The Roles of Non-State Actors in Eradicating Poverty in Malaysia

Mohd Fauzi Abu Hussin¹, Mohd Affandi Salleh², Aminudin Hehsan¹, Juhazren Junaidi¹

¹Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, 81310 Skudai, Johor, Malaysia
Email: mohdfauziabu@utm.my
²Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin, Gong Badak, 21300 Kuala Terengganu, Trengganu, Malaysia
Email: afandisalleh@gmail.com

Abstract: The economic crisis further affects those with low incomes. While the most affected are the indigents in rural areas, the poor in urban areas are also not spared. Those in the urban area face a challenging life even though the economic scenario favours those living in the city. The urbanization rate increased rapidly with 63 percent of the population now live in urban areas, while the rate of poverty in urban areas continues to rise as per the cost of living, low income and issues. To further eradicate poverty, the government has implemented several poverty eradication programs in cities, which include welfare assistance and house rental payment. Aid was also given from the government agencies and those in private to eradicate poverty further. Among the agencies involved in combating urban poverty is Ikhtiar Malaysia, Islamic Relief, Poverty Eradication Foundation (YBK), the Selangor Zakat Board (LZS) and so on. Thus, the role and mobilization efforts of the NGOs are significant in aiding and abetting the government to eradicate poverty in Malaysia.

Keywords: poverty, Malaysia

1. Introduction

Throughout the decades there has been tremendous economic growth in the world's economy; it is, however, accompanied by increasing poverty and inequalities. Meanings that, in today’s world, no one can deny the existence of the poor people or society though there have been rapid developments around us. The issue of poverty exists in any society as in developing or developed society, and of course, for the underdeveloped society, poverty is a pivotal issue. Discourses on poverty are multifarious and highly extensive. In defining poverty, it can be easily pronounced when the necessities of life (which include adequate income, education, good health, security, self-confidence and certain freedoms) are absent. It is accepted that poverty is defined as whether households or individuals have enough resources or abilities to meet their basic needs.

Nevertheless, defining poverty solely based income is arguable. There are non-monetary factors such as social, political and policy related which affect people's lives, apart from the economic aspects which also depend on the state policies and socio-political environment. Lack of income or resources may lead into inaccessibility to basic needs. However, the determinant of basic needs differs from one to another. One might see access to nutrition is much important, and others might see health access is much important to them. Thus, this comes another way to define poverty through the lenses of person's capabilities to achieve what they value doing or being. In other words, poverty is seen as a state of "low human development" or of lack of capabilities. It is, therefore, alleviating poverty implies enlargement of choices, such as the opportunities to lead a long, healthy, creative life and to
enjoy a decent standard of living, freedom, education, dignity, self-respect and the respect of others. In alleviating poverty, it is important to not only see from one dimension as the poverty itself is multidimensional. The truth tells us that the poor “live deprived of most of these essentials of life at the same time.”

Extreme poverty is a violation of human rights because it is the primary obstacle to implementing all other human rights, as well as the principle that all human beings have equal dignity. The right to a decent standard of living, adequate housing, education, work, health, protection of the family, privacy, sufficient food, and even the right to life is not implemented for those living in extreme poverty. In elevating poverty, there have been huge efforts done by the society whether it comes from government and non-government institutions. Without any doubt, the state plays the major role in combating the poverty. However, involvement, to the certain extent a partnership, between States, market and civil society would be better off. Therefore in this article, it endeavours to explore the roles of non-state actors in elevating poverty and analyse the contribution of the non-state institution in Malaysia. This article aims at providing a clear picture how could the state and non-state institutions working together in combating the poverty issue in Malaysia.

**Poverty Issue in Malaysia**

In the case of Malaysia, we have seen the dramatic improvement of social status, massive economic development, and importantly, poverty incidence has also decreased. A report of Household Income and Basic Amenities Survey (HIS & KA) published in 2014 by the Department of Statistics Malaysia showed progress concerning overall national income gap, where the Gini coefficient declined from 0.431 in 2012 to 0.401 in 2014. However, the indicator must be carefully interpreted, as the poverty incident is calculated based on the household income that live below the poverty line. The poverty line in Malaysia in 2014 was about RM 930, and it was just above the minimum wage. It has been long debating issue using poverty line income (PLI) in measuring poverty, and this article is not intended to discuss further this issue.

