

## THE ROLE OF KOPERASI SYARIAH KHADIJAH AR-ROCHIM SEJAHTERA IN ACCOMMODATING THE SAVINGS AND LOAN NEEDS OF THE SUMBERASRI VILLAGE COMMUNITY

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### **Abstract**

Koperasi Syariah Khadijah Ar-Rochim Sejahtera plays a significant role in improving the economic welfare of the residents of Sumberasri through the provision of Sharia-compliant savings and loan services. This article aims to examine the role of this cooperative in meeting the financial needs of the community and to identify the challenges and benefits experienced by the people. This research adopts a descriptive approach combining both qualitative and quantitative methods, through literature review, user satisfaction surveys, and secondary data analysis from the cooperative. The findings show that the cooperative has made a positive impact on economic empowerment, although it faces challenges in management and capital limitations. The main benefits experienced by the members include increased economic welfare, women's empowerment, and strengthened entrepreneurial spirit. This study recommends strengthening management, diversifying businesses, and enhancing members' understanding of Sharia principles to improve the sustainability of the cooperative.

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## **INTRODUCTION**

A cooperative is a business organization formed with a focus on family principles and the active involvement of its members. In this context, cooperatives serve as a means to improve the economic welfare of their members by providing various services, including financial services. One type of cooperative that has been growing rapidly is the Sharia cooperative, which operates based on principles of justice and welfare, and without involving elements of usury (riba), in accordance with Islamic teachings. With these principles, Sharia cooperatives are expected to offer solutions to the financial access problems often faced by the community, particularly in rural areas.

A Sharia cooperative is a financial institution established according to Sharia principles, offering financial services in line with Islamic law, and aiming to enhance the welfare of its members and society. "A financial institution is a real sector institution that serves as a mediator for the general public and a platform for focusing on savings and providing financing for those in need of initial capital or working capital to run a business" (Wanala Abdillaika Martiwi, Ismy Tsaniyah Nur Rohmawati, Muhammad Mamdukh, Primadia Nabila Putri, Eny Latifah 2022).

An example of a Sharia cooperative is the Koperasi Syariah Khadijah Ar-Rochim Sejahtera, located in Sumberasri village. This cooperative plays a vital role in providing Sharia-compliant savings and loan services to the local community. "Indonesia, with a Muslim majority population of 280.73 million people by the end of 2023, offers significant opportunities for Sharia financial products such as banking, insurance, financing, and cooperatives" (Didin Syaepudin 2024). This potential presents opportunities for the development of Sharia cooperatives, given the increasing demand for financial products based on Sharia principles. In addition to providing financial services, this cooperative also contributes to the economic empowerment of the community, especially women, and supports the creation of sustainable businesses. Koperasi Syariah Khadijah Ar-Rochim Sejahtera not only meets the financial needs of its members but also strives to enhance their economic capacities.

Despite offering numerous benefits, this Sharia cooperative faces several challenges regarding management and capital sustainability. One of the primary challenges is ensuring the operational sustainability of the cooperative while adhering to Sharia principles and meeting the needs of its members. Additionally, resource management and capital sustainability are critical concerns in ensuring the cooperative can continue to operate and grow.

## **METHODS**

This research adopts a descriptive approach combining both qualitative and quantitative methods. To obtain primary data, the author conducted a satisfaction survey among 20 active cooperative members. The purpose of the survey was to assess the level of user satisfaction with the services provided by the cooperative. Additionally, secondary data was collected through a literature review from scholarly journals and books related to Sharia cooperatives and local economics. As stated by Joned Ceilendra Saksana, "Research is the activity of collecting, processing, analyzing, and presenting data systematically and objectively to resolve problems or test hypotheses in developing established principles."

The analysis methods used include quantitative analysis to assess member satisfaction and qualitative analysis to identify the challenges and benefits faced by the cooperative. Data

obtained from the survey were analyzed using descriptive analysis techniques to provide an overview of the cooperative's condition and the community's perception of the services offered.

