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HALAL CERTIFICATION FOR MSMEs: PROTECTION OF THE FIVE BASIC ASPECTS OF LIFE (AD-DHARURIYYAH AL-KHAMSAAH) AND STRATEGIES TO STRENGTHEN ITS IMPLEMENTATION

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Abstract: This study investigates the persistently low compliance of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) with halal certification, despite its critical role in safeguarding the five essential objectives of Islamic law (*ad-dharuriyyah al-khamsah*): religion (*dīn*), life (*nafs*), intellect (*‘aql*), lineage (*nasl*), and property (*māl*). Employing a qualitative research design, this study utilizes a descriptive-analytical approach supported by thematic content analysis. Data were collected through a systematic literature review, including primary Islamic sources (Qur’an, Hadis, and classical jurisprudence) and relevant secondary literature (peer-reviewed journals, regulations, and government reports). The findings were categorized based on the *maqāṣid al-shari’ah* framework to ensure a structured and normative analysis. The results reveal that halal certification serves as a multidimensional protection mechanism, with the preservation of life (*ḥifẓ al-nafs*) identified as the most urgent priority. This emphasis stems from product consumption's direct psychological and ethical implications on human well-being. By elevating *ḥifẓ al-nafs* above traditional priorities such as *ḥifẓ al-dīn*, the study offers a contextual reinterpretation aligned with contemporary public health and ethical standards. Moreover, this research fills a notable gap in the literature by explicitly linking halal certification to the comprehensive structure of *ad-dharuriyyah al-khamsah*, a dimension often overlooked in previous studies. Policy recommendations include financial incentives, awareness campaigns, streamlined regulations, and stakeholder collaboration, highlighting the dual role of halal certification as both a religious obligation and a vehicle for public welfare.

Keywords: Halal Certification, MSMEs, *Ad-dharuriyyah al-khamsah*, Implementation Strategies.



A. Introduction

The state's role in safeguarding public welfare is increasingly reflected in its regulatory approaches, including the mandatory halal certification policy. Implemented through the Halal Product Assurance Agency (BPJPH) under the Ministry of Religious Affairs, this policy represents a commitment to religious compliance, consumer protection, and public health. As of 2024, BPJPH has reported 4,585,199 products certified as halal across Indonesia (<http://olap.halal.go.id>). This figure illustrates the state's proactive measures, such as enforcing halal certification requirements for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and introducing free certification programs.

Academic discourse on this policy reveals two main perspectives: one underscores its economic impact in enhancing product competitiveness (Tahliani and Renaldi, 2023; Widiawati et al., 2024), while the other highlights its alignment with *maqasid al-sharia*, particularly in promoting the preservation of life (*an-nafs*) and intellect (*al-'aql*) (Faika and Ilyas, 2021; Ramadhani and Fajar 2023). This demonstrates that halal certification is both a religious obligation and a state-driven mechanism to protect society and support sustainable well-being.

The research study expands and reaffirms how much halal certification is in *dharuriyyah al-khamsah* when viewed from the community's welfare. Various studies have highlighted the important role of the government in supporting the implementation of halal certification policies as part of efforts to strengthen national economic strategies. However, studies that specifically link the obligation of halal certification with the concept of *ad-dharuriyyah al-khamsah* are still limited. Therefore, this study seeks to fill this academic gap by exploring how halal certification can contribute to the community's welfare, both from economic, social, and spiritual aspects.

Scholarly discussions on halal certification generally fall into two major thematic orientations. The first emphasizes the normative foundation of certification in Islamic legal theory, particularly its alignment with the objectives of *maqāṣid al-shari'ah*, highlighting the protection of intellect (*hifẓ al-'aql*) and life (*hifẓ al-nafs*) as essential (Daulay and Zulham, 2025; Faika and Ilyas, 2021). The second focuses on the practical implications of certification for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), such as enhanced consumer confidence, improved market access, and increased perceived product value (Hasan, Nasik, and Ardyansyah, 2023; Tahliani and Renaldi, 2023). This study offers a synthesized perspective by bridging halal certification's ethical-normative and economic dimensions. It argues that the policy should be interpreted not merely as a religious obligation or business strategy but as a comprehensive state instrument that advances spiritual values and socio-economic empowerment for public welfare.

