

APPLICATION OF CASH WAQF SCHEME AS AN ALTERNATIVE WAY OF SUPPORTING UNDERPRIVILEGE

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ABSTRACT

Privilege is a right or social advantage in society while the underprivileged are poor that have no social advantages in society. Some of the fundamental rights of all members of civilized society are denied to them because of their economic or social circumstances. This paper aimed at providing an alternative solution for supporting the underprivileged through the application of the cash waqf scheme. The study used a basic qualitative research design. The data collection method was conducted through interviews with five underprivileged from different categories. Thematic analysis was used to examine and analyze the responses of the informants using Atlas.ti v8.0 qualitative data analysis tool. The data reveal that those from lower socioeconomic status have fewer advantages, privileges, and opportunities than people from higher socioeconomic status. The findings also show a positive and reliable impact of cash waqf scheme application as an alternative and enduring solution for supporting underprivileged people. Therefore, there is a need to have a durable and reliable solution to cater to underprivileged people so that they can live their lives in a well-balanced society.

KEYWORDS: Cash Waqf Scheme Supporting Underprivilege.

INTRODUCTION

The percentage of poverty and financial restraints among people requires intensive efforts from different economic aspects to reduce poverty and empower the underprivileged to attain a good standard of living. The income of several people in Nigeria is below standard due to the level of poverty in the country. In the year 2018/2019 Nigerian living standard survey stated that 39.1 Nigerians lived below the international poverty line of \$1.90 per person per day. While 40.1% of Nigerians lived below Nigeria's national poverty line (Aderounmu et al. 2021; Group 2022). To wage war against poverty and financial constraint, there is a need for a lawful alternative means to reduce poverty and support the underprivileged to execute and carry out their profitable business and transactions without involving in any unlawful means or act which the conventional system is always propagating and is yet to resolve the problems of underprivileged. Providing lawful and Islamic alternative means for the underprivileged will help them to secure a job, or business and to attain a bearable standard of life. However, the cash waqf scheme is an Islamic financial instrument that can enhance, support, reduce poverty and advance the social and economic conditions of the underprivileged through a halal way. Cash waqf according to Tasuli in the Maliki school as cited by Ahmad (2015), is the process of donating money as waqf to lend it to selected people as beneficiaries without interest. According to studies, the positive effects of cash waqf in economic activities, social welfare, and promoting entrepreneurship with interest-free loans will make the poor and underprivileged self-sufficient. (Ahmad 2015). As a result, the cash waqf program is an alternate model that will enhance the lives of the poor in every way. The goal of this research is to develop and conceive a cash waqf system that will aid the impoverished in overcoming their obstacles and requirements.

Research Method

The present study used the qualitative approach through Structural interviews to achieve its objectives. The interview was conducted with six underprivileged people from different categories; however, thematic analysis was used to analyze the responses of the informant. Waqf-based scheme for supporting the underprivileged was also formulated to serve as the solution.

RESULTS

The below **table 1.0** shows and identified the seven major themes of the interview conducted with the five underprivileged people on the basic aspects of life that every individual in society needs to be fulfilled to attain good and qualitative life. The responses represent the fillings and situation of each one of them which they clearly stated during the interview. The informants are from different categories of people which comprises males, females, widows, orphans, and the poor. The selection of these categories will help to identify the fillings and situations of the underprivileged from a different dimension to have a clear picture of their problems and find a lasting solution for them.

Questions	Earning For Living	Numbers of Daily Eating	Do Your Children Attend School	Do You Own a House	Access to Free Health Care Services	Main Challenges in Lively Hood	How Does Poverty Affect You
1-	Petty business	4	Yes, but battling with fees	Yes, inherited	No access to free health care	Lack of capital to support my business	It lowers my test and affects my standard of living
2-	Laundry manually	Depends on the availability of food on a day, 2 or 3 times	The male goes while the female does not due to poverty	No, but renting	No, I treat myself and my family in chemist	Lac of capital to support business	Am not enjoying my life at all
3-	By selling cold drinks	3x but not always	Yes, some are in school while some are not	Yes, inherited house	Is impossible for me to have free healthcare but I treated my children locally	Being a widow no support	To an extent, I cannot feed and treat my children
4-	Local security guard	Depends on what I have on a day. Sometimes 3 while sometimes 2 and even once	Yes	Yes	No, I paid for my family's treatment based on my capacity	Food and healthcare of my family	To the unbearable level
5-	Civil servant	Usually twice	Yes, but female education is not necessary to me due to my poverty situation	Yes, by inheritance and I cannot maintain it well	No, I attend community native doctor treatment	To further my education so that will increase my salary income	To the very high level

Table 1.0 Responses of the Informants

DISCUSSION

Based on the available responses regarding earnings for a living majority of the informants have different ways of earning income, however, the ways cannot satisfy them and their families. Therefore, if support or loan will be given to them to support their businesses their life standard will increase. Some researchers proclaim that the growth of poverty is mainly stressed by the absence of loan credit to the grass-roots of the society, they have no access to loans know significant support because the conventional banks perceive them as poor that cannot settle their debt (Ahmad 2015). Therefore, the application of the cash waqf scheme can support and secure the interest-free loan for small businesses that will enhance the economy and social life of the underprivileged. The aim of waqf is to achieve both economic and social goals, therefore, waqf can serve as a drive for supporting small business entrepreneurship to attain the well-being of society (Abubakar and Rahman 2021).

