

# THE VALUE OF TRUST AND HONESTY IN FAMILY INSTITUTIONS

## INTRODUCTION

Trust and honesty are essential values that shape human interactions and relationships. Linguistically, trust refers to a responsibility placed in someone, while honesty is defined as sincerity, purity of heart, and truthfulness. In *Islam*, these values are highly emphasized. Trust involves reliance on *Allah*, trust in others, and trust in oneself, whereas honesty involves sincerity in worship, truthfulness to others, and self-awareness. These values form the foundation of healthy human relationships and are particularly crucial in family institutions. Family members, including husbands, wives, children, and parents, must uphold these values to ensure harmony, protect rights, and fulfill obligations. The lack of trust and honesty has been identified as one of the major causes of increasing divorce cases in Malaysia, highlighting the urgent need to strengthen these values in the family context.

## TRUST AS A FUNDAMENTAL VALUE

According to Malay Language and Literature Council Dictionary Fourth Edition, trust means something that is entrusted to someone or more easily understood as the trust placed in someone [1]. This illustrates that trust is an important value that someone gives to another person to be well cared for. For example, teachers trust students to complete their homework.

The value of trust is also emphasized in *Islam*, as stated by Allah SWT: “O believers! Do not betray Allah and the Messenger, nor betray your trusts knowingly.” (Quran 8:27)

The Islamic scholars like Imam Ahmad Musthafa Al-Maraghi also explaining about trust which he divides it into three, namely [2]:

- Human trust in Allah to carry out all of His commands and abandon all of His prohibitions
- Human trust in others; and
- Human trust in oneself

All this evidence shows that the value of trust is very important, both in terms of its linguistic description, as well as its description from an Islamic perspective which also fosters the nature of trust in Muslims.

#### HONESTY AS MORAL PRINCIPLE

According to Malay Language and Literature Council Dictionary Fourth Edition, honest means pure-hearted, sincere, and genuine, to make it easier to understand, an honest person will not dare to stab someone in the back [3].

Islam also explaining the value of honesty in Quran: “O believers! Be mindful of Allah and be with the truthful.” (Quran 9:119)

In the Journal of Islamic Religious Education and Management, the value of honesty from an Islamic perspective is also divided into three dimensions similar to trust, namely:

- Honesty to Allah, which is worshiping Allah with sincere and sincere intentions, without showing off or expecting praise from people;
- Honesty to fellow human beings, which is speaking and acting according to the truth, not lying or deceiving; and
- Honesty to oneself, which is realizing and accepting one's own shortcomings and trying to improve them [4].

To sum up, the values of honesty and trust play a very big role in human life, it is a value that can unite human hearts on the basis of trust and knowing that people who are trusted are always honest with them without any lies.

## THE ROLE OF TRUST AND HONESTY IN FAMILY INSTITUTIONS

The values of trust and honesty play an important role in human life, including family life. In 2024, Malaysia recorded a significant increase in divorce with 60,457 cases, up 4.1% compared to 2023 and the reason behind this was due to the lack of trust and honesty in the family [5]. As mentioned by Norullisza Khosim, there are several values of trust and honesty that exist and need to be maintained in the family [6]:

### 1) TRUST AND RESPONSIBILITY TOWARDS HUSBAND

The husband is a trust that must be protected by the wife. Every right of the husband that has been outlined in Islam must be implemented by the wife because it is a responsibility.

Among the rights of the husband that must be protected by the wife based on Islamic law are that the wife cannot hurt her husband, not fast during his presence except with his permission, not allow anyone to enter the house except with his permission, be grateful to her husband and acknowledge his kindness, take care of his property and do not spend it except with his permission, do not refuse her husband's request to be together, keep the secrets of her husband and household, decorate and beautify herself for her husband, do not frown in front of her husband and the most important thing is to obey her husband.

In fact, how great a husband is as a trust to his wife, these rights of the husband have a high position so much so that they are included among the conditions for a woman to enter heaven. As has been mentioned in one of Hadith Rasulullah S.A.W: Anas reported Rasulullah S.A.W saying: *“When a woman observes the five times of prayer, fasts during Ramadan, preserves her chastity and obeys her husband, she may enter by any of the gates of paradise she wishes.”*(Narrated by Ibn Hibban)

## 2) TRUST AND RESPONSIBILITY TOWARDS WIFE

Just as a husband is a trust for a wife, a wife is also a trust from Allah SWT to her husband. Therefore, it is obligatory for the husband to protect and preserve her from any difficulties, provide facilities for her and ensure a happy life. Moreover, the proof that a wife is a trust for her husband has been mentioned in one of the hadiths of the Prophet Muhammad S.A.W: “...Fear Allah concerning women. Verily you have taken them on the security of Allah (Trust)...” (Narrated by Muslim)

Among the rights of a wife over her husband are the right to dowry, the right to physical and mental maintenance, the right to education and upbringing, being kind to her, being gentle with her, helping with household matters and so on. As also has been mentioned in the Hadith Rasulullah S.A.W: Abu Huraira reported Rasulullah S.A.W saying: “...Act kindly towards woman, for woman is created from a rib, and the most crooked part of the rib is its top. If you attempt to straighten it, you will break it, and if you leave it, its crookedness will remain there. So, act kindly towards women.” (Narrated by Muslim)

## 3) CHILDREN AS A TRUST FROM ALLAH

Children are the most beautiful gift from Allah S.W.T and are a trust given to both parents. Both parents need to teach their children to pray, educate them to fast, encourage them to seek knowledge, listen, read, and memorize the *Quran*, introduce good morals and explain that everything they have is a blessing given by Allah S.W.T and is a trust that must be protected.

The importance of taking care of these children as a trust in the family for both parents has also been emphasized in the hadith of the Prophet Muhammad S.A.W: Abdullah bin Umar had said: “I heard Prophet Muhammad S.A.W saying: All of you are guardians and responsible for your wards and the things under your care.” (Narrated by Bukhari)

#### 4) UPHOLDING TRUST AND HONESTY TOWARDS PARENTS

The demand to do good to both parents is an obligation that must be fulfilled. The rights of parents are very great and have a high position in the sight of Allah SWT so that it is coupled in the commandment of obedience to Him with doing good to both of them; in fact, being grateful to both of them is coupled with being grateful to Allah SWT. As Allah said in the Quran: *“And We have commanded people to honour their parents. Their mothers bore them through hardship upon hardship, and their weaning takes two years. So be grateful to your parents and me. To Me is the final return.”* (Quran 31:14)

Hence, the value of honesty and trust in this family is trust and honesty between humans and humans and also humans to God. Therefore, they are all trusts that need to be respected and people that we need to be honest with them.

#### HOW TO NURTURE TRUST AND HONESTY WITHIN THE FAMILY

1. Being a role model: parents and siblings need to demonstrate honesty and trustworthiness in their daily actions.
2. Train children to take responsibility such as taking care of their own belongings or taking care of their siblings.
3. Hold family discussion sessions so that each member can speak honestly.
4. Practice religious practices such as praying and reading hadiths about trustworthiness and honesty.

## CONCLUSION

Trust and honesty are pivotal in fostering strong and harmonious family institutions. They ensure that the rights and responsibilities of husbands, wives, children, and parents are respected and fulfilled. Islam provides clear guidance on the implementation of these values, linking them not only to human relationships but also to accountability before Allah SWT. Strengthening trust and honesty within families requires deliberate actions, including being exemplary role models, teaching responsibility to children, encouraging open and honest communication, and practicing religious teachings. By embedding these values, families can cultivate love, respect, and unity, thereby reduce conflicts and promote overall well-being.

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