

The Islamization Process in the Context of Malaysian Legal education: A Critical Reflection

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Abstract

The term Islamization has been differently interpreted by Muslim scholars around the world since long time ago. Since the Islamization policy has been launched only in 1980s, it does not feature prominently in most Malaysian law schools. Their main mission apart from the basic philosophy of their parent institutions is basically to train graduates for the government's legal services and legal professions. As far as Malaysian education is concerned, the Islamization process of the legal education system has to be carried out within the spirit of the existing constitutional framework. It needs to be translated into laws in the form of legislations so that it will become a concrete measure. Fundamentally, it is an attempt to bring about changes through peaceful means as opposed to revolutionary way of change. The society has been talking about Islamizing the law and making the law rooted in the indigenous tradition and culture. Indirectly, legal education has a role to play in this respect as it is a part of the educational system which produces graduates who will be responsible for the administration of justice. Hence, the main objective of this article is to propose several ways in transforming the existing Malaysian legal education to be closer or compatible with the spirit of Islamic principles.

Keywords: Constitutional; Islamization; law; legal education; legal profession.

Introduction

In Islam, knowledge occupies special position whereby Allah SWT says in

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