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Ta'aruf Versus Dating

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Abstract – *The phenomenon of adolescents is now increasingly apprehensive. This is widely seen in the mass media and online media. The purpose of this research is to explain how the phenomenon of ta'aruf among the younger generation of Muslims in this media era. The method used is a qualitative method with an ethnographic approach to adolescents in the city of Pekanbaru. The results of this study are that today's ta'aruf among Muslim youth is very different compared to the past. Ta'aruf is against dating in today's youth. Actually dating if this does not change Islamic law, of course Islam is tolerant, but if the way of ta'aruf conflicts with Islamic law, it will certainly bring badness and immorality to their generation. The essence of marriage is the relationship between two people who are bound by an agreement (mitsaqan glalidzan). There are several guidelines for ta'aruf if a Muslim wants to marry, according to Islamic teachings, which must be followed by his community from the Prophet Muhammad SAW: By exchanging biodata through the intermediary of a third person. This means that each of them will see what he wants not directly to the person concerned, but through writings that are born from his conscience. So before going far he will do taa'ruf to know indirectly. With ta'aruf actually determines whether he is still single or already belongs to someone else. Ensure that the woman in question is not related by blood or mahram to her. Also ensure that they are truly descendants of good people and their obedience to Allah SWT. If in the process of ta'aruf according to his wishes, then both of them seek approval from both parents by continuing to preach.*

Keywords – *ta'aruf, dating, Islamic, Islamic teaching*

1. INTRODUCTION

The Al-Qur'an and Sunnah were revealed by Allah SWT to humans through the mediation of the Angel Gabriel to the Prophet Muhammad to be used as a guide for life. both in this world and in the hereafter. Allah SWT gives guidelines for human life to go to. that is the perfect way not to get lost. These instructions teach how to relate to humans among humans, the relationship between humans and Allah SWT, the relationship between humans and creatures, the relationship between humans and plants and others. So is the development of the times When it comes to human relationships to find a mate, what has changed so much today is finding a mate, as if it has been influenced by the development of cyberspace.

The essence of marriage is the affinity and bonding of two people bound by an agreement (mitsaqan glalidzan). In each ethnic group, religion and customs, it is carried out with full respect, of course following the rules or provisions that have been regulated by their respective customs and will be a necessity for anyone who will live it. Among the initial accompaniments that are carried out before the wedding is the determination of the contract which is the main requirement for the validity of a marriage.

However, before the marriage takes place, of course, a man and a woman need to go through a phase called ta'aruf (know). Getting to know the individual who is getting married also knows each of the two sides. How is it possible if the two people whose faces are not visible can be married.

The role of ta'aruf is very important to strengthen the beliefs of people who want to get married. The arena for selecting seeds, the weight of a person to be husband or wife. With the intent and purpose not to choose the wrong person who will be a life partner forever. At least through the ta'aruf process each couple can make an understanding between them and there will be no regrets in the future.

Recently, the information that today's youth have a tendency towards promiscuity among adolescents is increasingly troubling and even worrying about their thinking patterns and behavior which are far from the concept of the Islamic religion regulating ta'aruf before marriage. This does not only spread to urban youth, but even to rural areas. One reason is due to the abundance of information and easy access to media in this age of Semarang. They think that dating is a sign of someone's maturity. That is, a man is said to be an adult when he is able to accompany a woman of his dreams to become his life partner. They proudly walk around alone with the opposite sex who are not their mahram. Therefore dating is just an excuse to vent lust and satisfy the lust of men or women without any previous ta'aruf process.

2. METHODOLOGY

This study used a qualitative research method using an ethnographic approach. This study uses data collection techniques using observations conducted with students and alumni, interviews with teenagers in the city of Pekanbaru. As well as using documentation in this study. Data analysis techniques using reduction, namely by analyzing, sorting and selecting data according to the phenomenon of today's youth. Next is the presentation of data analysis from the results of data reduction. And finally, data verification or drawing conclusions is

carried out from the results of research on the phenomenon of ta'aruf in today's youth in the city of Pekanbaru.