### Table 1

| Malaysia Plan          | Year | RM (Per Household) | Malaysia Plan          | Year | RM (Per household) |
|------------------------|------|---------------------|------------------------|------|--------------------|
| Second Malaysia Plan (1971-1975) | 1970 | 163.00              | Seventh Malaysia Plan (1996-2000) | 1997 | 460.00             |
|                        |      |                     |                         | 1999 | 510.00             |
| Third Malaysia Plan (1976-1980)  | 1976 | 243.00              | Eighth Malaysia Plan (2001-2005) | 2002 | 529.00             |
|                        | 1980 | 274.00              |                         | 2004 | 691.00             |
| Fourth Malaysia Plan (1981-1985) | 1985 | 349.00              | Ninth Malaysia Plan (2006 – 2010) | 2007 | 720.00             |
| Fifth Malaysia Plan (1986-1990) | 1987 | 350.00              | Tenth Malaysia Plan (2011 – 2015) | 2012 | 830.00             |
|                        | 1990 | 370.00              |                         | 2014 | 930.00             |
| Sixth Malaysia Plan (1991-1995) | 1993 | 405.00              | Eleventh Malaysia Plan (2016 – 2020) | (MPI) |
Following the depreciation of Ringgit and the hiking in prices of goods and services, the figures do not reflect the reality of poverty faced by society. The Indicators that determine this figure is the poverty line income (PLI) of sufficient income to enable the households to meet basic needs regarding food and other needs which allows each member to function in society. For those who are indigents, which can be identified by the low income that they earn which is sufficient only to meet the basic needs in terms of minimum nutritional foods that allow each of its members have a healthy body. According to the survey for income and expenditure of households in 2014, the average poverty line for Brazil is RM950 to RM600 for the poor and indigent. In Referring to the basic requirements for 'non-food' listed - clothes; rent, fuel, electricity; essential services; transport and communication; and others - this shows that RM950 is not a reasonable value to be the dividing line to distinguish the fortunate and less fortunate.

In the 2014 data consumption of households hold by National Bank (household consumption) from 2000-2009 states that expenditure on food is usually 23 percent of total household expenditure (household expenditure), for housing by 18.9 percent and transport was at 13.4 percent. Based on this percentage and if RM950 is used as the dividing line, RM220 is for food, housing at RM180 while RM130 for transportation. At first glance, we can see how far this deviates from the reality. This is because, according to the data released by the Department of Information (2015) when describing the fuel subsidy rationalization fairness, the lower income group uses spent a minimum of RM307.50 per month for the use of petrol (RON95). It is likely to increase further to RM322.50 next month when the petrol price forecast for June 2015 is RM2.15 per litre.

In a study which compares the monthly rental price of the house, houses in Kuala Lumpur are usually rent at RM 700, RM500 in Klang, RM400 in Kuala Terengganu, RM800 in Kuching, RM600 in Johor Bahru, and RM350 in Alor Setar or an average of RM560 per month. Arguably, no monthly rental price below or in between RM350 to RM180 was mentioned. If we re-used the data of the National Bank as a reference and reassessed it at 18.9 percent which is equal to RM560 as to not deviate from reality, the value of food must also be at RM680 with transportation at RM400 bringing the total for these three items alone at RM1,640[8]. For this reason, I feel the definition of poverty should be reviewed and reassessed according to the Islamic perspective. The meaning and value of each item that was used to assess the PLI are unreasonable. The assessment was wrong in evaluating the poverty - situation.

