

THE CONCEPT OF JUSTICE IN THE PERSPECTIVE OF ISLAMIC BUSINESS ETHICS

Fauqah Nuri Aini ¹, Muhammad Adnan Azzaki ²
 Master of Sharia Economics Postgraduate Program
 Sultan Syarif Kasim Riau State Islamic University

Correspondence		
Email: fauqahnuriaini@gmail.com , adnanazzaki96@gmail.com	No. Telp:	
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ABSTRAK

Islam tidak hanya merupakan agama, tetapi juga pedoman hidup yang mencakup seluruh aspek kehidupan, termasuk etika bisnis. Penelitian ini mengkaji konsep keadilan dalam perspektif etika bisnis Islam, dengan menekankan pentingnya prinsip keadilan sebagai fondasi sistem ekonomi yang adil dan berkelanjutan. Dalam ekonomi Islam, keadilan menjadi prinsip utama yang mencakup distribusi kekayaan, perlakuan setara, dan tanggung jawab sosial. Metode penelitian yang digunakan adalah studi literatur untuk menganalisis berbagai sumber yang relevan. Hasil kajian menunjukkan bahwa prinsip kejujuran, transparansi, dan tanggung jawab sangat penting dalam menciptakan praktik bisnis yang sesuai dengan syariah. Prinsip-prinsip ini tidak hanya mendorong keberhasilan bisnis, tetapi juga memberikan dampak positif bagi masyarakat dan lingkungan. Penelitian ini menekankan bahwa penerapan etika bisnis Islam dapat menjadi solusi untuk menghadapi tantangan moral dalam dunia bisnis modern, sekaligus membangun model bisnis yang berkelanjutan dan bertanggung jawab.

Kata Kunci: Keadilan, Etika Bisnis Islam, Ekonomi Syariah

ABSTRACT

Islam is not merely a religion but also a way of life that encompasses all aspects of human existence, including business ethics. This study examines the concept of justice from the perspective of Islamic business ethics, emphasizing the importance of justice as the foundation of a fair and sustainable economic system. In Islamic economics, justice is a core principle encompassing wealth distribution, equal treatment, and social responsibility. The research employs a literature review method to analyze relevant sources. The findings reveal that principles such as honesty, transparency, and accountability are essential in fostering business practices that align with Sharia principles. These principles not only promote business success but also yield positive impacts on society and the environment. This study underscores that implementing Islamic business ethics can serve as a solution to address moral challenges in modern business while building a sustainable and socially responsible business model.

Keywords: Justice, Islamic Business Ethics, Sharia Economics

Introduction

Islam is not only a religion practiced by humans, but Islam is also a guide to life for its adherents, where every aspect of human life has been regulated according to Islamic law. One of them is the aspect of business ethics that has been regulated in Islam. Islam regulates that proper business ethics cannot be separated from other important things. Islamic philosophy teaches about ethics in doing business in addition to several other important business concepts. The core of Islamic business ethics uses the concept of Tawhid. Business ethics is very urgent to put forward in the era of globalization that occurs in various fields and often ignores ethical and moral values. Therefore, Islam strongly emphasizes that business activities are not merely a means of satisfying desires but rather an effort to create a balanced life accompanied by positive rather than destructive behavior. Because humans are social creatures who will need other people to run their lives. So establishing social relations between humans must of course maintain good social relations. The effort that can be made is to have good ethics in carrying out these social relationships.

The concept of ethics comes from the Greek word “Ethos”, which refers to customs or habits. This indicates that ethics is related to values, good ways of living, right rules of life, and all habits that are held and passed on from one individual to another, or from one generation to the next. According to Magnis Suseno, ethics is a science rather than a doctrine, which in his view is known as ethics in the second sense. As a discipline that primarily focuses on critical reflection and rationality, ethics in this second context concerns the question of whether certain moral values and norms should be applied in the particular situation faced by an individual.

The economic paradigm in Islam has a strong ethical foundation and emphasizes the importance of justice in all aspects of economic life. Islamic business ethics views that business practices should reflect religious values, including fairness, which is the cornerstone in building a fair and sustainable economic system. Therefore, this research will examine the concept of fairness in Islamic business ethics. A deep understanding of fairness in the context of Islamic business is important for business practitioners, academics, and policy makers in designing and implementing business practices that are in accordance with sharia principles.