As a basis for argument, this study emphasizes that halal certification is not only an obligation regulated by law but also an integral part of Islamic principles in maintaining the welfare of the people. In the concept of *ad-dharuriyyah al-khamsah*, halal certification functions to maintain religious aspects (*din*) by ensuring that the products consumed are by Islamic law, protect life (*nafs*) by ensuring the safety and cleanliness of products, maintain

reason (*'aql*) by preventing society from consuming hazardous substances, protect descendants (*nasl*) by ensuring the health of future generations, and maintain wealth (*mal*) by creating a fair and transparent economic system. Therefore, implementing this policy requires support from various parties, including the government, MSME actors, and the wider community, to provide optimal benefits for the people.

This study carries a more comprehensive analytical approach by considering social, economic, and spiritual dimensions in examining the impact of halal certification on the community's welfare. By focusing on the principle of *ad-dharuriyyah al-khamsah*, this study is expected to be a more solid reference for policymakers, academics, and MSME actors in understanding the urgency of halal certification as part of sustainable Islamic economic development.

This study also provides a new contribution to halal certification by explicitly linking it to the *ad-dharuriyyah al-khamsah* concept, which is rarely discussed in previous studies. Most existing studies focus more on halal certification's regulatory aspects and economic impacts. In contrast, this study examines the relationship between the obligation of halal certification and the basic principles of *maqashid syariah*. Thus, this study presents a new perspective that halal certification is a legal obligation and part of the comprehensive protection of various aspects of human life.

Based on the problems above, this study can raise the questions: How can the obligation of halal certification within the framework of *ad-dharuriyyah al-khamsah* contribute to the welfare of the community, face various challenges in its implementation, and encourage effective strategies to increase the compliance of MSME actors with this policy?

B. Method

This research adopts a qualitative method with a descriptive-analytical approach to explore the role of halal certification for MSMEs in protecting the Five Essential Objectives of Sharia (*ad-dharuriyyah al-khamsah*) and formulating strategies for its effective implementation. The literature review was systematically conducted by examining both primary and secondary sources. Primary materials include the Qur'an and Hadith, as well as selected classical and contemporary Islamic scholarly works that discuss the objectives of Islamic law. Secondary sources include peer-reviewed journal articles, government documents, reports, and legal regulations on halal certification. Source selection followed specific criteria: relevance to the topic, conceptual or legal significance, and publication within the last ten years, except for classical texts that serve as normative references. All collected data were organized thematically based on the five core components of *maqāṣid al-shari'ah* religion (*al-dīn*), life (*al-nafs*), intellect (*al-'aql*), lineage (*al-nasl*), and property (*al-māl*). This classification allowed for a structured, focused analysis aligned with the research objectives.

This study employs a thematic content analysis approach grounded in the *maqāṣid al-shari'ah* framework to explore how halal certification policies relate to protecting the five essential objectives of Islamic law (*ad-dharuriyyah al-khamsah*). The analysis process consisted of three stages: (1) identifying themes by extracting key ideas and recurring

patterns from the selected literature; (2) categorizing content into thematic groups aligned with the five dimensions of *maqāṣid al-shari'ah* religion (*al-dīn*), life (*al-naḥs*), intellect (*al-'aql*), lineage (*al-nasl*), and wealth (*al-māl*); and (3) interpreting these themes to derive conceptual insights and policy-relevant strategies for strengthening halal certification among MSMEs.

To enhance the credibility and validity of the findings, the study employed source triangulation using a wide range of literature, including the Qur'an, Hadith, classical Islamic texts, contemporary scholarly works, peer-reviewed journal articles, and government regulations related to halal certification. This triangulation of sources ensures a multidimensional understanding and reinforces the integrity of the analysis. Through this method, the research goes beyond mere description and produces conceptual conclusions and practical recommendations, demonstrating how halal certification can serve normative Islamic goals and broader public welfare.

