

READING ON WOMEN ISSUES

MEK WOK BINTI MAHMUD

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Mek Wok Mahmud



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CHAPTER 1

WOMEN INVOLVEMENT IN DEVELOPMENT FROM MAQASID SHARI'AH PERSPECTIVES: A CASE STUDY OF MALAYSIAN MUSLIM WOMEN

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ABSTRACT

This research is an attempt to discuss the issue of development and gender within the perspective of the predominant western as well as Islamic perspective. Moving from the Islamic perspective on development generally and women participation specifically, this work aims at providing some suggestions in the light of Islamic principles for the concept of human development in Islam, and identifying the guiding ideology behind's women involvement in development. In this relation, principles of Maqā'id al Shar'ah will be thoroughly discussed with an objective of setting comprehensive principles and guidelines concerning the involvement of women in development. A case study on the experience of contemporary Muslim women in the fields of development in Malaysia will also be addressed. This study will contribute to the advancement of women and progress in all fields and acknowledge women's contribution at all levels.

Keywords: Roles of women, development in Islamic perspective, women's contribution, maqasid Shari'ah, contemporary Muslim women.

INTRODUCTION

“Development” has increasingly acquired a material connotation and become associated with economic progress, noticeable chiefly in the increase of productivity and consumption. The association has been so much reinforced that nowadays the annual per capita income is considered as a key development indicator.¹ The limitation of the concept of development to material/economic progress has undoubtedly marginalized the moral and spiritual aspects of human life. This unbalanced state of affairs may be attributed to two factors.² Firstly, the supremacy of Western thought has facilitated the spread of this perception in the Muslim world, people and governments alike, which is ideologically subjugated to the West. The underdevelopment of the so called third world has been explained against the developed West as a model to be