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Training on Sharia Financial Management and the Separation of Personal Assets for Customers of the Lan Taburo Sharia Micro Waqf Bank

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ABSTRACT
Low financial literacy and the commingling of personal and business funds weaken the financial resilience of micro-entrepreneurs who are customers of the Lan Taburo Sharia Micro Waqf Bank (BWM) in Lebak, Banten. This Community Service Program (Pengabdian kepada Masyarakat, PKM) aimed to strengthen participants' knowledge of Sharia-based financial management and their practice of separating personal and business assets. The program used a Participatory Action Research (PAR) approach with three components: preparation and needs assessment, interactive training with hands-on simple bookkeeping practice, and post-training mentoring and evaluation, including tele-mentoring and peer-support groups. A total of 30 BWM customers (18 women and 12 men) took part in three sessions held on 15–18 February 2026. Pre-test and post-test results showed that the score for understanding of asset separation rose from 15% to 80%, and the score for Sharia micro-bookkeeping skills rose from 10% to 75%, a gain of 65 percentage points on each indicator. Average monthly revenue during the post-training monitoring period was 15% higher than the pre-training baseline; this is a descriptive before-and-after observation without a comparison group and cannot be attributed to the training alone. Tele-mentoring and peer-support groups were established to address the need for continued guidance. The findings suggest that participatory, practice-oriented training combined with follow-up mentoring is a promising model for BWM customers, and that longer-term evaluation with comparison data is needed.

KEYWORDS :
Personal Assets, Micro Waqf Bank, Sharia Financial Management, Cash Separation, Micro-Enterprises, Participatory Action Research

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1. INTRODUCTION

Micro and small enterprises are a backbone of the Indonesian economy, yet many of their owners have limited financial literacy. The 2025 National Survey of Financial Literacy and Inclusion (SNLIK) recorded a national financial literacy index of 66.46% and an inclusion index of 80.51% (Saputra, 2025b), whereas the Sharia financial literacy index was 43.42% and the Sharia inclusion index only 13.41% (Saputra, 2025a). Financial literacy is widely regarded as a form of human capital that shapes how households and firms make financial decisions (Lusardi & Mitchell, 2014). For micro-entrepreneurs, keeping records and separating household money from business money are therefore central practices targeted by training (Drexler et al., 2014).

Bank Wakaf Mikro (BWM), or Micro Waqf Bank, is a Sharia microfinance institution regulated as a microfinance institution (lembaga keuangan mikro, LKM) under Law No. 1 of 2013 (Republik Indonesia, 2013) and Financial Services Authority (OJK) Regulation No. 61/POJK.05/2015, which also sets requirements for Sharia LKMs (Otoritas Jasa Keuangan, 2015). Its financing generally takes the form of qardh, a benevolent loan, in line with DSN-MUI Fatwa No. 19/DSN-MUI/IV/2001 (Dewan Syariah Nasional-Majelis Ulama Indonesia, 2001), and is aimed at productive, low-income micro-entrepreneurs (Dianitasari et al., 2023; Dzikrayah & Nugroho, 2023). A preliminary survey conducted in the preparation phase of this program indicated that many customers of BWM Lan Taburo in Lebak Regency, Banten, lacked practical skills in managing cash flow and tended to mix business operating funds with daily household expenses. The baseline assessment reported in Section 3.2 is consistent with this finding.

From a Sharia perspective, orderly financial management is not only a technical matter. The Qur'an instructs believers to record financial obligations in writing (QS Al-Baqarah [2]:282), to be moderate and avoid wastefulness in spending (QS Al-Furqan [25]:67; QS Al-Isra [17]:26–27), and to deal in ways that are free of riba and unjust gain (QS Al-Baqarah [2]:275; QS An-Nisa [4]:29). The Prophetic prohibition of transactions involving uncertainty (gharar) likewise stresses clarity in dealings (Muslim, n.d.). Qur'anic references in this article follow Kementerian Agama Republik Indonesia (2019). Translating the principles of trust (amanah), accountability and transparency into a simple bookkeeping routine is therefore a practical way to connect Sharia values with everyday business practice.

Community service programs in Indonesia that teach simple bookkeeping and the separation of personal and business money report better understanding and more regular recording among micro-entrepreneurs, but they also point out that consistent practice depends on follow-up support (Amalia et al., 2026; Amanda et al., 2026; Pamuji et al., 2025). Evidence from other developing countries suggests that simple, practice-oriented training can work better than conventional accounting instruction for less sophisticated entrepreneurs (Drexler et al., 2014), whereas effects of business training on sales and profits tend to be small and variable (Karlan & Valdivia, 2011; McKenzie & Woodruff, 2014). Reports that integrate Sharia principles into bookkeeping training for BWM customers appear to remain limited.