C. Result and Discussion

Halal Certification Obligations in the *Ad-Dharuriyyah Al-Khamsah* Perspective

Halal certification is a regulatory instrument that aims to ensure that products consumed by Muslims are by Islamic teachings. The halal principle is related to religious aspects and health, hygiene, and social welfare standards. In Islam, the objectives of law or *maqashid sharia* have three levels, namely: 1) emergency level (*daruriyat*), 2) level of need (*hajiyyat*), 3) level of completeness (*tahsiniyyat*). (Al-Syatibi, 1997: 34) Scholars see *maqasid sharia* as aiming to bring benefits and leave damage. Using *maqasid sharia* is also a form of problem-solving between Islamic law, developments in the era, and responses to developing problems. (Nopriansyah et al., 2023: 58)

The halal certification obligation in the *maqasid sharia* concept will be seen from the *daruriyat* level. At the *daruriyat* level, we will see things related to human life. (Auda, 2015: 35) The *daruriyat* level aims to maintain the welfare of the people through five main principles known as *ad-dharuriyyah al-khamsah*, namely maintaining religion (*ad-din*), soul (*an-naḥs*), reason (*al-'aql*), descendants (*an-nasl*), and property (*al-māl*). (Ashur 2013) Therefore, the obligation of halal certification is not only to comply with regulations but also to act as a protection mechanism in various aspects of Muslim life.

Several roles are considered urgent in halal certification in the *dharuriyah al-khamsah* theory:

1. Maintaining Religion (*Hifz al-dīn*)

Halal certification enforced by the Indonesian government is a process of obedience for Muslims when consuming halal products. This obedience is God's command for us to maintain by constantly consuming or using halal products. The existence of halal certification is a form of our support in protecting Islam from the bad traits of humans and requires humans to study religion in its entirety (Hasan et al., 2023: 70). As stated by Allah SWT in Surah *al-Baqarah* verse 168, in this verse it is explained that Allah orders us to eat halal food and if we eat food that is not halal it is part of Satan's behavior.

From surah *al-Baqarah* verse 168 above, halal certification is an implementation for MSME actors that helps to ensure that every product consumed is according to the teachings of Islam.

2. Protecting the Soul (*Hifz al-nafs*)

The concept of halal emphasizes the validity of a product in terms of religion and ensures that the product is safe and healthy for consumption. Standardization in halal certification ensures that food and beverage products are hygienic and free from harmful substances. When harmful substances enter our bodies, they will interfere with our health and can even cause death, while maintaining the soul is important and obligatory for us to protect this soul from things that Allah SWT prohibits. In the hadith, it is explained:

لَا يُؤْمِنُ أَحَدُكُمْ حَتَّى يُحِبَّ لِأَخِيهِ مَا يُحِبُّ لِنَفْسِهِ

Meaning: "No person's faith is perfect until he loves for his brother what he loves for himself." (HR. Ahmad & Ibnu Majah)

Thus, halal certification contributes to public health and protects the public from adverse impacts caused by unsuitable ingredients.

3. Maintaining reason (*hifz al-'aql*)

Islam emphasizes the importance of maintaining reason as the greatest gift to humans. Products containing alcohol, narcotics, or other addictive substances can damage a person's cognitive function. If we choose products that are not halal, it will destroy our reason, so that intelligence will decrease and disappear. (Widyaningsih, 2023: 70)

With halal certification, people can avoid consuming products that have the potential to harm their minds and consciousness. Moreover, halal certification also increases public awareness of the importance of choosing safe and beneficial products for intellectual development.

4. Protecting the Offspring (*hifz al-nasl*)

The health of future generations is highly dependent on the food and products consumed today. Products that are not halal or contain harmful substances can impact the quality of reproductive health and the growth and development of children. Therefore, halal certification ensures that future generations receive healthy and quality intake by Islamic teachings, thus creating stronger and healthier Muslim families.

5. Safeguarding Wealth (*Hifz al-māl*)

Halal certification protects assets by creating a fairer and more transparent economic system. Halal labels increase consumer confidence in products, thus encouraging the growth of the halal market at the national and international levels. Consumers are more confident in purchasing a product with halal standards, while business actors gain economic benefits from the increasing market demand for halal-certified products. Thus, the halal certification system helps maintain economic stability and the welfare of society as a whole.

