

Dynamics of Islamic Culture Versus Western Culture: A Case Study of Teenage Dating

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The influence of globalization has experienced rapid social changes in muslims. Islamic values and norms have been reduced in various aspects, including in the free association of teenagers with the opposite sex. Dating is an association between men and women that opens up opportunities for sinful acts (adultery). Dating is not known in islam, but is only known to get to know each other. Dating is a western culture adopted by muslims. This paper examines the controversy of islamic culture and western culture related to cases of dating in teenagers. The research is a library research that examines theories or references related to western culture and Islamic culture, especially cases of dating in teenagers. Data sources are taken from books, journals related to the title of the study. Data processing is used with content analysis that uses a deductive thinking pattern, namely examining several references and drawing conclusions from these references. The results of this study indicate that islamic culture does not recognize the culture of dating, but only recognizes the term ta'aruf to strengthen friendship. While western culture is more relaxed in terms of teenage relationships, dating is considered an opportunity to learn about oneself and others, and emphasizes individual freedom. The islamic generation must pay attention to islamic values in teenage relationships, as well as pay attention to eastern values that are full of noble values and morals in relationships. Parents and teachers need to pay attention to teenage relationships by providing education and habits related to islamic values.

Keywords: Islamic Culture, Western Culture, Promiscuity.

1. Introduction

The influence of globalization has experienced rapid social changes in Muslims. Islamic values and norms have been reduced in various aspects, including in the free association of teenagers with the opposite sex. (Sarjono, 2005). Dating is an association between men and women that opens up opportunities for sinful acts (adultery). In accordance with the Word of Allah in Surah Al-Isra verse 32 which reads, "Do not approach adultery, for it is a vile act and a bad way."

Dating is not known in Islam, but is only known to get to know each other (QS. Alhujurat verse 13). However, the pattern of acquaintance of teenagers in today's era has gone beyond the limit. This is because dating is considered an unhealthy culture. In today's era, the term dating has stuck and become commonplace for every teenager in Indonesia, the majority of whom are Muslim. This happens when teenagers will definitely experience maturity, both men and women. They will begin to develop romantic attitudes and interests in the opposite sex. Although in teachings, Islam does not recognize the term dating. However, it is different from the conditions of today's teenagers who consider that adultery is modern and dating is a contemporary trend (Putri et al., 2022). Thus, dating has become an unhealthy culture for the young generation of Muslims.

The view of dating for each individual is different, as well as in society. Moreover, currently society is starting to be open to changes in the times in all aspects, including in social life such as dating behavior which currently dominates among young people. It becomes something to be proud of, even if not dating is considered old-fashioned and rustic. This reality is what is developing in society so that dating behavior can no longer be a problem, dating behavior that continues to develop following the increasingly advanced times, not only has positive impacts but also negative impacts (Sari, 2017).

Dating is a western culture and product that entered Indonesia and became part of global culture. Dating in the perspective of western culture is identical to freedom. Western culture tends to justify that sexuality is something that is open and does not affect religious teachings. (Fitriani et al., 2024). The controversy of western and Islamic culture is increasingly massive. Plus dating is something that is very popular with teenagers, even though it is contrary to Islam. This condition creates interest in studying further the controversy of dating as a western culture and its clash with Islamic culture.

2. Method

This research is a literature study that examines the controversy of western and Islamic culture related to dating in the younger generation. Data sources are taken from references related to the focus of the study. The thinking pattern used in analyzing the materials is a deductive thinking pattern, namely from general to specific. In this case, the author examines several references related to dating and draws conclusions.

