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# Antecedents of financial accountability in zakat management organizations

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### Abstract

Accountability is an obligation to be answerable for the success or failure of an organization's operations in achieving its predetermined objectives periodically. To produce accountable zakat fund management reports, zakat management organizations need to implement several zakat accounting procedures. This study aims to examine and analyze the influence of internal control, zakat accounting implementation, transparency, human resource competency, and accounting information systems on financial accountability. The research sample consists of employees working in Zakat Management Organizations in Magelang and Temanggung. Using purposive sampling, 88 respondents were obtained. Multiple linear regression was used for testing. The results showed that zakat accounting implementation and accounting information systems have a positive influence on financial accountability. However, internal control, transparency, and human resource competency do not significantly influence financial accountability. This study is expected to enhance the understanding of the accountability of zakat, infaq, and shadaqah (ZIS) with the implementation of PSAK 109. In addition, it is expected that the management of zakat management organizations can produce more accountable financial reports.

# **Keywords**

Internal control, Zakat accounting implementation, Transparency, Accounting information systems, Financial accountability

**Published:** May 2, 2025

# Introduction

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Selection and Peerreview under the responsibility of the 6<sup>th</sup> BIS-HSS 2024 Committee

Zakat has an important role in efforts to empower the economic potential of the people. The hope is that if management is carried out according to plan, it will be able to free people from economic, social and moral misery, enable the poor to become Aghniya, and turn Mustahiq into Muzzaki. According to World Population Review data, 87.2% of Indonesia's overall population is Muslim. This indicates that Indonesia has a large potential for zakat. The Chairman of the National Amil Zakat Agency (Baznas) said the potential of zakat in Indonesia reached Rp327 trillion per year according to data

compiled from the agency's strategic study centre [1],[2]. Of the total potential, only IDR17 trillion has been collected or equivalent to 5.2% of the national zakat potential.

Central Java Province in 2023 has a zakat potential of Rp3.1 trillion but has only reached 10% of this potential. Meanwhile, the potential of zakat in Magelang is around Rp10-Rp15 billion per year and the collected amount is around Rp 2.5 billion per year. In Temanggung, the potential is around Rp26 billion per year and the zakat collection is around Rp 7.3 billion per year [1],[2]. The large gap between the potential and the zakat collected raises many question, considering the large number of zakat management organizations and the government's attention in dealing with zakat issues. The difference between the amount collected is due to the lack of muzaki who channel their zakat funds through zakat organizations. In addition, the lack of accountability in zakat management organizations as institutions that manage their funds.

Accountability is a type of responsibility to be responsible for the success or failure of the organization's execution in attaining the goals or targets that have been applied for prior periods and are carried out periodically [3]. Zakat management organizations need to implement a series of zakat accounting processes in order to create accountable zakat fund management reports [4]. The financial accountability of Zakat management organizations can be manifested in the form of good financial management of the mandate of Zakat funds received from the community.

Accountability of financial management of zakat management organizations can be influenced by factors including internal control. Internal control based on Government Regulation of the Republic of Indonesia Number 60 (2008) is a technique that is adjusted for human resources and information technology systems intended to support a company to achieve specific goals (PP No. 60 of 2008). The implementation of good internal control will encourage increased financial accountability of the organisation, according to [5]. The results of research [4] and [6] state that internal control has a positive and significant effect on financial accountability. In contrast to [7] which explains that there is no influence between internal control activities on the financial accountability of the organisation. Meanwhile, according to the results of research [8] and [9] internal control has a negative effect on accountability.

The recognition and measurement of zakat in Indonesia has been specifically regulated in the Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No.109 concerning Accounting for Zakat and Infaq/ Donations issued by the IAI (Indonesian Institute of Accountants). Explanation [10] that the application of zakat accounting, namely PSAK No.109, has a positive effect on financial statement accountability and [9]. Partially the application of Zakat Accounting does not have an impact on financial accountability. Meanwhile, [11] said that the application of PSAK 109 has no significant effect on the accountability of zakat management organizations. Financial accountability cannot be known without transparency. The non-publication of Zakat Management as a form of accountability of Zakat management organizations is one of the factors driving the low level of public trust in zakat organizations. The results of research [12], [13] and [9] show that transparency has a positive impact on trust in managing zakat, infaq and alms funds.