This program addressed the following question: how can BWM customers be helped to understand and practise Sharia-based financial management, including the separation of personal and business assets? Its objectives were (1) to improve participants' understanding of asset separation and their simple bookkeeping skills, (2) to describe changes in average monthly revenue during the post-training monitoring period, and (3) to establish follow-up mechanisms, namely tele-mentoring and peer-support groups, to sustain the practice after the training. The expected benefits are greater financial transparency for the customers, stronger Sharia-based business governance, and a practical mentoring model that BWM and similar institutions can adapt.

2. METHOD

2.1 Approach

The program used Participatory Action Research (PAR), an approach in which partners take part in identifying problems, designing actions and reflecting on results (Kemmis et al., 2014). The plan-act-observe-reflect cycle was applied as follows. In the plan step, the team obtained permission from the management of BWM Lan Taburo, coordinated with the BWM supervisor, conducted a preliminary survey of customers' financial profiles and literacy levels, and developed training modules adapted to the participants' businesses. In the act step, participants took part in the training sessions, simulations and one-on-one consultations described below. In the observe step, the team administered pre-tests and post-tests, and compared participants' revenue before and after the training. In the reflect step, focus group discussions (FGDs) and interactive question-and-answer sessions were used to discuss difficulties with participants and to decide on follow-up mentoring. The activities reported here correspond to one main PAR cycle followed by a mentoring period.

2.2 Location, Participants and Schedule

The program took place at BWM Lan Taburo, Lebak Regency, Banten, Indonesia, from 15 to 18 February 2026, in three sessions. Participants were 30 BWM customers who run micro-enterprises (18 women and 12 men). They were selected using two criteria: being an active BWM customer and being willing to attend all sessions.

2.3 Stages of Implementation

Implementation followed the stages shown in Figure 1. The preparation stages (steps 1–4) covered the permit and coordination with BWM Lan Taburo, identification of problems and targets through the preliminary survey, and development of user-friendly modules and a curriculum. The training (step 5) was delivered face to face through interactive lectures, FGDs and hands-on guidance in three sessions. Session A introduced Sharia financial management, including its principles and the prohibition of riba. Session B addressed the separation of personal and business assets and the classification of business and household items. Session C was a practice session on preparing simple profit and loss statements and cash flow statements in a Sharia-compliant format. One-on-one consultations were offered to participants who faced specific bookkeeping difficulties.

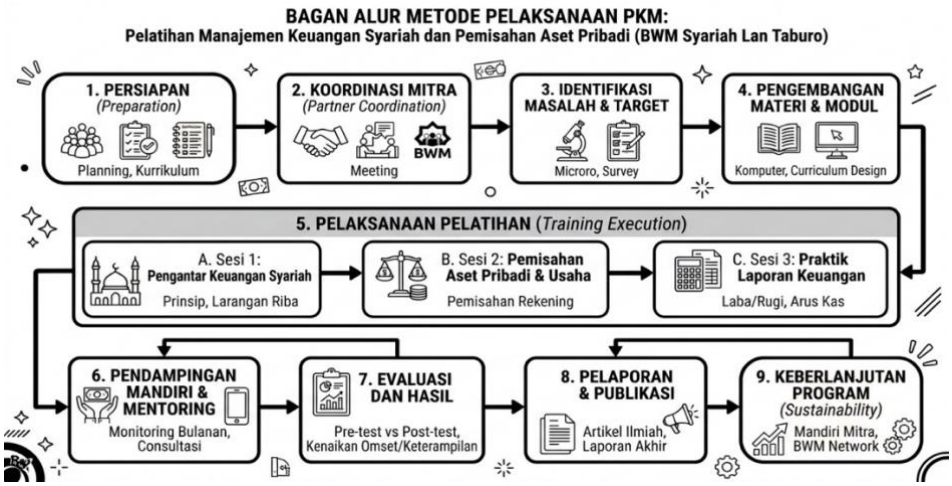


Figure 1. Flow of the program's implementation stages (diagram labels are in Indonesian). Source: authors' design.

After the training, participants received mentoring and were evaluated (steps 6–7). To sustain the practice (step 9), two follow-up mechanisms were set up. First, peer-support groups were formed and supervised by the BWM Lan Taburo supervisor to help participants evaluate their finances independently. Second, tele-mentoring through phone calls and WhatsApp allowed participants to consult the team about their records outside face-to-face sessions.

