

The Role of Pesantren on Society Economy Development

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Abstract—The objective of this research is to acknowledge the role of pesantren on society economy development, and to analyze the way pesantren implements its integrated supply chain strategy in building the economy of its surrounding areas. The method utilized in this research is a descriptive qualitative method, with data source obtained by informants consist of pesantren leaders or their representatives and a number of students in two pesantrens chosen as subjects in this research. The intended two pesantrens are Pesantren Najaahaan in Garut Regency and Pesantren Cipasung in Tasikmalaya City. This research requires primary data which were collected by conducting interview with the aforementioned informants and secondary data obtained from related relevant references with this research. Based on field data, we managed to reveal that Pesantren Najaahaan with its entrepreneurship activities implements backward and forward integration strategies that play vital role on economy development in upstream and downstream sectors. The existence of Pesantren Cipasung as a well-known pesantren has brought significantly positive influence on the development of social and economy aspects on the surrounding society. Development in economic field is reflected on the emergence of a number of micro small and middle scale commerce and businesses around pesantren area.

Keywords—*pesantren, society, economy development*

I. INTRODUCTION

Inside a society, it is important to have various institutions that are able to provide a number of required services. Pesantren is an educational institution [1] required by Muslim society, especially in Indonesia. Pesantren has become the main option for the society regarding educational institution. As an educational institution, pesantren has contributed on a major scale on Indonesian education system.

The existence of pesantren as a sub system have also influenced the society as its hub. Pesantren has driven numerous positive impacts on the social-economic aspect of the society. To understand the empirical condition of pesantren, it is interesting to study it further, to acknowledge the contribution of pesantren in the development of society, especially on the aspect of economy development.

To Understand the existence of pesantren in business environment is highly related with pesantren entrepreneurship aspect [2], and its contribution towards the development of the surrounding society. Based on that, the objective of this research is to acknowledge the role of pesantren on society economy development, by conducting an analysis on how pesantren implements integration strategy on its entrepreneurship supply chain to achieve society economy development.

There are only a small number of researchers committed to conduct studies on the role of pesantren in society economy development. That is why, the urgency of this research is to acknowledge whether pesantren run its entrepreneurial business by implementing integration from upstream towards downstream, and to analyze the role of pesantren in the society economy development.

II. RESEARCH METHODS

The method utilized in this research is categorized into descriptive qualitative method. The data required in this research consist of primary and secondary data. Primary data was obtained from a number of informants, namely pesantren leader or their representatives, and a number of santri (students) selected from two pesantrens as samples in this research. The two aforementioned pesantrens are Pesantren Najaahaan in Garut and Pesantren Cipasung in Tasikmalaya. Pesantren Najaahaan is evidently able to build its own entrepreneurship aspects, meanwhile Pesantren Cipasung is well-known to be successful to contribute in the society development effort. On the other hand, the required secondary data was obtained from relevant literatures with the problems presented in this research. These primary and secondary data are further processed into information required to answer the problems in this research, which are to analyze the roles of pesantren in society economy development. The approaches utilized in this research are system and integration strategy theories.

III. PESANTREN ENTREPRENEURSHIP INTEGRATION STRATEGY

Entrepreneurship has not only received attentions from micro, small and medium business levels [3], but also businesses on larger scale. Not only business sector, other services sectors such as religious education such as pesantren as one of educational institutions in Indonesia. Pesantrens as part of sub system of larger system which is the society, are expected to implement entrepreneurial concepts [4] because its operational activities require a number of efforts to achieve organizational sustainability and goals. Internal initiative is known to be not the only driving factors of entrepreneurial implementation in pesantren [5], the government have also shown its alignment by implementing “one pesantren on product” program [6] that drives pesantren to implement their entrepreneurship potential.

In the development of entrepreneurship supply chain, pesantren requires involvement of upstream (material suppliers) and downstream (market distributors) actors. Based on that, to enhance their entrepreneurship supply chain pesantren should implement both backward and forward integration strategies [7,8]. This means that pesantren entrepreneurship should also able to develop economy of business actors in upstream and downstream sectors. Based on that, with the implementation of integration strategy, pesantren have contributed in the development of society economy by supporting business actors both in upstream and downstream sectors.

