

Implementation of sharia economic law values for community empowerment through the living with program local in Kampung Telok Kandis Kedah Malaysia

Laila Diana, Marsya Benita, B.R.E Yunanda

Sharia Economic Law, Sekolah Tinggi Ilmu Tarbiyah Nahdlatul Ulama (STITNU) Sakinah Dharmasraya, Dharmasraya, Indonesia

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to analyze the implementation of Islamic Economic Law values in community empowerment through the Living with Locals Program in Kampung Telok Kandis, Kedah, Malaysia. The study was conducted as part of the International Field Experience Program undertaken by sixth-semester students of the Islamic Economic Law Study Program at STITNU Sakinah Dharmasraya who participated in the International Student Mobility Program (ISEP) 2026 at Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM). The research employed a descriptive qualitative approach through field studies. Data were collected through observation, interviews with local residents and foster parents, and documentation. The findings indicate that the local community practices Islamic Economic Law values such as ta'awun, amanah, justice, and maslahah in social and economic life. The program also contributes to community empowerment and supports SDG 8 and SDG 13.1. The study concludes that the Living with Locals Program serves as an effective medium for integrating academic learning, community engagement, and the implementation of Islamic Economic Law values.

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Corresponding Author:

Laila Diana,
Sharia Economic Law, Sekolah Tinggi Ilmu Tarbiyah Nahdlatul Ulama (STITNU) Sakinah Dharmasraya
Jl. Lintas Sumatera No.99, Koto Baru, Kec. Koto Baru, Kabupaten Dharmasraya, Sumatera Barat 27681
Email: lailadiana4403@gmail.com

1. INTRODUCTION

The development of globalization has encouraged universities to expand student learning access through various international programs. Universities not only play a role in the process of knowledge transfer, but are also responsible for preparing students to be able to adapt to social, cultural, and economic developments at the global level.

Students of the Sharia Economic Law Study Program of STITNU Sakinah Dharmasraya have the opportunity to carry out International Field Experience Practice (PPL) in Malaysia through the International Student Mobility Program (ISEP) 2026 organized by Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM). This opportunity is part of the implementation of the institutional relationship that has been established between STITNU Sakinah Dharmasraya and UUM in the field of education and academic development.

One of the activities in the program is Living with Locals which was held in Kampung Telok Kandis, Kedah, Malaysia. This activity provides opportunities for students to live with their host

families, interact with the local community, learn about the local culture, and understand the social and economic activities of the community firsthand.

From the perspective of Sharia Economic Law, community development is not only oriented to economic growth, but also to the achievement of social welfare based on the values of justice, trust, cooperation, and benefits. These values are the basis for building a harmonious and sustainable community life.

During the implementation of Living with Locals activities, the researcher conducted field observations, interviews with the local community, and in-depth interviews with adoptive parents, namely Mrs. Jamilah binti Jamaludin. In addition, participants also participated in a Pitching Competition that focused on developing solutions based on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG 8 and SDG 13.1.

Based on this background, this study aims to analyze the implementation of Sharia Economic Law values in community empowerment through Living with Locals activities in Telok Kandis Village, Kedah, Malaysia.

2. METHOD

This study uses a descriptive qualitative research method with a field research approach. The research location is in Kampung Telok Kandis, Kedah, Malaysia. The research was carried out when the author participated in the Living with Locals activity in the framework of the International Student Mobility Program (ISEP) 2026.

The data source consists of primary data and secondary data. Primary data was obtained through direct observation and interviews with the local community and adoptive parents, namely Mrs. Jamilah binti Jamaludin. Secondary data were obtained through activity documentation and a variety of relevant literature.

Data collection techniques include: Participatory observation; In-depth interviews; Documentation; Literature study. Data is analyzed through the stages of data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawn.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Overview of Telok Kandis Village

Kampung Telok Kandis is one of the Malay settlements in the State of Kedah, Malaysia. The community is known to have a strong family culture, uphold religious values, and be active in social activities. During the Living with Locals activity, students live with host families and participate in various community activities, so as to gain first-hand experience of the social and economic life of the local community.