Islamic economics offers a holistic and ethical approach to economic and social challenges. By placing justice as a key principle, Islamic economics seeks to create an economic system that is not only efficient, but also fair and sustainable. This emphasizes the importance of preventing injustice in the economic system as explained in previous research which says all forms of economic injustice, including monopoly and concentration of economic power in certain groups, are prohibited by the Islamic economic system because they can cause inequality and harm the economic system as a whole. Other research also states that justice is a crucial element that must always be upheld to build and strengthen trust in every economic activity in line with Islamic principles and values. Based on this, this study aims to analyze the concept of justice in the perspective of Islamic economics, especially in sharia business ethics. The essence in Islamic economics is not justified by things that make injustice, avoid fraud, deprivation, and commotion. This is because Islamic economics has the noblest goal of achieving “justice”, justice in all fields including justice in the distribution of wealth and property.

However, nowadays many traders do not hesitate to commit falsehoods in order to gain profits which are contrary to Islamic law, especially Islamic business ethics. So ethics or rules about Islamic business have an important role in Islamic business as well. The nature of business in Islam in addition to seeking material benefits also seeks immaterial benefits. In this context, the Qur'an and Hadith explain the business that is prohibited by Islam in order to achieve the goals of the world and the hereafter. Islamic teachings on economics are quite numerous and this shows that Islam's attention to the economy is quite large. The Qur'an as a guide for Muslims also explains about the right trade and prohibits all transactions that can harm many people, as well as the Hadith. All forms of uncertain trade have been prohibited by the Qur'an and Hadith, such as usury, gharar, jahalah, ihtikar and so on.

Research Methods

This research uses a literature study method to examine the concept of justice in an Islamic economic perspective. Literature study is a research method used to collect and analyze various data sources related to a particular topic. This method involves collecting and analyzing data from various relevant literature sources such as books, journal articles, and other publications that discuss justice and Islamic economics. The researcher identifies various sources of literature that are credible and relevant to the topic of justice in Islamic economics. The data sources that have been identified are then collected which include the definition and principles of justice in Islamic economics, then analyzed qualitatively. This analysis aimed to identify the main themes, key concepts, and relationships between justice and various aspects

of Islamic economics, such as wealth distribution, economic transactions, and the protection of workers' and consumers' rights. The literature study method makes it possible to explore and integrate various perspectives and previous findings so as to provide a basis for understanding and developing the concept of justice in Islamic economics.

Discussion

1. Definition of Business Ethics in Islam

Ethics comes from Greek which means character, habit or a set of widely accepted moral behavior. According to Solomon (1984) cited in Abdul Jalil (2010), the etymology of ethics shows the basis of individual character to do good things, social rules that limit a person to something right or wrong which is also known as morality. Ethics is a part of philosophy that discusses rationally and critically about values, norms or morality. The closest terminology to the notion of ethics in Islam is called morals (jama'nya khuluq).

The term ethics generally refers to the good and bad of human behavior. Ethics is the basis of good and bad that becomes a reference for individual decision-making before carrying out a series of activities. Ethics is not just a normative prohibition, but rather the culmination of the accumulated operationalization ability of human intelligence. Ethics is also called system philosophy, or philosophy that questions human praxis in relation to its responsibilities and obligations. In another sense, ethics is defined as a system or code that is adopted.

Islamic business ethics are morals in running a business in accordance with Islamic values, so that in carrying out its business there is no need for concern, because it is believed to be something good and right. Ethical, moral, moral or moral values are values that encourage humans to become a complete person. Such as honesty, truth, justice, freedom, happiness and love. If these ethical values are implemented, they will perfect the essence of a whole human being. Everyone may have a set of knowledge about values, but the knowledge that directs and controls the behavior of Muslims is only two, namely the Qur'an and hadith as the source of all values and guidelines in every aspect of life, including in business. So the real ethical behavior is the behavior that follows Allah SWT and knows the prohibition. According to Hadimulyo, business ethics in an Islamic perspective is the application of the principles of Islamic teachings sourced from the Qur'an and hadith in the business world, an example is the teaching on the prohibition of reducing scales which shows the principle of honesty.

2. The Concept of Justice in the Qur'an

The Qur'an explicitly emphasizes the importance of justice and brotherhood. According to M. Umer Chapra, an ideal Islamic society must actualize both simultaneously, because they are two sides of the same coin that cannot be separated. Thus, these two goals are so strongly integrated into the teachings of Islam that their realization becomes a spiritual commitment (worship) for the Islamic community.

Among the important terms related to morals expressed by the Qur'an is justice. This can be seen from the number of words 'adl (justice, justice) and words that are similar to al-qist, al-wazn, always found in various places in the Qur'an. Apart from the expressions that explicitly mention the word al-adl, actually in the earliest verses, ideas and thoughts about justice have come together. Not only that, the command to do justice is also seen from the prohibition of the Qur'an to do wrong. It is no exaggeration if Fazlur Rahman, a contemporary Islamic thinker, states that the basic message of the Qur'an is an emphasis on justice, one of which is seen in socio-economic justice.