| State        | Total | Urban | Rural |
|--------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Johor        | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0.0   |
| Kedah        | 0.3   | 0.3   | 0.2   |
| Kelantan     | 0.9   | 0.8   | 1.0   |
| Melaka       | 0.1   | 0.1   | 0.0   |
| Negeri Sembilan | 0.4 | 0.1   | 0.8   |
| Pahang       | 0.7   | 0.2   | 1.2   |
| Pulau pinang | 0.3   | 0.3   | 0.2   |
| Perak        | 0.7   | 0.5   | 1.5   |
| Perlis       | 0.2   | 0.2   | 0.2   |
| Selangor     | 0.2   | 0.2   | 0.6   |
| Terengganu   | 0.6   | 0.4   | 1.0   |
| Sabah        | 4.0   | 1.9   | 7.4   |
| Total household | 6,676,8000 |       |       |
If we look into the data, it seems that the poverty incidence in Malaysia looks pretty much great, it is, however, could be misleading. Using the PLI does not show the relative poverty in Malaysia, yet it shows absolute poverty. Back to the data, we can see that in the case of Johor for example, it recorded 0.0% percent of poverty incidence, meaning that, there is no possibility of poor people in Johor. Nevertheless, if data of zakat recipients in Johor was examined, in 2014 for example (see Table 3), there was RM 137 million of zakat distributed to the poor and needy in Johor. This indicates that there are still quite significant numbers of poor people in Johor despite the fact that the poverty incidence is almost zero. On the other hand, a different method in determining the poor also leads to this matter.

Table 3

| Bil | Asnaf | 2012       | 2013       | 2014       |
|-----|-------|------------|------------|------------|
| 1   | Fakir | 16,891,288.31 | 24,312,205.52 | 10,261,483.59 |
| 2   | Miskin | 43,795,285.74 | 55,866,769.54 | 24,382,337.92 |
| 3   | amil   | 15,693,967.92 | 16,725,505.26 | 4,960,329.96 |
| 4   | Muallaf | 10,867,450.50 | 10,609,258.11 | 3,391,665.54 |
| 5   | Gharim | 511,120.79   | 629,049.21  | 282,145.18  |
| 6   | IbnuSabil | 266,898.52 | 256,273.66  | 181,277.52  |
| 7   | Fi Sabilillah | 55,320,558.98 | 51,146,363.17 | 16,210,001.84 |
| 8   | Riqab  | -          | -          | -          |
|     | Total  | 143,346,570.76 | 159,545,424.47 | 59,669,241.55 |

Instead of using PLI, zakat institutions in Malaysia apply haddulkifayah in determining the poor and needy. Poverty is subjective and relative, and it is difficult to determine a person whether he/she is indigent or poor. In determining the rich and the poor, especially in the urban area, it is a much more difficult task to guess with the naked eye. It is. Therefore, the Zakat Selangor initiate a new formula called the Had al-Kifaya to differentiate between poor and needy and at the same to determine the zakat recipients among these categories. The calculation methods used for haddulkifaya is outlined by the concept of Syariah and includes many variables such as the number of members of the house, age, residence, food, clothing, health, education and transport. Had al-Kifaya is a tool to measure poverty, Plain and simple, it is used to assess the adequacy of spending, by comparing the gross income and minimum expenditure of a family or individual. The results obtained are more specific and accurate in determining the status of applicants whether they are rich, poor or extremely poor (needy). Fatwa Council of Selangor defines Had al-Kifaya as zakat to the needy and individual poor people whose income is insufficient to meet their basic needs. With this application, it is more precise to find those who are in need.

If we go beyond the PLI, for example, if we look into the asset possession / wealth accumulation as the indicator of rich and poor, the poverty issue in Malaysia is much worse. In a recent book written by Muhammad Khaled entitled the colour of inequality, among the Bumiputera that can be considered as Muslim, only 50% of them, has asset possession be it cash asset or property asset, and it is far behind the Chinese community in Malaysia. Despite all the efforts, different economic policies, strategies and so on taken by the government, the issue of poverty still exists.
Do We Need Non-State's Involvement in Combating Poverty?

