Journal of Social Sciences and Islamic Studies (JOSIS)
Volume 2, Number 1, 2026
Pages 59-64
E-ISSN: 3125-0084
DOI: https://doi.org/10.65798/josis.v2i1.10
Website: https://journal.at-taawun.org/index.php/josis

The Influence of the Import Ban Policy on Secondhand Goods on Traders' Income Perception from the Perspective of Islamic Economics Case Study at Pasar Jongkok Tembilahan City Indragiri Hilir Regency

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Received: September 18, 2025 | **Accepted:** September 22, 2025 | **Published:** March 2, 2026
Article Url: https://journal.at-taawun.org/index.php/josis/article/view/10

Abstract

This study investigates the impact of the import ban on secondhand goods on traders' perceptions of income and evaluates the policy within the framework of Islamic economics. The issue is relevant as such policies often create disparities, particularly for small-scale traders who depend on imported secondhand goods. Employing a quantitative approach with purposive sampling, data were collected from 53 active traders through questionnaires, interviews, and documentation. The analysis was conducted using SPSS 25 with a Simple Linear Regression model. The results reveal a regression equation of Y = 27.624 – 0.275 (Import Ban Policy) + e. The t-test shows that the policy negatively and significantly affects traders' income (t = –9.962, p < 0.05), while the coefficient of determination (R^2 = 0.661) indicates that 66.1% of the variance in income perception is explained by the policy. From an Islamic economics perspective, the policy must be assessed through the principles of maqashid sharia, including justice, public interest, social responsibility, and protection of wealth. While the ban may serve public welfare, its execution should ensure fairness to prevent harm to small traders. The study concludes that more balanced and responsive policy measures are required to safeguard economic justice.

Keywords: *Import Ban; Secondhand Goods; Traders' Income; Islamic Economics; Maqashid Sharia*

A. Introduction

The circulation of secondhand goods has long been a feature of local trade in Indonesia, particularly in traditional markets where affordability and accessibility play central roles in household consumption. According to the Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), secondhand goods refer to items that have already been used, while imports denote the process of bringing goods or services from abroad into a country, usually to fulfill demand that cannot be satisfied domestically or to obtain cheaper alternatives. In this context, the importation of secondhand goods has served as a livelihood for many small traders, especially in regions such as Tembilahan, Indragiri Hilir Regency, where Pasar Jongkok has developed into an economic hub for the resale of imported secondhand products. The Indonesian government, however, through the Ministry of Trade Regulation No. 40 of 2022 an amendment to Regulation No. 18 of 2021, and based on Law No. 7 of 2014 on Trade officially prohibited the import of secondhand goods. The rationale for this prohibition lies in protecting domestic industries, safeguarding public health, and reducing environmental risks. Yet, the policy generates direct implications for local traders who rely heavily on imported secondhand goods for their livelihood.

Former Director General of Standardization and Consumer Protection at the Ministry of Trade, Widodo, observed that the inflow of used imports has been facilitated by unofficial ports, particularly

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in eastern Sumatra and Batam, with approximately 160 access points in total. This condition, combined with the strong demand for branded secondhand products, has created a lucrative but increasingly precarious economic opportunity for small-scale traders. Empirical records from the Riau Provincial Trade Office identify Tembilahan as a central distribution point for secondhand imports. At Pasar Jongkok, located on Sultan Syarif Kasim Street, the prohibition policy has already reshaped economic dynamics. Traders face rising prices and shrinking profit margins, making survival difficult for small enterprises. Nevertheless, the secondhand business remains vital for lower-income groups, offering employment not only to traders but also to agents, porters, and auxiliary service providers such as rickshaw drivers. Furthermore, the market contributes to local revenue through retribution fees and has become a unique attraction in urban economic life. Such realities highlight the social and economic significance of secondhand trade in sustaining community welfare. From an Islamic economic perspective, trade in secondhand goods is permissible provided that it adheres to principles of fairness (‘*adl*), protection of rights, and avoidance of harm (*gharar*) to both consumers and traders. However, when state intervention takes the form of prohibition, its legitimacy must be examined through the lens of *maqashid* sharia.

The objectives of justice, public interest (*maslahah*), social responsibility of the state (*hisbah*), and protection of wealth (*hifz al-mal*) are critical to evaluating whether the policy aligns with Islamic values of economic justice. While the government’s stance may be justified in terms of industrial protection and consumer safety, its implementation raises concerns about equity, especially regarding the livelihoods of small-scale traders. This tension between state policy and community welfare underscores a pressing research gap: the need to assess the socio-economic consequences of the import ban on traders’ income perception within the framework of Islamic economics. This study, therefore, seeks to analyze the effect of the import ban on secondhand goods on traders’ income perceptions at Pasar Jongkok, Tembilahan City, and to critically evaluate the policy through the principles of Islamic economics. By integrating empirical data with conceptual insights from maqashid sharia, this research offers a multidisciplinary contribution bridging economic policy analysis and Islamic ethical considerations. The originality of this study lies in its focus on localized economic realities while situating them within broader debates on trade regulation, justice, and welfare in Islamic economic thought.

