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

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A dissertation submitted to the 
Department of Anthropology and Sociology, 
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Malaya 
for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy 

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia 
March 1998
To my wife and my daughter
Abstrak


Demi menentukan derajat 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.
Acknowledgement

First of all, I am deeply indebted to my supervisor, Professor Mohd Fauzi Yaacob, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Science for his invaluable assistance.

I am very grateful to Associate Professor Dr. Suradi Salim, Head of the Department of Pedagogy and Educational Psychology of the Faculty of Education. Despite being very busy, he showed me much kindness and patience whenever I interrupted him to seek his assistance and guidance in overcoming the technical problems involved in analysing the data. Similar thanks go to Professor Syed Naguib Alattas for his valuable information about Islam and Islam in Malaysia and to Associate Professor Dr. Raymond Lee who read and made useful comments on chapter two and was a source of intellectual inspiration and guidance.

Special thanks go to Associate Professor Dr. Syed Farid Alatas from Singapore National University who initially encouraged and helped me to study in this area and for his constant moral support. A special word of thanks to Mr. Robert Bartholomew for his worthy assistance in reviewing the draft and giving valuable comments and necessary corrections.

My thanks are also due to the officers of Jabatan Penilaian dan Pengurusan Harta, Dewan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur, especially to Mrs. Kamariah Ibrahim who helped me to make a spatial profile of the socio-economic and ethnic composition of the localities of Kuala Lumpur and gave me access to the Municipal records. I am also indebted to officers of the Election Commission for releasing useful data about the population of each locality.

I also want to express my appreciation to the devout adherents of ABIM, Jama‘at Tabligh and PAS for sharing their information about the da‘wah movement in Malaysia with me. Similar gratitude is also due to the managers and people in charge of mosques, suraus, and madrasah schools in the localities of the research area who kindly responded to my questions.
It is my pleasure to acknowledge the debt that I owe to all the respondents of the research areas of Kampung Keramat, Taman Ibu Kota, Taman Setapak, Taman Setiawangsa and Taman Tun Dr. Ismail for their helpful participation.

I wish to express my appreciation and thanks to Miss Zuriah Abu Bakar for translating the questionnaire into the Malay language, to Miss Umamahenoan for her useful comments on the questionnaire, to Encik Nawi Abdullah for helping me in the initial processing of the data and to Ms. Leong Pek Chan who typed parts of the manuscript.

I would like to thank Mr. Satar bin Jaafar, Mr. Iskandar bin Abd. Rahim, Mr. Mohamad Faizul bin Saat and Mr. Abdul Rahman Lakiti, who were patient enough to conduct the long and difficult interviews, the results of which formed the backbone of the study.

I am also grateful to Ms. Su’ad Awab who kindly edited my first three chapters before leaving for overseas, Mrs. Lynne Norazit who, despite being very busy, edited the remaining chapters and Mrs. Jay Sepehri who went through all chapters. Special thanks also go to Encik Syed Salim Agha and Puan Munisah Yusoff for all they have done for me and my family.

I would like to record my thanks to the Public Service Department, Malaysia (Jabatan Perkhidmatan Awam, Malaysia) for providing me with a three years scholarship and the University of Malaya for its Vote-F programme. I am also thankful to the Regional Islamic Da’wah Council of Southeast Asia and Pacific (Riseap) and the Yayasan Pembangunan Ekonomi Islam Malaysia (YPEIM) who each partially supported my field research expenses.

Finally, I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to my wife, my main source of encouragement, who, in spite of bearing the bitter suffering of the loss of her parents, encouraged me to complete the study. Special thanks are also due to my daughter and my mother who inspired me and eased the difficulties. Above all, I should not forget to express my heartfelt thanks to God who granted me this opportunity.
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