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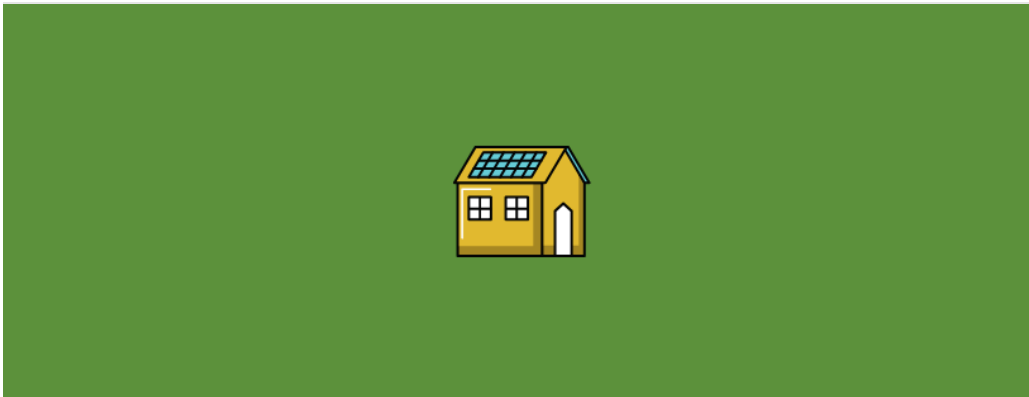
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Work From Home (<https://flagship.iium.edu.my/eps/category/wfm/>)

HOW WORKING FROM HOME DURING MCO MAKES ONE A BETTER PERSON

🕒 7 months ago [lihana](https://flagship.iium.edu.my/eps/author/lihana/) (<https://flagship.iium.edu.my/eps/author/lihana/>)



By: Dr. Haslina Ibrahim

As a Muslim, it is a blessing to be able to comprehend the Quranic guidance in dealing with the complexities of life. The Quran reminds us that Allah promises two times **“For indeed, with hardship [will be] ease. Indeed, with hardship [will be] ease.”** (*Al-Insyirah* 94:5-6) and He confirms that nothing is permanent in life be it joy or sorrow and this includes COVID 19 **“Everyone upon the earth will perish”** (*Al-Rahman* 55:26) and that patience no matter how difficult, is the most beautiful alternative (*Yusu* (<https://quran.com/12/83>)f 12:83) and the worthiest (*Hud* 11:115 (<https://quran.com/11/115>)).

18 March 2020 was the beginning of mobility control order (MCO) in Malaysia and the following weeks were ironies of life. Many of us who used to dream of working from home found our dream has finally come true. First week was an adjustment. We were so much relieved that finally there was no traffic jam to struggle with. Yet there was an awkward and an indescribable feeling when we were shown by the media those empty roads and traffic. As we woke up in the morning, we started to wonder how to accomplish our routines at work, in our own heaven? We were

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excited for sure to be working in heaven, but we were anxious too as there are many potential distractions. But, why worry too soon. It was just two weeks away from our physical office. Things would be back to normal. Maybe, just maybe it is okay to take our works easy during those two weeks before the normal routine resumes. The first week was fun though. Many of us have managed to acquire good skills in cooking, housekeeping, gardening, media socializing including chit chatting with friends via online applications. Some were so creative they became social influencers or youtubers in an overnight. By the second week of working from home, we started to recognize our true self; in terms of our dedication to work. We started to realize the meaning of a famous phrase “Be careful with what you wish for,” As the lockdown had to be extended, and working from home seems to be a new norm, it is timely that we are reminded about our obligation as a worker especially when we are not self-employed.

Allah says in the Quran And say, **“Do [as you will], for Allah will see your deeds, and [so, will] His Messenger and the believers. And you will be returned to the Knower of the unseen and the witnessed, and He will inform you of what you used to do”** (Al-Taubah:105). Hamka interpreted this verse as referring to man’s effort in fulfilling his duty at work. Allah witness man’s labour and man will be rewarded or reprimanded accordingly. A true Muslim takes Allah as his Ultimate ‘supervisor’ hence he will always be committed to his work with or without human superior monitoring him. In addition, a sincere Muslim worker treats his work as an *ibadah*; a form of submission to Allah thus he does not mind taking extra mileage to make sure the quality of services rendered to stakeholders. He regards his job and the wages paid from the job done as an *amanah*. Therefore, he is helpful to the customer and always try to make things work for his employer and stakeholders.

How do these criteria of a good Muslim make us better workers during the MCO? What they have in relation to the new norm; working from home? Indeed, Allah’s wisdom lies in every single creation and phenomenon that take place in the universe. Working from home disciplines a Muslim to take heed of the time he should be spending in carrying out his duties. He makes it an obligation to provide timely response when asked by the superior. He constantly reports and updates him to show the progress of his work. He replies to emails and makes follow up. His dedication makes him more creative in finding and providing solutions to any problem that occurs. He is more composed in his working style given that he is capable of working with the least supervision. Yet he interacts with his superior and colleagues should he needs their inputs. His productivity is consistent despite the absence of a regimented duty roaster or clocking in for and out from work. Of course, he misses his physical office, attending meetings with his colleagues and worrying over his KPIs like he used to. But, working from home teaches him self-monitoring mechanisms. He has to prove to Allah he is a good servant of Him. He has to prove to himself his worth. He has to prove to his employer he is a better

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worker. And these can only be proven if he stays true as a good Muslim treating his work as an *ibadah* and *amanah* despite having to work from his own heaven away from his supervisor.

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