## **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

### **1.1 Overview of Koperasi Syariah Khadijah Ar-Rochim Sejahtera**

Koperasi Syariah Khadijah Ar-Rochim Sejahtera was established to provide financial services that comply with Sharia principles for the people of Sumberasri Village. This cooperative focuses on savings and loan services using profit-sharing principles (*mudharabah*) and interest-free loans (*qardhul hasan*), ensuring that transactions are free from elements of usury (*riba*). The cooperative adheres to principles of transparency, justice, and member welfare in all its operations.

### **1.2 Funding and Capital Sources**

The cooperative raises capital from member contributions, where members deposit funds for the cooperative's business capital. These funds are then managed using the *mudharabah* principle, where profits earned from the cooperative's business are shared according to an agreement between the cooperative and its members. Additionally, the cooperative provides interest-free loans (*qardhul hasan*) to members in need of financial assistance, without additional burdens or interest charges.

### **1.3 Sharia Principles Applied**

This cooperative applies Sharia principles in every business and transaction activity. By using *mudharabah*, the cooperative acts as the manager of member funds, while members act as the fund contributors. Profits from the managed businesses are shared based on an agreed ratio. The cooperative also applies the *qardhul hasan* principle in providing loans, meaning the loans are given without interest and must be repaid according to the agreement, with no additional charges or interest.

### **1.4 Organizational Structure and Financial Management**

This cooperative has an organizational structure consisting of management responsible for the management of funds and cooperative businesses. The management ensures that all transactions are conducted with high transparency and accountability. Major decisions in the cooperative, such as profit sharing and fund usage, are made through deliberations involving all members. This deliberation principle ensures that every decision made prioritizes collective interest and fairness.

### **1.5 Diversification of Revenue Sources**

In addition to savings and loan services, the cooperative also develops other business units to increase capital and diversify revenue sources. This allows the cooperative to manage funds more efficiently and provide greater benefits to its members, in line with Sharia principles that emphasize collective welfare.

Through Sharia-based operations, Koperasi Syariah Khadijah Ar-Rochim Sejahtera not only provides fair financial access but also contributes to the economic empowerment of the

Sumberasri community, improving the welfare of its members and creating a more equitable economy

## **2.1 User Satisfaction Level Survey on Member Satisfaction of Koperasi Syariah Khadijah Ar-Rochim Sejahtera**

A survey conducted on 20 members of Koperasi Syariah Khadijah Ar-Rochim Sejahtera yielded interesting results regarding the satisfaction level of members with the services provided by the cooperative. Here are the main findings from the survey:

### **2.2 Satisfaction Level with Services**

The survey conducted among 20 members of Koperasi Syariah Khadijah Ar-Rochim Sejahtera showed very positive results, with all members (100%) expressing satisfaction with the services provided by the cooperative. Below are the key findings from the survey about the factors affecting user satisfaction:

**Clarity of Service Procedures:** Members who were satisfied with the cooperative's services stated that clear and easy-to-understand procedures were important to their satisfaction. In contrast, less satisfied members felt that some stages of the procedure, particularly related to loan disbursement, were unclear.

**Transparency in Fund Management:** Transparency in managing the cooperative's funds was identified as a key factor. Satisfied members felt that the cooperative was transparent regarding financial reports and profit sharing, while some members believed more information should be shared regarding fund usage and other financial decisions.

**Relationship Between Managers and Members:** The harmonious relationship between cooperative managers and its members also played a significant role in the satisfaction level. Members who felt involved in the deliberation and decision-making process tended to be more satisfied compared to those who felt excluded.

Overall, Koperasi Syariah Khadijah Ar-Rochim Sejahtera received positive feedback from its members, with most expressing satisfaction with the interest-free and riba-free loan services. However, there is room for improvement, particularly in speeding up loan disbursement processes and enhancing communication about the cooperative's financial management.

