

## A REVIEW: INFLUENCE OF NATURAL DAYLIGHTING ON QURANIC MEMORISATION (HAFAZAN) LEARNING TASK

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### ABSTRACT

*In Islamic point of view and other monotheistic religion such as Christianity and Judaism, light has been described as a sacred element. Surah An-Nur in the Quran emphasised light as synonym to Allah's guidance. Interpreted by Buya Hamka, the first word of the first revelation "READ!" shows that in order to understand Islam, one must read and learn from the Quran. In Quran memorization (hafazan), the most acceptable method is reciting/reading and rewriting the verses. These methods or learning tasks are influenced by the daylighting condition of the classroom. Researches shows that sufficient daylighting improves the students' performance such as cognitive skills, mood, behaviour and alertness. Those are the reasons that daylight is important and need to be considered in educational spaces. This review paper includes literature review on the preferred learning task for hafazan and the effect of daylighting towards students' performance. The paper also refers to the traditional 'madrasah' method of hafazan, which uses a 'rehal' as practiced since the tenth century by the Seljuq dynasty. The recommended daylight in standards and guidelines are measured at 900 mm table height or working plane from floor level. Human ergonomics shows that clearance height for a cross-legged task is minimum of 300 mm, similar to the height of a 'rehal'. The difference of height between a modern table and a 'rehal' shows that the illuminance level measured will be different. In conclusion, further study should be established in order to identify the acceptable illuminance level at different working plane height.*

**Field of Research:** Daylighting, learning task performance, Hafazan, rehal, illuminance level.

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### 1. Introduction

Major monotheistic religion such as Judaism and Christianity show its respect towards the sacredness of light in their holy scriptures. Islam as a monotheistic religion also shows the same respect towards light, where surah An-Nur in the holy Quran is dedicated to the sacredness of it. In the surah, verse 35, Allah's guidance to His followers is exemplified as a light in a lamp (Gilavand, 2016). In science field, the study of light that influences living organism is called photobiology study. The study emphasised the importance of light towards human circadian system and visual comfort that leads to a better daily routine activity. This shows that Islam and science have common point of view in the importance of light to human being.

In other hand, Islam also emphasised the importance of reading. This is proven by Buya Hamka, an Islamic scholar, where the first word of the first revelation to Prophet Muhammad is "READ!". The first word in the surah Al-Alaq as described by Buya Hamka shows that in order to understand Islam, one must learn how to read and learn from the holy Quran for life guidance. Since reading task requires the human eye to function properly, it is highly related to light and visual comfort. Relating both surah An-Nur and Al-Alaq, plentiful of research have been established that shows sufficient daylight influences the human performance positively. Learning process including reading starts typically in a classroom or learning spaces. Thus, considerations of daylighting in a learning spaces is important in order to achieve an optimum learning environment.