THE PERCEPTIONS, PRACTICES AND CHALLENGES OF THE INTEGRATION OF KNOWLEDGE AMONGST THE ACADEMICS OF INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA (IIUM)

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Abstract
International Islamic University of Malaysia’s (IIUM) vision and mission is its commitment to the integration of values in the modern fields of knowledge. Today, Islamization and integration have emerged as niche areas of the IIUM. There are various phases and orientations of the implementation of Islamization of knowledge (IK) at the IIUM. The study is important as it helps IIUM to identify and monitor the areas of specialization that need to be improved with regards to the Islamic values integration. Thus, the aim of the paper is to investigate the perceptions and practices of HUM academics in their efforts to do IK. The study is exploratory in nature and involves focus group discussion (FGD) with six Kulliyyahs namely Kulliyyah of Engineering, ICT, Laws (AIKOL), Economics (ENM), IRKHS, and Science. Each FGD lasted between one to two hours, and involved about five to six lecturers from each Kulliyyah. Three broad themes were generated from the data, which are perceptions, practices and challenges of IK. The general findings of the study reveal that IIUM academics perceive and practice IK differently according to their background and various specializations. IIUM academics generally perceive IK as an important endeavor though challenging, yet differ in their views of its success. Meanwhile, the practices of IK involve content, teaching and learning, materials, research and publication, assessment, and students. IIUM academics face many challenges in implementing IK such as lack of resources, lack of academic involvement in IK activities, and lack of Islamic knowledge to integrate technical, scientific and conventional knowledge. The study suggests that with proper and continuous support from the University, IK could be implemented more effectively.

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