**ABSTRACT**

**THE STRATEGY OF POOR PEOPLE EMPOWERMENT THROUGH OPTIMIZING *ZAKAT* AND *INFAQ/SHADAQAH* FUND MANAGEMENT**

**By**

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The empowerment efforts in a poverty reduction context by Moslem society is actually having spiritual foundation as taught by the religion; the obligation to pay *zakat* (almsgiving) for capable people as an instrument for income distribution. The *zakat* management should be conducted optimally and professionally.

The research problem statement is “how does the poor people empowerment strategy through optimizing the *zakat, infaq* (charity in the way of Allah), and *shadaqah* (voluntary charity) fund management by BAZ (*Zakat* Management Institution) in Lampung province?” the research objective is to analyze the strategy of poor people empowerment through optimizing *zakat* and *infaq/shadaqah* fund management by BAZ in Lampung province.

This is a qualitative research. Informan come from *Zakat* Management Institution or BAZ in Lampung province and public representatives. Data are collected with interview and documentation, and subsequently is analyzed qualitatively with data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusions.

The results show that the poor people empowerment strategy through optimizing *zakat, infaq*, and *shadaqah* fund management by *Zakat* Management Institution or BAZ in Lampung province are as follows. (1) strategy of collecting *zakat* from *muzakki* (*zakat payer*) is conducted by BAZ using socialization about the obligation of paying *zakat*, building BAZ in regency and district areas, building *zakat* collector units, and improving internal BAZ in Lampung province. (2) *zakat* distribution strategy is conducted based on categories of collection agreements by making priorities for *zakat, infaq,* and *shadaqah* fund uses, giving trust to the *zakat* distributor unit to distribute the collected fund, distributing the fund for incidental programs. (3) the *zakat* usefulness strategy especially for poor people is conducted by developing productive *zakat* to improve people life standards, so that the *mustahiq* (zakat receiver) will improve their economic standards that someday the will change to be *muzakki* (zakat payer). The *zakat* distribution is also monitored.

Keywords: empowerment strategy, optimizing management