

**Difficulties of Reading the Holy Qur'an As Perceived By Selected
Muslim Male Faculty Members in MSU- Main:
Bases of Intervention Program**

Jawad Z. Salic

King Faisal Center for Islamic, Arabic and Asian Studies
Mindanao State University - Main
Marawi City, Lanao del Sur, Philippines

Abstract :

This study adopts the descriptive research design to gather information about the difficulties of reading the holy Qur'an as perceived by selected Muslim male faculty members in Msu-Main. A survey was made through a questionnaire to assess their perception. This study aimed to encourage the Muslim employees in the Philippines particularly in the Region of Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), the province of Lanao del Sur and the City of Marawi to read the Qur'an daily as it is a book of guidance. The teaching of the Qur'an will be there ways of dealing with the common rules and regulation between the employer and the employee. Majority of the respondents suggest that they best remedies to the difficulty of reading the Qur'an is that they must engage in Arabic course with a proper program that can be suited to their office hour through the help of the King Faisal Center for Islamic, Arabic, and Asian Studies or the administration will have a mandatory Arabic class specifically aimed to let the Muslim faculty of the university be fluent in reading the Holy Qur'an.

Keywords:

Reading the Holy Qur'an, MSU Male Faculty, Book of Guidance and Intervention Program.

Citation:

Salic, Jawad Z. (2017); Difficulties of Reading the Holy Qur'an as perceived by selected Muslim male faculty members in MSU- Main: Bases of Intervention Program; Journal of Social Sciences (COES&RJ-JSS), Vol.6, No.2 Special, pp: 27-33.

Rationale

The Holy Quran holds a central place in the Muslim religious life, the five daily prayers include recitation of parts of the Holy Quran by heart, and its verses are recited at important occasions such as weddings and deaths. Even the recitation is considered a form of worship and supposed to earn one reward from Allah (S.W.T.). The sincerity that is due to the Book of Allah (S.W.T.) includes its regular recitation, learning the rules of *tajweed* and reciting it beautifully, learning about its *Tafseer* and the reasons for its revelation, affirming that it is the Truth. By reading and reflecting over the Holy Qur'an, one fulfills an obligation and is rewarded for that. Upon fulfilling this obligation, the Holy Qur'an then becomes a proof for him on the Day of Judgment. And that is our second benefit we will take by embracing this Noble Book. Whoever reads a letter from the Book of Allah (S.W.T.), will have a reward and that reward will be multiplied by ten. Increasing the recitation of the Holy Qur'an will gain merits, and gaining the following merit as well.

The Holy Qur'an tells us the purpose of humanity's existence on earth and how to live so that each person's life is compatible with that purpose. It explains our obligations to Allah (S.W.T.) and how we will be rewarded according to our actions. The Holy Qur'an, the Just Book of Allah (S.W.T.) was sent to His devotees as a mercy, it calls us to beauty, righteousness, purity, and eternal happiness. The Holy Qur'an addresses all ages, one that contains all the basic subjects a person may need throughout his or her life. The forms of worship, the state of mind unique to a Muslim, the ideal morality, the good conduct that must be shown in the face of unexpected happenings or at difficult times, the ways to lead a physically and spiritually healthy life, the moment of death, the events that a soul will go through on the Day of Judgment, and the Heaven and Hell awaiting all people afterwards are all related in this Book.

It is also a unique source of all answers and explanations people may have about eternal salvation, the Holy Qur'an also consists of many signs and admonitions essential for human life. The Qur'anic understanding of cleanliness differs considerably from how it is understood in the society of ignorance. According to the Holy Qur'an, being clean is a state experienced in one's soul. Such cleanliness means that one has been entirely purified of his or her society's moral values, a form of reasoning, and lifestyle that are in conflict with the Holy Qur'an. In this way, the Holy Qur'an provides spiritual relief to the believers.

Believers are obliged to communicate Islam, meaning that they are to convey Allah's (S.W.T.) commands to people and call them to the Holy Qur'an's morality. Allah (S.W.T.) guides and gives understanding to people. In this respect, believers are responsible for using only the methods indicated in the Holy Qur'an; they are not responsible for whether they believe or not. It is a must for every Muslim brothers and sister to know and ponder over the Book of Allah (S.W.T.) for devoting regular time to its study and implementation has tremendous benefits in this life and the hereafter.