IV. THE ROLE OF PESANTREN ON SOCIETY ECONOMY DEVELOPMENT

As Islamic educational institution, pesantren have experienced numerous evolutions and changes according to its society development and progress. Pesantren has not only act as institution that provide Islamic education, but also have influenced its surrounding society. By constantly adapting its surviving strategy, pesantren does not only achieve its goals as education institution, but also have been able to sustain itself and bring prosperity for the people around it.

On the internal aspect, a number of pesantren owner and managers has been able to take advantages of a number of presented potential economy opportunities to self-finance their activities. That is why, it is common to witness pesantren owning its cooperative known as Kopontren as one of its business units [9,10]. These units are not only utilized as economy sources, but also as training and development units for their santri. A number of pesantren in Garut Regency develop and own coffee businesses. One of these pesantren is Najaahaan pesantren with its brand, Najahan Coffee. This pesantren even own its own production office that already able to produce a number of coffee variants. With the existence of its business unit, Pesantren Najaahaan have not only been able to finance itself, but also contributed towards both its upstream and downstream societies. On the upstream society, the involvement of coffee farmers is vital to ensure the availability of coffee beans as raw material. This means that Pesantren

Najaahaan have empowered these farmers by absorbing the farmers products on its input market. Inside the pesantren itself, the production process is conducted by involving the santri [11], starting from bean processing until packing stages, so that the santri can receive valuable entrepreneurial knowledge and experiences. This type of education enables the santri to obtain not only religious knowledge, but also entrepreneurial knowledge that can be useful for them when they return as part of the society.

The products produced by pesantren, not only targeted to fulfil local demands, but also for larger markets around Garut Regency and beyond. In its distribution activities, large number of micro small businesses are involved, starting from coffee shops, cafes, giftshops, mini markets, and other type of micro small businesses. By doing so, this pesantren with its coffee product has contributed towards the empowerment of micro small businesses in its business environment.

One example of entrepreneurship activity as identified in Pesantren Najaahaan shows that entrepreneurship activities in pesantren can provide empowerment contribution towards the society, for example the farmers, with the implementation of backward and forward business integrations. The existence of pesantren entrepreneurship have also shown that by the development of these business units enable pesantren to self-finance its activities and provide positive contributions towards society empowerment effort, especially for related surrounding society business activities (see figure 1).

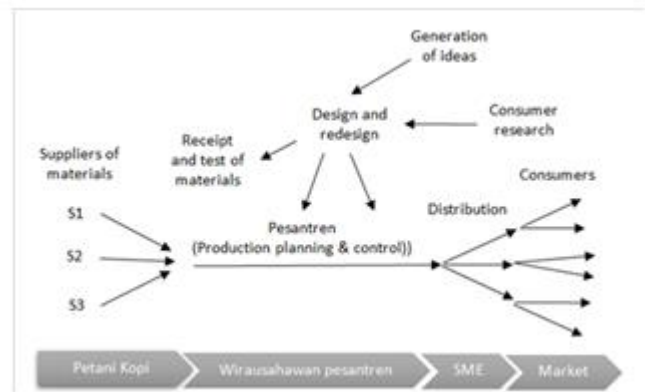


Fig. 1. Pesantren entrepreneurship as a system [12].

The existence of pesantren have also cultivated business units around it. The growth of various sectors around pesantren help to fulfil the needs of the society as well as pesantren’s needs. This situation has improved the social-economy level of the society. Related with pesantren in Garut Regency, the improvement of agriculture, including plantation, is followed by improvement in education, commerce, and micro-small businesses around pesantren. The existence of pesantren has received great attention from the society due to its strong influence on the social-economy aspects of the society. As for larger scale pesantren for example Pesantren Cipasung in Tasikmalaya, the influence is evident with the rapid social-

economy development around the area. With the emergence of this pesantren, numerous supporting businesses are developing, starting from education, commerce, industries, services, and other sectors.

V. CONCLUSION

Pesantren with its entrepreneurship activities implements backward and forward integrations that plays important role in the development of upstream and downstream economy sectors. Besides that, the existence of larger scale pesantrens have evidently provided positive impact on the development of numerous economy sectors in the society including education, services, commerce, and industrial sectors that act as supporting sectors for pesantren.

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