

The Importance of Sharia Business Ethics in Creating a Tolerant and Peaceful Economic Environment

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Abstract

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This study explores the importance of implementing Sharia business ethics in creating a tolerant and peaceful economic environment, especially in the context of a multicultural global society. Sharia business ethics offers universal principles such as justice, transparency, and fair conflict resolution, which focus not only on achieving economic profit but also on promoting social harmony and common welfare. By emphasizing the values of tolerance and diversity, which are integral parts of Islamic teachings, this study shows that implementing Sharia principles can have a significant positive impact on economic development. This implementation, if supported by education, training, and strengthening individual capacity, has the potential to create a stable, trustworthy, and inclusive business environment. In addition, Sharia business ethics can serve as a comprehensive guide in building a just, harmonious, and tolerant society. Thus, this study confirms that Sharia business ethics is not just a set of rules, but a comprehensive approach to achieving economic and social justice in a global society.

Keywords: *Sharia Business Ethics, Tolerance, Economic Environment*

INTRODUCTION

Humans are individual creatures as well as social. As individual creatures, everyone has unique needs, both physically, emotionally, and intellectually. To meet these needs, humans cannot live alone and need others. Social interaction is important in meeting these needs, ranging from economic needs to emotional needs, such as a sense of belonging and social development. Without the ability to interact, humans will find it difficult to adapt and survive in the environment. (Sofiandi et al., 2022).

Diversity is one of the important elements in human social interaction. Each individual is born and raised in a different environment, which shapes his or her identity and outlook on the world. This identity is shaped by various factors, such as ethnicity, race, language, culture, and religion. These factors are what create the differences between individuals in the broader social group. These differences not only add color to social life, but also enrich the collective human experience.

In society, these differences can appear in various forms, be it physical differences such as skin color, or cultural differences such as language or tradition. Each group has a different history and background, which gives each individual unique values in society. These values form a person's perspective in responding to and responding to daily life. In addition, diversity is also a source of innovation and creativity, because each group brings different perspectives and ways of thinking.

Diversity can also be a challenge in social life. When differences cannot be reached or understood properly, they can be a source of conflict. For example, differences in religious beliefs or political views often cause tension in society. Therefore, it is important for each individual to learn to accept and appreciate differences, as well as to find common ground to create social harmony. Tolerance, dialogue, and empathy are important keys in dealing with this diversity.

Diversity is not just about accepting differences, but also about how individuals in society can coexist harmoniously despite having different backgrounds. In an increasingly globally connected world, the ability to understand and appreciate diversity is more important than ever. Openness to differences and cultural diversity will prosper social life and help create a more inclusive society.

Economic activities are an inseparable activity in human life, this is because economic activities are a necessity for humans to meet their needs in daily life. In this era of globalization, the development of the world economy is so rapid along with the development and increasing human need for clothing, food, and technology (Saifudin, 2021).

From an economic perspective, tolerance formed in society can be viewed as a latent factor that significantly influences various aspects of life, particularly in the context of what can be termed "stomach problems." This phrase metaphorically captures the essential needs and economic stability of individuals and communities. When tolerance is present, it allows for a more harmonious coexistence among diverse groups, which can lead to increased cooperation and collaboration. Such social cohesion is critical for economic activities, as it fosters an environment where individuals feel safe and secure in their interactions, ultimately contributing to a more robust economy. (Sofiandi et al., 2022).

Despite its potential benefits, tolerance is often perceived as having negative implications. Critics argue that excessive tolerance may lead to moral ambiguity, blurring the lines between right and wrong. This perception can create challenges in governance and law enforcement, as it may result in a lack of clarity in addressing social issues. Consequently, the absence of a firm moral compass can lead to economic instability, as communities struggle to maintain consistent standards

and practices. The fear is that tolerance, when misapplied, might undermine the very foundations of societal order and discipline, leading to broader economic repercussions.

The paradox of Indonesia serves as a compelling example of the complex relationship between tolerance and economic outcomes. The nation, rich in diversity with numerous ethnicities, religions, and cultures, has the potential to leverage this diversity as a strength. However, without a proper framework of tolerance, the rich tapestry of Indonesian society risks becoming a source of conflict. Disagreements and misunderstandings among different groups can hinder economic progress and social stability. Thus, fostering a genuine sense of tolerance is essential for harnessing the potential of this diversity, allowing Indonesia to transform potential conflicts into opportunities for growth and collaboration.