Another problem is the existence of financial accountability that has not met generally accepted standards and the low level of human resources who have competence in their fields [14]. The results of research [3] and [9] show that human resource competence has a positive impact on accountability. According to [15] human resource capacity has no impact on accountability.

Accounting Information System is very helpful for zakat management organizations as managers and muzzaki as zakat fund givers who need financial data reporting. Achieving accountability in financial management requires the use of technology so that it requires fast, efficient and effective management. The results of research [16] and [12] with the results of the Accounting Information System have a positive impact on the Quality of the Financial Statements of the Zakat Management Organisation. Accounting Information Systems partially negatively impact the quality of regional financial reports, according to [17].

This research is a development of research [9] using agency theory [18]. Agency relationship in accountability is the relationship between zakat management organisation and society. The community acts as the principal, as the provider of resources to the zakat management organisation in the form of zakat, infaq and sadaqah (ZIS) payments. While the zakat management organisation acts as an agent who has been given the trust of zakat, infaq and sadaqah (ZIS) funds from the community to be managed properly and accountable. The purpose of this research is to see the impact of internal control, the application of zakat accounting, transparency, human resource competence and accounting information systems on the financial accountability of zakat management organizations. This research is contributed theoretically to the application of zakat accounting and financial accountability in sharia entities.

#### Method

This research is quantitative research that uses survey methods to obtain data by distributing questionnaires to respondents. The participants in this study are workers at Temanggung and Magelang zakat management organizations. Sample determination using purposive sampling method with criteria, namely: chairman, vice chairman, treasurer, secretary, and financial staff who have worked for at least one year which amount 75 respondents. Variable measurements are based on previous research using a Likert scale. Variable measurement instruments, namely financial accountability (4 items); internal control (9 items); application of zakat accounting (28 items); and transparency (7 items) from [4]; as well as human resource competence; and accounting

information system (6 items) from [16]. The data analysis used is descriptive statistical test, validity and reliability test, multiple linear regression and hypothesis testing.

# **Results and Discussion**

The research questionnaire was distributed to employees working in zakat management organizations in Magelang and Temanggung areas. Based on purposive sampling techniques in this study, 75 respondents were obtained. Respondent profile shows that most of the respondents are male (65.3%). Undergraduate educational background dominates the respondents (61.3%) and the majority of respondents' age is productive, which is less than 30 years old (40%).

#### Validity and reliability test results

The validity test in uses confirmatory factor analysis (CFA). The first validity test results show that some statement items are invalid because of the cross-loading value <0.5. Those statement items are internal control (PI1, PI3, PI5), zakat accounting implementation (PAZ10, PAZ17, PAZ19, PAZ21, PAZ22, PAZ25) and accounting information system (SIA4, SIA5, SIA6). The test shows the statement items are valid with a cross-loading value> 0.5. The reliability test show that the Cronbach Alpha value is> 0.70, so all variables are declared reliable.

### **Multiple Linear Regression**

Multiple linear regression is used to show the effect of independent on the dependent variable [19]. The results are shown in Table 1.

| Table 1 Multiple linear regression test results |                       |               |                              |        |       |  |  |
|---|-----------------------|---------------|------------------------------|--------|-------|--|--|
| Description                                     | Unstandard.<br>Coeff. |               | Standardized<br>Coefficients | l t    | Sig.  |  |  |
|   | В                     | Std.<br>Error | Beta                         |        | - 8   |  |  |
| (Constant)                                      | 9.167                 | 1.811         |                              | 5.062  | 0.000 |  |  |
| Internal Control                                | -0.048                | 0.086         | -0.064                       | -0.567 | 0.573 |  |  |
| Implementation of Zakat<br>Accounting           | 0.050                 | 0.022         | 0.307                        | 2.222  | 0.030 |  |  |
| Transparency                                    | 0.105                 | 0.061         | 0.216                        | 1.733  | 0.088 |  |  |
| Human Resource Competence                       | 0.049                 | 0.097         | 0.072                        | 0.510  | 0.612 |  |  |
| Accounting Information System                   | 0.156                 | 0.075         | 0.224                        | 2.069  | 0.042 |  |  |

#### **Determination Coefficient Test**

The test helps to clarify Internal Control, Implementation of Zakat Accounting, Transparency, Human Resource Competence, Accounting Information System variable [19]. The test is shown in Table 2.

