

CHALLENGES OF EDUCATING ADOLESCENTS IN MUSLIM FAMILIES AT PUTRAJAYA

Prepared By:

IZZAH NUR AIDA ZUR RAFFAR

Academy of Contemporary Islamic Studies,

Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM)

78000 Alor Gajah, Melaka.

SALASIAH HANIN HAMJAH

Research Centre for Dakwah and Leadership, Faculty of Islamic Studies,

Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM),

43600 Bangi, Selangor

ABSTRACT

- Parents today face various challenges in educating their adolescents. This is because adolescents are much influenced by their environment and peers, resulting in them being trapped in various social problems such as free mixing, porn addiction, smoking, truancy, loafing, gangsterism and vandalism. Hence, the purpose of this research is to identify the challenges faced by parents in educating their adolescents in the family. This research is designed as a survey study using questionnaire as research instrument on 384 respondents selected by purposive sampling of parents who have adolescents, in Putrajaya. Data was analysed by descriptive statistical technique using SPSS version 22. Research results find that research respondents face challenges in educating their adolescents due to the factors of peers, parents' busyness with work, family financial problems, current technology and cyber media, as well as the characteristics of generation Z. The implications for this research provides knowledge to help parents on current challenges in educating their adolescents, so that they are able to deal wisely with adolescent social issues and problems. This research also contributes knowledge to relevant authorities involved such as National Board for Population Planning and Family Development (or LPPKN), Department of Social Welfare (or JKM) and Department for Islamic Development of Malaysia (or JAKIM) in order to more effectively manage parenting and adolescent development programs.
- *Keywords: Challenges, Parents, Adolescents, Family, Education*

INTRODUCTION

- Family- a group of people living in one household, having blood relationship and marriage ties, sharing birth experience of family members, mutually interacting, and having respective roles, creating and maintaining a culture and enhancing the physical, mental, emotional and social development of each family member (Duvall & Miller, 1986).
- Parents are directly involved in determining the direction, harmony and success of a family.
- Parenting aspects are hotly debated at all levels of society as a result of worsening social problems involving the adolescent generation, making the family institution face enormous stress, and requiring certain solutions to address them
- The role of parents is perceived as providing the solution for adolescents, but parents today still need guidance on the correct parenting methods and skills because many of the cases and issues in the family are related to:
 - Negative parental behaviour -cases of child abuse, incest or sexual abuse.
 - lack awareness and supportive of child education

- Therefore, parenting skills are really needed in educating adolescents today. However, some challenges cause difficulty for parents to apply parenting skills on their adolescents in the family.
- Among the challenges are peer factor (Ghazali, 2003), parents' busyness with work (Ahmad Sarji, 2007), financial problems (Mannes et al., 2005), entertainment and threats to the mind through using current technology and cyber media (Abdullah & Mawaddah, 2010) as well as characteristics of the Z generation (Steinberg, 1993; Rogers, 1981).
- Therefore, it is very important today to focus on research regarding the challenges to realising parenting skills in order to prepare parents who are more proactive in educating their adolescents and concerned about the current situation of adolescents.
- Hence, this research is conducted to answer the question, namely, what are the challenges for parents in applying parenting skills toward their adolescents in the family? Further, the objective of this article is to identify these challenges faced by parents in educating their adolescents in the family.

- A research relating to parenting skills and adolescents by Rohayati (2004) - parents' perception of factors for the current moral decline of Muslim adolescents in Alor Star, Kedah - lack of religious education and appreciation, influence of environment, peer influence or pressure and mass media influence. Nur Fatin et al. (2015) - relationship between the dimension of adolescent parenting behaviour and psychological well-being of parents in Hulu Langat District, Selangor State. Jamal Ismuni et al. (2012) studied the relationship between parenting attachment and the identity status of Muslim adolescents. Ali Hafizar et al. (2017) showed that parental communication and parenting style influence adolescent deviant behaviour in Pahang. Studies by Azlina & Wan Noor Shazalina (2010) and Khairani & Mohd Dahlan (2014) found a relationship between parental behaviour and religious education with adolescent students' morals.
- In short, even though there are past research or studies associating parenting behaviour with adolescents, they do not focus on parenting challenges faced in educating adolescents in urban areas. Putrajaya, as an administrative centre of the Malaysian government equipped with the best educational and infrastructural facilities, should rightly have an exemplary society to be proud of as an example to other communities and a depiction of Malaysian society in the eyes of the world.

METHODOLOGY

- This is a quantitative research using survey study design with purposive sampling of 384 Muslim parents who have adolescents aged between 10 to 19 years and reside in Putrajaya.
- Most respondent parents involved in answering this survey work in the government sector 80.5% (309 persons) and the number of respondent mothers (62.8%, 241 persons), exceed respondent fathers.
- Putrajaya was selected as research location because it is the administrative centre of the Malaysia government with the majority of working parents originating from various states in Malaysia.
- The main instrument used in this research for gathering data is the questionnaire form. The questionnaire is divided into six main sections, but this article only discusses one section.
- The questionnaire items were validated using content analysis by two experts in the field of family and research from UKM
- Further, a pilot test for reliability of the research instrument was carried out before the actual research was done, and the result showed value of *alpha cronbach* (α) = 0.826.