The United Nations underscores the importance of tolerance as a strategic approach to managing diversity effectively. By promoting tolerance, societies can create environments that not only mitigate conflict but also enhance economic outcomes. Tolerance encourages inclusivity, which in turn can lead to increased innovation and productivity. When individuals from diverse backgrounds collaborate, they bring unique perspectives and ideas that can drive economic development. Consequently, the cultivation of tolerance is not merely a moral imperative but a necessary condition for achieving sustainable economic growth and prosperity in a diverse society.

Islam has taught that economic activity cannot be separated from the basic values that have been outlined in the Qur'an, hadith, and other sources of Islamic teachings. These values serve as the foundation for ethical conduct in all aspects of life, including economic activities. The Qur'an emphasizes the importance of justice, honesty, and social responsibility, which are essential in guiding the behavior of individuals engaged in business. This moral framework ensures that economic practices align with the principles of fairness and equity, promoting a balanced approach to wealth generation and distribution. (Saifudin, 2021).

In the Qur'an, trade ethics are very well regulated, providing a clear framework for how business should be conducted. Specific guidelines are outlined to prevent exploitation and ensure that transactions are conducted with integrity. For example, the prohibition of *riba* (usury) highlights the importance of fairness in financial dealings. This prohibition not only protects individuals from unfair financial burdens but also fosters a sense of community by encouraging investment in productive activities rather than speculative practices. Such regulations reflect the holistic view of economic activities in Islam, where material gain is not pursued at the expense of ethical considerations.

Islam has given general limits that serve as an invitation to conduct business responsibly and ethically. These limits encourage transparency and accountability among business practitioners. Entrepreneurs are urged to provide accurate information about their products and services, ensuring that consumers can make informed choices. This emphasis on honesty is crucial in building trust between businesses and their customers, ultimately leading to long-term relationships that benefit all parties involved. By adhering to these ethical standards, businesses can contribute positively to society while achieving their economic objectives.

Business ethics in Islam can be referred to as a principle and norm where business people must have a joint commitment in carrying out transactions, behaviors, and relationships. This commitment is rooted in the understanding that each action taken in the business realm has implications not only for the individuals involved but also for the wider community. Mutual respect and fairness should guide interactions between business partners, employees, and customers. Such an approach fosters a cooperative environment where all stakeholders work together towards common goals, enhancing overall economic well-being.

The importance of social responsibility is a key aspect of Islamic business ethics. Business practitioners are expected to contribute to the welfare of their communities through various means, such as charitable giving, ethical employment practices, and sustainable environmental practices. Engaging in social responsibility is not merely a moral obligation but an integral part of achieving success in business. By prioritizing the welfare of others alongside their own interests, businesses can create a positive impact that resonates throughout society, thus fulfilling their ethical and spiritual obligations.

Achieving business goals safely and sustainably requires a comprehensive understanding of these ethical principles. Business leaders must navigate the complexities of the market while remaining committed to the values outlined in Islamic teachings. This commitment ensures that their business practices do not compromise ethical standards for the sake of profit. By integrating these principles into their strategic planning and operational practices, businesses can thrive in a manner that aligns with their moral obligations, ultimately leading to a more just and equitable economic landscape.

In Indonesia, ethical neglect in business has occurred a lot, especially by high-ranking entrepreneurs (conglomerates). The emergence of rejection of business ethics by entrepreneurs, is based on a classical paradigm, that business ethics must be value-free. By paying attention to good business ethics, you will also get great economic benefits, because it will create consumer trust in the company. This can also help the company get a good image from the public. By upholding

business ethics or morals, we can grow and develop a business, because by having ethics we can compete with other companies without hurting any party. Ethics has developed in people's lives, if we can use it well then our ethics will have a positive impact on our business and other people's companies (Djunaeni, 2015).

Based on this background, it shows that tolerance, which is a demand for plurality and diverse life in Indonesia, still does not have a significant influence on the progress of socio-economic life in society. Tolerance, diversity, and plurality are still the main challenges of this nation. In this regard, the awareness of diversity needs to be understood together as a natural reality. This reality will have logical consequences for the life of the nation and state which requires various components of the nation to live in peace. Paradigms and attitudes that tend to be xenophobic are threatened in the multicultural realm of society, so the paradigm of tolerance and even moderation is a solution to the problem of intolerance faced by the Indonesian nation so that a harmonious and tolerant life is created. Inevitably, as a nation, we must be willing to learn and reflect on global life in terms of diversity tolerance. This is important because of the fact that countries with a high level of tolerance for diversity get a positive influence from the economic side (Sofiandi et al., 2022).