3. Results and Discussion

The results of this research are described as follows;

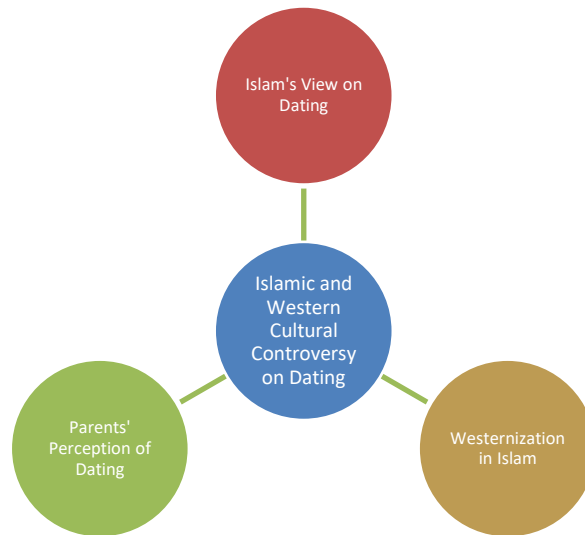


Figure 1: Research Results

Islam's View on Dating

Islam does not recognize the term dating, but only recognizes the term ta'aruf to strengthen kinship. Islam limits the association between men and women, by paying attention to the prevailing norms. (Khaufi & Hidayani, 2023). The feeling of love and affection in humans is a gift from Allah SWT. So that the interaction between men and women can sometimes grow a feeling of love. Islam has regulated relationships with the opposite sex.

The first condition is that when they meet, both must maintain their gaze and bow their heads and not look at each other. Because if they see each other's faces, they will be close to zina which can stimulate lust. (M. Iqbal, 2024). This is clearly what Satan wants to lead to adultery and illicit relationships. The second condition is that women when meeting the opposite sex who are not mahram must cover their entire aurat, leaving only their face and palms. This has been explained in the Quran, Surah An Nur, verse 31, regarding the obligation to cover their aurat for women. The obligation to cover their aurat in relations with the opposite sex is also to restrain lust which then prevents them from adultery. While the third condition is that women must also maintain their voices when relating to the opposite sex. Their voices are normal, not exaggerated or even spoiled. Because the voice can also disturb men and can also stimulate them to commit adultery (Fatimah et al., 2023).

The law of dating in Islam can be understood from the Quran and Hadith. In Islam, a Muslim is not allowed to have a lover except through marriage (Syah & Sastrawati, 1970). You can refer to several verses of the Quran and the following hadiths about the law of dating in Islam. The first law of dating in Islam can refer to Surah Al-Isra verse 32, which means: "And do not come near to adultery; indeed adultery is an abomination and an evil way." (QS. al-Isra' (17): 32).

Apart from that, in a hadus muttafaq alaihi, Rasulullah SAW once discussed actions that bring a Muslim closer to adultery. This is also related to the laws of dating in Islam. The hadith reads

as follows: "From Ibn Abbas ra, he said: I heard the Messenger of Allah preach a sermon, he said: Never should a man go on seclusion with a woman unless he has a mahram with him, and let no woman go on a pilgrimage unless she is with him. there's a mahram." (muttafaq alaihi). In this hadith, Rasulullah SAW emphasized that a Muslim must maintain his relationship with the opposite sex. The aim is of course to avoid adultery between men and women, because adultery usually occurs in a situation where they are alone.

Moreover, there is also a hadith that states that a Muslim is prohibited from being alone with the opposite sex (Yulika & Setiawan, 2017). The hadith related to the law of dating in Islam is as follows: "None of you should be alone with a woman, because Satan will become the three of them." (Hadith narrated by Ahmad and Tirmidzi).

Based on the explanation above, it can be understood that Islam is a religion that is very concerned about the relationship patterns between men and women. There are boundaries that must not be violated and need to be considered. This is because by dating, it is an act that is close to adultery. With the current conditions where massive dating practices are carried out, it should be a shared concern because the current relationship patterns of teenagers are damaged. Various stakeholders need to pay attention to this condition.

Westernization Efforts in Islam

Today's societal behavior reflects western culture that has been assimilated into the joints of contemporary society. America's hegemony in the world of entertainment and the form of the global world can be said to be cultural colonization. They will never stop trying to control the world because they do not want Muslims to progress. They do not want the history of the splendor of Islam to repeat itself. So all kinds of efforts are made to hinder the development of Muslims (Prayogo et al., 2023).

Nowadays, information technology has developed rapidly, followed by the rapid spread of information. People can find out information from various parts of the world just in their grasp. Culture from a region from the southern tip to the northern tip can easily spread through information media. Likewise with Westernization, where the influence of western culture permeates the patterns of people's lives. (Rosdiana, Rosmita Ramli, 2019).

