

Sustaining knowledge through unity among people

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Abstract

This study reports the lessons acquired from the first Friday Prayers Khutbah in 2020. The main topic is about seeking knowledge without an end. This topic reflects the sustainability of knowledge in bringing mercy and goodness to people and the world. This study uses participant observation approach in making sense on the context of Friday prayers and sermon. Indeed, very interesting beginning of year 2020 with the emphasis of knowledge.

Introduction

Friday prayers and sermon are obligation to all Muslims particularly male Muslims. The obligation is similar to the compulsory five times prayers. This prayer is on every Friday during zuhr time. The performance of solat is only two rakaat. Before the solat, everyone must listen attentively to the sermon. In case someone attempts to silent others while listening khutbah, is considered not attentive, thus may make the prayers invalid or null. In fact, imam or his assistants would remind all congregational members about the need to listen to the khutbah attentively.

This study reports the lessons acquired from the first Friday Prayers Khutbah in 2020. The main topic is about seeking knowledge without an end. This topic reflects the sustainability of knowledge in bringing mercy and goodness to people and the world. This study uses participant observation approach in making sense on the context of Friday prayers and sermon. Indeed, very interesting beginning of year 2020 with the emphasis of knowledge.

Literature review

Khutbah is sacred medium of communication to educate people about knowledge and virtue (Machouche, 2020). Khutbah has both interpersonal and community features (Mahmood & Kasim, 2019). In fact, khutbah has been sustainable medium of educating people about virtue (Moustafa, 2018).

Khutbah is official communication for education and reinforcement of voices from the authorities. According to Samuri & Hopkins (2017), Friday khutbah is official place for the authorities to interact with the community on weekly basis. More importantly, the voices to reaffirm the presence of the authority.

Friday khutbah is beyond religious routine on every Friday, during early zuhr time (from 1pm-2pm), with khutbah and solat. According to Wadley (2020), masjid or any approved place to deliver khutbah and solat of Friday is good for the community.

Methodology

This study uses qualitative research method through participant observation in a Friday prayer. There are two components of Friday prayer, Friday sermon (khutbah) and Friday prayer (solat). According to Dane (2019), naturalistic observations allows for understanding of the context to make sense of the situation. In fact, qualitative research allows for rich understanding of the context (Hennink, Hutter & Bailey, 2020).

Findings and discussion

Khutbah 7 Jamadil Awal 1441 & 3 Januari 2020, at Masjid Kampung Sungai Pusu, just 4 km from International Islamic University Malaysia Gombak campus. The topic is “No ending in seeking knowledge.”



The 20-minute duration of khutbah, highlighted three issues, namely, firstly, the Muslim ummah must have certainty that seeking knowledge is a command from Allah Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala. Secondly, the Muslim ummah must seek knowledge continuously especially Islamic knowledge as the beacon of life, until it breathes its last. Finally, the Muslim ummah must always strive in seeking knowledge so that it will be able to fulfill all 'ibaadah (worship) required by Allah Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala, hence attaining His Mercy.

Knowledge is essential in every sector of life. The three points highlighted about knowledge seeking have significant impact in life. The knowledge seeking agenda is beyond individual agenda. Everyone shares knowledge for the betterment of people. In the meantime, every acquires knowledge from various sources and venues, for themselves and others.

Conclusion

Friday prayers and khutbah are important avenue to remind and reenergise people about their duties and responsibilities. This topic reflects the sustainability of knowledge in bringing mercy and goodness to people and the world. This study uses participant observation approach in making sense on the context of Friday prayers and sermon. Indeed, very interesting beginning of year 2020 with the emphasis of knowledge.

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