

Education System as an Obstacle to the Creativity of Muslims in the 21st Century

Mohamad Mohsin Mohamad Said;
Syaidatun Nazirah Abu Zahrin*;
Abdul Salam Yusof; and
Jamsari Alias

*Corresponding author: syaidatun@ukm.edu.my

¹Pusat Citra Universiti, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Bangi, Malaysia

²Institute of Islam Hadhari, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Bangi, Malaysia

Abstract

After achieving independence 60 years ago, various changes, progress and modernization has been achieved by Malaysia. But one thing is quite obvious, Malaysians still rely heavily on ideas, thoughts and technology borrowed from other countries. This dependency if persistence in the long run will certainly bring many disadvantages. Malaysian people and Muslims from other countries as well, should be smarter and more creative to create new sciences and technologies without depending directly on external parties. However, the effort to produce many creative individuals is facing various obstacles. One such obstacle is a barrier contained in the education system itself. This article attempts to peel off the obstacles in Malaysian education system. The exam-oriented education system has been around for a while and indeed it's not an easy thing to change it. In Malaysia, the Ministry of Education steps in abolishing the PMR (Lower Secondary Assessment) public examination and replacing it with the Assessment Test School-based Form Three (PT3) has been an excellent effort in promoting Higher Orders Thinking Skills (HOTS) among the young people. Consequently, more aggressive measures should be taken in changing the education system to emphasize intrinsic motivation in order to reproduce new Islamic creative figures which can revitalize the Islamic civilization to the fullest.

Keywords: Creativity; Higher Order Thinking Skills; education; Islamic civilization

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Introduction

There are many books that have been written (Ahmad Yahaya, 2009; Fahmi Amhar, 2010; Muhamad Akhmal Hakim, 2013) on the success of Islamic civilization especially during the times the Abasiyah government (750M to 1258M) which produced many distinguished scholars. Names like Ibn Sina, Al-Biruni, Al-Farabi, Al-Idrisi, Ibn-Al Nafis, Al-Hazen and Al-Zahrawi are among the thousands of Islamic scholars who are not only talented and smart but also to be considered creative. They are considered creative as they succeed producing new sciences in the fields they are involved. We take an Islamic scholars in the 10th century BC, Al-Zahrawi from Spain as an example. Al-Zahrawi was very disappointed with the technique of surgery that existed during his time. So by using his own experiences and observations he has created some new surgical techniques together with its surgical devices. Among the surgical instruments he has made include catgut yarns for joining surgical wound (Dzulkifli, 2011). He then wrote several books which explains in detail the accurate surgical procedure. His ability to generate new ideas in the surgical field shows that Al-Zahrawi is not only intelligent but also a creative person.