Based on the results of interviews with the local community and also with adoptive parents, namely Mrs. Jamilah Binti Jamaludin, one of the jobs that many of the residents of Telok Kandis Village do is farming, especially cultivating rice fields. Agricultural activities are one of the important parts of people's lives. Rice fields are not only a source of income for the community, but also part of the daily life and social environment of the people of Telok Kandis Village.

The community also has other economic activities, such as teachers, and super market employees, but the agriculture and rice fields sector is one of the most prominent activities based on the results of observations during ISEP activities. The social condition of the community also shows that the people of Telok Kandis Village have good social relations. The community is known to be friendly, open and easy to accept the arrival of people from outside the region, including students/participants of ISEP.

During the implementation of the activity, participants received a good welcome from the community. The interaction between ISEP participants and the community took place quite intimately so that participants could get to know the local community firsthand. One of the experiences gained during ISEP activities is living or interacting with adoptive parents.

Based on the author's experience, adoptive parents received the presence of participants well and paid attention while in the community. The existence of adoptive parents also helped participants to understand the life of the people of Kampung Telok Kandis more closely, including daily habits, work, family life and social relations of the community.

This is one of the important forms of cultural exchange in ISEP activities because participants not only learn through formal activities, but also through direct interaction with families and communities.

3.2 Observation Results

Based on the Theme Competition of the two projects developed in ISEP 2026 activities, several conditions were found that were of concern to the group.

Economic Potential and Community Creativity. The group found the potential of the community in the fields of local products, handicrafts, creativity and community economic activities. This potential was then developed in the concept of "Kandis Creative Hub", which is geared towards supporting: development of local products; community and youth creativity; marketing digitization; promotion of village tourism; workshop activities; MSME development; preservation of local skills and crafts. The concept is related to SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), especially in creating better economic and employment opportunities for the community.

Weather Conditions and Flood Risk. The group also obtained information about the weather conditions and the environment of Telok Kandis Village. Based on observations and interviews, erratic weather changes and flood conditions during the rainy season are among the things that need to be considered by the public. This condition can have an impact on community activities, especially people who work in the agricultural sector.

From these problems, the group developed the idea of "CLIMUNITY – Community Action for Climate Adaptation", which is the concept of an early warning system (Smart Alert System) that aims to help people get information faster when weather conditions or floods occur. The concept is associated with SDG 13 (Climate Action).

3.3 Implementation of Ta'awun Values

The results of observations show that the people of Telok Kandis Village have a strong culture of mutual cooperation. The community helps each other in various social activities and activities related to common interests. This value is in line with the concept of ta'awun in Sharia Economic Law which emphasizes the importance of cooperation and mutual help in goodness.

The value of ta'awun in the life of the people of Telok Kandis Village can be seen from the habit of helping each other between one member of the community and another member of the community. This attitude does not only appear when there are large activities, but also in daily activities that require cooperation. The interdependent life of the community shows that the spirit of togetherness is still an important part of their social life.

The spirit of mutual cooperation is one of the tangible forms of the application of ta'awun values. The community together helps in activities related to environmental and social interests. These activities are carried out without expecting direct rewards, but are based on a sense of mutual concern and responsibility for people's lives.

The value of ta'awun is also seen in the relationship between students participating in the program and the local community. During the Living with Locals activity, students are not only the ones who receive experience, but also participate in various community activities. Such participation creates a mutually beneficial relationship.

In the life of a host family, students also gain experience about the importance of helping each other. Host families receive students well and involve them in daily activities. Students then try to adjust and help according to their abilities. The relationship reflects the cooperation built through mutual respect.

From the perspective of Sharia Economic Law, ta'awun is an important value because it teaches humans to help each other in goodness. This attitude can strengthen social relationships while creating a more harmonious community environment. The life of the people of Telok Kandis Village shows that these values can be applied in real life through social activities and daily interactions.