The previous example of determining the poor is one of the evidence that there is a need to have non-state actors to fulfill the vacuum in the area/field which the state is lack of. In defining the non-state actors, we need to look at the political, economic perspectives. The rise of globalization, liberalization and privatization around the 1980s and 1990sswift the states' sole source of regulation, public policy and economy to non-state actors, which slowly diminished the authority of the state [8]. The non-state actors have become increasingly prominent, and the role played by those multinational corporations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), as well international institutions in globalization raised the importance of the economic paradigm, to be specific the neo-liberal economic paradigm. The emergence of the non-state actors has become prominent in the world politics, economics and social. In today's world, the non-state actors are up to a new level in the diverse field, politics, economics, and international relations and so on. In international relations for example, if the states fail to recognize the important role played by the non-state actors, these actors can supersede the role of the state in international affairs. At present, the number of strong non-state actors such as NGOs and TNCs are growing rapidly and sometimes they might help the state in policy-making, lobbying the state, and voicing out people's voice. Therefore, the increasing supports from the people upon the non-state actors gives benefit the non-state actors themselves and the state too.

A non-governmental organization (NGO) is an organization established to fight for the public interest rather than the individual's interest or commercial purposes. It is synonymous with the term NGO or the CSO (Civil Society Organization) which is a voluntary organization. NGOs play a major role, especially in sectors that cannot be satisfied with government services. It is often called as the third sector to help in resolving the country's problems and handle various social needs including poverty and unemployment towards the welfare of the people. According to Stephen Heintz (2006), the role of NGOs is divided into three main areas. Firstly, NGOs provides an opportunity to create their society organizations that reflect the diversity of society. NGOs founded and managed by individuals working collectively and voluntarily. The objective of this NGO is to promote the social and civic goals to those in the areas of environment, health, poverty eradication, culture and arts, education and so on. Secondly, NGO fills the void in between the unique and important private sector, for-profit and government which has certain limitations.

NGOs took the role as an independent entity or watchdogs for both parties. Thirdly, NGOs can experiment with social changes that the public or private sector is unable to implement. NGOs also play an important role in helping advocacy campaigns that can influence governments to adopt policy reforms and forcing improvements in business practices. In the Philippines, NGOs play a bigger role in the economy compared to other countries. According to the survey Association of Foundations in 2000, the Philippine Development NGOs contributed about 0.5 percent of GDP. Other parties estimated in 2005 at around 8.5 percent GDP are non-profit oriented.

NGOs Involvement in Combating Poverty

A non-governmental organization (NGO) is an organization established to fight for the public interest rather than the individual's interest or commercial purposes. It is synonymous with the term NGO or the CSO (Civil Society Organization) which is a voluntary organization. NGOs play a significant role, especially in sectors that cannot be satisfied with government services. It is often called as the third sector to help in resolving the country's problems and handle various social needs including poverty and unemployment towards the welfare of the people. According to Stephen Heintz (2006), the role of NGOs is divided into three main areas. Firstly, NGOs provides an opportunity to create their society organizations that reflect the diversity of society. NGOs founded and managed by individuals working collectively and voluntarily. The objective of this NGO is to promote the social and civic goals to those in the areas of environment, health, poverty eradication, culture and arts, education and so on. Secondly, NGO fills the void in between the unique and important private sector, for-profit and government which has certain limitations.
NGOs took the role as an independent entity or watchdogs for both parties. Thirdly, NGOs can experiment with social changes that the public or private sector are unable to implement. NGOs also play an important role in helping advocacy campaigns that can influence governments to adopt policy reforms and forcing improvements in business practices. In the Philippines, NGOs play a bigger role in the economy compared to other countries. According to the survey Association of Foundations in 2000, the Philippine Development NGOs contributed about 0.5 percent of GDP. Other parties estimated in 2005 at around 8.5 percent GDP are non-profit oriented.

2. Findings and Discussion

Today's society includes more than just the State and the market. The rise of the non-profit and non-governmental third sector is a recent and massive phenomenon that is paving the way for unprecedented forms of interaction and regulation between civil society, the state and the market. In the case of Malaysia for example, the state itself took the initiative to establish the non-governmental institution in combating poverty. Back in the 1970s, when poverty was a major concerned to the government, it was government initiative to pump money to few institutions. The institution such as Amanah Ikhtiar Malaysia (AIM), Yayasan Basmi Kemiskinan were among government-funded institutions, and they also received fund from the private sectors.

