

A CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK OF DISTRIBUTIVE JUSTICE IN ISLAMIC ECONOMICS

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Abstract

Distributive justice is an aspect immensely debated in studies of philosophy, political, behavioural and social sciences both in mainstream or Islam. Given its increasing relevance to the global village we share and the intensity of socio-economic problems invariably related to the distribution of resources amongst us, this work is aimed at adding value through a deeper understanding and appreciation of justice placed by the Syariah in all domains of our economic lives. The existing works within this area appear to lean mostly towards redistributive mechanisms available in the revealed knowledge. Hence a comprehensive analysis of the notion of distributive justice from the theoretical level translated into practical terms is expected to contribute significantly to policymakers committed towards finding permanent solutions to economic problems especially in the Muslim world. It is a modest yet serious attempt to bridge the gap between distributive justice in letter and spirit as clearly ordained in the Holy Quran. The entire analysis is based on critical reviews and appraisals of the all relevant literary on distributive justice in Islamic Economics. The final product is a conceptual framework that can be used as a blueprint in establishing the notion of justice in the distribution of economic resources, i.e. income and wealth as aspired by the Syariah.

Keywords: *amanah*, distribution, justice, needs, rights

INTRODUCTION

Distributive Justice has been one of the key aspects immensely debated in mainstream economics and can be traced back from the times of Greek philosophers, Aristotle and Plato who steadfastly held that the notion of distributive justice was a form of justice, basically referring to the assignment of benefits and burdens, those who are equal in relevant ways to be treated equally and those who are unequal in relevant ways to be treated unequally in proportion to their inequality. Generally it concerns what some consider to be 'socially just' with respect to the *allocation of goods* in a society.

Distributive justice is often considered not to belong to the scope of economics, but remains as important in economic literature that addresses normative issues in social and economic justice. A variety of economic theories and approaches provide many insights in these matters, including the theory of inequality and poverty measurement, welfare economics, the theory of social