The government's obligation of halal certification for MSMEs is not merely a compliance issue but a strategic effort to safeguard human life from consuming non-halal products that may pose spiritual, physical, and ethical harm. While many previous studies have examined the benefits of halal certification in terms of market expansion, consumer trust, or religious observance, there remains a lack of comprehensive analysis that directly situates halal certification within the framework of *ad-dharuriyyah al-khamsah*. Most notably, prior research tends to focus on *ḥifẓ al-dīn* (protection of religion) as the primary objective without adequately addressing how halal certification also functions as a mechanism to protect life (*ḥifẓ al-nafs*) and intellect (*ḥifẓ al-ʿaql*).

This study fills that gap by reordering the urgency of *maqāṣid al-shari'ah* in the context of halal certification, proposing that *ḥifẓ al-nafs* should be prioritized due to the direct physiological and psychological impact of food and product consumption on the human soul. This perspective is supported by Daulay and Zulham (2025: 41), who argue that protecting the soul is a key indicator of halal certification's function in preserving consumer safety. Accordingly, this research offers a novel interpretation by demonstrating how halal certification, when analyzed through the lens of *ad-dharuriyyah al-khamsah*, represents a holistic protection framework that transcends ritual observance and contributes to public well-being. The proposed sequence of priority *ḥifẓ al-nafs*, *ḥifẓ al-ʿaql*, *ḥifẓ al-nasl*, *ḥifẓ al-dīn*, and *ḥifẓ al-māl* reflects a contextual adjustment based on the certification's role in safeguarding human life in contemporary society.

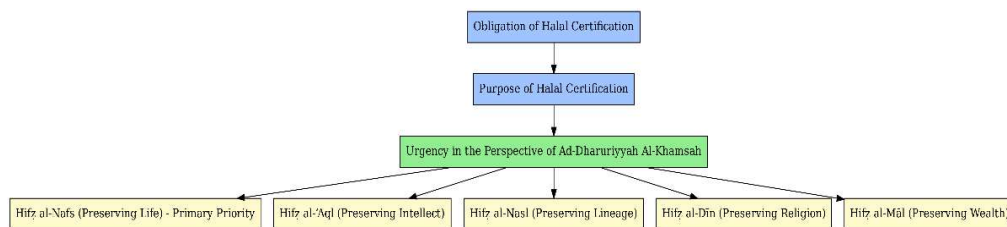


Figure 1: Hierarchy of urgency for halal certification in Ad-Dharuriyyah Al-Khamsah
Source: processed from several sources

The novelty of this study lies in its integrated interpretation of halal certification as a multidimensional protection framework within the structure of *ad-dharuriyyah al-khamsah*. While previous research has generally emphasized its legal basis or economic benefits in isolation, this study repositions halal certification as a strategic mechanism that simultaneously safeguards *ḥifẓ al-nafs* (life), *ḥifẓ al-ʿaql* (intellect), *ḥifẓ al-nasl* (lineage), *ḥifẓ al-dīn* (religion), and *ḥifẓ al-māl* (property). In particular, this research introduces a new perspective by placing *ḥifẓ al-nafs* at the core of urgency, based on the argument that food consumption directly affects human health, well-being, and moral consciousness. This sequence reordering challenges conventional views that prioritize *ḥifẓ al-dīn* and offers a contextualized approach that aligns more closely with contemporary public health, ethical consumption, and welfare needs. As also affirmed by Rismilda & Supangat (2024: 242), halal

certification plays a critical role in safeguarding the integrity of Muslim life across religious, social, and economic dimensions. Such positioning has not been thoroughly explored in earlier studies and significantly contributes to Islamic legal scholarship and practical halal policy.