Preoccupation with the Qur'an is one of the most virtuous acts of worship, whether by reciting it, pondering on its meanings, or working according to its teachings. The companions, may Allah (S.W.T.) be pleased with them, have received this Noble Qur'an, realizing the honor which Allah (S.W.T.), Glorified and Exalted, has bestowed upon them. Therefore, they embarked upon it, reciting it for part of the hours of the night, and at the sides of the day. People passed by them at night, while they were reciting the Quran, and

their recitation seemed like the buzzing of bees. They made it the nourishment of their souls, the food of their hearts, and the apples of their eyes. Their souls got purified by it, and their secret selves got reformed. We ask Allah (S.W.T.), Glorified and Exalted, to bestow His Generosity upon us and make us recite the Noble Quran.

This study investigated how the reading of the Holy Qur'an is perceived, how much importance is given in reading the Holy Qur'an and how much interest in reading the Holy Qur'an. This study explored the status of related studies to be able to look deeper into the solution that would help the Muslims learn easily and have an interest in reading the Holy Qur'an and reflect it to their daily lifestyle being parents, faculty, students, employee, usual citizen, etc.

Statement of the Problem

This study attempted to find answers to the problems and prospects in reading the Holy Qur'an among male employees of MSU as Basis for Intervention Programs. Specifically, this study sought answers to the following questions:

1. What is the perception of the respondents toward the problems and prospects in reading the Holy Qur'an?
2. How the respondents reflect from the teaching and words of Qur'an towards their works as an employee of Mindanao State University – Marawi.
3. Based on the findings, what intervention program could be proposed?

Research Design of the Study

This study adopted the descriptive research design to gather information about difficulties of reading the Holy Qur'an as perceived by male Muslim faculty members in MSU – Main as the basis for intervention program. The researcher distributed questionnaires to each respective respondent to get their perception regarding the problem of this study. There were 50 respondents from different colleges in MSU – Main. This investigation was conducted to determine the reading skills of MSU male employees on the Holy Qur'an. The aspects looked into were the socio – economic profile of the respondents and how the employee practice reading the Holy Qur'an and its virtue. Since the study was conducted in Mindanao State University – Main, the respondents were all Muslim male employees. With regards to how the data were gathered and analyzed, the researcher used of the questionnaire and analyzed the data solicited from the respondents. This study used a structured survey questionnaire that was prepared by the researcher in four pages paper distributed to the respondents and personal interview which was one on one talk with the respondents.

Significance of the Study

The researcher believes that the readers can get significant lessons from the study. The significance of this research lies moreover in the fact that a study of the problems in neglecting the reading of the Holy Qur'an and its prospects as the basis for intervention programs has never been explored in this province. The researcher looked that by studying this particular issue, it will contribute something important to the sociological fields. Teachers/Faculty can gain a better understanding of how others' perception may affect one's view of life. May relate and reflect their students in their way of teaching and teaching as the Muslim people do. Employees can be informed of the problems and prospects in reading the Holy Qur'an. Their strengths and weakness are discovered and remedied. Most important, they become aware of the issues and concerns the neglecting

the reading of the Holy Qur'an. Lastly, the university management will become aware of the strength and the motivation of MSU male employees as they do their task reflecting in teaching and words of Qur'an and this awareness would lead to the designing and adopt more effective and meaningful programs and reforms on the reading skills.

Data Gathering Procedure

In advance of data collection, the researcher legally conversed with the respondents to notify them of the study. The researcher personally disseminated the survey forms to the respondents and they were given sufficient period to contribute their truthful answers or responses to the study. The information in the survey forms was checked, tallied and tabulated. The results provided appreciated information about the study. In the end, the answers functioned as the basis for conclusion and recommendations. Carefully chosen 70 Muslim male employees of MSU – Main either having permanent or provisional status were the respondents of the study.

Statistical Treatment

After gathering the data, the researcher used the frequency distribution and percentage in analyzing them.

