

Comments of

Bandar al-Hajjar*

on

A Study on the Possibility of Mosque Institution Running a Micro-Credit Programme based on the Grameen Bank Group Lending Model: The Case of Mosque Institutions in Kelantan, Malaysia

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1. According to the study the government has seriously conducted many programs to alleviate poverty and one of them is the micro-credit programme run by ATM since 1987, but the researchers did not made an assessment to the government micro-credit programs to identify the strength and weakness of these programs and accordingly analysis the possibility of developing them to respond more effectively to the needs and abilities of poor people with regards to the types of credit needed, duration, collateral and cost of lending. The government programme might have a tight lending condition that cannot be met by poor people or they might emphasis on collateral or they might charge interest which make the majority of poor people unwilling to borrow from them, therefore assessing the government micro-credit programme is highly important to identify the main reasons for the inability of the government institutions to alleviate the poverty in Kelantan State and this assessment will enable the researchers to identify the micro-credit gap that exist in the government system and institutions and suggest a suitable solution to fulfil it, and this solution might be the mosques or the development of the government programs in away that eliminate all obstacles encountered by poor people in their efforts to obtain credit. The assessment process must cover both personal and commercial credit.
2. As mentioned in the study, there are 555 mosques in Kelantan and at least 20 percent of them have the *qard al-hasan* lending programs and all these mosques under the administration and supervision of the MAIK, and the MAIK is responsible for providing grants and appointment of all full time salaries staff of these mosques.

The study does not provide any information about the 20 percent of the mosques or 111 mosques that run micro-credit programs also does not provide any

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information about the customers of these programs, the provision of such information is very useful in generating more solid findings with regards to feasibility of mosques to run group lending programme for the poor people. In this context many questions can be raised:

- Is there any kind of coordination between mosques that provide micro-credit programme for people?
 - Does the MAIK as a supervision institution plays any role in coordinating between mosques which has micro-credit programs.
 - Does the MAIK issues an annual report cover the activities of the mosques micro-credit programs.
3. The study has mentioned that the MAIK provides grants to mosques lending programs and the researchers looked forward to see these programs depend on themselves financially, but unfortunately they did not introduce any suggestion with regard to this issue, therefore it is very important to discuss the possibility of *waqf* or endowment as an institution to participate in providing the financial independent for these programs.