3. RESULTS

This research seeks to explore one of the phenomena of religious practice in cyberspace that is closely related to marriage. Where before the wedding begins with the introduction process (ta'aruf) between men and women which is packaged by means of virtual or online processes. The process of ta'aruf (introduction) and agreement to get married becomes efficient. Ta'aruf is an introduction or getting to know each other according to Shari'ah. Ta'aruf comes from the word ta'arafa -yata'arafu. in Islamic society before marriage there is a process of ta'aruf. The ta'aruf process is carried out before the khitbah, proposing or proposing to offer oneself to marry. Allah SWT explains in the Qur'an that if someone who already has the desire to marry, then the Al-Qur'an Surah Al-Hujurat verse 13 explains clearly and purposefully, God willing, if followed it will not go astray forever.

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّا خَلَقْنَاهُ مِنْ ذَكَرٍ وَأُنْثَىٰ وَجَعَلْنَاهُ شُعُوبًا وَقَبَائِلَ لِتَعَارَفُوا ۚ إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ أَتْقَاهُ ۚ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ
خَب 13

"O mankind, verily We created you from a male and a female and made you nations and tribes so that you may know each other. Indeed, the noblest person in the sight of Allah is the most pious among you. Verily, Allah is all-knowing, all-knowing.)Al,-Hujurat verse 13).

The Big Indonesian Dictionary states that ta'aruf is an order, advice, request, message conveyed by another person/message. Meanwhile, according to Dedy Mulyana, a message is a set of symbols, verbal and nonverbal that represent feelings, values, ideas. Here the message is divided into two, namely verbal messages and nonverbal messages. Verbal messages are a form of words, both spoken and sincere. Meanwhile, nonverbal is in the form of non-linguistic messages signaled by the members of the human body. Furthermore, ta'aruf comes from Arabic. Namely ta'arafa which means to know. Ta'aruf is a set of verbal or nonverbal symbols of different types through the marriage process. Namely the process of recognition closer and directed. The time that has been agreed upon by the Muslim community to identify a potential partner. Thus this ta'aruf is carried out in accordance with the basic principles of the Islamic religion. The purpose of ta'aruf is to avoid forms of adultery which are clearly prohibited by Allah SWT, even Allah SWT says.

وَلَا تَقْرُبُوا الزَّوَاجَ إِذَا كَانَ فَحِشَةً وَسَاءَ سَبِيلًا ۚ 32

"And do not approach adultery, verily adultery is an abomination. and a very bad way." (Al-Qur'an Surah Al-Isra verse 32). Without ta'aruf, this is considered close to adultery.

In the current era and the rise of sophisticated technology, it is becoming a trend for today's youth, who are called zillennials, to look for partners by means of an application to exchange their CVs in the context of ta'aruf. Today most teenagers are looking for a partner in their own way, namely dating. They meet in places of entertainment and then, there is a feeling or desire, then they want to make friends with each other. They can also meet through

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online media. After 3-6 months, they got married with a consent granted. Ta'aruf is an introduction process between two people and the families of those who are about to get married, beginning with an introduction to ordinary non-commercial activities. This large wave of change, especially among the young Muslim generation, can encourage changes in the value of phenomena including ta'aruf activities towards marriage. The construction of ta'aruf does not only occur in the mechanism or process, but previously it was conventional, namely through face-to-face meetings, but this time nowadays the value of ta'aruf itself.