B. Method

This study adopts a quantitative field research design, focusing on traders of imported secondhand goods in Pasar Jongkok, Tembilahan City, Indragiri Hilir Regency. The choice of a quantitative approach was made to enable systematic measurement of the relationship between government import ban policies and traders’ perceptions of income, thereby ensuring objectivity and replicability. The total population consisted of 113 active traders, including footwear (82), clothing (13), electronics (10), and accessories (8). Using the Slovin formula with a 10% margin of error, a sample of 53 respondents was determined. The sampling employed purposive sampling, targeting traders who actively sell imported secondhand goods and therefore directly experience the effects of the policy. Data collection combined questionnaires, interviews, and documentation.

The questionnaire was structured on a five-point Likert scale ranging from “strongly disagree” to “strongly agree,” measuring perceptions of policy awareness, implementation, impacts, and income changes. Interviews were conducted to obtain deeper insights into traders’ lived experiences, while documentation complemented primary data with regulatory and contextual references. Data validity and reliability were ensured through statistical testing using SPSS 25. Validity was assessed by corrected item-total correlation, and reliability was confirmed through Cronbach’s alpha, with thresholds above 0.60 considered acceptable.

The analytical technique applied was simple linear regression, expressed as $Y = a + bX + e$, where Y represents traders’ income perception, X denotes the import ban policy, and e is the error term. The regression was complemented with partial t-tests to examine the significance of relationships and the coefficient of determination (R^2) to measure the proportion of variance in

income perception explained by the policy. By situating this methodological framework within the principles of Islamic economics, the study not only quantifies policy impacts but also interprets them through the values of justice, maslahah, hisbah, and hifz al-mal.

C. Results and Discussion

This section presents the empirical findings and analytical discussion derived from field research conducted at Pasar Jongkok, Tembilahan City, Indragiri Hilir Regency. The results are organized into two main parts: (1) a description of the research context and respondents, including the socio-economic characteristics of traders and the rationale for their participation in the secondhand goods business; and (2) the statistical outcomes of hypothesis testing, followed by an interpretative discussion framed within Islamic economics. The data are drawn from questionnaires, interviews, and documentation, processed using SPSS 25 with simple linear regression analysis. This structure allows for a logical progression from descriptive evidence to inferential analysis, ensuring that the findings can be understood in relation to the study's objectives.

1. Results

This section systematically presents the empirical findings derived from field research at Pasar Jongkok, Tembilahan City, Indragiri Hilir Regency. The results are organized into descriptive evidence of respondents' characteristics, responses to the import ban policy, traders' income perceptions, and the outcomes of statistical analysis. Data were obtained from 53 traders through questionnaires, interviews, and documentation, and analyzed using SPSS 25 with simple linear regression.

a. Respondent Characteristics

Table 1 shows the demographic profile of respondents. The majority were above 45 years old (49.06%) and male (86.79%). Educational attainment was dominated by senior high school graduates (49.06%), followed by junior high school (35.85%) and elementary school (15.09%). Most traders (67.92%) had been engaged in secondhand trading for more than 10 years. In terms of commodities, 58.49% sold footwear, 16.98% clothing, 15.09% electronics, and 9.43% accessories.

Table 1. Respondent Characteristics

No.	Variable	Categories	%
1.	Age	>45 years	49.06
2.	Gender	Male	86.79
3.	Education	Senior High School	49.06
4.	Trading Experience	>10 Years	67.92
5.	Commodity Sold	Footwear	58.49

b. Traders' Perceptions of Import Ban Policy (X)

Respondents' perceptions were assessed through 11 statements (Table 2). The overall mean score was 1.45, reflecting predominantly negative views. The highest mean (1.55) corresponded to the statement that the policy reflects Islamic economic justice; however, most respondents strongly disagreed. Other concerns included difficulty in obtaining stock (mean=1.53), limited understanding of the policy (mean = 1.51), and inadequate government socialization.