2.4 Data Collection and Analysis

Two indicators were measured with a pre-test and a post-test: (a) understanding of the importance and method of separating personal and business assets, and (b) Sharia micro-accounting skills, that is, the ability to prepare simple profit and loss and cash flow records. The instrument consisted of 15 items scored on a five-point Likert scale. The pre-test was given before the first session and the post-test after the last session. Indicator scores are reported as percentages, and changes between the pre-test and post-test are reported in percentage points.

Average monthly revenue of participants was compared between the period before the training and the post-training monitoring period. Revenue figures are treated as participant-reported and may therefore be affected by recall error and under-reporting (de Mel et al., 2009). Data were analysed descriptively. Because there was no comparison group and no inferential testing, the results are interpreted as before-and-after changes, not as causal effects of the program.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Implementation

The three training sessions were held on 15–18 February 2026 for 30 customers. Figure 2 shows the presentation of the training material and the explanation of the pre-test and post-test procedures.



Figure 2. Presentation of the training material and explanation of the pre-test and post-test procedures at BWM Lan Taburo. Source: authors' documentation, February 2026.

3.2 Learning Outcomes

Table 1 reports the pre-test and post-test results. Before the program, the score for understanding why personal and household finances should be separated from business finances was only 15%, which is consistent with the problem identified in the preliminary survey. After the training it was 80%, a gain of 65 percentage points. The score for Sharia micro-accounting skills rose from 10% to 75%, which is also a gain of 65 percentage points. The two indicators show the same absolute gain by coincidence; they are separate indicators. All gains are expressed in percentage points and not as relative increases: a rise from 15% to 80% is a relative increase of about 433%.

Table 1. Pre-test and post-test results and revenue change

Indicator	Before (%)	After (%)	Change
Understanding of asset separation	15	80	+65 percentage points
Sharia micro-accounting skills	10	75	+65 percentage points
Average monthly revenue (index, before = 100)	100	115	+15% (relative)

Note. The first two rows show indicator scores as percentages from a 15-item Likert-scale test (n = 30). The revenue row shows mean monthly revenue as an index of the pre-training baseline. Source: authors' pre-test, post-test and revenue data.

These results indicate that, in the short term, the combination of short lectures, simulation and hands-on practice was associated with a substantial improvement in participants' understanding and skills. The post-test score of 75% for micro-accounting skills indicates a fairly high level of practical skill at the end of the program. Whether participants kept using separate accounts and records after the program was not examined in this study, and the post-test was administered immediately after the training, so retention over a longer period is not yet known.

3.3 Business Revenue

Average monthly revenue during the post-training monitoring period was 15% higher than at baseline, that is, an index of 115 against a baseline of 100. This is a descriptive before-

and-after comparison among participants only. It should not be attributed to the training alone: seasonality, market conditions, other sources of capital and other factors may also have contributed, and there was no comparison group. Evaluations of business training elsewhere find that business practices improve more consistently than sales and profits (Karlan & Valdivia, 2011; McKenzie & Woodruff, 2014). The 15% increase is therefore best read as an observation to be tested in further evaluation, not as evidence that better record-keeping raises revenue.

3.4 Summary of Outcomes and Strength of Evidence

Table 2 summarises what the program produced and how strong the evidence is for each outcome. Outcomes that were not measured are listed explicitly so that they are not mistaken for findings.

Table 2. Summary of program outcomes and strength of evidence

Area	Finding	Evidence and interpretation
Sharia financial literacy	Understanding of asset separation rose from 15% to 80% (+65 percentage points).	Pre-test and post-test; descriptive; short-term knowledge gain.
Bookkeeping skills	Sharia micro-accounting skills rose from 10% to 75% (+65 percentage points).	Pre-test and post-test; continued use of records to be confirmed through follow-up observation.
Business revenue	Average monthly revenue was 15% above baseline during the monitoring period.	Descriptive before-and-after comparison; no comparison group; association only, not causal.
Sustainability mechanisms	Tele-mentoring (phone and WhatsApp) and peer-support groups supervised by the BWM supervisor were established.	Program outputs; their use and effect on record-keeping have not yet been evaluated.
Outcomes not measured	Creditworthiness, financing size, non-performing financing, household decision-making and gender-specific effects.	Not measured in this program; proposed for follow-up evaluation using BWM portfolio records and interviews.

Note. Source: authors' analysis of program data.