From this point of view, there are several parties, this is a promising business area, there is a large economic potential in it to turn ta'aruf into something that has economic value through various formats. The shift in the practice of ta'aruf from conventional beginnings can now be done face-to-face via online and this is not surprising today. Based on the results of research by the Association of online or internet service users (LAPJI) in 2017, there were 143 million Indonesian internet users. This means that more than half of the total Indonesian people are internet users. As many as 49.2 percent of that number are people aged 19-34 years. In a national survey conducted by CSIS in November 2017, it was stated that 81.796 percent of millennials use the social media Facebook. Followed by Instagram and Twitter. The Center for strategic and international students also shows that 54.3 percent of millennials open online media every day. Based on the Islamic concept, this is not the case. But through the ta'aruf process of both parties or through the teachers, it could even be through from colleagues, it could also be through friends of each other's parents. They were brought together between the parents of both parties, then met in a place, whether in a house or in an open place and so on.

The phenomenon of ta'aruf now has many changes, the ta'aruf model carried out by teenagers today is something that is contrary to Islamic law because it prioritizes trends, so that people around the world know or watch it, so this is what causes the eradication of cultural values and customs and religion. Because they prioritize showing off, not looking at the negative impact in the future. Some people rate it positively, while others are just a trend. The positive view is that they consider ta'aruf to be someone's need and desire to find a mate. Some others view that ta'aruf is only for the public, figures who practice it and then can be recognized by the masses or the general public. But for those who do the ta'aruf model, they assess that they can avoid associations that can conflict with the Shari'a, especially in terms of age, they are already getting high. The only way to get a mate is of course through ta'aruf.

For those who do ta'aruf, they don't think it's a trend. Even though those who feel this is a trend, we can analyze ta'aruf, that it turns out that ta'aruf cannot guarantee that there is a standard in the form of fiqh substance that can provide ta'aruf services for those who are ta'aruf. With ta'aruf actually to be able to facilitate the wedding process. Ta'aruf is the initial step or initial introduction in order to find a mate to get a life partner. By showing seriousness to ask a third party as an intermediary in order to continue the marriage. Meanwhile, dating is just for fun, so it goes through the process of ta'aruf.

The way teenagers think today regarding finding a mate, has started to rely on media such as: Mobile Workshop, , Instagram, Twitter, WhatsApp, Line, YouTobe, Tiktok. This will certainly have an impact on shari'ah values and local customs, especially the Malay community. If we look at it from the point of view of the customs of the Malay people, it starts

with merisik. Merisik is the initial procession before the wedding ceremony takes place. The purpose of this research is to investigate more thoroughly about the whereabouts of a potential bride. This noisy person is called 'Mak Telangkai'. Mak Telangkai's job is to represent a male family / or a third person to meet a woman who can be trusted. Then the step is for someone who has matured in thought, he will find out who his parents are, where his descendants are from, what kind of association he has, whether the woman is good, her beauty is also considered. Then the telangkai mother will see: her religious knowledge, her behavior, her character and so on. It is very important to do it because it is for the future that will have good offspring too. This noisy is done at night.

Marriage is actually good, family is also good. So a job that is for good, of course, everything should start with good too. Marriage should start with courtship, like someone who hopes for something good, but starts with bad things. These are interactions that are often carried out by Westerners. Over time, they get used to and become commonplace for some Muslims. Islam greatly glorifies a woman, that woman is very honorable and holy. Therefore Islam designed an interactive activity that would not harm either a woman or a man who felt they had the ability to enter into a marriage. The plans that are being carried out are carrying out process after process leading up to the wedding which is called ta'aruf. (introduction or proposal). see the hadith below inj:

Look at this woman because that right is more appropriate to perpetuate (solidify) the love between the two of you (H.R. Al-Tirmizi, A'Nasai and Ibnu Majjah). The above argument clearly shows that it is permissible for men and women who are already bound in the khitbah to see what makes them inclined towards each other. It's just that what can be seen here is not the private parts but limited only to the parts of the body that can be seen in women, namely, limited to the face from the palms of the hands. The introduction process before marriage is regulated based on Islamic values, namely ta'aruf.

a. Ta'aruf Exchanges Biodata.