In the Qur'an, the term al-'adl with various derivations is mentioned 30 times. The main meaning of this word contains two opposite meanings (mutaqabilain), first meaning

istiwa' (straight) and second meaning i'wijaj (crooked). In addition to the word 'adl there are similar words such as al-qist with all its forms mentioned 23 times. The word composed of q-s-t contains two different meanings (mutadaddidain). If it is read al-qist, it means al-'adl, while if it is read al-qast, it means al-jurr, and al-qusut means al-udud an al-haq (turning away from the truth) and al-qasat means i'wijaj (crooked). In addition to the word al-wazn with all its derivatives 23 times. The main meaning is ta'dil and istiqomah (moderate and straight). While the word al-wast is expressed in the Qur'an 5 times whose original meaning is al-'adl and al-nisf, middle or center.

Through the approach of tafsir maudhu'i (thematic) found that the concept of justice in the Qur'an contains all-encompassing meaning. The notion of justice revolves around the meaning of balance or a state of balance or not extreme, equality or absence of discrimination in any form, and the fulfillment of rights to anyone who is entitled or the placement of something in its proper place. The notions contained in the concept of justice certainly have implications for human activity and behavior. This implication is seen in legal justice in the sense that the Qur'an instructs humans to treat all people equally before the law and not to distinguish them based on the accidents (things that are inherent outwardly) they have.

In the Qur'an it is clearly stated that, "Allah has legalized buying and selling" and the Prophet Muhammad once advised, "trade you because 9 out of 10 parts of life is trade" The disclosure of trade activities in the Qur'an is found in three forms, namely tijarah (trade), bay (selling) and syira (buying). In addition to these terms, there are many other terms related to trade, such as dayn, amwal, rizq, shirkah, dharb, and a number of orders to conduct global trade (Qs. Al-Jum'ah: 9). The word tijarah is mentioned eight times in the Qur'an scattered in seven surahs, namely surah albaqarah:16 and 282, surah An-Nisa': 29, surah at-Taubah: 24, surah an-Nur: 37, surah al-Fatir:29, surah as-Shaf:10, and surah al-Jum'ah:11. While the word ba'a (selling) is mentioned four times in the Qur'an, namely surah al-Baqarah: 254 and 275, surah Ibrahim: 31 and surah al-Jum'ah: 9. Furthermore, the terminology as-syira is found in 25 verses. two verses of which connote trade in the context of actual business, namely the Qur'anic story explaining the Prophet Joseph who was sold by the person who found him, found in surah Yusuf: 21 and 22. Thus, business in Islam positions the understanding of business which is essentially a human endeavor to seek the pleasure of Allah SWT.

In the context of the Quran, business or economic endeavor is not just a profit-seeking activity, but also has an important moral and ethical dimension. The Quran provides guidelines and principles that must be followed in running a business, including the importance of honesty, justice and social responsibility. One of the Quranic verses that reminds about fairness in doing business, for example, in Surah Al-Baqarah verse 188 which reads:

وَلَا تَأْكُلُوا أَمْوَالَكُمْ بَيْنَكُمْ بِالْبَاطِلِ وَتُدْخِلُوا بِهَا إِلَى الْحُكَّامِ لِتَأْكُلُوا فَرِيقًا مِّنْ أَمْوَالِ النَّاسِ بِالْإِثْمِ وَأَنتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ

Meaning: "And do not eat of the wealth between you by means of falsehood, and do not bribe the judges with it, that you may eat of the wealth of others by way of sin, while you know."

3. Principles of Sharia Business Ethics

Principles of Business Ethics:

a. Principle of Autonomy

Autonomy is the attitude and ability of humans to make decisions and act based on their own awareness of what is considered good to do. people who have

autonomous traits are people who know their actions, are free in carrying out their actions but they are responsible.

b. Principle of Honesty

Honesty in business is the key to success, including for long-term survival in a highly competitive business environment.

c. The Principle of Justice

Justice is done so that no party is harmed by the seller or buyer. Fair also means that all parties involved in the business have the right to get the same treatment in accordance with the applicable rules.

d. Principle of Goodwill and No Evil Intention

Business activities need to provide a mutually beneficial situation to each party involved. This principle is also closely related to the principle of honesty in order to grow trust from each party.

e. The Principle of Self-Respect

Respect has the meaning of an attitude to respect or polite attitude. respect is important because respect is able to build order in people's lives and is able to increase one's degree before society.

Principles of Justice in Sharia Business Ethics

In Islam, business is defined as a series of economic activities in various forms that are not limited to the amount of wealth ownership, including its profits. However, there are limitations on the methods of acquiring and using that wealth, which are regulated by halal and haram rules. The principles of business ethics applied to good business activities cannot be separated from human life in general. This shows that business ethics principles are closely related to the value systems adhered to by each society. For example, business ethics principles in China will be influenced by the value system of Chinese society, as will those in Europe.

