

The Blessings of a Child with Learning Disabilities: An Islamic Perspective

Nor Hasniah Ibrahim & Jamayah Sali

Faculty of Cognitive Sciences and Human Development

University Malaysia Sarawak

Kota Samarahan, 94300 Sarawak.

Tel: 6082 581532, 582813,

Fax: 6082 581567

Email: inhasniah@fcs.unimas.my, sjamayah@fcs.unimas.my,

Abstract

This conceptual paper is aimed to highlight that religious belief can have an important bearing on causal attributions for disability. The birth of a child with a disability may be perceived as ‘God’s will’ and associated with beliefs about *Qada* (decree) and *Qadar* (destined), the fifth of the six fundamentals of *Iman* (faith) among Muslims. The words *Qada* and *Qadar* is a very broad concept; it brings the same meaning to some of the metaphorical statements such as: “*Things happened for reasons*”, “*Blessing in disguise*”, “*Wisdom behind it*”, “*kun faya kun*” (*what will be will be*). The first section of this paper discusses on the concept of Islamic discourse on impairment and the values that society conveys about disability. This section will elaborate on the life as a testing ground from Islamic perspective. The second part of this article focuses on the practical guidelines in dealing with “trials” of having learning disabled children. The guidelines involved four tips in communicating with the child and dealing with special needs children, a God’s gift. The intent is to comprehend some explanations based on the parents experience to the question: “why us?” and set out to understand “what went wrong?”

Keywords: Learning disabilities, Islam, Trials, Qada & Qadar, Religion

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