Sustaining Islam in a Multicultural Environment in Malaysia - Family Values

Seminar Sustaining Islam In A Multi-Cultural Environment in Malaysia Foreign Students 2013

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KULLIYYAH OF ISLAMIC REVEALED KNOWLEDGE AND HUMAN SCIENCES

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DIVERSITY

O mankind, indeed We have created you from male and female and made you peoples and tribes that you may know one another. Indeed, the most noble of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous of you. Indeed, Allah is Knowing and Acquainted.

(Sahih International)
Multiculturalism Defined Seven Ways

By
Friedrich Heckmann

There are at least seven different uses of the terms in Europe

DOMINANCE OR DIVERSITY

• DOMINANCE: Western Approach
  ➢ Modernity
  ➢ Universalism
  ➢ Colonization
  ➢ Globalization

• DIVERSITY: Islamic Approach
  ➢ Muslim History: Medinah, Spain, India
Muslim Culture is based on DEEN.

AND

لا إكراه في الدين فبدأ بآدم الرشد ومن الله فضة وذكر النبى صلى الله عليه وسلم أنتِ فشتتنا في الدين لا

There is no compulsion in religion....
Islamic Multiculturalism

To coexist and live with others as a society in a peaceful way, maintaining human dignity, not forcing our culture on others, not harming others, and interacting, behaving, and presenting our views and opinions in a friendly manner out of mercy.
Value Types and Challenge

• Cultural values
• Religious values
• Secular, Liberal, Humanistic Values

Enculturation by Westernization
West and Muslim World

- **Cooperation**: Mutual Good
- **Exchange**: Knowledge, Science, Technology
- **Cultural Sustainability**: *Resilience* by capacity building and *Resistance* by intellectual efforts
Cultural Values: ARE THEY ABSOLUTE?

Change In Cultural Values

What Should Be the Criterion?
Islam

- The Quran and Sunnah

- Customs (adat)

- Some adat if against Islam should be shunned.

- Ijtihad to meet new challenges.
Family Values: Different Ideas
Allaah Says (which means):

“O you who believe! Ward off from yourselves and your families a Fire (Hell) whose fuel is men and stones...”

(Quran; 66:6)
Prophet said:

“All of you are shepherds and are responsible for your flock...”

[Al-Bukhaari]
family values

integrity  obedience
respect     accountability
diligence   faith
talents     gratitude
stewardship excellence
love        service
learning    patience
LIVING ISLAM IN A FAMILY

1. Make home a place for the family to worship Allah
   - Make your homes become lively during prayer times
   - Engage in frequent Quran recitation and remembrance of Allah

2. Keep Satan out of the house
   - Say the salutation of “Assalamu Alaikum” when entering a house
   - Say “بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم” (In the name of Allah, I put my trust in Allah, there is no help and no strength except in Allah)” when exiting a house
   - Recite Surah Al-Baqara in the house

3. Let respect, kindness and trust rule a family’s affairs
   - Avoid disputes and argumentation
   - Uphold the trust of family members and their matters

4. Foster a culture of Islamic learning and knowledge
   - Engage in Islamic learning sessions
   - Discuss and be aware of matters of halal and haram
   - Instill the love of Islamic literature and books

5. Make family decisions through mutual consultation
   - Involve the family in critical decisions and problem solving
   - Avoid blame by staying focused on devising solutions

6. Fulfill responsibilities toward other family members
   - Learn the rights of each of the family members
   - Fulfill the rights of others and don’t take them for granted
Different Perceptions

In the United States

In 1998, a Harris survey found that:

- 52% of women and 42% of men thought family values means "loving, taking care of, and supporting each other"

- 38% of women and 35% of men thought family values means "knowing right from wrong and having good values"

- 2% of women and 1% men thought of family values in terms of the "traditional family"

http://www.libraryindex.com/pages/1354/Public-Opinion-on-Family-FAMILY-DIVERSITY.html; paraphrasing from wikipedia.com
 MALAY FAMILY VALUES

➢ “menconteng arang ke muka ibu bapa”
➢ “bangkai gajah tidak boleh ditutup dengan nyiru,”
➢ “kelapa telah ditebuk tupai”
➢ “menjaga anak gadis seorang lebih susah daripada menjaga sekandang kerbau”
➢ “pipit sama pipit, enggang sama enggang”
➢ “andartu”
➢ “tak laku”
MALAY FAMILY VALUES

