

# The Role of Forum Silaturahmi Studi Ekonomi Islam (FoSSEI) in Increasing Public Awareness and Understanding of Islamic Economy in West Java Province

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## ABSTRACT

Islamic economics has become a topic of increasing interest from the Indonesian public and government in recent years. West Java Province as one of the centers of national economic development is also not left behind in developing the Islamic economy. In order to improve public knowledge of Islamic economics, FoSSEI, an organization made up of students and students interested in Islamic economics, plays a crucial role. The purpose of this study is to ascertain how the FoSSEI contributes to greater public knowledge and comprehension of Islamic economics in the West Java Province. A qualitative descriptive research methodology was adopted, and data were gathered through interviews with FoSSEI members, scholars, and practitioners of Islamic economics, as well as communities participating in FoSSEI operations. In West Java Province, the findings indicated that FoSSEI plays a significant role in raising public knowledge of and comprehension of Islamic economics. FoSSEI has successfully held various activities such as seminars, training, and community service programs that focus on developing the Islamic economy. These activities have succeeded in increasing public understanding and awareness of Islamic economics.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Islamic economics is an economic system based on Islamic teachings and sharia principles. Islamic economics emphasizes justice, balance, and alignment with the general good (maslahah) in looking at economic and financial issues. In principle, Islamic economics is not only about halal or haram financial transactions, but also about the purpose and meaning of economic activity itself [1].

Islamic economics has several characteristics that distinguish it from conventional economic systems [2]. First, Islamic economics views that economic resources are not only material, but also spiritual. Second, Islamic economics emphasizes the principles of fairness and balance, so that every economic transaction must meet sharia criteria that protect the interests of all parties involved. Third, Islamic economics encourages the expansion of the real estate sector as well as other lucrative

businesses that add value to society. Fourthly, Islamic economics maintains that all people's interests, not just a chosen few, should be served by economic activity and that it should benefit the general good.

The understanding that the traditional economic system cannot address the economic and social issues facing society [3]–[8] is the backdrop for the formation of Islamic economics. Conventional economic systems tend to produce inequality, injustice, and instability that harm the interests of society at large. In addition, the global financial crisis in the late 1990s and early 2000s made many people look for alternatives to a more stable and equitable economic system [9]. The desire of people who are becoming more conscious of the value of putting religious teachings into practice in daily life is what is driving the growth of the Islamic economy in Indonesia.

Government programs that promote halal product marketing and the expansion of the Islamic banking industry help to advance Indonesia's Islamic economy. Indonesia is one of the nations with the largest Islamic financial markets globally, with assets of approximately US\$ 29 billion in 2021 [10]. There are still many challenges and obstacles to overcome in order to create the Islamic economy in Indonesia, including a lack of Islamic financial literacy, a lack of supporting infrastructure, and a shortage of Islamic financial products and services.

The Indonesian public and government have recently developed an increased interest in the subject of Islamic economics. This is evident from the rise in both the establishment of Islamic financial institutions and public interest in Islamic financial products. In addition, Islamic economics also offers ethical values that can help overcome various economic and social problems faced by society. However, public awareness and understanding of Islamic economics is still low, especially in areas that are not too developed.

The growth of the Islamic economy has not been left behind in West Java Province, one of the hubs of the national

economy. The West Java province administration has undertaken a number of attempts in recent years to advance the Islamic economy, including the establishment of the Sharia Revolving Fund Management Institute (LPDBS) and the promotion of halal goods. These initiatives, meanwhile, have not entirely succeeded in raising public awareness of and improving public comprehension of Islamic economics.

An organization made up of students and students interested in Islamic economics, FoSSEI, plays a significant role in raising public awareness of Islamic economics. FoSSEI, an organization involved in the field, has the power to bring about change by increasing public awareness and understanding of Islamic economics in West Java Province.