Simple Frequency and Percentage

Formula:

$$P = f/N \times 100\%$$

Where:

P = Percentage

N = Number of Respondents

f = Frequency

Major Findings

The major findings of the study are summarized below:

1. The majority (43 or 86%) of the respondents claimed to know how to read the Basic Arabic Writings (Single Writings) and (7 or 14%) had claimed that they didn't know how to read the Basic Arabic Writings (Single Writings).
2. The majority (34 or 79%) of the respondents claimed to know how to read the Advance Writing (Cursive Writing) and (9 or 21%) had claimed that they do not know how to read the Advance Writing (Cursive Writing).
3. Large number (11 or 32%) of the respondents claimed that they read the Holy Qur'an once a day, seconded by those respondents who read once a week (9 or 26%), followed by respondents who read twice a week (8 or 24%) and (6 or 18%) respondents read twice a day.
4. A Large number (18 or 53%) of the respondents claimed that they can read moderately, (11 or 32%) claimed that they can read slowly and (5 or 15%) claimed that they can read fast.
5. A Large number (20 or 59%) of the respondents claimed that they cannot pronounce properly the Arabic Letters while (14 or 41%) claimed that they can pronounce it properly.
6. A Large number (23 or 68%) of the respondents claimed that they cannot read the Holy Qur'an on its proper tajweed and (11 or 32%) claimed that they can read with proper tajweed.

Difficulties of Reading the Holy Qur'an ...

7. A Large number (14 or 41%) of the respondents answered that they memorized 11 to 20 surahs, seconded by (11 or 32%) 21 to 30 surahs. Below 10 surahs and 30 above surahs are (7 or 21%) and (2 or 6%) respectively.
8. A Large number (21 or 62%) of the respondents learned how to read the Holy Qur'an from in Madrasah, (7 or 21%) through tutorial class and (3 or 9%) from their parents and friends or officemates.
9. Large number of the respondents answered (34 or 33%) that the neglect of reading the Holy Qur'an is due to their hectic schedule and have a lot of papers works after office time, followed by (13 or 13%) who claimed that they always concentrate on English translation as it is the medium of their class. Some respondents (11 or 11%) claimed that they are often with a non-Muslim and other respondents (10 or 10%) claimed that their reading mode depends on the surrounding.
10. A Large number (41 or 27%) of the respondents answered that they enroll in Arabic courses at the King Faisal Center. (38 or 25%) suggested that the administration must conduct a Special Arabic Class through the King Faisal Center. (25 or 17%) checked from the questionnaire that every department/unit of the university, an Arabic teacher is a must. (24 or 16%) suggested that the King Faisal Center must hold a regular class for every Muslim employee of the university. Lastly (22 or 15%) that King Faisal should do extension work on remedial class in Arabic
11. A Large number (43 or 29%) of the respondents answered that MSU administration should conduct a Special Qur'an Reading Class through the King Faisal Center, (35 or 23%) suggested that they will exert intensive practice to keep on reading the Holy Qur'an as mandated by Islam. (26 or 17%) had chosen that all Muslim employees in the university should be mandated to learn the Holy Qur'an. (26 or 17%) suggested that all Muslim employees in the university should be mandated to learn the Holy Qur'an. (24 or 16%) checked that they will enroll in the Madrasah during the weekend. And (22 or 15%) will hire Arabic tutors who will teach them privately.

Conclusions and Implication

Based on the findings of the study, it is concluded that majority of the respondents knows how to read the Holy Qur'an. The majority of them still need to improve their reading skills. The respondents' main reason for neglecting reading the Holy Qur'an was their hectic schedules being faculty members of the MSU – Main and some added that it was because of a lot of paperwork's after work.

A large number of respondents claimed that they have a problem with the proper tajweed of the Holy Qur'an and proper pronunciation of the Arabic letters. Even though they always read the Holy Qur'an, the improvement of their tajweed is impossible because of lack of knowledge on it. For an improvement, the respondents should learn from an expert in tajweed so that every time they read the Holy Qur'an they can apply it.

The respondents memorized, only 9% of the total surahs of the Holy Qur'an. They suggested that the administration should conduct a Special Reading Class on the Holy Qur'an through an experienced educator.

As can be gleaned from the responses of respondents related to the problem on the reading of the Holy Qur'an, the top three problems are job-related. The respondents claimed that

being an employee it is not easy to set a schedule on reading the Holy Qur'an because most of their time is to be allotted to their works after and before office hours.

A lot of reasons encountered by the respondents have discouraged them to read the Holy Qur'an or to learn to read the Holy Book. On the other hand, some respondents read the Holy Qur'an but they lack knowledge on the proper reading of the Holy Qur'an. Along with this line, the respondents would attend a special program suitable to their schedules, those that will not affect their responsibilities as employees.

