

LONG DISTANCE MARRIAGE; Fulfillment of Biological Rights and Marital Harmony in the City of Pekanbaru

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KEYWORD

Biological Rights,
Islamic Law,
Long distance marriage,
Marriage

ABSTRACT

The phenomenon and study of long distance marriage couples is a very interesting thing to research. This research seeks to determine the implementation of fulfilling the biological rights of long distance marriage couples and how to maintain household harmony even though they are far apart in Pekanbaru City. The method used in this research is qualitative research through phenomenological studies explained observationally. This research was designed in the form of field research, namely research carried out by going directly to the field and interviewing 15 couples. Through this research, it was found that the respondents who underwent long distance marriages each responded differently to this biological problem because the frequency of their encounters was different. There are once every week, every four months and six months. There are those who are used to it and there are those who still really have a problem with it. Biological desires that are not channeled will have an impact on a person's physical and emotional state which will ultimately also affect household relationships. So the things that respondents did when the desire arose included taking a walk, eating, keeping their gaze, holding back as much as possible, and making a masturbation video call. This kind of long distance marriage condition requires each partner to commit to remaining together even though they are separated by distance and time and to consult if there is a commotion between the husband and wife.

INTRODUCTION

A good family stems from a legitimate marriage. Marriage is a spiritual and physical bond between two individuals (male and female) who become husband and wife with the aim of forming a happy, peaceful, and God-centered family. However, these expectations do not always align with what is planned. There are moments of joy and, not infrequently, sorrow. Among the challenges faced by married couples is the necessity to be physically separated from their soulmates. They may have to maintain their marital relationship from a distance, a situation commonly known as Long Distance Marriage (LDM) or Long Distance Relationship (LDR). Long Distance Marriage is a condition in which a couple maintains their close relationship despite limited communication opportunities due to geographical distance (Neustaedter and Greenber, 2011).

The term "Long Distance Marriage" comprises three words: long, distance, and marriage. Linguistically, "long" means far or distant, "distance" refers to space, and "marriage" is the union of matrimony. Therefore, in linguistic terms, it signifies a long-distance marital relationship. Long

Distance Marriage is a state in which married couples face challenges of distance and time, limiting their ability to meet frequently. The impact of these constraints on distance and time results in relatively brief encounters between the two partners, leaving the spouses feeling a sense of loss (Adiyaksa Dika, 2016).

In linguistic terms, marriage signifies an agreement between a man and a woman to form a family relationship as husband and wife in accordance with religious and state regulations (Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic of Indonesia, 2017). Essentially, marriage is the union of two individuals, a man and a woman, in a strong bond aimed at building a family characterized by tranquility, love, and compassion.

The existence of marriage implies the legitimacy of the biological relationship between a man and a woman and encompasses all the rights and obligations that bind husbands and wives according to Islamic law (Cholil Nafis, 2014). In connection with this, Allah Almighty states:

"How can you take it back, while some of you have already engaged intimately with others as husbands and wives? And they (your wives) have taken from you a strong covenant." (Quran, Al-Nisa:21)

The strong covenant mentioned in this verse refers to the firm bond known as the marriage tie. This is because every human is created in pairs. In the interpretation book of Al-Jalalayn, the meaning of the above verse is explained as follows (Al-Mahalli and As-Suyuti, N.d.):

"The meaning of a strong covenant is what Allah commands through it, namely, treating them kindly or releasing them in a good manner."

Husbands and wives both have rights and responsibilities, including the spiritual right to fulfill their biological desires. When a husband and wife are together, it is easy for them to fulfill this aspect of their relationship. However, what if they are physically separated? When a husband needs to fulfill his biological desires, especially in a workplace where various factors can trigger the normal sexual desires of a man, returning to his wife may be hindered by distance and time. Therefore, there is a need for ways and solutions to control these desires in accordance with the guidance of Islamic law. Unfulfilled biological desires can lead to various physical and mental health issues. Moreover, conflicts, disputes, or even betrayals may occur when these biological needs cannot be properly fulfilled (Iffah Muzammil, 2019).

Recognizing the importance of maintaining the integrity of a marriage even when separated by distance and having to endure a long-distance marriage, the author believes it is crucial to investigate and delve into this matter. The focus is on understanding how couples in long-distance marriages can fulfill their biological rights in maintaining a marital relationship, despite the limitations in physical contact that should be present in a marital bond, ensuring the harmony and integrity of the marriage. The research is conducted in the city of Pekanbaru.

The research aims to explore the implementation of fulfilling biological needs in long-distance marriages in Pekanbaru and its impact on marital harmony. Additionally, the study seeks to provide solutions and tips for couples undergoing or about to undergo a long-distance marriage to maintain the integrity of their marriage.