Westernization comes from the word "westernize" which literally means "to make western". Koentjaraningrat said "westernization is an attempt to imitate the lifestyle of Westerners excessively, imitating all aspects of life, both in terms of fashion, behavior, culture and others". People who have been influenced by westernization have a lifestyle that is oriented towards the western lifestyle. This western culture is considered a culture that is trendy and relevant today, providing freedom, cool and fashionable, and as an alternative to existing cultures. This then makes western culture very popular with today's teenagers who think that having a western lifestyle can be considered cool. (Alfadhil et al., 2021).

Islam is a religion that comes from Allah SWT which He revealed through His Messenger Muhammad SAW. The essence of Islamic teachings is to unite Allah and do good to all creatures and the entire universe and its contents. Islam also emphasizes humans to obey God's commands and stay away from all his prohibitions in order to be happy in the afterlife. Islam is also a universal and dynamic religion, where the teachings in the Islamic religion can provide guidance and are relevant to any culture and are timeless. Islam also has rules that can

be said to be strict but can still be implemented which aim to ensure that its followers have a good and correct way of life. (Rosdiana, Rosmita Ramli, 2019).

This may be what makes Islamic teachings less accepted among teenagers because of the lack of freedom which they think limits freedom of expression. So even though they are Muslim, their lifestyle tends to follow the western lifestyle or you could say Islam but westernized. On this occasion, we will discuss the influence of westernization on Islamic teachings today.

In the relationship between western culture and Islamic teachings, of course, it is very contradictory. However, along with the growth and development of a culture in a place, over time it can influence the values and original culture of that place. Before entering the influence of westernization on Islamic teachings, Westernization can also be said to be a western agenda to spread its influence even though it is not seen as a direct action. Of course, if we are aware of western culture and Islamic teachings, the differences are very clear, starting from values, lifestyle, behavior, and so on. (Pratiwi, 2020).

Westernization has had a significant impact on Islamic culture in various countries. Some of the impacts of Westernization on Islamic culture include: 1) Influence on lifestyle: Westernization has brought about changes in the lifestyle of Muslim communities, especially in urban areas. The influence of Western lifestyles can be seen in fashion, hairstyles, food, entertainment, and daily habits. Some Muslims may adopt some aspects of Western lifestyles, which may impact more traditional Islamic traditions and practices. 2) Values and morals: Westernization has also affected the perception of values and morals in Islamic culture. Values such as individualism, freedom of expression, and consumerism adopted from the West may conflict with traditional Islamic values that emphasize modesty, social solidarity, and adherence to religious teachings. 3) Technology and media: Westernization has brought about developments in technology and media that have had an impact on Islamic culture. The use of the internet, social media, and Western television allows easy access to global information and entertainment. This may change the perception and understanding of Muslim communities towards religion, traditions, and social norms. (Suharni, 2015).

It is important to note that Islam is not against Westernization as a whole. Rather, responses to Westernization in Islamic culture can vary depending on the social, cultural, and religious context of the individual Muslim or group. The following are some of the ways in which some Muslim groups or individuals have confronted or responded to Westernization: 1) Education and Knowledge: Some Muslim groups encourage better education and knowledge of Islamic teachings and Muslim history. They argue that with a better understanding of their religion, Muslim individuals can maintain their Islamic identity while interacting with Western influences. 2) Maintaining Islamic Values and Principles: Muslim individuals or groups who wish to resist Westernization may seek to maintain Islamic values in their daily lives. They may follow the teachings of the religion strictly and reject influences that conflict with Islamic values. 3) Economic Development and Independence: Some Muslim countries have viewed Westernization as the economic and political domination of the West. To counter this, they have sought to develop their domestic economies, promote independence, and maintain their cultural identity. (Mohamad Yamin, Fitri Meliani, Dodo Suhada, Uus Ruswandi, 2022).

In conclusion, the response to Westernization in Islamic culture is diverse. Some adopt some aspects of the West, while others seek to maintain Islamic values and identity. Whatever the

approach taken, it is important to remember that there is great diversity in Muslim societies and individual views may differ from one another.