Table 2. Determination coefficient test results

| R     | R Sq  | Adj. R Sq | Std. Err |
|-------|-------|-----------|----------|
| 0.576 | 0.332 | 0.284     | 1.311    |

#### F test

The F test was used to measure the accuracy of the regression function in estimating the goodness of fit. Based on the results, the calculated F value is 6,865 with a significant level of 0.000. This result shows the research model is feasible.

#### **Hypothesis Test**

The t statistical test is used to test the effect between the Internal Control, Implementation of Zakat Accounting, Transparency, Human Resource Competence, Accounting Information System to Financial Accountability. It is said to have an effect if the significance value is less than 5%. The test show in Table 3.

| Table 3. Hypothesis test   |        |       |  |  |  |  |
|--|--------|-------|--|--|--|--|
|  | t test | Sig.  |  |  |  |  |
| Internal Control → Financial Accountability                              | -0.567 | 0.573 |  |  |  |  |
| Implementation of Zakat Accounting $ ightarrow$ Financial Accountability | 2.222  | 0.030 |  |  |  |  |
| Transparency $\rightarrow$ Financial Accountability                      | 1.733  | 0.088 |  |  |  |  |
| Human Resource Competence $ ightarrow$ Financial Accountability          | 0.510  | 0.612 |  |  |  |  |
| Accounting Information System $ ightarrow$ Financial Accountability      | 2.069  | 0.042 |  |  |  |  |

This study looks at the variables that influence zakat management organizations' financial accountability. The test results demonstrate that financial accountability is unaffected by internal control. This is because in the Zakat management organization there is no adequate separation of duties, thus making internal control not run well. Not running internal control well is caused by the leadership/supervisor of the zakat management organisation not always monitoring the performance of its employees so that financial accountability in the organization is not good. The results of this study are inconsistent with the research of [9],[20], [21], [22] but consistent with the research of [23], [24] [25].

The application of zakat accounting in this study has a positive effect on financial accountability in zakat management organizations. This shows that the application of zakat accounting system can help improve financial accountability in zakat management organizations. The application of Zakat's accounting system in Zakat management organizations has met the needs of Zakat financial management and the concept of accountability, which can be accounted for the use of money in the organisation. The application of accounting in amil zakat institutions is certainly needed because it involves accountability to the public for the results of the performance that has been achieved. The results are consistent *with* [20], [26], [27], but inconsistent with [9].

According to the test's result, it demonstrates that financial accountability in zakat management organizations is unaffected by transparency. This shows that transparency in Zakat Management is not good enough to make financial accountability in Zakat management organizations also not good. Transparency is a necessity in a business organisation because it is one of the pillars of good governance, if transparency

in the organisation is not good, it will have a significant impact on stakeholder trust. The research results are inconsistent with [9],[28] but consistent with the research of [25].

Financial accountability of zakat management organizations is not influenced by the competence of human resources. This is because human resources in Zakat management organizations are still not competent due to a lack of knowledge, skills and understanding of financial accountability itself. The quality of human resources is needed in achieving organisational goals. Factors that can improve the competence of human resources are education and work experience. The results of this study are inconsistent with [29], [30], but consistent with [9].

Another result of this study is the positive impact of accounting information systems on financial accountability in zakat management organizations. This can mean that the existence of accounting information systems can increase financial accountability in zakat management organizations. This accounting information system helps minimise fraud committed by individuals and reduce existing risk mitigation. This results consistent with [30], [31], [32], [33] [34].

# Conclusion

This study concluded that the application of Zakat accounting and accounting information systems has a positive effect on the financial accountability of Zakat management organizations. While internal control, transparency and human resource competence have no effect on financial accountability in Zakat management organizations. Financial accountability of zakat management organizations is a form of financial accountability for the believe of muzakki in channelling zakat, infaq, and shadaqah.

The limitations of this study are that the variables used do not include factors that can affect the financial accountability of zakat management organizations and the distribution area of the questionnaire used. Suggestions for further research can add variables, such as zakat knowledge, muzakki income and muzakki trust [35]. In addition, it can expand the object of research to include the Kedu Residency or the province. The results of this study contribute to zakat management organizations that need to pay attention to the implementation of zakat accounting and accounting information systems because this study proves that these two variables influence the financial accountability of zakat management organizations.

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