3.5 Challenges and Sustainability Strategies

The main challenge identified in the field was the continued need for follow-up mentoring so that participants keep their records consistently. Micro-enterprises are dynamic, and participants often meet unusual transactions that the training did not cover. This need for follow-up is in line with other bookkeeping training programs for micro-entrepreneurs (Amanda et al., 2026). In response, the team set up tele-mentoring by phone and WhatsApp, which lets participants ask about their records without waiting for a face-to-face meeting, and peer-support groups supervised by the BWM Lan Taburo supervisor. Whether these mechanisms keep record-keeping going after the formal program ends has not yet been evaluated.

3.6 Discussion

The gains in understanding and skills are consistent with other community service programs that trained micro-entrepreneurs to separate personal and business finances and keep simple records. Those programs also report better understanding and more orderly

recording after training (Amalia et al., 2026; Amanda et al., 2026; Pamuji et al., 2025). The design used here, which focuses on a few simple practices, is similar to the rule-of-thumb approach that Drexler et al. (2014) found more effective than standard accounting training for less sophisticated entrepreneurs. A difference is that most of the cited programs address general MSMEs, whereas this program was built around Sharia principles and the BWM setting. The revenue result needs more caution. Reviews of business training find that effects on sales and profits are usually small and sometimes statistically insignificant (McKenzie & Woodruff, 2014), and training of microfinance clients has shown clearer effects on business knowledge and client retention than on revenue (Karlan & Valdivia, 2011). A 15% increase observed without a comparison group should therefore be treated as a hypothesis for later testing.

The Sharia dimension of the training can be explained in several ways. Recording income and expenses corresponds to the instruction to write down financial obligations (QS Al-Baqarah [2]:282). Separating household consumption from business capital supports moderation and the avoidance of waste (QS Al-Furqan [25]:67; QS Al-Isra [17]:26–27). Because BWM financing is a qardh, a loan that must be used responsibly and repaid, keeping business capital distinct from household spending can also be interpreted as an application of amanah, in which funds are used for their stated purpose and are accountable. Clear records further help participants avoid unclear or exploitative dealings, in line with the prohibitions of riba and gharar (QS Al-Baqarah [2]:275; Muslim, n.d.). The simple profit and loss statements taught in Session C are in the spirit of the simplified reporting model for micro, small and medium entities (Ikatan Akuntan Indonesia, 2016), and may help customers move toward standard reporting if lenders require it.

For BWM Lan Taburo, the module and the mentoring mechanisms offer a low-cost way to support customers in keeping records. Whether better records improve customers' creditworthiness, the size of financing they obtain or repayment performance was not measured in this program, and claims about such effects require evidence from BWM portfolio data.

3.7 Limitations

This program has several limitations. There was no comparison group, so changes cannot be attributed to the training. The monitoring period was short, and the post-test was given immediately after the training, so long-term retention is unknown. The number of participants was 30, in a single location, which limits generalisation. The test instrument consisted of 15 Likert items and its validity and reliability are not reported here, and test scores may be affected by familiarity with the pre-test. Revenue data are treated as participant-reported and may include recall error. Finally, outcomes such as creditworthiness, financing size, non-performing financing, household decision-making and gender-specific effects were not measured.

4. CONCLUSION

This community service program trained 30 customers of BWM Lan Taburo in Sharia financial management and the separation of personal and business assets, using a participatory, practice-oriented approach. Pre-test and post-test results show that the score for

understanding of asset separation rose from 15% to 80%, and the score for Sharia micro-accounting skills rose from 10% to 75%, a gain of 65 percentage points on each indicator. Average monthly revenue during the monitoring period was 15% above the pre-training baseline; this is a descriptive observation that cannot be attributed to the training alone. Tele-mentoring and peer-support groups were established to address the need for continued guidance, but their effect on sustained record-keeping has not yet been evaluated.

Because the program had no comparison group, a short monitoring period and no data on financing outcomes, its results are encouraging but preliminary. The authors recommend that (1) BWM Lan Taburo and similar institutions adopt the three-session module together with follow-up mentoring, supported by simple record-keeping templates in the local context; (2) future programs measure outcomes again after 6 to 12 months, use a comparison group where feasible (for example, customer groups trained at different times), and record revenue consistently from records rather than recall; (3) BWM portfolio data on repayment, non-performing financing and financing size be analysed together with customer interviews, disaggregated by gender, to test whether better records improve creditworthiness and household financial management; and (4) the test instrument be validated and reused so that results can be compared across programs.

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CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

The authors declare that there are no financial, personal or professional conflicts of interest that could affect the conduct of this community service program or the preparation of this article. The program was carried out for academic development and community empowerment as a Community Service Program (PKM). The cooperation with the partner, the Lan Taburo Sharia Micro Waqf Bank (BWM), was based on good faith and community service partnership, without hidden commercial interests.

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