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THE ROLE OF ZAKAH IN REDUCING POVERTY: A CASE STUDY OF PUSAT ZAKAT SELANGOR, MALAYSIA

Prof Dr Muhammad Amanullah

Abstract

Payment of zakah is obligatory in Islam. It has a significant role in reducing poverty among poor members of a society. The purpose of this paper is to discuss how zakah could be utilized to reduce poverty, and to investigate how Pusat Zakat Selangor, Malaysia utilizes and distributes zakah to reduce poverty among its recipients. In order to reach this objective, the researcher critically analyzes the verses of the Qur'an, Sunnah of the Prophet (p. b. u. h.) and opinions of Muslim jurists about the issue using both classical and modern sources. This research depends on both library works and a study of Pusat Zakat Selangor. This paper is divided into four sections: introduction, Islamic ways to distribute and utilize zakah to reduce poverty, review of how zakah is distributed and utilized by Pusat Zakat Selangor to reduce