

Revitalizing Islamic philanthropy through eco-pesantren: The role of infaq management institutions (LMI) in realizing a green economy

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Abstract

Revitalization of Islamic philanthropy is a strategic step in supporting sustainable development based on the values of justice and ecosystem balance. This article examines the role of the Infaq Management Institute (LMI) in realizing the eco-pesantren concept as an effort to create a green economy. This approach focuses on the integration of pesantren-based education with an environmentally friendly lifestyle. This study uses a qualitative-descriptive approach with data collection through literature studies, interviews, and observations on LMI activities related to the eco-pesantren program. The results of the study indicate that LMI has a central role in integrating the principles of Islamic philanthropy with the practice of pesantren-based environmental management which has an impact on increasing santri's concern for the environment, saving operational costs of pesantren through energy efficiency and waste management. The findings indicate that the revitalization of Islamic philanthropy through eco-pesantren can be a catalyst for change towards environmental sustainability (SDGs) and community welfare, especially in terms of increasing awareness in environmental management, poverty alleviation, and inclusive economic growth. Thus, this approach can be an ideal model to be applied in various regions, making Islamic philanthropy the main driver in realizing a just green economy.

Keywords

Islamic philanthropy, Eco-pesantren, Green economy

Introduction

Islam has established principles in establishing relationships between humans and other creatures. In the Qur'an, there are many verses that emphasize the importance of human responsibility towards the environment, such as wise management of the earth and efforts to realize its prosperity (QS. Al-Ahzab: 72), as well as the command to worship Allah, do good, and prohibition of causing damage on earth (QS. Al-Qasas: 77).

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The concept of environmental ethics based on compassion encourages Muslims to care about nature, not only because of obligation, but as a form of gratitude for Allah's blessings (Sururi, 2014). This form of compassion is reflected in efforts to preserve nature through various approaches that support the balance and fertility of the ecosystem.

One approach introduced by The Ministry of Environment (2018) is the eco-pesantren concept, namely an Islamic boarding school-based education model that integrates environmental conservation values into daily activities. This concept includes aspects of waste management, utilization of renewable energy, and conservation of natural resources (La Fua, 2013). This approach is in line with the principles of a green economy, which emphasizes the importance of development that pays attention to environmental sustainability.

In Indonesia, the Madiun Infaq Management Institute (LMI) is one of the pioneers of the eco-pesantren program through collaboration with Islamic educational institutions such as SMP Ibnu Batutah Boarding School. LMI plays a role in providing facilities, strategies, and motivation to ensure the success of the implementation of eco-pesantren in the pesantren environment. This program integrates ecological, social, economic, and spiritual values into the education system. Ikwan, et al. 2021 emphasize that a strong understanding and religious belief can be the foundation for encouraging responsibility for environmental sustainability. Research of Azwar (2023), it shows that Islamic philanthropy has great potential in supporting the green economy through renewable energy investment, education, research, and community empowerment. Meanwhile, research of Kejora, et al. (2025) shows that the eco-boarding school program forms a collective awareness that environmental preservation is an inseparable part of worship and social responsibility. The collaboration between LMI and SMP Ibnu Batutah is an interesting implementation model because it combines philanthropic fund management with the development of environmentally friendly education. LMI not only provides funding but also acts as a driving force so that the program runs according to the principles of sustainability. As a result, SMP Ibnu Batutah is able to produce a generation of Muslims who also have a high concern for the environment.

However, the implementation of the eco-pesantren program is not free from various challenges, such as limited funding, low environmental awareness in the community, and the need for a structured monitoring system. Therefore, this study is important to be conducted in order to explore the role of LMI in supporting the implementation of eco-pesantren and its contribution to achieving a green economy. This study also aims to identify strategies to increase the effectiveness of the program in the future. Thus, the results of this study are expected to enrich the literature on Islamic philanthropy and infaq management in the context of sustainability, as well as become a reference for other philanthropic institutions in adopting a similar approach and providing policy recommendations to strengthen the contribution of Islamic philanthropy to the green economy.

Method

This study applies a qualitative-descriptive method to comprehensively explore phenomena related to Islamic philanthropy, environmentally conscious Islamic boarding schools, and the concept of a green economy. Data collection techniques include literature studies to obtain conceptual and theoretical bases, in-depth interviews with LMI management and stakeholders from environmentally conscious Islamic boarding schools to gain direct views from the actors, and observations of the activities of environmentally friendly Islamic boarding schools under the management of LMI as an effort to understand their real implementation. This integrated approach allows for a comprehensive understanding of the implementation of environmentally friendly Islamic boarding schools within a green economic framework that is in line with Islamic principles.