## **3 Challenges in Implementing Islamic Cooperatives**

As a financial institution based on Islamic principles, Islamic cooperatives have great potential to support the economic welfare of the community. However, like other organizations, they face several challenges in implementation. One example is Koperasi Syariah Khadijah Ar-Rochim Sejahtera, which faces various obstacles disrupting its operations and development. Here are some of the challenges faced by this cooperative:

### **3.1 Limited Capital**

Although Islamic cooperatives adhere to the principle of mutual cooperation, which encourages active member participation in financing and management, limited capital remains a major

challenge. Insufficient capital can hinder the cooperative's expansion and the development of services that can be offered to members. As is known, adequate capital is crucial to increasing operational scale and improving competitiveness. Without sufficient capital, Islamic cooperatives find it difficult to increase the number of members, expand their business network, or make the necessary investments to enhance service quality.

This capital limitation can also restrict the cooperative's ability to cope with sudden economic challenges, such as price fluctuations or financial crises. The cooperative must find solutions to address this issue, either through fundraising from members, Islamic loans, or collaborations with other financial institutions that share similar goals and values.

### **3.2 Suboptimal Management**

Management is a critical aspect that significantly impacts the smooth operation and sustainability of the cooperative. Good management ensures the cooperative runs efficiently and increases its credibility with members and the community. However, many Islamic cooperatives, including Koperasi Syariah Khadijah Ar-Rochim Sejahtera, still face challenges in optimal management. One common problem is the lack of professionalism in financial recordkeeping. Disorganized and unsystematic records can lead to a lack of transparency, which ultimately results in ignorance about the cooperative's financial condition. Consequently, decision-making based on inaccurate data can harm both the cooperative and its members.

This issue must be addressed promptly, as poor financial management can worsen the cooperative's financial condition, hinder business development, and reduce members' trust. Therefore, Islamic cooperatives need to make significant improvements in their management and governance systems. One example is improving human resource management because "the goal of human resource management is to enhance employee contributions to the organization in order to achieve the organization's productivity" (Avisa 2022). By improving human resource management, cooperatives can ensure employees play an optimal role in supporting organizational progress. Additionally, a crucial action is increasing accountability and professionalism in every operational aspect of the cooperative. The use of technology is highly relevant for this purpose. For example, finance software that adheres to Islamic principles can be an effective solution to help the cooperative maintain more organized and transparent transaction records.

Moreover, technology can facilitate supervision, provide timely financial reports, and minimize human error in recordkeeping. This is also an effort for the cooperative's development. Implementing an integrated technology system can support the cooperative's goal of becoming more efficient and accountable in its management while strengthening members' and society's trust in the sustainability of the Islamic cooperative. Therefore, improving management systems and governance with the support of technology will significantly enhance the quality of Islamic cooperative management, including Koperasi Syariah Khadijah Ar-Rochim Sejahtera, and ensure its sustainability and growth in the future.

### **3.3 Regulatory and Policy Complexity**

Islamic cooperatives also face challenges in meeting various regulations and policies set by the government and relevant authorities. Although regulations concerning cooperatives and Islamic

financial institutions are in place, sometimes there is a misalignment between existing regulations and the practices of the Islamic cooperative itself. For example, issues related to zakat obligations or banking regulations that are not always fully in line with the operational policies of the cooperative.

These challenges become even more pronounced if the Islamic cooperative wants to operate in a broader market, either nationally or internationally. Therefore, the cooperative should always update its knowledge regarding applicable regulations and policies and coordinate with authorities to ensure smooth operations in compliance with existing rules.

#### **4 Benefits of Islamic Cooperatives for the Community**

Koperasi Syariah Khadijah Ar-Rochim Sejahtera provides significant benefits to the Sumberasri community. As an Islamic-based economic institution, this cooperative not only prioritizes profit but also focuses on improving the social welfare of its members.

##### **4.1 Improving Economic Welfare of Members**

Koperasi Syariah Khadijah Ar-Rochim Sejahtera provides easier and fairer access to finance for its members. With a financing system based on Islamic principles, members can obtain loans with low or no interest, which is certainly more advantageous than conventional financial institutions. Transparent and non-burdensome requirements provide a sense of security for members in fulfilling their daily needs, such as for education, healthcare, and other consumption needs. Moreover, the cooperative also offers financial products that comply with Islamic principles, such as murabaha, musyarakah, and ijarah financing, which are not only profitable but also avoid the practice of riba, which is prohibited in Islam. This plays an important role in increasing the purchasing power of society and improving their overall quality of life.

