and do self-waaf for the welfare of Muslims. In the long run, waqf sustainability can be supported through a political, religious, social, technological, and environmental approach (Rubin & Callaghan, 2019).

Examining the practice of waqf in Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Turkey, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Pakistan, Syria, Palestine and other countries in Asia and Africa is another content of this paper as these countries have excellent studies on how waaf has affected social sciences. A study by Bonine (1987) and Sharon (2016) examined how family wagf in Saudi Arabi created benefits for the population because it was managed professionally by the Binladen. In Indonesia, the practice of waqf is diverse but mostly done through a religious approach with examples from community leaders, teachers, and Muslim scholars (kyai) (Bazzi et al., 2013; Hidayatul Ihsan & Ibrahim, 2011). In Turkey, the successful practice of waqf is realized by integrating educational facilities (schools), religious facilities (mosques), housing, and other public facilities needed by the community(Çöteli, 2018; Hussin et al., 2018). The practice of waqf in the three countries emphasizes the importance of superior human resources and social as well as religious concerns.

In Malaysia, the success story of waqf was written by Maamor & Mutalib (2020) who indicated the existence of the kingdom's intervention in the management of waaf which is governed entirely by the State Islamic Religious Council (SIRC). Gamon & Tagoranao (2018) conducted a study about the practice of wagf in the Philippines that uses a financing scheme for the construction of health and education facilities and Islamic study centres. In addditon, the success of waqf in Singapore was attained by forging a synergistic cooperation with businesses to build commercial buildings (Lita, 2018). Research by Nejima (2015) on wagf-based NGO Hamdard Foundation in Pakistan recommended separating waqf accounts from development funds at the Hamdard Foundation, an organisation that provides free schooling, free hospitals, and financing in the agricultural sector. The success of waaf in the Middle East and Africa as studied by Adejoke et al. (2011), Miran (2009), Sharon (1977) was achieved through interfaith cooperation and public facilities provision aimed at improving education quality and natural resources utilization. Government intervention in waqf regulation is important for waqf productivity policies. Lastly, the success of waqf projects depends on the experience of waqf managers (nadzir) themselves since they lend credibility to the project (Borrero-Domínguez et al., 2020)

There are some recommendations for further waqf development research. Firstly, researchers can focus on the success of waqf institutions that collaborate with Islamic or conventional banks in introducing waqf features to customers. This research is important for the researcher to be able to compare the situation before and after the collaboration. The main objective of this type of research is to understand waqf programs that attract donors and encourage them to be consistent in donating to waqf and giving non-material support for waqf sustainability (such as campaigns for waqf literacy, waqf promos, and so on). In addition, research on the success of waqf innovations (such as waqf-linked sukuk, stock waqf, and corporate waqf) will contribute to waqf development research. These research suggestions are expected to support waaf development.

Secondly, research on waqf managers' compliance with sharia is also recommended. This type of research will not attempt to criticize them, but to start a new era of modern waqf research that is collaborative and multi-purpose in nature. Data obtained from this research will be available for waqf managers to implement and for researchers to evaluate in order to improve their research reports. Waqf managers are required to innovate but the basic principles of waqf must always be maintained. Waqf managers creating different projects that can be appropriate waqf tripartite stakeholders are important to be examined.

To sum up, this survey reveals that there is a need to (a) undertake research that explores new question of Islamic strategies on modern *waqf*; (b) focus on new benefits for *waqf* stakeholders; and (c) establish the robustness of the findings. This survey paper is a response to many modern *waqf* innovative products. However, the publication of research papers on *waqf* has declined from 138 papers in 2019 to 91 papers in the second quarter of 2020. A 34%

decline in papers on *waqf* is an alarm about the need for *waqf* publication with simple techniques but answers all these issues. Meanwhile, the paper's tangible contribution to *waqf* is its focus on pro-poor collaborative programs involving the tripartite stakeholders, i.e. academicians, regulators, and *waqf* institutions, in each country. Since to date there are no guidelines for the success of *waqf* management, a scientific study of that issue can fill the gap by comparing various keys to the success of *waqf* managers and their effects on good corporate governance.

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