Challenges in Implementing Halal Certification for MSMEs

The Halal Product Assurance Organizing Agency (BPJPH) is important in building and maintaining halal products in Indonesia. Halal certification ensures that products circulating in the community follow sharia principles and are safe for consumption. For Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), having halal certification can increase competitiveness and consumer confidence, especially in markets with a Muslim majority. (Camelia et al., 2024: 1480) However, in its implementation, MSMEs still face various challenges in obtaining halal certification. These challenges include cost, access to information, regulation, and business actors' awareness of the importance of halal certification. Regulation is also a concern for stakeholders, considering that firm regulations can increase the acceleration of halal products in Indonesia. (Japar, Paraikkasi, and Muthiadin 2024)

The main obstacles faced by MSMEs in obtaining halal certification include:

1. High Certification Costs
 - a. The halal certification process consists of several stages, such as registration, product and production process audits, and laboratory testing, which require significant costs.
 - b. MSMEs with limited capital feel burdened, so many are reluctant to apply for halal certification.
 - c. Providing a free halal certification program for MSMEs is still lacking because the available quota is minimal. Not all MSMEs in Indonesia get free halal certificates, so they have to spend money to pay for them, and MSMEs feel burdened, especially those just starting. (Jakiyudin & Fedro, 2022: 191)
 - d. Budget constraints often make MSMEs prioritize other operational needs rather than taking care of halal certification.
2. Lack of Access to Information
 - a. Many MSMEs do not fully understand the requirements and stages of obtaining halal certification.
 - b. Lack of socialization and assistance from related parties causes MSMEs to have difficulty fulfilling the required documents and standards.
 - c. Changes in regulations that occur periodically increasingly make it difficult for MSMEs to understand the halal certification process.
 - d. Minimal access to information makes many business actors unaware of the steps that must be taken to obtain halal certification.

Based on the above obstacles, resulting in a lack of understanding of MSMEs, many MSMEs are finally reluctant to take care of halal certification because they feel the process is complex and confusing. Therefore, this challenge is an obstacle to increasing the number of

certified halal products in the market. For more clarity on the main obstacles in the obligation of halal certification, see the image below:

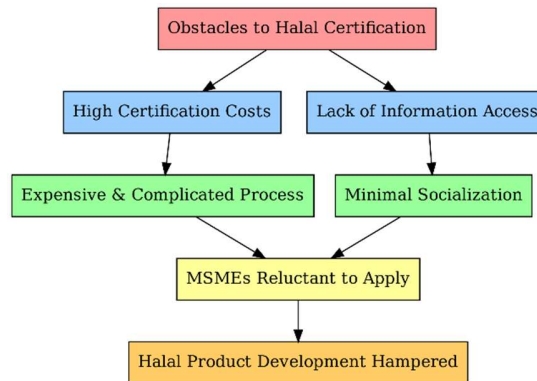


Figure 2: Halal Certification Obstacles for MSMEs

Source: processed from data sources

Regulations related to halal certification are often considered complex and burdensome for MSMEs. Several regulations require business actors to meet strict administrative and technical requirements, including providing halal raw materials, standard production processes, and a halal assurance system in business operations. Meeting these regulations is a challenge for MSMEs that are still small-scale and have limited resources. In addition, differences in regulations at the national and regional levels sometimes confuse business actors when managing halal certification. The overlapping policies also add complexity to the implementation of halal certification, thus requiring more flexible policies for MSMEs.

The awareness of MSMEs regarding the importance of halal certification is still relatively low. Based on data from the Ministry of Cooperatives and Small and Medium Enterprises (KemenkopUKM), as of March 2021, the number of MSMEs in Indonesia reached 64.2 million units. (<https://www.djkn.kemenkeu.go.id>) However, until February 2024, the achievement of halal certification had only reached 3.8 million products. (<https://halalmui.org>) This shows that the majority of MSMEs do not yet have halal certificates. Many business actors consider halal certification a formality or additional obligation that does not directly impact the sales of their products. In addition, some MSMEs do not yet understand that having halal certification can open up market opportunities domestically and internationally. This lack of understanding causes many MSMEs not to prioritize halal certification when developing their businesses. In fact, with a valid halal certificate, MSMEs can reach a wider market, including local and international Muslim consumers, thus opening up opportunities for more significant business growth. (Chasanah 2023)

What MSMEs need to be aware of is that there are several benefits of halal certification for MSMEs and consumers;