The ta'aruf process is usually carried out by both of them, namely through their respective biodata which is submitted by the companion (mediator) after the two of them read each biodata in writing, then perform the istikharah prayer and exchange ideas with their respective parents. This is of course as a child asking for opinions from the two people so that they can proceed to the next stage. In addition to the above, they took the initiative to adjust the data in the field, namely they asked each other their friends or their neighbors, so that in the future they would not regret it and at the same time adjust the situation as it was. To know better, this is actually not directly from their respective partners, they can also be represented by trusted people, or through close friends, parents, and it can also be through their ustadz.

b. Ta'aruf Through Messengers

Ta'aruf here what is meant is ta'aruf sending envoys to meet and get to know potential partners through the ta'aruf process. It is useful to know more about what might not have been known so far/ as long as the person sent is someone who can be trusted for the truth.

c. Ta'aruf Through Maya Media

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With the development of today's technology, ta'aruf can process social media, such as SMS, chat. They can exchange information. Through all of this, the couples are actually more careful. Because they don't know more closely about the tapa of their parents. Get married. If this is done, of course there will be many bad impacts on the continuity of the household. While Islamic law is to get to know each other better. After getting to know each other, the two couples will get acquainted. Previously through a companion, now is the time to get acquainted individually.

There are several procedures for ta'aruf in the concept of the religion of Allah SWT, namely as follows:

- **Visiting his parents.**
This hold is the initial stage carried out by someone who wants to get married. The ta'aruf process is very different from the dating system. In the Islamic view, if a man is interested in a woman, it is highly recommended to visit his parents. After carrying out the process of meeting his parents, establishing friendly relations and communication. For example, some are liked and some are not liked. It is not recommended to meet each other and communicate excessively. If you want to meet then invite family or close friends to come to the house. with family or close friends.
- **Establish Communication.**
The next stage is to communicate with each other. At ta'aruf it is enough to ask a few things such as: about himself, what he likes and what he doesn't like. Not meeting often or texting excessively often
- **Not Alone.**
What is seen today is usually when they get approval from their parents, they are arbitrary to bring the woman together. This is of course prohibited by Islam.
- **Lower the View.**
What is meant by lowering the gaze here is so that the gaze is not too free to see when meeting.
- **Istikhorah Prayer.**
The istikhorah prayer is performed, usually after getting data and photos so that Allah SWT will give the best answer. Then there is no more tendency to other women. And surrender to Allah SWT, straighten the intention that this marriage is to form a household that is Sakinah mawaddah warahmah
- **Determine the time of preaching**
Mnasa grace period ta'aruf should not be too long. Because this will harm the woman. So from that, if you have preached, hurry up to get married. In Islam, Islam is not allowed to give sermons by getting married for too long, that is, the slow limit is only 1-year.
- **Marriage contract.**
In the process that starts from ta'aruf to the marriage contract. After marriage, then do the feast. Kenduri can be small or large depending on each person's

abilities. Ta'aruf is carried out in the framework of Islamic marriage, namely as: Ensuring that both men and women are other people.

4. CONCLUSION

The essence of marriage is the relationship between two people who are bound by an agreement (mitsaqan glalidzan). There are several guidelines for ta'aruf if a Muslim wants to marry, according to Islamic teachings, which must be followed by his community from the Prophet Muhammad SAW: By exchanging biodata through the intermediary of a third person. This means that each of them will see what he wants not directly to the person concerned, but through the Tulisa that is born from his conscience. So before going far he will do taa'ruf to know indirectly. In addition to reading biodata through writing, there is another next step, which is to send someone. This means giving trust to people who are trusted to investigate the candidate in question while also paying attention to their behavior, both from their behavior towards their parents, fellow friends, as well as their devotion and obedience to Allah SWT. By paying attention to prayer times and cooking times and socializing with other people. With ta'aruf, it actually determines whether you are still single or already belong to someone else. Ensure that the woman in question is not related by blood or mahram to her. Also ensure that they are truly descendants of good people and their obedience to Allah SWT. If in the process of ta'aruf according to his wishes, then both of them seek approval from both parents by continuing to preach.

DECLARATIONS

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