METHODS

This research is a type of library research, which is research whose object of study uses library data in the form of books as a source of data, as stated by Adlini et. al (2022), this method collects information from a lot of literature around the world in education to become the basis and basis for scientific research. This research in the process has several stages that need to be carefully understood, including searching and reading information, reviewing the information, and analyzing various existing literature to be used as reference material, the results of the review will be the results of the research.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Sharia Business Ethics

Ethics has two meanings. First, ethics like morality contains morals and concrete norms that guide and handle human life in all life. Second, ethics is a critical and rational reflection. Ethics helps people behave freely but responsibly.¹⁵ This ethics is very closely related to human behavior, especially the behavior of business people, whether they behave ethically or unethically (Dahruji and Permata, 2017)

Ethics in business is the application of understanding of various types of businesses. The Islamic paradigm of business ethics is the conception of the relationship between humans and their God, the relationship between humans and humans, and the relationship between humans and their environment. This means Islamic business ethics must have a vision both in this world and in the hereafter, this framework of thinking makes the foundation of Islamic economics. The concept of business ethics in Islam is based on trust, honesty, and responsibility. To understand in a kaffah/broad and correct way the concept of Islamic business ethics, it is necessary to understand the three basics, namely aqidah, morals, and sharia (Ayu and Anwar, 2022).

In business ethics, there are legal aspects that consist of ownership, management, and distribution of assets. So Sharia business ethics are: a) Rejecting monopoly (Monopoly is the control over the production and/or marketing of certain services and/or the use of certain services by one business actor); b) Reject exploitation; c) Reject discrimination; d) Demand a balance between rights and obligations; e) Avoid unhealthy businesses (Dahruji and Permata, 2017).

Business ethics in Islam involves a set of moral principles to assess good and bad actions in all aspects of business activities, including in various forms of transactions involving property, both goods and services, as well as profits. However, these principles apply not only to the amount of assets or types of transactions, but also in the way in which they are acquired and used, whether for legal or illegal purposes. The ethics of buying and selling in Islam include several principles, including: a. Good intentions in every transaction; b. Be honest and do not hide the shortcomings or defects of the goods sold; c. Not committing fraud or fraud in transactions; d. Keep promises orally or in writing; e. Buying and selling fairly, without taking advantage of the inequality of power or information to harm other parties.

The verses of the Qur'an that are specifically related to the ethics of muamalah (business transactions) and are the basis for muamalah, some of them use the word "al-tijarah" (business transactions) and some use the word "al-bai'" (buying and selling). One example of a verse that can be used as a reference is QS. Al-Baqarah [2:275], which regulates business transactions (al-tijarah) and prohibits the practice of usury (Noor 2023).

Tolerance and Peace in Islamic Perspective

From the Islamic perspective, tolerance (tasamuh) is an integral (inherent) part of its teaching system. So the context of Islamic teachings and values, the discourse of moderation in attitude and life, especially in religion, is not in the form of a spirit that grows and comes later. This reason and discourse is also not a new response or solution to the problem of tolerance and heterogeneity.

Because the value and perspective of moderation are inherent in the Prophet Muhammad SAW, in his teachings, measured in his attitude, and reflected in his actions (Sofiandi et al., 2022).

Doctrinal, Islam views tolerance as an absolute obligation. The word "Islam" itself comes from the root word meaning "to be safe", "peaceful", and "to surrender". This definition of Islam is often formulated in the expression "religion rahmatal lil'ālamîn" which means a religion that is a blessing for all nature. This concept emphasizes that Islam does not exist to erase pre-existing religions, but rather to promote discussion, dialogue, and tolerance within the framework of mutual respect. Islam recognizes that the diversity of beliefs and religions among humanity is the will of Allah, and therefore it is impossible to equalize or unite (Wajnah 2023).

To create tolerance, two main social capitals are needed. First, tolerance requires social interaction that involves intensive conversations and interactions. Second, every minority group must be treated fairly and equally in all aspects of life, such as economic, political, social, and religious. In addition, to create tolerance, it is essential to build mutual trust among various groups and streams and encourage a spirit of unity based on national principles (Usman 2023).

Explicitly, in the verses of the Qur'an and the Hadith of the Prophet, there is confirmation of the vision of peace in Islam. The construction of this vision of peace can be divided into several categories, such as the value of tolerance emphasized, the invitation to reach common ground, the importance of mutual respect and appreciation of mutual trust, the virtue of forgiveness, the principle of not exceeding the boundaries in action including the provision of punishment, the encouragement to help resolve conflicts (conflict resolution), and clear and firm orders to fight against those who violate boundaries certain (Moh. Toriqul Chaer 2016).