1. MSMEs
 - a. MSMEs can be more readily accepted by the global market, especially in countries with a Muslim-majority population.
 - b. Increase consumer loyalty to the products they sell
 - c. Protecting against moral hazard or unsafe actions in trade, such as mixing halal meat with haram meat, for example, by making meatballs
2. Consumers
 - a. Consumers can be confident that the products they use have gone through a verification process and do not contain ingredients that are prohibited in Islam
 - b. Consumers no longer need to look for additional information regarding a product's content and production process because its halal status has been confirmed.
 - c. Increase public awareness to implement a halal lifestyle in their daily lives

Although halal certification has many benefits for MSMEs, its implementation still faces various challenges. High certification costs, limited access to information, complex regulations, and low awareness of business actors are the main factors that hinder MSMEs in obtaining halal certification (Rofifah et al. 2024: 301; Salsabila et al. 2024: 11). Therefore, efforts are needed from various parties, including the government, certification bodies, and business associations, to provide easier and more affordable solutions for MSMEs in obtaining halal certification. With better support, it is hoped that more MSMEs can be halal certified, thereby increasing the competitiveness of local products and supporting sharia-based economic growth. Steps such as simplifying certification procedures, subsidizing halal certification costs, and ongoing education for MSMEs must be carried out continuously so that halal certification is not only an obligation but also part of a sustainable business development strategy. In addition to the above problems, regulations that require MSMEs to be halal certified have not been explicitly regulated, and there are no clear sanctions for MSMEs that are not halal certified. This is also a problem when implementing halal certification.

Strategy to Increase MSME Compliance with Halal Certification Policy

Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) have an important priority in building the Indonesian nation in terms of economic income. This is supported by research presented by Munthe et al. (2023: 614), which revealed that MSMEs are considered the wheels of the economy that can survive the global crisis. In addition, MSMEs can absorb quite a lot of labor compared to other large businesses and provide a fairly large national income. Data from the Ministry of Cooperatives and SMEs support this statement. In 2023, the number of MSMEs reached 67 million units, contributing around 61% to Indonesia's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), equivalent to IDR 9,580 trillion. In addition, MSMEs also absorb 97% of the total national workforce. (<https://djpb.kemenkeu.go.id>.) This significant contribution places MSMEs as the main pillar in creating jobs and driving national economic growth.

To support a greater national income towards national income, one of the efforts made by the government is to support halal-certified MSME products. Halal certification plays an

important role in ensuring that products consumed by the public are according to Sharia principles and are safe for health. However, the level of compliance of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) with this policy still experiences various obstacles, such as limited access to information, high certification costs, and complicated regulatory procedures. Therefore, an effective strategy is needed to increase MSME compliance with the halal certification policy. This strategy can be implemented by the government, related institutions, and business actors themselves with various approaches, such as incentives and financial support, education and socialization, simplification of regulations and administrative processes, collaboration with institutions and stakeholders, and periodic monitoring and evaluation.

1. Financial Incentives and Support

One of the main obstacles for MSMEs in obtaining halal certification is the costs incurred during the process. The government and related institutions can improve MSME compliance by providing various forms of financial support, such as:

a. Subsidies and Financial Assistance

Through the Ministry of Religion and the Halal Product Guarantee Agency (BPJPH), the government, from 2021 to 2024, has provided a free halal certification program for MSMEs that meet specific criteria. The provision of free halal certification has been extended until October 17, 2026. The criteria for MSMEs that receive halal certification include food and beverage products, food additives, auxiliary materials, and slaughtered products and slaughtering services. In addition, even though the free halal certification period has expired, the government continues to provide subsidies to the community for halal certification.

b. Easy Access to Funding

Islamic financial institutions or banking develop financing or funding schemes to help cover certification costs.

c. Tax Incentives

The government can provide a solution through tax reductions or administrative fee relief for MSMEs that have obtained halal certificates. So far, MSMEs do not want to take care of their business permits because they will be subject to taxes and the complexity of paying taxes. (Shokhikhah et al., 2023: 548) It should be noted that the amount of MSME tax imposed is 0.5% of the monthly gross circulation (turnover). However, there is a limit on turnover that is not subject to tax, IDR 500 million per year. This means that MSMEs with an annual turnover of up to IDR 500 million are not subject to Final Income Tax, while turnover exceeding this limit will be subject to a rate of 0.5%. Therefore, tax reductions or tax relief can be given below the amount of tax explicitly determined for halal-certified MSMEs, so this can be a solution in MSME compliance in certifying their halal products.

