

The success of Islamic civilization creates clusters or so many creative figures in the range a period of about a thousand years shows that there is an influence on the environment gave birth to these creative figures. So one question is justified is what kind of atmosphere of social, religious, political, economic, educational, and so on existed during the glorious period of Islam? The ambience of the environment is so conducive with creativity to be able to produce many creative figures. If we can answer these basic questions and strive to create the same environmental ambient, it is not impossible for Muslims today to be able to produce many creative figures for the sake of rebuilding Islamic civilization.

Another question to ask is why in the 21st century Muslims are especially in Malaysia still cannot match the West in producing ideas and new technologies? If we take a Nobel prize winner as a measure after almost a hundred years the Nobel prize was awarded, from 700 people who have won only six Nobel laureates winners were Muslims. Ahmed Zuweil (1999) was one of the Muslims who won the Nobel prize because of his creativity in chemical back in 1999. We have agreed with Ahmad Yahaya (2009) that between the causes of diminished Islamic civilization is because of the imperialist policy launched by western powers on Islamic state throughout the Industrial Revolution. But in the 21st century, all Muslim countries occupied by western powers have gained independence. Islamic countries such as Malaysia, Indonesia, Pakistan, Egypt and so on administered by Muslims is free to determine the education system and their own political systems. But in spite of the independence and freedom, we are still failing to produce many creative figures. This article attempts to parse one main reason of this failure in current reality. But before that this article will discuss the meaning of creativity, the importance of creativity, the factors influencing creativity and ultimately a barrier to the creativity of Muslims today. By discussing these aspects, hopefully, our understanding the problems of producing creative individuals as well as Muslims society can increase.

Understanding Creativity

It is difficult to give the true meaning of creativity because of its nature covers a variety of dimensions. But most researchers define creativity based on to two important components. Creativity involving creating a product, ideas or something new which are differentiated and innovative (Kaufman, 2009). Second is creativity must also be in line with the tasks performed. This means creativity must be useful and relevant. For example when we ask a child what is its ideology when it comes to adulthood? The child responded "when I grow up I want to be a bread". The answers by the child are different but not relevant (Kaufman, 2009). Therefore, the answer to the child is not considered creative. There is a company that sell cars intends to manufacture a car with a new design where only the driver's seat is leading forward while the passengers seats are directed backward. This new design is designed to reduce mortality rate and injury in case of accident. But the car with the new design are not released because research shows that people will not buy a car that is considered to be that odd. This shows that community assessments have an effect on determining whether the product is creative or not.