# Religion and Social Change: A Sociological Examination of The Role of Islam In Malay Families

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HAMSIAH BT. MOTAMAD ZAHA

To my wife and my daughter

#### **Abstrak**

Kajian ini telah dijalankan untuk melihat hubungan antara pemodenan dan religiositi keluarga-keluarga Melayu bandar. Ada tiga ciri utama yang menggambarkan masyarakat Malaysia kini iaitu kepelbagaian budaya, pertumbuhan ekonomi dan kebangkitan keagamaan di mana ke semuanya mempengaruhi tingkahlaku dan kehidupan seharian orang Melayu. Sehubungan dengan itu, kajian ini cuba mengkaji setakat mana Islam memainkan peranan dalam menentukan tingkahlaku sosial orang Melayu dan bagaimana proses pemodenan yang bercirikan nilai-nilai Barat mempengaruhi kehidupan masyarakat tersebut. Objektif kajian ini ialah untuk melihat setakat mana dan dalam aspek tingkahlaku sosial apak darjah religiositi bertahan atau merosot apabila dihadapkan dengan perubahan-perubahan.

Lantaran unit keluarga telah berubah dari masa ke semasa, dari generasi 1960an hingga sekarang. Fokus kajian ini ialah untuk melihat apakah bentuk-bentuk perubahan yang wujud dalam jangkaan peranan religiositi suami dan isteri. Kajian ini membahagikan keluarga kepada dua kumpulan iaitu pasangan Melayu yang berkahwin pada tahun-tahun sebelum dan pada 1968 iaitu keluarga tua manakala yang berkahwin pada 1983 dan selepasnya sebagai keluarga muda. Kajian ini juga melihat tingkahlaku dan sikap keluarga muda dan tua dengan darjah religiositi yang berbeza terhadap beberapa pembolehubah sosial seperti perkahwinan, adat dan upacara perayaan, perancangan keluarga, cara membesarkan anak, hubungan suami-isteri, rekreasi, peralatan-peralatan moden, media massa dan hubungan etnik.

Demi menentukan darjah religiositi responden dari sudut tingkahlaku, kajian ini telah membentuk lima tahap religiositi, iaitu dari "tidak alim" kepada "sangat alim". Keputusan kajian telah menunjukkan bahawa keluarga muda kira-kira sama alim berbanding dengan keluarga yang

tua. Selain itu, kajian ini juga menunjukkan bahawa terdapat hubungan yang signifikan di antara pembolehubah-pembolehubah dengan darjah religiositi responden. Perbezaan juga wujud di antara keluarga muda dan tua dari segi beberapa pembolehubah. Akhirnya, keputusan kajian tidak menunjukkan banyak perbezaan antara suami dan isteri dari segi beberapa pembolehubah.

#### **Abstract**

The study seeks to examine the relationship between modernisation and religiosity among urban Malay families. The present urban Malaysian society has three important factors - cultural diversity, economic growth, and religious revivalism - which affect the behaviour and everyday life of the Malays. The study examines to what extent Islam plays a role in the social behaviour of urban Malays and how the modernisation process affects their every day life. The aim is to find out how much and in what realm of social behaviour are the types of religiosity eased or resisted when faced with changes.

The study pays particular attention to the manner in which changes have occurred in the role expectations of the husband and wife's religiosity, as the family unit shifts over time, from the generation of the 1960's to the present generation. In this study those urban Malay couples who married in 1968 and earlier are considered as elderly families and those who were married in 1983 and after are grouped as young families. The study examines the young and elderly Malay couples' behaviour and attitudes with different types of religiosity towards certain social variables, namely marriage, customs and ceremonies, birth control, child-rearing, women, husband-wife relations, recreation, modern appliances, mass media, and ethnic relations.

To determine the types of religiosity of the respondents in terms of their behaviour, the study sets up five levels of religiosity from 'not religious' to 'very religious'. The study indicators in the manifestation of religiosity reveal that the present young couples are almost as religious as the young couples of 1960s. The study also shows that there is significant relationship between the variables and degrees of religiosity of the respondents. Differences also exist between young couples and elderly couples with respect to many variables. There are not many differences between husbands and wives.

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