2. Edukasi dan Sosialisasi

The lack of understanding of MSME actors about the benefits and procedures of halal certification is one of the factors in low compliance. To overcome this, several strategic steps that can be taken include:

- a. **Training and Mentoring**
BPJPH at least holds routine training programs related to halal certification procedures, the importance of compliance, and its benefits in increasing business competitiveness. MSMEs that receive this training will improve the quality of their products. (Zulfikri & Umari, 2024: 198)
- b. **Halal Awareness Campaign**
The government and BPJPH always campaign for halal awareness, using social media, seminars, and workshops to educate business actors and the community about the importance of halal certification. BPJPH can also collaborate with campus academics, especially Islamic university campus academies, to campaign for the importance of halal certification.
- c. **Provision of Practical Guides**
So far, the UMKM community has not widely known practical guidelines for obtaining certification. Therefore, providing an easy guide that UMKM can access regarding the steps to obtain halal certification is a solution in campaigning for halal certification procedures. So far, what is on the minds of UMKM is the complexity and lack of understanding in managing halal certification.

3. Simplification of Regulations and Administrative Processes

Currently, the challenge for MSMEs is understanding the halal certification registration mechanism. Most MSMEs do not want to bother with the many procedures that must be fulfilled to obtain halal certification, so in the end, MSMEs are reluctant to take care of halal certification. The halal certification process, which is considered complicated, is a challenge for MSMEs. The halal certification process for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Indonesia involves several fairly complex administrative stages. MSME actors must understand the registration flow and fulfill several documents to obtain a halal certificate from the Halal Product Guarantee Organizing Agency (BPJPH).

The steps are considered complicated for MSMEs. For example, the first step in this process is creating an account on the Halal Information System (SIHALAL) managed by BPJPH. After registering the account, business actors must apply for halal certification by filling out the registration form and uploading the required documents, such as the Business Identification Number (NIB), a list of raw materials used, and other supporting documents. After submission, BPJPH will verify the documents to ensure their completeness and validity. If the documents are declared complete, BPJPH will issue a Document Receipt Letter (STTD), which is required to proceed to the next stage. After the documents are verified, the Halal Inspection Institution (LPH) will inspect the product. This inspection includes audits of raw materials, production processes, and inspections of production facilities to ensure that the product meets the established halal standards. The results of the LPH inspection are then reviewed in the Halal Fatwa Session by the Indonesian Ulema Council (MUI) to determine whether the product is worthy of obtaining a halal certificate. If the decision states that the product meets the halal requirements, BPJPH will issue an official halal certificate for the business actor. Some of the primary documents that MSME actors must fulfill in this process include the application Letter, Registration Form, Business Identification Number (NIB), List of Raw Materials, List of Products, and Production Process Flow Diagram.

Although the registration system has switched to a digital platform, many MSMEs still experience obstacles in understanding and meeting these requirements. The halal certification process is complicated because it involves various parties, such as BPJPH, LPH, and MUI, which have their stages. (Usnan, Rahmadani, and Maharani 2024: 108) In addition, coordination between MSMEs and auditors is often challenging, especially regarding halal verification and audit. Therefore, further efforts are needed from the government and related institutions to simplify certification procedures and provide guidance to MSMEs so that they can more easily obtain halal certificates.

The procedural complexity surrounding halal certification has given rise to severe consequences—including potential non-compliance, negligence, and even the intentional forgery of halal certificates by certain parties seeking shortcuts. Such failures pose a direct threat to the five essential principles of protection (*ad-dharuriyyah al-khamsah*) embedded within *maqasid al-shariah*:

- a. *Hifz al-Dīn* (protection of religion) is compromised when consumers inadvertently consume non-halal products, thus violating their religious commitments.
- b. *Due to insufficient oversight, Hifz al-Nafs* (protection of life) is at risk if products contain hazardous or non-compliant substances
- c. *Misinformation or false claims may undermine Hifz al-'Aql* (protection of intellect), resulting in public confusion and a loss of trust in the halal assurance system.
- d. *Hifz al-Nasl* (protection of progeny) can be jeopardized by long-term exposure to harmful or improperly vetted ingredients.
- e. *Hifz al-Māl* (protection of wealth) is violated when consumers unknowingly spend money on mislabeled products, leading to financial losses based on fraudulent representations.