In Indonesian universities, more students are enrolling each year in sharia economics study programs, according to data released by the Ministry of Religious Affairs in 2020. This demonstrates the growing acceptance of Islamic economics and the potential for groups like FoSSEI to spread this philosophy over the world. This study's objective is to ascertain how the FoSSEI contributes to greater public knowledge and comprehension of Islamic economics in the West Java Province.

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

### *2.1 Islamic Economics as a Concept and Forum Silaturahmi Studi Ekonomi Islam's (FoSSEI) Contribution to Raising Islamic Economy Awareness in Indonesia*

The concept of Islamic Economics is one of the most important things to know in order to spread awareness of its importance in Indonesia. Islamic economics differs from mainstream economics in that it draws its principles from the Qur'an and Hadith, which serve as its primary sources of guidance. The idea of Islamic Economics also incorporates sharia ideals, which support fairness, accuracy, efficiency, and cooperation in business dealings.

The role of Forum Silaturahmi Studi Ekonomi Islam (FoSSEI) in raising awareness of the importance of Islamic Economics in Indonesia is very important. Students interested in the study of Islamic economics can connect in the FoSSEI forum. By creating competent and high-quality human resources and enhancing the standard of research and Islamic economy development, FoSSEI seeks to advance the Islamic economy in Indonesia.

The actions of FoSSEI contribute to raising public awareness of the importance of Indonesia's Islamic economy, claims aresearch by [11]. The FoSSEI organizes a variety of Islamic economics-related activities, such as training sessions, lectures, and seminars. These activities can give students fresh insights and opportunities to use Islamic economics in their daily lives, as well as increase their understanding of and knowledge of the concept.

In addition, research conducted by [12] shows that FoSSEI can also raise awareness about Islamic Economy through publication and dissemination of information through social media and websites. FoSSEI is also active in helping the development of cooperatives and MSMEs based on the Islamic economy.

Overall, the concept of Islamic Economy and FoSSEI's contribution to raising awareness of Islamic Economy in Indonesia play a significant role in the development of Islamic Economy in Indonesia. Students with an interest in Islamic Economics can use FoSSEI as a venue to participate in initiatives that enhance knowledge and application of Islamic Economics in Indonesia.

## ***2.2 The Development of Islamic Economy in Indonesia: Forum Silaturahmi Studi Ekonomi Islam (FoSSEI) Activities and Programs***

The growth of Islamic Economics in Indonesia is significantly aided by Forum Silaturahmi Studi Ekonomi Islam (FoSSEI). FoSSEI has various programs and activities that can improve the understanding and practice of Islamic Economics. Some of FoSSEI's programs and activities include:

### **a. Seminars and Workshops**

FoSSEI frequently hosts seminars and workshops with speakers who are specialists in Islamic Economics. The goal of these seminars and workshops is to expand awareness of Islamic Economics and to offer opinions on how it is developing in Indonesia.

### **b. Training and Socialization**

In order to improve student and public awareness of Islamic Economics, FoSSEI routinely hosts training events and social gatherings. Various facets of Islamic Economics are covered in this seminar, including Islamic banking, Islamic insurance, and Islamic financial management.

### **c. Research and Studies**

The FoSSEI actively carries out studies and research on Islamic Economics [13]. To deepen awareness of Islamic Economics and further its growth in Indonesia, this study and research were carried out. Research and study findings from the FoSSEI are frequently published in books and papers in scholarly journals.

### **d. Community Service**

Additionally engaged in the community service sector is FoSSEI in the area of Islamic Economics. This community service program involves helping to build cooperatives and Islamic financial institutions as well as providing counseling and mentoring for small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs) based on Islamic economy.

It may be inferred from a number of projects and initiatives undertaken by FoSSEI that the organization is crucial in the growth of Indonesia's Islamic economy. Programs and initiatives undertaken by FoSSEI can advance knowledge and application of Islamic Economics and aid in the advancement of the discipline in Indonesia.

