

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT and **ZAKAT**

Hasan Kazak  
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Osman Okka



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*Hasan Kazak, Bilge Afşar, Orhan Çeker, Osman Okka*

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## PREFACE

The process of economic growth and development is a painful and difficult course for all countries. Many theories and views that reveal this process have been handled in a wide range of economics literature and these theories have been tried to be supported by many empirical studies. Economic development aims not only to grow numerically, but also to help the society develop in many ways, especially within social respects. This development should reach such a point that all segments of the society should be positively affected by this growth and development.

The religion of Islam is the only and perfect order that shows the ways of winning the Lord's consent and reaching eternal happiness in the hereafter, sent by Allah (c.c.) with the command of "I chose Islam as your religion" (Maide, 5/3). This is such a system that, while aiming the life of the hereafter and the peace after death, it also establishes the perfect balance for the world to live happily and peacefully. In this balance, world life occupies an important place as a test area where certain tasks are performed in terms of both one's inner peace and preparation for the hereafter.

An integrated system, Islam consists of several subsystems. The economy has an important place in these sub-systems. In this respect, Islam also includes regulations on economic growth and development. Undoubtedly, the most important of these regula-

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<sup>1</sup> Basmala, Kufic Calligraphy style: Hüseyin Öksüz, KTO Karatay University

tions is the zakat institution. Zakat was mentioned in many parts of Koran with the prayer, accepted as the pillar of religion in many places and an important message that zakat and prayer should not be separated was given. This inseparability is so important that after the death of the Prophet, the first caliph of Islam, Hz. Ebubekir (r.a.) declared that he would fight those who would attempt to separate prayer and zakat from each other.

The most known and prominent feature of the zakat institution is its contribution to the fair distribution of national income, which is an important indicator in terms of economic development. A lot of work has been written on this subject and this issue has been mentioned in almost every sermon of Islamic scholars. However, the zakat institution has much more significance and benefits in terms of economic growth and development process.

The main purpose of this study is to create a resource for the qualitative and quantitative studies that will be carried out, by revealing other contributions of zakat to economic growth and development, which are not in the foreground but are actually much more functional as well as its other well-known contribution to income distribution.

In this study, a multidisciplinary perspective was obtained through an evaluation of the subject by our four authors with expertise in different fields. We wish this study to be beneficial to academics, students and all interested parties from the discipline of theology, management and economics.

April 2020

Lec. Hasan Kazak

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# 1- INTRODUCTION

The concept of economic growth and development leads the most significant agenda items of today's communities. The countries which are thriving economically also become strong and endure within political respect, thus assume active roles in terms of their relations with other world countries. Despite the fact that economic growth and development are observed to hold great importance, many countries which have not been able to climb over the primary stages of advancement, accomplish the process of industrialization, and which still seem to operate more on agricultural economy are in battle of survival with their low-income levels. Many theories have been put forth in terms of economic growth and development, and especially with consideration of advancement stages of developed countries, it has been attempted to provide developing countries with recommendations for desired progress.

In a report published by Pew research center in 2013, it was stated that there existed an estimated 1,6 billion Muslims on Earth and was also anticipated that this number would reach up to 2,2 in 2030 and 2,76 in 2050, constituting 29,7% of world population (Pew Research Center, The Future of the Global Muslim Population 2013). In an additional report from the same research center about Europe, it was



suggested that there were 25,8 million Muslims (4,95% of total European population) in 2016 and that, with moderate migration from other countries, the number would go up to 57,9 million (11,20% of total European population) (Pew Research Center, Europe's Growing Muslim Population 2017). It is thought-provoking that the economic system of a religion which is quite common on Earth and has a great number of believers is not known thoroughly and not practiced. In actual fact, it is not possible that a religion which is the only one accepted by God and has such a great number of believers lack a strong economic system. Accordingly, in this study, one of the most significant elements of Islamic economic system, zakat practice and its impact on economic growth and development will be scrutinized.

## 2- ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

In economic theory, the concepts of economic growth and development have semantic differences which include significant discrepancies. The increase in national income, financial expression of all properties and services in a country in a specific period, is defined as “financial growth” (Kaynak 2011). Within this respect, when the concepts of growth and development are compared with each other, the most significant feature of the concept of growth may be said to be “the enlargement or quantitative increase which can be measured numerically/quantitatively in production capacity of an economy” (Freyssinet, Trans: Öcal and Kılıçbay 1985). Growth is a change in quantity more than in quality, and is the increase of production or income in real terms (Taban and Kar 2016). Conversely, different from growth, development is quite well-rounded and involves not only the numerical increase of national income, but also its fair distribution as well as the change in and betterment of social, cultural and political structures (Taban and Kar 2016).

Within another respect, development is “the transformation of the country’s production structure into a process where products with high added value are manufactured, thus the increase in life standards (levels of welfare) result-

izleme sayfasının sonuna ulařtınız.

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## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT and ZAKAT

An integrated system, Islam consists of several subsystems. The economy has an important place in these sub-systems. In this respect, Islam also includes regulations on economic growth and development. Undoubtedly, the most important of these regulations is the zakat institution. Zakat was mentioned in many parts of Koran with the prayer, accepted as the pillar of religion in many places and an important message that zakat and prayer should not be separated was given.

The most known and prominent feature of the zakat institution is its contribution to the fair distribution of national income, which is an important indicator in terms of economic development. A lot of work has been written on this subject and this issue has been mentioned in almost every sermon of Islamic scholars. However, the zakat institution has much more significance and benefits in terms of economic growth and development process.

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