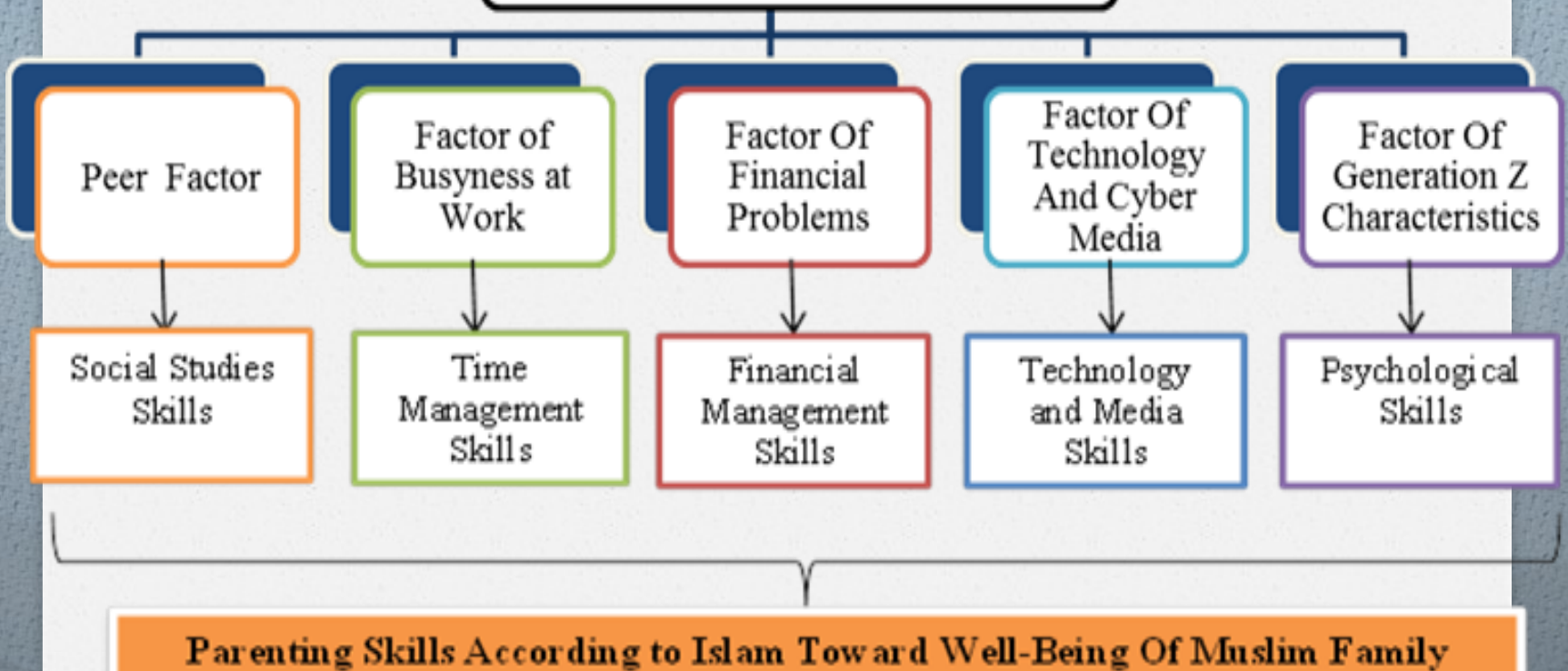
RESULTS

	Statement	Percentage (%) & Frequency (N)				Mean
		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	
1	I view current communication technology as a challenge to educating my adolescent.	0% (0)	2.3% (9)	53.9% (207)	43.8% (168)	3.41
2	I agree that current entertainment influences my adolescent's lifestyle.	0.5% (2)	10.2% (39)	50.5% (194)	38.8% (149)	3.28
3	I admit that being busy at work reduces time spent together with my adolescent.	2.1% (8)	14.3% (55)	49.5% (190)	34.1% (131)	3.16
4	I admit that financial problems become a challenge to educate my adolescent.	2.6% (10)	18.2% (70)	52.6% (202)	26.6% (102)	3.03
5	I feel my adolescent does not listen so much to me.	12.5% (48)	25.5% (98)	43.8% (168)	18.2% (70)	2.68
6	I feel my adolescent is not so responsible.	9.1% (35)	31% (119)	44.8% (172)	15.1% (58)	2.66
7	I can't control my adolescent's mixing with friends outside the home.	6.0% (23)	34.4% (132)	36.7% (141)	22.9% (88)	2.23

CONCLUSION

- Research results find that respondents face challenges in realizing parenting skills to educate their adolescents in the family due to the factors of peers, busyness at work, financial problems, technology and cyber media as well as characteristics of generation Z.
- Research results show that the main challenge in this issue is the current communication technology (mean=3.41). The implication of this research gives parents knowledge regarding current challenges in the context of educating adolescents so that parents can deal with adolescent social issues and problems by streamlining knowledge of parenting skills- will bring harmony to Muslim families and ultimately form a prosperous Muslim society.
- This research also contributes knowledge to relevant authorities such as LPPKN, JKM and JAKIM as well as NGOs relating to better management of programs to develop parenting, family and adolescents.
- This research proposes that further research be conducted relating to parenting skills according to the Islamic perspective in order that Muslim parents know the best method of educating their adolescents according to the recommendations in al-Quran and al-Hadith towards family well-being as shown in the following diagram:

Challenges of Educating Adolescents in Muslim Families



Source: 'Ulwan (2015)

Thank you!