In Malaysia, a registered NGO is able to move on rails such as foundations, associations, clubs, groups and so on. Most of these NGOs expect funding from the government, large companies and donations from individuals who are concerned with the struggle of certain NGOs. However, lately, there are some NGO established under the auspices of the ministries and government agencies and government-linked companies (GLCs). Furthermore, the establishment of these NGOs is considered smart because since its establishment these NGOs have sufficient funds to carry out activities.

But, the establishment of government-sponsored NGO and GLC somehow affects another private NGO establishment who expects financial support from the government and large corporations. This is where the need for collaboration between private NGOs, government-sponsored NGOs and corporate organizations through smart partnerships so that the implementation of any activity can be optimized to achieve the same objective. Another question that could be asked regarding government-sponsored NGOs is the limitation in carrying out tasks as it is tied to the government. An NGO is established to move freely without being tied; this is the basis of an NGO. Being tied and unable to move freely defeats the very purpose of establishing an NGO. The table 4, taken from a report from World Bank (2014) shows us the involvement of NGOs in the poverty eradication program in Malaysia. They involve a wide range of programme, including in giving credit facility, small economic projects, education and scholarship.
Table 4

Involvement of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

| NGO                                      | Activity                                      | Funding Source                                      |
|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Amanah Ikhtiar Malaysia (AIM)            | Credit Facility                               | Private sector contributions and government assistance. |
| Yayasan Basmi Kemiskinan (Poverty Eradication Foundation) |                                                   | Private sector contributions and government assistance |
| Yayasan Basmi Kemiskinan Selangor (Selangor Poverty Eradication Foundation) | Housing, Education, training, small economic projects. | Private sector contributions and government assistance |
| Yayasan Kemiskinan Kelantan (Kelantan Poverty Eradication Foundation) | Education                                     | Government Contribution                             |
| Yayasan Pahang (Pahang Foundation)       | Education                                     | Self-Financing                                      |
| Yayasan Terengganu (Terengganu Foundation) | Education                                     | Self-Financing                                      |

In the case of Amanah Ikhtiar Malaysia (AIM), it was started as an applied research project and then was institutionalized as a registered private trust in 1987. AIM, the most active NGO, provides financial services to about 82% of the total poor and hardcore poor households in Malaysia [15]. The institution uses group-based Grameen Bank (a Bangladeshi microfinance organization) model. The participants/clients were selected among the households who earn below PLI, and it covers both poor and hard-core poor people. AIM provides a small amount of credit without any collateral. Furthermore, AIM practised a group based model, and no legal action would be taken if the borrowers fail. AIM also provides training to improve clients' ability. There are 60497 groups in 6646 centres and currently serving a total of 254116 clients with a 99.42% repayment rate. The programme run by AIM is one of the examples of NGOs in Malaysia that concentrates on poverty eradication. Although the institution was originally funded by the state, it operates on its capability as a non-state and can be considerable as a successful institution.