All data collected were analyzed using thematic analysis methods, which include the process of identifying main themes and patterns of relationships that emerge from the data. Through this approach, this study aims to deeply reveal the contribution of environmentally friendly Islamic boarding schools to environmental preservation while strengthening the values of philanthropy in Islam. This method is designed to produce findings that are not only theoretically relevant, but also applicable in encouraging the development of a green economy based on Islamic boarding schools.

Results and Discussion

The role and strategy of LMI in the implementation of eco-pesantren

The Madiun Infaq Management Institution (LMI) plays an important role in supporting the implementation of the eco-pesantren program through its partnership with SMP Tahfidz Ibnu Batutah. Initially, in 2011, this institution only managed a tahfidz house, but in 2018 LMI established SMP Tahfidz Ibnu Batutah which is located in Dukuh Kluwung, RT. 17 / RW. 05, Cabean Village, Sawahan District, Madiun Regency, East Java. Since then, LMI has begun to develop an eco-pesantren program at the school with the aim of creating an environmentally friendly, energy-efficient, food-independent pesantren environment, and instilling sustainable values in students.

LMI Madiun's vision and mission in implementing eco-pesantren is to become an Islamic educational institution that supports sustainable development and cares about environmental preservation. This effort is directed at forming a generation of students who are environmentally aware and contribute to green-minded development. Funding for this program comes from Islamic philanthropic funds, such as infaq, sedekah, and waqf, which are managed with the principles of effectiveness, transparency, and sustainability to support environmental-based education activities.

In its implementation, LMI Madiun integrates environmental values into the religious education curriculum. The strategies implemented include: (1) waste management by providing separate trash bins for organic and inorganic waste, (2) energy and water

savings through environmentally friendly sanitation installations and the construction of infiltration wells, (3) greening the Islamic boarding school environment by providing green open spaces, (4) providing educational facilities that encourage the implementation of a green lifestyle, (5) implementing extracurricular activities with an environmental theme, and (6) cultivating a healthy, clean, and orderly lifestyle.

All of these activities reflect LMI's commitment to optimizing the potential of Islamic philanthropy as the main driver of environmental sustainability in Islamic boarding schools. In addition, this program makes Islamic boarding schools a real model in the implementation of a green economy while strengthening their role as agents of social change that are oriented towards the principles of sustainability and environmental preservation.

Revitalization of Islamic philanthropy through eco-pesantren

Revitalization of Islamic philanthropy is an effort to revive and strengthen the practices of generosity in Islam in order to answer the social, economic, and environmental challenges that are developing in the contemporary era (Bamualim & Abubakar, 2005). In the context of eco-Islamic Islamic boarding schools, this revitalization is carried out by integrating the values of sustainability and concern for the environment into the educational programs and social activities of the boarding school. Instruments of Islamic philanthropy such as zakat, *infaq*, *sedekah*, and waqf have great potential to support the agenda of sustainable development and answer various humanitarian issues.

The revitalization is carried out through modernization in governance, expanding the use of philanthropic funds, and increasing public awareness of the importance of social contributions from the community. In this case, the Infaq Management Institution (LMI) plays an important role as a catalyst that encourages the adaptation of Islamic philanthropic values to be in line with the principles of sustainability. LMI's support for the development of environmentally friendly Islamic boarding schools is a concrete form of the application of Islamic philanthropy that is relevant to modern issues, especially the green economy.

The values of Islamic philanthropy based on justice, balance, and universal welfare are highly compatible with the concept of a green economy that emphasizes environmental sustainability. The utilization of zakat, *infaq*, and *sedekah* funds can be directed to support various environmental conservation initiatives, so as not only to improve the social and economic welfare of society, but also to encourage a more ecological lifestyle.

Eco-friendly Islamic boarding schools are an innovative model that synergizes Islamic education with environmental conservation practices. By internalizing religious teachings about responsibility towards nature, these Islamic boarding schools form a young generation that has ecological awareness and a commitment to maintaining the balance of nature. This model not only increases environmental awareness among students, but also strengthens the role of Islamic boarding schools as a motor of social change in society.

