

## Is *Zakah* Effective to Alleviate Poverty in a Muslim Society?: A Case of Kwara State, Nigeria

Abdussalam, Onagun Isiaka (Corresponding author)

Faculty of Economics and Muamalat, Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM), Bandar  
BaruNilai, 71800 Nilai, Negeri Sembilan, Malaysia  
Tel: + 6018-2204627 E-mail: onagun094@gmail.com

Fuadah Johari

Faculty of Economics and Muamalat, Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM), Bandar  
BaruNilai, 71800 Nilai, Negeri Sembilan, Malaysia  
Tel: + 6013-3648370 E-mail: fuadah@usim.edu.my

Mohammad Alias

Faculty of Economics and Muamalat, Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM), Bandar  
BaruNilai, 71800 Nilai, Negeri Sembilan, Malaysia  
Tel: + 6019-2805343 E-mail: hjmohd\_99@yahoo.co.uk

### Abstract

Kwara State is one of the Muslim-dominated states in Nigeria, where Islamic economic instrument of *zakah* is expected to play vital role in alleviating the problem of poverty in the society. One of the objectives of *zakah* is to economically circulate the wealth and resources from the rich to the poor and eventually realize fair distribution of those wealth and resources in a Muslim society. Therefore, the purpose of this study is to examine the effectiveness of *zakah* in the poverty reduction of the poor Muslims in Kwara State, Nigeria, particularly, the poor Muslim women. The study employs mixed method of data collection whereby the primary data are explored using the questionnaire and interview designed for the potential respondents during the on-going academic research programme 2013/2014 academic session of 360 sample size. Similarly, verses from Holy Qu'ran and *Sunnah* of the Prophet Muhammad (*pbuh*) are used in the study. For the secondary data, existing literature and studies on *zakah* are also used. Data gathered are analysed using frequencies, percentages and inferential statistics via SPSS 20.0. The findings show that *zakah* and its institution are not significantly related to and effective in reducing poverty

among the poor Muslims in Kwara State, Nigeria. However, recommendations are made towards introduction of standard institution of *zakah* in the State in order to assist in poverty reduction among the poor Muslims.

**Keywords:** Institution of *Zakah*; Muslim Society; Poverty Alleviation; *Zakah*; Kwara State

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