

Marriage Guidance for Prospective Brides from The Perspective of Maslahah Mursalah (Case Study at the Office of Religious Affairs, Wonoasri District, Madiun Regency)

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ABSTRACT

This study was conducted at the Religious Affairs Office (KUA) of Wonoasri District, Madiun Regency, to evaluate the implementation of premarital marriage guidance for prospective brides and grooms. This study uses a qualitative descriptive approach with a case study method. Primary data were obtained through interviews with presenters and prospective brides and grooms, while secondary data were taken from premarital guidance books and the Wonoasri KUA archives. Marriage guidance is regulated by the Regulation of the Director General of Islamic Community Guidance Number 379 of 2018 and the Decree of the Director General of Islamic Community Guidance Number 172 of 2022, with two implementation methods: indirect guidance (virtual) and face-to-face (regular), lasting for one day with a total of six hours of lessons and a minimum of 10 pairs of prospective brides and grooms. Based on the perspective of *maṣlaḥah mursalah*, this guidance according to *sharia* provides understanding and knowledge that is useful as a provision for building a *sakinah, mawaddah, and warahmah* family.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Marriage not only unites two partners, namely a man and a woman, but also strengthens the sacred bond of covenant in the name of Allah SWT that both bride and groom intend to build a peaceful, peaceful family filled with love and affection to continue the ideals and goals of the family.

Forming a peaceful, loving, and compassionate family is not an easy task. When two people make a commitment to marry and build a family, they must make new adjustments with their partners. Before getting married, each couple must understand the meaning of marriage and how to build a relationship that unites the personalities of the prospective bride and groom. Therefore, marriage

guidance is needed so that individuals can prepare and develop all their potential and strengths in entering the marriage stage.

This is done with the idea that guidance for prospective brides and grooms must be a requirement that must be met by prospective husbands and wives before the marriage contract. Of course, this provision aims to provide benefits and goodness in the future household life for the couple. Seeing these two sides, the study of guidance for prospective brides and grooms needs to be understood from the side of *maslahah*, which in Islam itself has a principle, namely *maslahah mursalah*. As for what is meant by *maslahah mursalah* is the principle of *maslahah* (goodness) used to determine an Islamic law. It can also mean one of the actions that contains good values (beneficial). In addition, marriage guidance is very important, especially considering the high number of divorce cases caused by material imbalance between husband and wife in the Wonoasri area. This often occurs due to a lack of knowledge about marriage. The data encouraged researchers to conduct observations at the KUA Wonoasri District, where many prospective brides and grooms ignored premarital guidance due to reasons of lack of time or limited work holidays.

2. METHOD

Research is likely to use a qualitative approach, especially because case studies often focus more on an in-depth understanding of a particular phenomenon in a particular context. A qualitative approach aims to understand experiences, views and behavior from the participant's perspective. This type of research is clearly a case study, which means the research is focused on in-depth exploration of certain phenomena in the Wonoasri District Religious Affairs Office. This research may seek to understand how marriage guidance is implemented and how this is understood in *Maslahah Murlah*'s perspective. This research uses the Data Collection technique by Interview: This technique is very likely to be used in qualitative case studies. In-depth interviews with prospective brides and grooms, officials from the Office of Religious Affairs, and perhaps other relevant parties, will provide rich insight into the implementation of marriage guidance and its application in the context of *Maslahah Murlah*. With observations carried out at the Religious Affairs Office. And documentation or records from the Office of Religious Affairs can be an important source of data for analyzing the implementation of marriage guidance policies. As well as using data analysis with a *Maslahah Murlah* perspective,

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Implementation of Marriage Guidance at the KUA of Wonoasri District

Marriage Guidance conducted by the Office of Religious Affairs of Wonoasri District began in 2013 or the beginning of the enactment of the Regulation of the Director General (DIRJEN) of Islamic Community Guidance Number: DJ.II/542 of 2013 concerning Guidelines for Organizing Pre-Marital Courses, for this implementation it must be scheduled together with the *rafak*, this model of marriage guidance can only run when there are conditions that do not allow for group marriage guidance. This is because, at the beginning of the implementation of this guidance, the allocation of funds from the government that was provided was not adequate. Marriage guidance according to Mr. Farhan Husaini (Head of KUA of Wonoasri District) is: Guidance that is a reference or means of learning about the scope of marriage, it can also be used to overcome so that a family is harmonious. 2. Face-to-face or Regular Marriage Guidance Regular marriage guidance is carried out at the KUA Wonoasri in collaboration with and with instructions from the Ministry of Religion of Madiun Regency. The schedule for implementing this marriage guidance is prepared by the Ministry of Religion of Madiun Regency with a target of at least 10 pairs of prospective brides and grooms and independent guidance can be carried out. Mr. Farhan Husaini (Head of KUA) said that:

"The implementation of marriage guidance was carried out from instructions from the Ministry of Religion which is usually carried out once every two months with 10 prospective brides and grooms"

The implementation of marriage guidance at the KUA Wonoasri District was carried out for 1 day with a duration of material delivery of around 6 hours. The implementation of this marriage guidance was due to the agreement of both parties between the presenter and the prospective bride and groom with the approval of the Ministry of Religion of Madiun Regency. Furthermore, Mr. Farhan Husaini (Head of KUA) said that:

"We from the KUA are only providers of venue services, due to requests from the prospective bride and groom with the agreement of the presenter and the approval of the Ministry of Religion, the implementation of the guidance was only in 1 day with a duration of material delivery for 6 hours, with our reporting to the Ministry of Religion recorded 2 days because the absence list from the Ministry of Religion was also 2 days. In order to better understand the benefits and role of marriage guidance for prospective brides and grooms, observations were carried out during the implementation of face-to-face marriage guidance, namely March 14, 2023, so that researchers could carry out observations at that time. It is known that the results of the interview with the prospective bride and groom (Triandarwati) said that:

"This marriage guidance is indeed carried out for 1 day and lasts from 8 am to 3 pm, with the implementation of this 1 day it can also benefit the prospective bride and groom, because now it is quite difficult to get leave from work, especially as a factory worker. As long as the material presented can be maximized, it makes it easier to understand. "

This guidance is carried out together with all prospective brides and grooms, and must be attended. If the prospective bride and groom are unable to attend regular guidance, they can carry out guidance independently at the same time as the examination of files or rafa'. In this case, Mr. Suhartono (Penghulu KUA Wonoasri District) said that: "In the guidance of prospective brides and grooms, not all prospective brides and grooms can always attend, in this case the KUA provides independent guidance which is carried out simultaneously with the implementation of rafa' with a duration of around 20 minutes, this is also because because of the short time, the material presented is made concise but meaningful and easy to understand. " Independent guidance is carried out with exceptions, if the prospective bride and groom participants really cannot attend regular marriage guidance for acceptable reasons. Mr. Suhartono (Penghulu KUA Wonoasri District) said that: "Independent marriage guidance can be carried out by prospective brides and grooms if the participants cannot attend due to illness or for reasons that really cannot attend marriage guidance."

The content of the material delivered in the implementation of marriage guidance is focused on the formation of a harmonious family, namely about meeting needs and managing family finances, maintaining reproductive health and preventing stunting, preparing a quality generation, preparing a harmonious family, and managing psychology and family dynamics. To assist in the delivery of the material, prospective brides and grooms are given the module "Foundations of a Sakinah Family (Independent Reading for Prospective Brides and Grooms)" published by the Ministry of Finance.

The material provided during marriage guidance activities varies from household development, health, finance and psychology. The delivery also uses the lecture method and uses projector media as support.

In this case, the prospective bride (Tri Andarwati) said that: "The difference in the delivery of the marriage guidance material that was delivered could increase our insight and the delivery was also easy to digest/understand, even though it was only carried out for one day for us, it was enough as provisions and guidelines for us.

The impact or influence of the guidance on their readiness to enter married life.

Marriage guidance at the KUA aims to prepare prospective couples to enter married life more maturely. The impact or influence of this guidance on their readiness can be very significant, and can be explained in the following aspects:

1. Improving Understanding of Responsibilities in Marriage, Knowledge of Rights and Obligations, where the prospective bride and groom become more aware of their respective rights and obligations in marriage. This includes the roles of husband and wife in the household, as well as responsibilities as parents. As well as Mental and Emotional Preparation: This guidance helps prospective brides and grooms to prepare themselves mentally and emotionally, so that they are better prepared to face the dynamics of household life, including challenges and problems that may arise.
2. Improving Effective Communication Skills, namely this guidance often includes training in effective communication skills, which are important in maintaining household harmony. Couples are taught how to communicate well to avoid miscommunication and unnecessary conflict. Then with good communication skills, couples are also equipped with the ability to manage conflict more wisely, so that they are able to resolve problems without escalating the situation.
3. Understanding of Religious Aspects in Marriage, namely about Religious Education, this guidance usually provides a deeper understanding of the religious values that are the basis of marriage. This can help couples in running their household life in accordance with the teachings of their religion, which can ultimately strengthen the bonds of marriage. And Spiritual Values: Couples are taught to build relationships based on spiritual and religious values, which are often important pillars in maintaining household harmony.
4. Better Family Planning with Financial Planning, Guidance often includes discussions about financial planning, which is important to ensure the economic stability of the family. Couples are guided to manage their finances well and plan for the future, including child planning. And paying attention to Reproductive Health, This guidance also provides information on reproductive health and family planning, which helps couples make the right decisions regarding the number and spacing of children.
5. Reducing the Risk of Divorce, More Mature Readiness, namely With good guidance, prospective brides and grooms become more prepared and mature in entering marriage, which can reduce the risk of divorce. They have been equipped with better knowledge, skills, and mental readiness to live a household life. and Readiness to Face Challenges, This guidance helps couples prepare themselves to face various challenges that may arise in married life, so that they are more resilient and do not give up easily when faced with problems.
6. Improving the Quality of Relationships in Marriage, namely improving the harmony of husband and wife relationships: With a better understanding of various aspects of marriage, the relationship between husband and wife tends to be more harmonious, full of understanding, and mutually supportive. And for Strengthening Commitment: Guidance also helps strengthen the commitment of couples in undergoing marriage, so that they are better prepared to face the long journey together with all the joys and sorrows that exist. Overall, marriage guidance at the KUA can have a very positive influence on the readiness of couples to enter married life, both in terms of knowledge, mental, emotional, and spiritual.

Marriage guidance from Maslahah Murlah's Perspective

Marriage guidance is a program organized by the Office of Religious Affairs (KUA) to provide supplies to prospective bride and groom couples so that they are ready to face married life. From Maslahah Murlah's point of view, marriage guidance can be understood as an effort to safeguard and maintain the general good (maslahah) which is not explicitly regulated in sharia texts, but is considered to bring great benefits to society and individuals.

Understanding Maslahah

Mursale Maslahah Mursale is a concept in Islamic law which refers to the benefit or general good for which there is no syar'i argument (either from the Qur'an or Hadith) that directly establishes or rejects it. This is a form of policy or action taken to bring benefits or prevent harm to the people, which is not specifically mentioned in religious texts, but is still in line with the main objectives of the Shari'a (maqasid al-shariah). aspects, namely:

1. Maintaining Religion (Hifz al-Din): Marriage guidance helps couples understand religious teachings related to marriage, so that they can live their household life according to Islamic guidance. This supports the goal of maintaining religion by ensuring that marriage is carried out with the correct understanding and within a framework that is in accordance with sharia.
2. Maintaining the Soul (Hifz al-Nafs): One important aspect of marriage guidance is preparing the mental and emotional well-being of the prospective bride and groom. This is in line with the goal of Understanding maintaining the soul, because with good preparation, the risk of serious conflicts that can threaten the well-being of the soul (such as stress, depression, or even divorce) can be minimized.
3. Maintaining Offspring (Hifz al-Nasl): Marriage guidance also focuses on family planning and parental responsibilities, which supports the goal of maintaining offspring. Couples are equipped with knowledge on how to build a healthy and harmonious family, which will have an impact on the well-being of their children in the future.
4. Maintaining Reason (Hifz al-'Aql): By providing education on communication, conflict management, and financial planning, marriage counseling helps couples use their reason wisely in their marriage. This is important to ensure that decisions made in their household life are based on mature considerations.
5. Maintaining Wealth (Hifz al-Mal): Marriage counseling often includes aspects of managing family finances, which is in line with the goal of maintaining wealth. By understanding the importance of financial planning, couples can avoid economic problems that can shake the stability of a marriage.

4. CONCLUSION

From Maslahah Mursalah's point of view, marriage guidance is a preventive and educational effort that is very useful in maintaining various aspects of life regulated by maqasid al-shariah. Although this guidance is not explicitly mentioned in sharia texts, it still supports the goals of sharia by providing a framework for fostering families that are strong, harmonious, and in accordance with Islamic values. This guidance is an example of the application of maslahah which aims to ensure the goodness and welfare of the people in the context of modern life. From the perspective of maslahah mursalah regarding the implementation of Marriage Guidance for prospective brides and grooms in KUA, Wonoasri District, Madiun Regency, in terms of maslahah daruriyah in accordance with sharia and its sustainability, it is known that it can provide an understanding of knowledge and understanding for participants as a provision in carrying out a marriage to achieve a family of equals.

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