##### **4.2 Empowering Women in the Economy**

One important aspect of this cooperative is how it provides significant space for women to participate actively in the economy of their families and communities. In villages, women often have a more prominent role in managing family economics, and this cooperative gives them access to strengthen their economic position. Through entrepreneurship training, female members of the cooperative can learn to manage small and medium-sized enterprises in a more professional manner while improving family income. Additionally, the cooperative also provides opportunities for women to engage in various beneficial social activities, such as community social activities and programs that support women's empowerment at the local level. This has a direct impact on increasing the economic independence of women, which in turn improves the overall welfare of families.

##### **4.3 Increasing Entrepreneurship in the Community**

Koperasi Syariah Khadijah Ar-Rochim Sejahtera plays an important role in facilitating members to develop their entrepreneurial potential. By providing access to capital and business training, this cooperative encourages its members to start independent businesses. The support provided

includes not only loan capital but also guidance in planning and managing businesses so that members can grow their businesses more effectively and sustainably. "Islamic cooperatives have a function in developing the potential and capabilities of members and society to improve social economic welfare" (Sobarna, 2021). The cooperative also regularly organizes training on entrepreneurship, finance, and business management to help members improve their skills. This, of course, opens up job opportunities and creates new employment in villages, directly contributing to the reduction of unemployment and poverty.

#### **4.4 Improving Infrastructure and Facilities in the Community**

In addition to the direct economic benefits for cooperative members, the Islamic cooperative also plays a role in improving infrastructure and public facilities in the Sumberasri village. The profits earned from the cooperative's activities can be allocated for the development of social facilities, such as places of worship, educational centers, or meeting spaces for the community. This infrastructure improvement helps create a better environment for all village residents, which ultimately enhances their quality of life. By focusing on sustainable development approaches that align with Islamic principles, this cooperative also supports government programs related to village development.

#### **4.5 Reducing Social and Economic Inequality**

Islamic cooperatives play an important role in reducing social and economic inequality, particularly in Muslim-majority countries like Indonesia. The goal of an Islamic cooperative is not just to make a profit but to empower the economy of the community by emphasizing principles such as justice, equality, and solidarity. In this regard, the cooperative serves as a medium that allows people to work together to improve their welfare. "A cooperative is a people's economic organization that is social in nature, or an economic organization of people whose members are generally from low-income groups, established with the aim of improving their welfare through mutual cooperation" (Danang Prio Utomo, 2021). Koperasi Syariah Khadijah Ar-Rochim Sejahtera also plays a significant role in reducing social and economic inequalities within the community. By providing equitable access to finance and empowering members to run businesses, the cooperative helps narrow the economic gap between different community groups.

### **CONCLUSION**

The study of Koperasi Syariah Khadijah Ar-Rochim Sejahtera highlights its role as a sharia-based financial institution improving economic welfare in Sumberasri Village. Operating on principles like *mudharabah* (profit-sharing) and *qardhul hasan* (interest-free loans), it strengthens small businesses and promotes financial independence without interest burdens. Members express high satisfaction with its transparent, fair, and *riba*-free services, although improvements in loan disbursement processes and communication are needed. Challenges include limited capital, regulatory complexities, and suboptimal fund management. Solutions involve enhanced member participation, improved management systems, and comprehensive training in sharia principles and cooperative operations. Continuous regulatory monitoring ensures sharia compliance. The cooperative's benefits are substantial, providing fair access to capital, fostering entrepreneurship, and driving village economic growth. It strengthens social solidarity and reduces social inequality while improving members' quality of life. Success factors include transparent management, fair profit-sharing, and member empowerment through

training. Commitment to justice and sharia principles has made it a model for village economic development, demonstrating the transformative potential of well-managed sharia cooperatives.

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