Thus, the implementation of ta'awun values in the Living with Locals program not only provides experience to students, but also shows how a culture of community cooperation can be part of social learning. Students gain an understanding that the success of an activity is not only determined by individual abilities, but also by care, cooperation, and mutual help between one party and another.

3.4 Implementation of Trust Values

The value of trust is one of the important values in social life because it is related to the trust that a person gives to other parties. In the implementation of the Living with Locals program, the value of

trust can be seen through the trust of the people of Kampung Telok Kandis to students who live and interact with host families during the activity.

This trust is the basis for the formation of a good relationship between students and the community. Students are given the opportunity to get to know the life of the community more closely, including participating in daily activities and interacting with adoptive family members. This opportunity is a form of trust that needs to be maintained with a responsible attitude.

Amanah can also be seen from the attitude of students in maintaining good relations with adoptive families. While living with the community, students are expected to be able to respect the rules, customs, and values that apply in the local environment. This attitude shows that students understand their responsibilities as program participants.

The people of Kampung Telok Kandis also show an attitude of trust through their acceptance of students. They provide shelter, provide information about people's lives, and introduce various local customs and cultures. This is a form of trust given to students during the program.

A relationship built on trust can create a sense of comfort between both parties. Students feel accepted as part of the community, while the community can interact with students without excessive worry. This situation is one of the important factors in creating the success of the Living with Locals program.

The value of trust is also related to the principles of Sharia Economic Law which emphasizes the importance of honesty, responsibility, and maintaining trust. In social and economic life, trust is the basis for building healthy relationships. Without trust, cooperation between individuals and groups will be difficult to develop.

Based on the results of observations, the application of trust values in Telok Kandis Village provides important lessons for students about the meaning of trust in community life. The experience shows that trust is not just a concept in theory, but can be applied through a responsible attitude, respecting others, maintaining trust, and carrying out obligations well.

3.5 Implementation of Justice Values

The value of justice is one of the important principles in social life because it relates to the balanced treatment of each individual. In the life of the people of Telok Kandis Village, the principle of justice can be seen from the opportunity for the community to be involved in various social activities carried out together.

The community has the opportunity to participate according to their respective abilities and roles. Not everyone has the same abilities, jobs, or conditions, but each individual can still contribute to people's lives. This situation shows that there is an appreciation for the differences that exist in society.

The principle of justice is also seen in the relationship between the community and the students participating in the program. Students are not placed as a higher party than society, but as partners in the process of exchanging knowledge and experience. This equal relationship allows for more open communication between the two parties.

In the Living with Locals activity, students have the opportunity to learn about people's lives directly. At the same time, the community also gets to know the students, the culture, and the experiences they bring. The exchange shows a balance of benefits between students and the community.

Justice can also be linked to the economic life of the local community. Some of the people of Telok Kandis Village have activities related to agriculture and rice fields as part of their livelihood. The activity shows how the community utilizes available resources to meet the needs of family life.

In the perspective of Sharia Economic Law, justice not only means giving something in the same amount to everyone, but also giving rights proportionately and not taking actions that harm others. This principle is important for creating a balanced life of society, especially in social relations and economic activities.

Thus, the application of the value of justice in the lives of the people of Telok Kandis Village can be an example that good social relations require mutual respect and provide opportunities to every individual. The Living with Locals program also strengthens students' understanding of the importance of building equal relationships, respecting differences, and providing equitable benefits to the community.

3.6 Implementation of Maslahah Values

The value of maslahah in the Living with Locals program can be seen from the benefits felt by students and the community of Telok Kandis Village. The program not only provides the experience of living in the local community, but also creates interactions that provide new knowledge and experience for both parties.

For students, these activities provide an opportunity to understand people's lives directly. Students can see how people carry out their daily activities, work, interact, and maintain social relationships in their environment. This experience becomes a learning that cannot be fully obtained through learning in the classroom.