Another example is Yayasan Basmi Kemiskinan-YBK (Poverty Eradication Foundation) was officially registered on March 26, 1990, and under the Trustee Ordinance, 1952. It was officially launched in April 1990 by Tan Sri Dato’ Hj. Muhammad bin Hj. Muhd. Taib. The main objective is to reduce the level of Poverty Line (PGK) from time to time. Additionally, YBK also takes some additional criteria to identify the target group who lives in dilapidated houses with no basic amenities, poor health, poor due to natural disasters and a lack of knowledge, skills and motivations. It all began when Tan Sri Muhammad Muhd. Taib (who was Selangor Menteri Besar) wanted a study to be conducted in rural areas to see the real scenario of rural poor. Once there, he saw 15 houses occupied by married couples with many children; this gave an idea to him to create a non-profit NGO that YBK could facilitate aid disbursed without bureaucracy, nepotism or cronyism (Yayasan Basmi Kemiskinan, 2016).
YBK was officially registered on March 26, 1990, under the Trustee Ordinance 1952 with Muhammad as the founder along with three other members of the Board of Trustees, Zainal Abidin, Muhamed Khairunie, Mohd. Radhi Ali, and Latif. At first, YBK collaborated with Universiti Putra Malaysia (formerly known as Universiti Pertanian Malaysia). From a few efforts that were done, the government provided a grant of RM2 million for this project. Their first work is called “Lindungan Kasih” which is to demolish old houses, replacing it with newer houses. (Yayasan Basmi Kemiskinan, 2016) In 5 years, the “Lindungan Kasih” project was able to build more than 300 houses. However, guidance is still needed to increase their revenue. Therefore, YBK has provided skills scheme for the wife and tuition for their children. Over time, the "Desa Kasih" was formed as a placement for the poor, complete with ICT facilities, mosques, board and tuition centres. Now there are nine “Desa Kasih” all around Selangor. YBK also stressed the youth on education by developing Asrama Kasih; Group Tuition ends Sunday (KUNTUM), Community College, YBK Fast-track and Employees Education and Training - Development Scheme Welfare to develop human capital. To improve on the socio-economic front, YBK developed socio-economical projects such as Lindungan Kasih, Pemulihan Rumah, Desa Kasih, Desa Kasih Cemerlang, Program Ekonomi Merbau Berdarah, PeningkatanPendapatan Isi Rumah, D’Kasih Cafe, Sukarelawan YBK, Sinar Kasih Ramadan and Saringan Kesihatan. In fact, the concept of Community College has developed throughout the entire country under the federal government (Yayasan Basmi Kemiskinan, 2016).

Another example of successful NGO in combating poverty is Islamic Relief. Islamic Relief is a fully operated and established international NGO and has recently established themselves in Malaysia. In 2007 is the 23rd year that this non-governmental organization (NGOs) and it has played a role in humanitarian aid and cooperation to the Muslim countries in difficulties all around the world. This aid is enshrined with the vision and goals to fight and eradicate poverty and hunger. Islamic Relief also emphasizes the value of education by establishing primary education projects such as the reconstruction of schools destroyed by the 2004 tsunami in Aceh and Return to School project to help children in Iraq[16]. Other activities include the Education Support Project and breakfast in Sudan and educational projects and help for children with special needs in Egypt is among the efforts to achieve this objective.

The organization also promotes gender equality and women's right in one of the poorest countries. It was done through financial assistance to run small businesses. This enables the local community to further improve their lives by running small-scale businesses. This effort can also change the level of education and opportunities for women and children alike. Islamic Relief also has policies together with international bodies to reduce the mortality rate of infants and children. In developing countries all around the world, extreme poverty causes the children in these countries to only survive up to the age of five years. Their life is threatened due to lack of clean water and food; they are vulnerable to disease, malnutrition and the chance of getting health care is too low.

There are five kinds of major diseases that cause death to the 50 percent of children under five years old - chicken pox, pneumonia, malaria, diarrhoea and AIDS. Islamic Relief strives to aid children in the poorest countries to at least have the opportunity to live better by offering much-needed health services. Aid was done through the construction of health centres and also by public awareness regarding the importance of health, especially among children and women. The services and contributions that Islamic Reliefs offer enclose the necessities needed for the poor.

2.1 Do We Need More NGOs in Eradicating Poverty?

Statistics have shown that NGOs act as agents of democracy and the voice for the people all around the world. At around 2000 since 1997 in France there are54,000 NGOs, 27,000 Filipinos, Bangladesh more than 10,000, and in Indonesia it is estimated at around 4,000 to 7,000 NGOs [5]. At the end of 2002, Indonesia has recorded an increase of up to 13,500 NGOs across Indonesia. History
has proven the role the NGOs hold in addressing world economic issues, especially in Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Venezuela, and El Salvador. The Bolivian NGOs became the official channel to receive funds in the "Poverty Reduction Program". Funds amounting to the US $ 738 aimed at the government of Bolivia from the United States and the World Bank which they called the Emergency Social Fund. (ESF) This fund was then redistributed to other NGOs in early 1980 amassing up to 100 NGOs during that period; now it has expanded up to more than 530 in 1992. NGO also plays a role in addressing any issues that come up from time to time. For example in PPSMI, NGOs have played a major role in voicing its concerns about its impact on society.