## ***2.3 The West Java Province's Islamic Economic Development Model and the Function of the Forum Silaturahmi Studi Ekonomi Islam (FoSSEI) in Putting the Model into Practice***

The Islamic economy has a lot of room to grow in the West Java Province. Several proposals have been made by various experts to hasten the growth of Islamic

Economics in West Java. The integration of the Islamic economy and the growth of SMEs based on the Islamic economy are two concepts that have been put forth [14].

The goal of this strategy for the integration of the Islamic economy and the growth of SMEs based on the Islamic economy in West Java is to enhance the Ummah's economic sector. This model is expected to produce economic independence of the people and accelerate regional economic development.

In implementing the Islamic Economy development model in West Java Province, FoSSEI has an important role in increasing public awareness and understanding of Islamic Economics. FoSSEI can conduct various programs and activities such as seminars, workshops, training, research, and community service to educate the public about Islamic Economy and implement the Islamic Economy development model in West Java.

In addition, FoSSEI can also collaborate with local governments, Islamic financial institutions, sharia cooperatives, and Islamic Economy-based SMEs to strengthen the implementation of the Islamic Economy development model in West Java Province.

In conclusion, the proposed Islamic Economic development model needs to be implemented effectively in West Java Province. By conducting numerous programs and activities, working with diverse parties, and caring about the advancement of Islamic economy, FoSSEI plays a significant part in putting the concept into practice.

### 3. METHODS

Through interviews with FoSSEI members, scholars, and practitioners of Islamic economics, as well as communities engaged in FoSSEI activities, this research use qualitative descriptive approaches to collect data.

Qualitative descriptive method is a research method used to describe and explain a phenomenon in depth and detail. This method places more emphasis on data

interpretation and narrative analysis than on quantitative measurement. In this study, qualitative descriptive methods will be used to explain the role of Forum Silaturahmi Studi Ekonomi Islam (FoSSEI) in the development of Islamic economics in West Java Province.

The data collection techniques to be used are interviews and observations. Interviews will be conducted with resource persons related to FoSSEI, such as management, members, and partners. The interview will be conducted in a structured manner using a list of pre-prepared questions. Observations were made to obtain a direct picture of FoSSEI activities and their influence in the development of Islamic economy in West Java Province. Observations are carried out in a participatory manner by participating in FoSSEI activities relevant to the research topic.

The data that has been collected will be analyzed using qualitative data analysis methods. Data obtained from interviews and observations will be processed thematically, then analyzed narratively and interpretively. Data analysis is carried out to answer the research objectives that have been formulated previously.

It is believed that this study will be able to present an in-depth and thorough picture of the role of FoSSEI in the development of Islamic economics in West Java Province by utilizing qualitative descriptive methodologies and interview and observation data gathering techniques.

### 4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The findings of this study demonstrate that Islamic economics is based on ideas that are distinct from those of traditional economics. Justice, openness, social responsibility, cooperation, and the lack of usury are only a few of these ideals. The idea of Islamic economy also supports wise and conscientious resource management while giving consideration to social and environmental concerns.

However, public awareness of the concept of Islamic Economy is still low in

Indonesia [15]. This is due to a lack of education and understanding of the principles of Islamic Economics. As one of the organizations dedicated to the advancement of Islamic Economics, Forum Silaturahmi Studi Ekonomi Islam (FoSSEI) plays a significant part in raising public understanding of the idea.

To inform the public about the idea of Islamic Economics, FoSSEI can organize a variety of programs and activities, including seminars, talks, workshops, training, research, and community service. To promote an understanding of Islamic Economics, FoSSEI can also work with governments, Islamic financial institutions, educational institutions, and communities.

The analysis of this study demonstrates that FoSSEI may significantly contribute to raising public understanding of the idea of Islamic economy in Indonesia. Through a range of programs and activities, the FoSSEI can support Islamic financial solutions that uphold these criteria and help people comprehend Islamic economic concepts.

The general populace's understanding of the idea is necessary for the growth of Indonesia's Islamic economy. By increasing public awareness, it is hoped that more people would be able to use Islamic financial products and apply Islamic economic principles to their daily lives. Raising awareness of the concept among the general public is mostly accomplished via the efforts of the FoSSEI, an organisation dedicated to the growth of Islamic Economics.