Educational strategies in eco-Islamic Islamic boarding schools include an environmentally oriented curriculum, waste management training, and greening activities. These programs are designed to instill environmentally friendly living habits among students and the surrounding community. This practice-based approach fosters collective awareness that protecting the environment is an integral part of practicing worship and the social responsibility of Muslims.

Eco-pesantren contribution to the green economy

The eco-friendly Islamic boarding school program makes a real contribution to the development of a green economy by instilling ecological awareness in students through an educational approach that integrates Islamic values with environmental responsibility. Students are taught to live a sustainable lifestyle, such as reducing the use of plastic, recycling goods, and processing organic waste into agricultural fertilizer. The implementation of this program is not limited to the Islamic boarding school environment, but also reaches the wider community through various educational activities, such as environmental awareness campaigns and waste management training, which aim to foster collective awareness of the importance of environmental conservation.

Ecologically, the positive impacts of this program include the creation of a cleaner and healthier environment, increased concern for cleanliness, and savings in Islamic boarding school operational costs through efficient energy use and good waste management. In addition, a green and cool environment contributes to the health of students and creates a conducive learning atmosphere. This makes Islamic boarding schools a model educational institution that supports green economic practices at the community level.

From an economic perspective, the implementation of eco-Islamic boarding schools funded through Islamic philanthropic funds has shown significant results. Environmental awareness that grows among students and the surrounding community is the result of educational activities and active campaigns on sustainability. In addition, this program also encourages economic empowerment based on green principles, such as environmentally friendly skills training and the creation of new jobs, which contribute to reducing poverty levels. Operational efficiency is also achieved through the use of renewable energy and an effective waste management system.

Socially, the revitalization of Islamic philanthropy through the eco-pesantren program strengthens the internalization of Islamic values in everyday life, especially related to environmental responsibility and social solidarity. The result of this initiative is the formation of an inclusive, caring, and committed community towards sustainability. Thus, eco-pesantren not only plays a role as a religious educational institution, but also becomes a model for social and economic empowerment based on sharia principles.

Obstacles and challenges in implementing eco-pesantren

The implementation of the eco-pesantren program is inseparable from various challenges and obstacles that need to be addressed seriously to ensure its success. One of the main problems is the low level of understanding of students and education staff regarding the urgency of this program, which has an impact on the lack of active participation in its implementation. In addition, limited budget and resources are crucial obstacles, especially in the provision of environmentally friendly facilities and infrastructure, such as sustainable sanitation systems and the use of renewable energy.

Behavioral change is also a challenge in itself, because it requires a non-instant adaptation process and the right educational approach to instill an environmentally conscious lifestyle among students and pesantren staff. On the other hand, limited land and infrastructure, especially in densely populated areas, also limit the space for optimal program implementation. Lack of support from external parties—both from government agencies and local communities—as well as minimal program evaluation and monitoring mechanisms, further complicate efforts to sustain the program.

Therefore, a comprehensive approach is needed to overcome these obstacles, including through increasing environmental literacy, strengthening institutional capacity, sustainable fundraising, and building cross-sector synergies to strengthen collaboration in supporting the long-term success of the eco-pesantren program.

Conclusion

The implementation of environmentally friendly Islamic boarding schools supported by the Madiun Infaq Management Institute (LMI) is a concrete representation of the application of Islamic philanthropy in supporting sustainable social and environmental development. LMI has a strategic role in designing and implementing various programs that are in line with the principles of a green economy, such as environmental education, waste management, and the use of renewable energy. Through this program, Islamic boarding schools have not only succeeded in instilling concern for the environment among students, but also encouraging the involvement of the wider community in implementing sustainable practices. This initiative reflects the potential of Islamic philanthropy as a force capable of transforming social and ecological life positively.

Although it has shown various advances, the implementation of environmentally friendly Islamic boarding schools still faces various challenges, such as limited funds, inadequate infrastructure, and difficulties in changing the mindset and habits of Islamic boarding school residents to be more concerned about the environment. In addition, weak support from external parties and suboptimal monitoring and evaluation processes also hamper the sustainability of the program. Therefore, a comprehensive approach is needed, including increasing understanding and awareness, improving the funding system, and strengthening cross-sector cooperation. By overcoming these obstacles, eco-pesantren have the potential to further strengthen their role as agents

of change, capable of integrating Islamic teachings with the demands of sustainability in the modern era.

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