Table 2. Perceptions of Import Ban Policy (X)

No.	Item Example	Mean	Rank
1.	Policy reflects Islamic economic justice	1.55	1
2.	Difficulty obtaining stock after policy	1.53	2
3.	Understanding of policy content	1.51	3

c. Traders' Income Perceptions (Y)

Five items measured perceptions of income (Table 3). The average score was 4.65, indicating strong negative experiences. The highest score (4.87) reflected traders' need to increase prices due to reduced supply. A majority also reported reduced ability to meet family needs (mean = 4.74) and considered switching to other businesses (mean = 4.57).

Table 3. Perceptions of Traders' Income (Y)

No.	Item Example	Mean	Rank
1.	Need to raise prices due to reduced supply	4.87	1
2.	Income decline affects basic family needs	4.74	2
3.	Considering switching business	4.57	3

d. Validity and Reliability

Instrument testing confirmed all items valid ($r > 0.271$) and reliable, with Cronbach's alpha values of 0.942 for policy perception and 0.700 for income perception, exceeding the 0.60 threshold.

e. Regression Analysis

The regression model obtained was:

$$\mathbf{Y = 27.624 - 0.275X + e}$$

The coefficient of −0.275 indicates a negative effect of the import ban on traders' income perception. The t-test result ($t = -9.962$, $p < 0.05$) confirmed significance. The R^2 value of 0.661 shows that 66.1% of the variation in income perception is explained by the policy, while 33.9% is influenced by other factors.

2. Discussion

The results reveal that the import ban policy significantly reduces traders' perceived income, aligning with concerns raised during field interviews. The strong R^2 value demonstrates that the policy is a major determinant of declining income, thereby creating financial strain for small traders. From an Islamic economics perspective, these findings raise critical issues concerning *maqashid sharia*. The principle of justice (*al-'adl*) is challenged, as traders bear the burden of policy implementation without adequate support. The principle of *maslahah* (public interest) justifies state regulation when it protects community welfare; however, the negative consequences for vulnerable traders undermine the holistic pursuit of societal benefit. Furthermore, the state's responsibility in *hisbah* ensuring fairness in trade and protecting consumers appears insufficiently fulfilled, as traders reported poor communication and lack of alternatives. The protection of wealth (*hifz al-mal*) is compromised by declining incomes, threatening the sustainability of small businesses. These findings resonate with previous studies that stress the importance of aligning trade regulations with grassroots economic realities. Without compensatory measures, regulatory bans risk deepening inequality and eroding public trust. To achieve both policy objectives and Islamic ethical principles, a more balanced approach is required. Recommendations include facilitating access to affordable legal goods, offering microfinance or training programs, and promoting entrepreneurship beyond secondhand imports. In broader terms, this study contributes to global debates on trade regulation and ethics by highlighting the importance of context-sensitive policies. It demonstrates that Islamic economics provides not only a moral framework but also practical guidance for crafting policies that balance state interests with community welfare.

D. Conclusion

This study analyzed the impact of the import ban on secondhand goods on traders' income perceptions in Pasar Jongkok, Tembilahan City, and assessed the policy from the perspective of Islamic economics. The regression analysis confirmed that the policy exerts a negative and significant effect on income perceptions, with 66.1% of the variation explained by the ban. Traders experienced declining revenues, rising prices due to limited stock, and reduced purchasing power among consumers, which collectively weakened their economic resilience. From the perspective of Islamic economics, these findings indicate that the policy has not fully realized the principles of *maqashid sharia*. The objectives of justice (*al-'adl*), public interest (*maslahah*), state responsibility (*hisbah*), and protection of wealth (*hifz al-mal*) were not adequately achieved, as small-scale traders bore disproportionate burdens without sufficient state support. This misalignment underscores the need for regulatory reforms that not only safeguard macroeconomic and environmental interests but also ensure fairness and sustainability for vulnerable communities. Theoretically, this research contributes to Islamic economics by demonstrating how state trade policies can be critically evaluated through the framework of *maqashid sharia*, highlighting tensions between regulatory objectives and grassroots welfare. Practically, it offers policy recommendations, including the provision of entrepreneurship training, access to microfinance, and the development of alternative legal markets, to mitigate the adverse effects of the ban. More broadly, the study contributes to global discussions on trade regulation and ethics, showing that effective policy must integrate economic efficiency with justice and welfare to achieve sustainable development.

Acknowledgment

The author gratefully acknowledges the guidance and support provided by the academic supervisors and lecturers at Universitas Islam Indragiri, whose constructive feedback was invaluable throughout the research process. Special thanks are also extended to the traders of Pasar Jongkok, Tembilahan City, who generously shared their time and insights, making this study possible. Appreciation is further expressed to family and peers for their continuous encouragement, as well as to the Journal of Social Sciences and Islamic Studies (JOSIS) editorial team for providing the platform to disseminate this work. Translate.

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