The Forum Silaturahmi Studi Ekonomi Islam (FoSSEI) organization was founded by Islamic economists in Indonesia with the intention of furthering Islamic economics in that nation. Conducting research and studies on Islamic economics as well as planning seminars, conferences, and training sessions with the goal of raising public knowledge and comprehension of Islamic economics are some of the activities and programs of the FoSSEI.

Through its activities and programs, FoSSEI has been successful in making a

significant contribution to the expansion of Indonesia's Islamic economy. For instance, scholars, practitioners, and decision-makers in the field of Islamic economics have attended various seminars and conferences that the FoSSEI has held. FoSSEI has been successful in presenting Islamic economics concepts and encouraging individuals to use its tenets in daily life through this platform.

Additionally, the FoSSEI conducts research and studies on Islamic economics. Only a few of the studies conducted by FoSSEI include study on the potential of the Islamic economy in Indonesia, studies on fiscal and monetary policies from an Islamic economics viewpoint, and studies on the role of Islamic banking to the expansion of the Indonesian economy. Through these activities and programs, FoSSEI has been effective in increasing public awareness of the Islamic economy and encouraging its expansion in Indonesia. As a group of academics and practitioners, FoSSEI ultimately contributes significantly to the growth of Islamic economics in Indonesia. Through its programmes and activities, FoSSEI has significantly assisted Indonesia in its transition to an Islamic economy by raising public knowledge of and comprehension of Islamic economics.

Due to the West Java Province's Islamic economic development policy, the Islamic economy there has grown more fast. The deployment and general effectiveness of the model are significantly influenced by FoSSEI. One of the efforts and activities carried out by FoSSEI to aid the development of the Islamic economy in West Java is the training and development of sharia entrepreneurship, seminars and workshops on Islamic economics, as well as mentorship and the creation of sharia MSMEs.

It has been successful in increasing public awareness of the need for the sharia economy in everyday problems because of the rise of the Islamic economy in West Java. This is seen by the growing trend among customers to choose sharia-compliant goods and services for their purchasing decisions.

As a platform for Islamic economic studies, FoSSEI makes a significant contribution to Indonesia's growing understanding of Islamic economics. FoSSEI serves as a venue for scholars and practitioners of Islamic economics to interact, exchange knowledge, and generate fresh suggestions for the advancement of Islamic economics. Additionally, FoSSEI frequently conducts seminars and workshops in order to better the general public's awareness of Islamic economics.

In conclusion, the development of Indonesia's Islamic economy, particularly in the West Java Province, depends on FoSSEI. This event was successful in spreading knowledge about Islamic economics and encouraging the use of Islamic economic development methods in the region. The initiatives conducted by FoSSEI might serve as an example for other Indonesian Islamic economic forums looking to encourage the development of the Islamic economy.

## 5. CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the study, it can be concluded that FoSSEI plays an important role in increasing public awareness and understanding of Islamic economics in West Java Province. FoSSEI has activities and programs aimed at educating the public about the concept of Islamic economics, as well as providing training and mentoring for small and medium enterprises in applying the principles of Islamic economics.

Through these activities and programs, FoSSEI succeeded in increasing public awareness about the potential of Islamic economy and its contribution to economic development in West Java Province. In addition, FoSSEI has also succeeded in building networks and collaborations with various parties, including the government and Islamic financial institutions, to strengthen the Islamic economic ecosystem in West Java Province.

In the context of developing an Islamic economic model in West Java Province, FoSSEI can also play a role as an

agent of change that encourages the creation of a more inclusive and sustainable economy. FoSSEI can implement proven and successfully implemented Islamic economic development models in other regions, as well as involve various stakeholders in the development process.

Thus, it can be concluded that the role of FoSSEI is very important in increasing public awareness and understanding of Islamic economics in West Java Province, as well as in implementing more inclusive and sustainable Islamic economic development models.

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