Recommendations

1. The administration should conduct a Special Arabic Class in both writings and read to let their Muslim male faculty members become expert in reading the Holy Qur'an.
2. The administration should conduct semestral Islamic Seminar through King Faisal Center among Muslim faculty of MSU – Main for them to understand the all Islamic way of life.
3. The respondents should initiate a reading class on the Holy Qur'an beyond their teaching time as it is mandated by Islam for every Muslim to learn to read the Holy Qur'an.
4. The administration should let their Male faculty members with the Islamic concept of teaching as provided by the Holy Qur'an since they are the role model to the non-Muslims who reside and work in MSU.

References

- Abdullatif, Norhaya and Omar, Norhamida.** (2014). *The Benefits of Toril Education in the Positive Upbringing of Children's Parents Opinion*. Undergraduate Thesis. Mindanao State University, Marawi City, Philippines.
- Alioden, Jalilah A.** (2014). *Possible Remedies in the Difficuluty of Reading the Holy Qur'an: Opinion Survey among Shari'ah Students of King Faisala Center for Islamic, Arabic and Asian Studies*. Undergraduate Thesis. Mindanao State University, Marawi City, Philippines.
- Brown, Daniel W.** (1996). *Rethinking Tradition in Modern Islamic Thought*. Cambridge [England]: Cambridge University Press.
- Casan, Asrib T.** (2007). *Child Rearing Practices, Among Parents in Maranao Families*. Undergraduate Thesis. Mindanao State University, Marawi City, Philippines.
- Habib, Asnaira M.** (2007). *The Status of teaching Islamic Studies at Ma'hadMarawi – Al-Islamia Foundation*. Undergraduate Thesis. Mindanao State University, Marawi City, Philippines.
- Mababaya, Norlain D.** (1988). *The Holy Qur'an: the Divine Word of God*. Mindanao State University, Marawi City: Wisdom Enrichment Foundation (WEFGUND).
- Mababaya, Norlain D.** (1990). *Scriptural Prophecies and Scholar's Perception of the Prophet Muhammad*. Marawi City: Wisdom Enrichment Foundation (WEFGUND).
- Macalandong, Maisorah U.** (2009). *Study Habit in Memorizing the Noble Qur'an: As Perceived by the Student of the Zain Bin ThabitQur-anic Center*. Undergraduate Thesis. Mindanao State University, Marawi City, Philippines.
- Macmac, Aida delaCerna** (2007). *Proficiency of Ma'had Abdel 'Aziez Al- Islaamie students in Reading the Holy Qur-aan with regards to Tajweed*. Undergraduate Thesis. Mindanao State University, Marawi City, Philippines.

- Maruhom, Monara Hamiydah M.** (2006). *The Value of Teaching Arabic Language in the Accredited Madaris Offering Shari'ah in Marawi City as basis for Training Model*. Masteral Thesis, Mindanao State University, Marawi City.
- Maruhom, Monara Hamiydah M.** (2012). *Readiness and competencies of Arabic language and Islamic values education (ALIVE) Teacher in the Non – Muslim and Muslim region in Mindanao: Basis for Policy Making*. Dissertation, Mindanao State University, Marawi City, Philippines.
- Panda, Aquisah.** (2013). *Teaching Values in Public School as Perceived by Ulama of KFCIAAS*. Undergraduate Thesis. Mindanao State University, Marawi City, Philippines.
- Solaiman, Aisah A.** (2010). *A study on the Qur'an Reading Habits of Shari'ah Students at Mindanao State University*. Undergraduate Thesis. Mindanao State University, Marawi City, Philippines.
- Wadud, Amina** (1999). *Qur'an and Woman: Rereading the Sacred Text from a Woman's Perspective*. New York: Oxford University Press.

The Author



JAWAD ZACARIA SALIC was born at Marawi City, Lanao del Sur on March 16, 1991. He is currently the College Administrator of Philippine Engineering and Agro – Industrial College (PEACI) and Program Director of Kalumbayan Philippines, Inc. He completed his BS Civil Engineering at PEACI. He also completed his AB Islamic Studies, MA Islamic Studies and earned 18 units in Ph.D. Philippine Studies at MSU – Main Campus.