Meanwhile, the community benefits through interaction with students from different backgrounds and experiences. The presence of students can be a means to introduce culture, social life, and local potential to outsiders. Thus, there is a process of exchanging information that can provide new insights for the community.

Maslahah can also be seen from the closer relationship between students and the community. Interactions during the program can build a sense of mutual understanding and appreciation. Students can understand the habits of the community, while the community can get to know the perspective and experience of students.

These activities also have benefits in introducing the local potential of Telok Kandis Village. Community life, agricultural activities, culture, and community hospitality are part of the experience that can be introduced to program participants. This potential can be one of the elements that strengthens the identity of the local community.

In Sharia Economic Law, the concept of maslahah emphasizes the achievement of benefits and the avoidance of harm in human life. Programs that provide benefits to more than one party can be a form of applying maslahah values as long as their implementation still pays attention to good values and does not cause losses to the community.

Based on the results of observations, the Living with Locals program has a beneficial value because it provides benefits in educational, social, cultural, and community relations aspects. The program is not only oriented to the student experience, but also provides a space for the community to introduce local life and potential. Therefore, this activity can be seen as a form of interaction that produces benefits for both parties.

3.7 Contribution to Community Empowerment

Living with Locals activities contribute to community empowerment through the creation of interaction between students and the local community. These interactions allow for the exchange of experience and knowledge that can broaden the horizons of both parties. The community is not only the object of activities, but also plays a role as a party that provides experience to students.

The first contribution is seen through the exchange of knowledge and experience. Students can learn about people's lives directly, while the community gets the opportunity to interact with students who have different educational backgrounds and experiences. The process creates shared learning that can strengthen the social capacity of the community.

The next contribution is the strengthening of social relationships. The presence of students in the community creates a wider space for interaction between the local community and outside parties. The relationships formed during the activity can foster mutual respect and strengthen solidarity between students and the people of Telok Kandis Village.

The program also contributes to promoting local culture. Students have the opportunity to get to know various habits and people's lives firsthand. The experience can be a means to introduce the culture of Telok Kandis Village to a wider environment so that the existence of local culture can be more known.

In addition to culture, the economic potential of the community can also be introduced through these activities. Community activities related to agriculture and rice fields show the existence of local potential that is part of the community's economic life. Recognition of such potential can increase awareness of the importance of maintaining and developing local resources.

Community empowerment does not always have to be realized in the form of direct economic assistance. Increasing insight, interaction skills, openness to outsiders, and strengthening social relationships are also part of the empowerment process. In this context, Living with Locals provides a space for people to interact and gain new experiences that can broaden their perspectives.

Thus, the Living with Locals program contributes to the empowerment of the people of Telok Kandis Village through social, cultural, educational, and the introduction of local potential. These activities show that empowerment can be carried out through a mutually beneficial relationship between the community and program participants. The success of the activity is not only measured by the student experience, but also by the benefits and positive relationships left for the community after the activity takes place.

4. CONCLUSION

The Living with Locals program in Kampung Telok Kandis, Kedah, Malaysia provides a valuable learning experience for STITNU Sakinah Dharmasraya students who are participating in the International Student Exchange Program (ISEP) 2026 at Universiti Utara Malaysia. Based on the results of interviews and observations during the implementation of ISEP 2026 in Telok Kandis Village, it can be concluded that the community has a good social life and shows a friendly and open attitude towards migrants. Some people work in the agricultural sector, especially rice fields, which are one of the important parts of the community's economic life. In addition to having potential in the agricultural sector, Telok Kandis Village also has the potential for economic development through local products, creativity, crafts and the involvement of the younger generation. On the other hand, uncertain weather conditions and the risk of flooding are among the problems that need attention. In addition, student participation in the Pitching Competition shows support for the achievement of SDG 8 and SDG 13.1. Thus, Living with Locals activities can be an international learning facility that integrates academic experience, community service, and the implementation of Sharia Economic Law values.

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