Value systems originating from religion predominantly influence the business ethics principles adhered to by its followers. Max Weber, in his work on the Protestant Ethic, stated that the economic progress in Western Europe was due to the ascetic teachings in Calvinism. However, this received criticism from Nurcholis Majid, who stated that Islam, as a religion that has taught superior business concepts for a long time, is often neglected by its followers. There are many modern business principles applied by major global companies that have actually been taught by the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). One of them is the principle of honesty and responsibility, which plays a central role in business success. There are several basic principles in Islamic economics, including the halal and haram principle that sets boundaries on economic activities, the principle of benefit that considers the established guidelines, the principle of simplicity in owning and consuming goods, the principle of economic freedom that allows everyone to pursue professions within the established corridors, and the principle of economic justice that should imbue every economic activity.

The principle of honesty and openness in business is considered the key to success. Transparency towards consumers and business partners is an important part of this principle. Furthermore, freedom in business must be accompanied by accountability that adheres to the legal, normative, and ethical corridors regulated by Islam. The business conducted must yield optimal benefits for all parties involved, with attention to the principle of justice. Therefore, this accountability will fundamentally change economic and business calculations, referring to the principle of justice in various aspects, such as minimum wages and profit calculations.

Reviewing the principles of justice and responsibility in the sharia economic system and its implementation in business is a journey through a deep understanding of the role of business in human life and how ethical values and responsibility play a key role in this context. Business, as an integral part of economic activity, has a significant impact on various aspects of human life, both individually and collectively, from local to international levels. In business, both entrepreneurs and consumers have needs and interests that must be met. Therefore, rules and ethical values become important to regulate these interactions and prevent exploitation or losses for the parties involved.

However, the reality we face today is the existence of behavior that deviates from religious values and the decline of ethical values in business. Some people view business solely as a tool for seeking financial profit, leading to the myth of amoral business that separates business from morality. However, recent developments in the business world show an awareness of the importance of ethical values and social responsibility. One major trend in modern business is the emergence of spiritual awareness and the concept of conscious capitalism, where businesses not only focus on financial profits but also consider social and environmental impacts. In the context of Islamic economics, business is defined as a series of economic activities that are not limited to the amount of wealth ownership, but are regulated by halal and haram rules in the manner of acquiring and using that wealth. The principles of business ethics in Islam are closely related to the value system adhered to by the Muslim community. The influence of religion in shaping business ethics principles has been recognized, although there is criticism of the narrow understanding of Islam's contribution to economic development.

The importance of the principles of honesty and responsibility in business is beyond doubt. Transparency towards consumers and business partners is the key to creating business success. Freedom in business must be accompanied by accountability that adheres to ethical values regulated by Islam, taking into account the principle of justice in all aspects of business. Thus, the implementation of principles of justice and responsibility in business, especially in the context of Islamic economics, is an important step in building a sustainable and socially responsible business.

Implementing Sharia business ethics provides a great opportunity for companies to develop sustainable and responsible business models. Basic principles such as transparency and justice can serve as the foundation for maintaining integrity in all aspects of business, from financial reporting to employee policies. Additionally, the opportunity to use Sharia financial instruments, such as sukuk and Sharia funds, can be an effective way to finance projects and expansions. Social responsibility is also an important focus, with companies being able to utilize a portion of their profits to donate to charity or support beneficial social projects. The environment is also a concern, with environmentally friendly business practices that can reduce waste and emissions as well as adopt cleaner technologies. Community engagement is another important aspect, where companies can build strong relationships with the local community through principles of justice and inclusion, including local recruitment and investment in projects that directly benefit the local population. Additionally, adhering to ethics in trade and contracts, as well as seeking innovations that align with Islamic values, are other important steps to gain long-term competitive advantage while building strong relationships with all stakeholders.

Conclusion

In conclusion, understanding the principle of justice in the sharia economic system and its application in business highlights the importance of ethical values in conducting economic activities. Business, as a vital part of human life, has a significant impact at various levels, both

individually and on society as a whole. However, challenges arise when moral values in business are threatened by behaviors that deviate from religious teachings and the decline of ethical values. The implementation of principles of honesty and responsibility in business, especially in the context of Islamic economics, is key to building sustainable and socially responsible businesses. This provides opportunities for companies to develop business models that prioritize transparency, justice, social responsibility, environmental friendliness, community engagement, and innovation in accordance with Islamic values. Thus, understanding and applying the principles of justice and responsibility in business, particularly in Islamic economics, is an important step to maintaining business integrity and providing a positive impact on society and the surrounding environment.

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