

# **REDUCING THE GAP BETWEEN THE HAVES AND THE HAVE- NOTS: AN APPLICATION OF OLUVIL ZAKATH BOARD (OZB)**

**Ismail, M. B. M**

## **Introduction**

In an authentic hadith, the Prophet (peace be upon him) said to his Companion Mu`adh, when he was sent to Yemen as governor, "Tell them that Allah has made Zakah obligatory for them, that it should be collected from the rich and distributed among the poor." The Qur'an also says, "And those in whose wealth is a recognized right for the (needy) who asks and him who is prevented (for some reason from asking)" (Surah Al-Ma`arij 70:24-25). Awareness about the gap between the Haves and the Have-nots is essential for applying Zakath to the needy.

Findings of this research help to know the difference between the Haves and the Havenots. Almost all muslim villages have Zakath Board for implementing Zakath in their villages. When each village implements its Zakath properly there is no doubt that Zakath can be applied as a way to reduce the gap between the rich and the poor. On this basis, researcher selected Oluvil as a case study for undertaking the research. In most of the muslim villages in Sri Lanka, the gap between the top and lower class is high. The researches like this can help to make measures for bridging this gap. Few research literatures are accessible in this field in terms of the reference made by the researcher. Therefore, researcher believes that this research would enhance the existing literature in this field. This research is beneficial to individual for undertaking income-generating sources using Zakath. This research can provide better opportunities to society to reduce the gap between the Haves and the Have- nots. Equal- income society can be generated in due course which can reduce number socio- economic issues in villages.