To safeguard public trust and uphold the sanctity of halal certification, the following strategies are crucial:

- a. **Enhanced Oversight and Legal Enforcement**
Strengthening regulatory frameworks through regular audits, surveillance, and strict penalties for violations of halal certification standards.
- b. **Transparency and Digital Traceability**
Developing open-access digital platforms that allow consumers to verify the certification status and traceability of halal products.
- c. **Community-Driven Halal Literacy Programs**
Promoting awareness campaigns to educate MSMEs and consumers on halal integrity's religious, legal, and ethical significance.
- d. **Capacity Development for MSMEs**
Providing continuous support, including training, financial assistance, and technical guidance to help MSMEs comply with halal requirements efficiently.
- e. **Whistleblower and Reporting Mechanisms**
Establishing secure, anonymous channels to report suspected violations or irregularities in the certification process.

Simplifying administrative procedures must be accompanied by robust ethical enforcement and institutional accountability. A holistic approach that includes prevention, education, and legal oversight is essential to ensure halal certification meets regulatory standards and fulfills its higher purpose in line with Islamic legal objectives.

4. Collaboration with Institutions and Stakeholders

To improve MSME compliance with halal certification policies, cooperation is needed between the government, certification bodies, business associations, and the community. Steps that can be implemented include:

- a. Partnership with LPPOM MUI and BPJPH, facilitating guidance and mentoring services for MSMEs in the halal certification process. This mentoring aims to overcome all complexities in the registration process, including administrative problems and regulatory ignorance. (Alhidayatullah, 2023: 56)
- b. Involvement of Educational Institutions. This involvement is where BPJPH, as a stakeholder, invites universities and academics to play a role in research and innovation related to halal certification that can be applied in the MSME industry.
- c. Synergy with Large Companies. This step connects MSMEs with companies with halal certification to expand their market.

5. Periodic Monitoring and Evaluation

To achieve the government's expectations for MSMEs so that the halal certification policy can run optimally, regular monitoring and evaluation are required, such as:

- a. Routine Audit and Inspection. This process aims to conduct periodic checks on MSMEs with halal certification and ensure their compliance with the established standards.
- b. Feedback Mechanism. This mechanism allows MSME actors to convey their obstacles in the halal certification process. With this mechanism, the government and certification authority institutions can be a reference in resolving the complexities in the field.
- c. Policy Adjustment. The government and halal certification authority institutions must continually evaluate halal certification policies to ensure they remain relevant to the needs of MSMEs and the development of the global halal industry.

Based on the above approaches, a holistic and sustainable strategy can significantly improve MSME compliance with halal certification policies. This helps the growth of MSME businesses and strengthens the halal industry ecosystem in Indonesia, making it more competitive at the national and international levels.

D. Conclusion

This study demonstrates that halal certification for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) is not merely a legal or religious obligation but a multidimensional protection mechanism aligned with the five essential objectives of Islamic law (*ad-dharuriyyah al-khamsah*), with primary emphasis on the protection of life (*hifz al-nafs*). Halal certification significantly contributes to public welfare by ensuring product safety, promoting ethical consumption, and supporting a fair and sustainable economic system.

Strategies to enhance MSME compliance include financial incentives, education and outreach, regulatory simplification, and multi-stakeholder collaboration, all grounded in the *maqāṣid al-sharī'ah* framework.

However, this research is limited by its qualitative, literature-based nature and lacks empirical data directly collected from MSME actors. Future research is encouraged to adopt mixed-method approaches that combine field studies and quantitative surveys to capture better the lived experiences and challenges MSMEs face. Further investigation into the development of accessible digital halal certification platforms and the effectiveness of institutional support mechanisms will also be essential in improving compliance and expanding the reach of halal certification policies.

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