However, the informants also state the difficulties they confronted daily on the numbers of times they eat daily. Majority of them stress that the number of their daily feeding depends on the availability of their resources on that given day, if they have much, they eat three times daily, while if the resources are less, they eat according to the availability of the resources which may be one, two or even zero. Waqf in history has serve in providing foods for the poor families. It became the medium for better distribution of income (Nuruddeen 2014). The diversity of services offered by the waqf is not limited to only assisting the poor and needy, nor is it limited to religious aspects of life, but rather encompasses all members of the community and all parts of social living, including food.

Majority of the respondents prefer male child education than female due to poverty. The importance of education does not rely on males only, but it is of supreme important on females due to their important in a society. society without female education is considered as backward society. however, cash waqf funds becomes an alternative source for financing educational activities in both the lower and higher education. The practice of using waqf fund in financing education activities is practice in many countries such as Malaysia, Indonesia, Egypt and United Kingdom (Razak et al. 2008). There have been several studies which alarm about waqf for education (Saifuddin et al. 2014)

Shelter is one of the most fundamental primary or basic needs of every human being on the planet. With the availability of shelter human will be able to protect their life against harmful surroundings and more likely to have a fruitful and happier life(Nafar 2018). Majority of the respondents affirm that the house the possess are inherited houses that are not only belongs to them alone, rather the share it with their brothers or sisters as their share of inheritance. Therefore, owning a home or receiving subsidized rent is one of the factors that will boost the economy of less privileged people and alleviate their suffering. According to reports, the underprivileged have been struggling for shelter for many decades. They are forced to live in slum areas, spend most of their income on unsubsidized rentals, and are unable to provide proper nutrition and education for their children (Khan et al. 2019). Several studies propose waqf financing scheme tools to address the issue of insufficient funding for housing development (Khan et al. 2019).

Access to free or subsidized healthcare is one of the primary and basic of underprivileged and all human in general. No one can deny the reality that health is the basis for the lives of the nation and absence of it can resulted bitterness to an individual and society in large. However, funds are always needed to cater or to take care of people’s health especially the underprivileged. Absolutely, if every underprivileged is giving subsidized rate or free services during hospitalization, to support his family the poverty challenges affecting them will be reduced and their life standard will be updated accordingly. Hospital could be established as commercial medical services that will yield a positive result. If waqf funds are utilized and managed effectively it can be used to build various healthcare facilities that will take care of society such as hospitals and clinic (Mohsin 2013).

Poverty by all its dimension is one of major disease affecting underprivileged people that resulted several criminal activities and deprived some people from having standard life. The potential of cash waqf in financing and supporting is not only religious areas, but also a variety of goods and services required around the world, is enormous. People may be able to find work because of the cash waqf. It is a truth that the pioneering cash waqf system will assist numerous kinds of people, especially the poor who are not served by the government or other non-governmental organizations.(Chowdhury, Ghazali, and Ibrahim2011).

The practice can aid in performing a variety of activities and gathering resources from the wealthy to the underprivileged, as well as creating job opportunities and employment to improve the socioeconomic and societal conditions of the underprivileged.

Cash Waqf Scheme

This study has developed a cash waqf scheme for underprivileged (CWSFUP), the scheme will serve as a source for financing and supporting basic needs of underprivileged if managed effectively. The scheme is expected to provide financial assistance to the underprivileged by utilizing cash waqf funds and involving the rich and middle class in supporting the needy. There will be no collateral requirement, interest rate, or other stringent requirements that are typically imposed by existing conventional financial institutions, preventing underprivilege from benefiting from the proposed scheme. The sketch of the model is stated below:

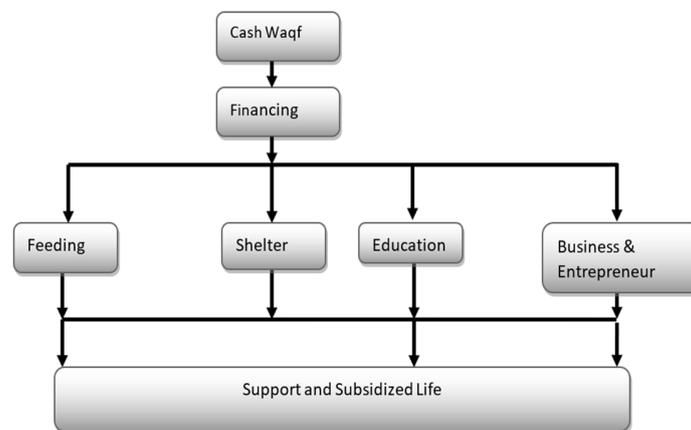


Figure 1.0 Cash Waqf Scheme

The above figure shows the flow of how cash waqf will lead to financing and the financing will service feeding, shelter, education, business, and entrepreneur which will resulted to good life of underprivileged. The proposed scheme is owing to new dimension that will lead to the supporting of underprivileged in their basic aspect of life if the scheme is adopted. Traditional methods are used in existing cash waqf models and schemes, in which donors simply contribute cash waqf with no knowledge of how the contributions are used. This problem is usually caused by a lack of mutual communication between cash waqf donors and waqf managers. Another reason is a lack of specific objectives, a well-designed scheme, and a scheme that can be trusted. As a result, this system has a strong potential to improve communication and engagement between donors and waqf management while also enhancing donor and poor satisfaction.

CONCLUSION

The current study found that the poor and underprivileged were deprived of their rights in society owing to a lack of a good and trustworthy program that would serve as a means of collecting funds through cash waqf to assist the impoverisher's fundamental necessities. Due to its unspecific direction trusted scheme, the current method of cash waqf systems appears ineffective in supporting and subsidizing the lives of the underprivileged. This study proposes the (CWSFUP), which is based on the use of cash waqf to support and subsidize the needs of the underprivileged. Because of its specific direction and trusted scheme, the scheme can be further strengthened to increase the welfare of the underprivileged and cash waqf contributions.

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