Islam teaches the principle of reconciliation and seeking peace through devotion, resignation, and obedience to God sincerely and sincerely. The concept of peace, which comes from the word "salam", describes the substance, structure, and system that must be realized, not just action. Peace in Islam must be real and objective, not just as a mere subjective dream or desire. Peace does not stand alone but is supported by elements such as balance and equitable justice, which can be felt by all parties involved (Hasibuan 2020).

The economic increase resulting from diversity can occur as long as society shows a high level of tolerance for diversity. The tolerance feature plays an important role here. At least, first, tolerance can eliminate social barriers. Second, tolerance opens the door to various things that in economic theory, are very supportive for the creation of production factors that are of course beneficial for the economy. And third, tolerance helps manage cultural and religious diversity

which has been a major factor for conflicts in society (Sofiandi et al., 2022).

The Prophet (saw) has taught the basic foundations of economics, where one of the practices is buying and selling goods. In Islam, buying and selling is not only allowed between fellow Muslims but also between Muslims and non-Muslims, as long as it does not endanger the survival of Muslims. The Prophet (saw) also made a pawn transaction with a Jew, because the Jew was not included in the non-Muslim *harbi* who fought Islam (Rahayu and Ginting 2019).

Building a Tolerant and Peaceful Economic Environment through Sharia Business Ethics

Building a tolerant and peaceful economic environment through Sharia business ethics is a moral and strategic demand in today's multicultural global context. Sharia business ethics offer principles that are not only relevant to Muslims but also relevant and universally applicable to all individuals and groups. One of the main principles in Sharia business ethics is absolute fairness in all economic transactions. This includes aspects of transparency, honesty, and fair conflict resolution, which knows no boundaries of religion or belief. Islam teaches to respect and treat both fellow Muslims and non-Muslims fairly, reflecting an inclusive attitude toward the diversity of faiths that is part of God's will (Nasution et al. 2023).

Business practices based on Sharia ethics also encourage human resource development through education and training on the values of tolerance, mutual respect, and peaceful conflict resolution. It not only builds individual capacity to apply the principles of business ethics but also solidifies a commitment to equitable economic justice for all parties regardless of religious or cultural background. By integrating these principles in every aspect of economic activities, both in corporate policies and daily practices, we not only create a stable and trustworthy business environment, but also contribute to a peaceful and inclusive society.

Discussing the economic development of the people, there are several things that need to be considered. First, the economy of the *ummah* is almost identical to the economy of Indonesia's indigenous people, while Muslims themselves make up 87% of the total population. This shows that equitable national development vertically and horizontally is important to also build the economy of Muslims. Second, the economy of the *ummah* includes sectors controlled by Muslims and students, but this limitation is often confusing because it is difficult to distinguish between those that are Islamic and those that are not. For example, a large businessman who performs prayer services may be considered a student, but if he is not involved in the Islamic movement, then he may not be a student or a functional Islamist.

In addition, the economy of the *ummah* also includes bodies formed and managed by

Islamic movements, such as companies developed by Christian movements. They have successfully established themselves as conglomerates in various sectors such as banking, plantations, international trade, hospitality, publishing, printing, and other industries. Thus, empowering the ummah's economy means seeking to increase the dignity and dignity of the Islamic community from the underprivileged, as well as freeing themselves from the trap of poverty and economic backwardness. This is a step to build the independence of the people in the economic field, broadly supporting the development of the national economy. (Jaelani 2014)

Thus, Sharia business ethics not only serves as a set of rules, but also as a strong foundation for building a tolerant, peaceful, and just economic environment. This is an essential step in ensuring that economic development not only aims to achieve material benefits, but also to promote social harmony and common prosperity within the framework of increasingly complex and interconnected global diversity.

CONCLUSION

Overall, building a tolerant and peaceful economic environment through Sharia business ethics is a very relevant and meaningful step in the context of today's multicultural global society. Sharia business ethics offers a strong foundation in the form of the principles of justice, transparency, and fair conflict resolution, which apply not only to Muslims but also to all individuals and groups in society. Sharia ethics-based business practices not only emphasize economic aspects, but also on the development of human character and values such as tolerance, mutual respect, and peaceful conflict resolution. By strengthening the capacity of individuals to implement these values, we not only build a stable and trustworthy business environment but also make a positive contribution to the creation of a peaceful and inclusive society. The application of Sharia business ethics in every aspect of economic activities not only aims to achieve economic goals, but also to create a framework that promotes social harmony and common welfare. Thus, Sharia business ethics not only serves as a set of rules, but also as a comprehensive guide to building an economic environment based on tolerance, peace, and justice for all parties.

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