- “orang balai”
- “harta sepencarian”
- “seperti rambutan jantan, orang berbunga dia berbunga, orang berbuah dia tidak”
- “budak baik”
- “ibu rumah”
- “orang rumah”
- “orang dapur”

(MALAY FAMILY VALUES: Yaacob Harun
Multicultural Malaysia

Religious beliefs - Malaysia

(Source: National Census 2010)

- Muslims: 17.4mil
- Buddhists: 5.62m
- Christians: 2.6mil
- Hindus: 1.7mil
- Other: 0.2mil

Legend:
- Islam
- Buddhism
- Christianity
- Hinduism
- Traditional
- Unknown
- Other
- No religion
Mention three Malaysian Muslim Family Values? Discuss at least one of those values that you think are endangered, changed, threatened, or challenged by other ethnic or religious groups living in Malaysia. Why do you think so? Do you have a solution?
Malaysian Family Values

- Respect
- Love
- Islamic Values
- Happy Family
- Dignity
- Honesty
- Love And Affection
- Showing Appreciation
- Conservativeness

- Value Of Culture
- Islamic Way Of Practicing Life
- Shyness Between Two Genders
- Tolerance
- Good Communication
- Obedience
- Family Time Together
- Bonding Between Family
- Care For Muslim Neighbors
- Respect For Elderly
Threatened Values

- Islamic values
- Dignity
- Honesty
- Conservativeness

- Shyness between two genders
- Respect
- Less care about neighbors
Human Dignity

• **Dignity;** baby dumping; teenagers’ sexual misconduct

• **Reasons:** Copy of Western lifestyle through media and television.

• **Solution:** Early marriage for teenagers; parents should be open minded and accept early marriage to prevent sexual misconduct and baby dumping.

• The Prophet Muhammad said:

  "Oh Group of Youth! That who are Able to Pay the dower, let him marry it is More lowering to the Sight, And More Protecting to the Character"
Honesty and Frankness

• Honesty: Malaysians and particularly Malay always try to hide their feeling and dissatisfaction in their family. They rarely discuss; they think to be honest will lead to serious problem...being honest might hurt feelings of others...we don’t speak the truth if it is hurtful...the solution is giving education through mass media, schools and universities, parenting classes; mass media can play great agent of change to improve
Conservativeness

• **Conservativeness** is endangered. Children mingle with others, and children are out of control...

• **Solution:** parents should instill the values in their children since young age.
“A father has never given to a son a gift better than good manners.”
- Tirmithi

“Be gracious with your children and teach them good manners.”
- Ibn Majah
Quality Family Time

- People instead of talking to family at home spend more time out of home until late night.
- People are too busy with smart phones and tablets, children are distracted by video games the one which shows violence, not only respect but communication is also affected ...

_solution_ is that every family should have a quality time for each other without using technology.
Respect

- **Respect**: influence of Western culture affecting young people. Western movies often portray young people being disrespectful to elderly.
Narrated Al-Aswad bin Yazid: I asked 'Aisha "What did the Prophet use to do at home?" She said, "He used to work for his family, and when he heard the Adhan (call for the prayer), he would go out."

Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī, Volume 7, Book 64, Number 276
Family Love

• In Malaysia family members call each other by sweet names *kak long* for the eldest child, *ibu* for mother and *ayah* for father.

• Nowadays, this is missing in many families, people are becoming Westerners; it shows lack of respect.
Parents Pleasure Leads To Allah’s Goodwill

Abdullah bin Omar (رضي الله عنه) relates that the Holy Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said: “Allah’s pleasure and approval are in the pleasure and approval of the parents, and Allah’s anger lies in the displeasure of the parents”.

[Tirmidhi]
And your Lord has decreed that you worship none but Him. And that you be dutiful to your parents. If one of them or both of them attain old age in your life, say not to them a word of disrespect, nor shout at them but address them in terms of honour. (23) And lower unto them the wing of submission and humility through mercy, and say: "My Lord! Bestow on them Your Mercy as they did bring me up when I was young."
Solutions

• **Education**: faith, reason, pragmatic aspect
• **Training**: Social Learning and activities
• **Conversation**: *We are conversation.*
• **Idealism and Realism**: Coming into terms
• **Ijtihad**: Responding to new challenges