Parents' Perception of Dating

Teenage dating or romantic relationships are an important part of social and emotional development in every individual's life. However, how parents view this phenomenon often varies, depending on their cultural background, religion, and personal experiences. Parents' perceptions of dating have a major impact on how they guide their children in relationships. Some parents may be supportive, while others may be anxious or even discourage it. This article will explore different parental perspectives on dating, the challenges it faces, and their hopes for their children.

Positive Perception: Supporting Healthy Relationships

For some parents, dating is a natural part of their children's maturation process. They see dating as a way to learn to communicate, build empathy, and manage emotions. In this view, dating is not just about physical attraction, but also an opportunity to learn about deeper interpersonal relationships.

Parents who have a positive view of dating often emphasize values such as honesty, mutual respect, and open communication. They may give their children the freedom to date on the condition that the relationship be carried out responsibly. (Rausanfikra et al., 2023). Parents in this category are usually more likely to provide advice about healthy boundaries in relationships, rather than prohibiting dating altogether.

Negative Perception: Anxiety About Bad Influences

On the other hand, many parents feel worried or even forbid their children from dating. This worry is often triggered by the fear of children getting involved in unhealthy relationships, being influenced by negative behavior, or getting involved too quickly in emotional or physical problems that they consider are not yet ready. (Gustina, 2017). Some parents also see dating as a distraction to their child's academic focus or personal development. They may worry that dating can distract their child from their education or future goals. In addition, some parents view dating as part of a culture that is not in accordance with their traditional values or religion, so they prefer to limit or even prohibit romantic relationships.

Challenges Faced by Parents in Dealing with the Dating Phenomenon

Dealing with the fact that their children are starting to date is a big challenge for many parents. One of the main challenges is the difference in views between generations. Parents often have different experiences and views about dating, and this can cause tension with children who tend to be more open to romantic relationships. (Solehati et al., 2022). In addition, technological advances also add complexity to parental supervision of children's dating. Social media and instant messaging applications allow children to interact with their partners more privately and intensely. Parents must think hard to understand and supervise their children's relationships in cyberspace, without restricting their freedom.

Anxiety about the negative effects of dating, such as promiscuity or violence in relationships, is also a major challenge for parents. They need to find ways to talk about sexuality, feelings, and boundaries with their children without making them feel judged or controlled.

Parents' Expectations for Children's Dating

Most parents want their children to have healthy, loving, and respectful relationships. This expectation stems from the desire for children to not only feel loved, but also to learn how to love in a mature and responsible way.

Parents expect their children to maintain boundaries in relationships, both physically and emotionally. They want dating to be a source of problems, not a source of trouble, but an experience that builds self-confidence, social skills, and mutual respect. In this regard, parents often emphasize the importance of good communication, integrity, and trust in romantic relationships.

Furthermore, parents hope that dating will not interfere with their children's education and aspirations. They want their children to stay focused on long-term goals, such as continuing their education or achieving personal dreams, while still being able to have a healthy relationship.

The Role of Parents in Accompanying Children's Dating

As the first and foremost educators, parents play a vital role in guiding their children in establishing relationships. Rather than forbidding or strictly controlling, wise parents tend to prefer to communicate openly with their children. This can start with a discussion about what to expect from a relationship, how to recognize the signs of an unhealthy relationship, and the importance of respecting yourself and your partner.

Teaching good values, such as honesty, respect, and responsibility, can help children make wiser decisions about dating. Parents can also model healthy relationships in their own lives, so children can see firsthand what a positive relationship should look like.

4. Conclusion

Islamic culture does not recognize the culture of dating, but only recognizes the term ta'aruf to strengthen ties. While western culture is more relaxed in terms of teenage relationships, dating is considered an opportunity to learn about oneself and others, and emphasizes individual freedom more. The Islamic generation must pay attention to Islamic values in teenage relationships, as well as pay attention to eastern values that are full of noble values and morals in relationships. Parents and teachers need to pay attention to teenage social patterns by providing education and habits related to Islamic values.

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