METHOD

The method used in this research is qualitative research, specifically designed as field research or fieldwork, involving direct interaction in the research setting (Hajar: 2017). The study is conducted by interviewing 15 pairs of respondents engaged in various activities and occupations, including civil servants, legal professionals, and private sector employees. This qualitative research employs a descriptive approach based on phenomenology explained theoretically. The data sources are primarily derived from interviews with the respondents, complemented by direct research on

the subjects to gather information related to the married lives of the respondents, both through direct interaction and electronic media. The research is conducted in the city of Pekanbaru. Secondary data include relevant books on marriage, encompassing both classical and contemporary literature. The qualitative research design allows for an in-depth exploration of the experiences and perspectives of the respondents in long-distance marriages, shedding light on the various aspects of their lives and the challenges they face.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Long Distance Marriage (LDM) is nearly synonymous with Long Distance Relationship (LDR). The main distinction lies in the fact that Long Distance Marriage is more specific, specifically referring to married couples. Long Distance Relationship, on the other hand, is a type of relationship in which couples are separated by distance and physical barriers, preventing physical closeness for a certain period of time (Hampton, 2004).

Sarwono states that Long Distance Marriage is a situation where married couples are separated by distance due to reasons that make it difficult and infrequent for them to meet. Hampton adds to the understanding of Long Distance Marriage, stating that it is a condition in which couples are physically separated, making physical closeness impossible for a specific period. For couples who choose to undergo a Long Distance Marriage, there are numerous challenges and sacrifices to be made due to the lack of time together, unlike married couples who typically live in the same house (Ica Rahmayanti, 2022).

Biology (derived from the Dutch word "biologie") or the science of life (derived from the Arabic word "علم الحياة") is the study of life and living organisms, including their structure, functions, growth, evolution, distribution, and taxonomy (Wikipedia.co.id). In the Indonesian Language Great Dictionary (KBBI), the term "biologis" is explained to mean related to biology (Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic of Indonesia, 2017). In this context, it refers to the sexual needs of couples undergoing a long-distance marriage.

Harmony means harmonious or in harmony. The focal point of family harmony is a state of being in tune or in sync; harmony aims to achieve balance and concordance in family life. It is essential to maintain both aspects to achieve harmony in marital life.

This research found that fundamentally, a marriage bond is the union of two individuals in a sacred bond, bringing together hearts and bodies as they live side by side. However, there are situations where they must accept being apart from each other due to various circumstances, including: Pursuing education; Employment reasons; and Specific conditions

The biological rights of married couples are obligatory and challenging to fulfill, particularly in long-distance marriage situations. Biological desires are something that cannot be delegated, and various negative impacts may arise if these desires are not channeled appropriately. This can affect both the physical and emotional well-being of individuals, subsequently influencing marital relationships. One of the marriage goals is to fulfill biological desires in a manner sanctioned by Allah (Ahmad Rofiq, 2015).

Respondents are aware of this, but their responses differ due to varying frequencies of physical meetings. Some meet weekly, every four months, or every six months. Each respondent handles these biological issues differently, with approaches such as: Going out; Eating together; Guarding their gaze; Suppressing desires as much as possible; and Using telephone (video call masturbation).

Long-distance marriage significantly influences and impacts the couples involved. Some notable effects include: Unfulfilled or suboptimal biological rights; Lack of effective communication;

Insufficient affection and attention; and Increased vulnerability to conflicts and misunderstanding.

In long-distance relationships, conflicts are often more prone to occur due to limited time for physical meetings, communication challenges, and misunderstandings. Consequently, households adopting a long-distance concept may appear less harmonious due to the physical separation and other factors. This perception of disharmony stems from the separation caused by the distance, leading to a lack of meeting intensity, which can make the marriage vulnerable to conflicts. Insufficient communication between spouses can foster distrust and negative thoughts, resulting in frequent misunderstandings and conflicts. Prolonged conflicts can strain the marital relationship, rendering communication ineffective and the marriage disharmonious (Dewi and Sudhana, 2013).

The author provides solutions for maintaining harmony in long-distance marriages, including: Maintaining attention; Acting with honesty; Mutual trust; and Being sensitive to conflict or issues and resolving them promptly. Regarding biological issues, some suggested solutions include: Polygamy; Fasting; Exercise; Engaging in religious activities and work; and one party compromising

The fulfillment of biological rights significantly impacts marital harmony, emphasizing the importance of avoiding long-distance marriages whenever possible to achieve a harmonious family. Communication, commitment, and consultation are the primary principles when navigating long-distance marriages. Even if biological rights are not fully met, it doesn't necessarily result in a barren and desolate marriage. In marriage, there is love, attention, mutual complementation, and an understanding of each other's conditions.

CONCLUSION

The overall findings in this research lead to the conclusion that biological needs will be fulfilled when couples reunite. The frequency of these reunions can be arranged with options such as every 6 months, every 4 months, or every 1 month. However, if physical meetings are still not possible, couples in long-distance marriages can engage in activities like going out, dining together, guarding their gaze, suppressing desires as much as possible, and utilizing telephone (video call masturbation).

Long-distance marriage significantly influences and impacts the couples involved. Notably, the unfulfillment or suboptimal fulfillment of biological rights, lack of effective communication, insufficient affection and attention, and vulnerability to conflicts and misunderstandings are among the significant impacts. Out of the 15 respondents undergoing long-distance marriages in the city of Pekanbaru, on average, they are not happy or feel very lonely when experiencing long-distance marriage. Many of them are still in the early years of marriage, with mutual needs and desires. In contrast, those with longer marriage durations and aged over 40 do not feel as much loss, as they are occupied with their individual activities and pursuits.

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