Furthermore, in Malaysia, statistics show a reduction in poverty rates, but the natives in the peninsular area were not included. This was a bit disappointing as it failed to show a more accurate situation in Malaysia. This group of people who are often marginalized from the mainstream of development once again marginalized from the most comprehensive study of income in Malaysia. This showed that the government needs to be more committed to achieving inclusive economic growth and wealth distribution. It is therefore suggested to get as many as possible participation from the non-state actors to assist the government in elevating poverty without denying the roles of the state actors.

3. Conclusion

Although official data shows that the poverty in Malaysia has been increasing, the relative poverty, especially urban poverty depict the other way around. In the 1970s, we have seen several non-states institutions that was initiated by the government initially succeeded in reducing poverty in Malaysia. In this new era of "developed" Malaysia, we need to mobilise more innovative institution in combating new challenge of poverty in the urban area. I do believe that non-state actors would promote sustainable bottom-up development as the state alone is not able to promote empowerment. Therefore, there is a need to mobilise the most varied of actors, from the ordinary citizen to the entrepreneur, from NGOs to religious institutions, and from unions to professional associations, increases resources and stimulates innovative solutions. Such initiatives are expected not only channelling generosity and donations, but also opening up new experiences, and providing learning opportunities as well as the desire of feeling useful to a community.

4. References

[1] Øyen E 2002 Social capital formation: A poverty reducing strategy?. Unesco and CROP-comparative research programme on poverty.
[2] Page J, Campos E 1993 The East Asian Miracle: economic growth and public policy. World Bank, Washington, DC
[3] Sen A 1992 Inequality reexamined. Clarendon Press.
[4] Campbell T 2007 Poverty as a violation of Human Rights: Inhumanity or Injustice. Free. From poverty as a Hum. right–Who owes what to very poor 55.
[5] Lewis D 2003 "Old" and "new" civil societies? Reflections on NGOs, state and democracy in Bangladesh. J. des Anthropol. (3) 93–121. Association française des anthropologies.
[6] Malaysia MMS 2014 Department of Statistics, Malaysia.
[7] Narayan-Parker D 2002 Empowerment and poverty reduction: A sourcebook. World Bank Publications.
[8] Nair S, Sagaran S 2017 Poverty in Malaysia: Need for a Paradigm Shift. Institutions Econ. 95–123.
[9] Embong MR, Taha R, Nor MNM 2013 Role of zakat to eradicate poverty in Malaysia. J. Pengur. (UKM J. Manag.39
[10] Qardhawi Y 2007 Fiqh al-zakat. Jeddah Sci. Publ. Cent. King Abdul Aziz Univ.

[11] Hassan NMN 2001 Kaedah Pengagihan Dana Zakat: Satu Perspektif Islam (Methods in Distribution of Zakat Fund: an Islamic Perspective). Kuala Lumpur: IKIM.

[12] Khalid MA 2014 The colour of inequality: Ethnicity, class, income and wealth in Malaysia. MPH Group Publishing.

[13] Heintz S 2006 The Role of NGOs in Modern Societies and an Increasingly Interdependent World.

[14] Fournier F, Øyen E, Darcy de Oliveira M, Woolcock M, Prakash S 2002 Social capital and poverty reduction. Which role for the civil society organizations and the state. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Paris.

[15] Al Mamun A, Abdul Wahab S, Malarvizhi CA 2010 Impact of Amanah Ikhtiar Malaysia’s microcredit schemes on microenterprise assets in Malaysia.

[16] Worldwide IR 2014 The rights of forced migrants in Islam. Birmingham: Islamic Relief Worldwide.

[17] Hoe KC, Samah AA, Hashim AH, Redzuan M, Jaafar WMW 2017 Peranan Organisasi Berasaskan Komuniti (OBK) dalam pembangunan komuniti: Suatu pemerhatian awal (The Role of Community-Based Organization (CBO) in community development: A preliminary observation). Geogr. J. Soc. Sp. 11 (3)