

**MEASURING EFFICIENCY OF ISLAMIC MICRO FINANCE
INSTITUTION**

**CASE STUDY: EFFICIENCY OF BAITUL MAAL WA TAMWIL IN
INDONESIA**

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Abstract

Islamic microfinance institutions in Indonesia have displayed their sustainability and robustness in the face of grave global financial crises. However, this idiosyncratic performance dissipates amid its remarkable growth since they encounter sluggish development of national economy after global financial turmoil. Therefore, this study aims to examine their survival to determine their level of efficiency over the period of 2007-2010 and produce a conceptual framework of efficiency that comply with the tenet of *Shariah* principles. This study employs Data Envelopment Analysis (DEA) to measure its efficiency level by taking input and output variable of *Baitul Maal Wa Tamwil* (BMT) in Indonesia which comprises of total deposit, total asset, labor cost, total financing and other operational income. As overall evaluation and based on the meaning of efficiency, BMT in Indonesia particularly in Central of Java and East Java in general are not efficient although individual BMT proves to be efficient in some variables. Some factors contribute to this inefficiency such total asset of BMT that not managed properly to generate more financing and surplus, the role of *Kyai* as leader of *Pondok Pesantren* that influence the behavior of society towards BMT, high operational cost since most BMT incur more expenses for capacity building program, public perception or awareness and good BMT governance. It does not mean that BMT do not gain profit. There are two interpretations with regard to the inefficiency of BMT. First, BMT as Islamic micro finance institution set lower profit to produce more public welfare (surplus). Second, BMT functioning the role of social institutions (*Baitul Maal*) by extending more financing but generating low profit although the findings reveal good participation from the public (high total deposit). The practical implication of this study will show challenges lie ahead in materializing BMT efficiency since BMT is established merely to empower the life of small income family. In other words, *Barakah* cost mostly incurred by BMT. This study also is one of few studies which employ DEA together with efficiency analysis from Islamic perspective taking into great number of leading BMT in Indonesia.

Keywords: *Islamic Micro Finance, Data Envelopment Analysis, Efficiency, Baitul Maal Wa Tamwil*

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