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Embracing Innovation and Discourse: A Message from the Rector



Esteemed colleagues, students, and friends of UiTM Kedah Branch,

I am pleased to announce the launch of the second edition of the **RMU4U E-Bulletin**. This publication showcases the intellectual energy and a wide range of expertise that have bloomed within our esteemed university.

The 38 articles presented in this issue exemplify a remarkable spectrum of scholarly inquiry. From insightful legal studies to captivating cultural reflections, from thought-provoking discussions on business and finance to explorations of the ever-evolving technological landscape, the **RMU4U E-Bulletin** offers a glimpse into the minds that are shaping the future. This e-bulletin is more than just a collection of articles; it is a platform for discourse, a springboard for critical thinking, and a catalyst for innovation. By engaging with the diverse perspectives presented here, we can cultivate a deeper understanding of the complex issues facing our world today.

I am particularly heartened by the focus on the transformative power of technology. Discussions on Industrial Revolution 5.0 and the integration of AI serve as crucial reminders of the need to embrace innovation and equip ourselves with the skills to navigate the rapidly changing landscape. The articles on learning methodologies, from self-directed learning to mobile-assisted language acquisition, further underscore UiTM Kedah's commitment to providing our students with the tools and resources they need to thrive in the 21st century.

To our esteemed contributors, I extend my sincere gratitude for sharing your valuable insights and expertise. Your dedication is what fuels the intellectual engine of our university.

To our readers, I encourage you to delve into the articles, engage with the ideas presented, and later share your perspectives. Let this e-bulletin be the spark that ignites lively dialogues and fosters a culture of continuous learning within our university community.

Together, let us leverage the power of knowledge and innovation to shape a brighter future.

Sincerely,

Prof. Dr. Rohima Sa'id

Rector, UiTM Kedah



A Message from the Chief Editor

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the second issue of the RMU4U E-Bulletin from UiTM Kedah. I am excited to present 38 insightful articles that showcase the diverse academic interests and expertise within our university. Each article brings a unique perspective, contributing to a rich array of knowledge and ideas.

In this issue, our contributors have explored a wide range of subjects. We have compelling legal studies on topics such as home-schooling and child marriage, alongside cultural reflections that delve into the Semai heritage and contemporary Malaysian art. These pieces highlight the importance of preserving and understanding our cultural and societal norms.

Our business and finance section offers fresh insights into the gig economy, the integration of AI in accounting, and the nuances of tax compliance. These articles provide a closer look at the evolving economic landscape and the challenges and opportunities it presents.



Technological innovation is another prominent theme, with discussions on Industrial Revolution 5.0, the critical role of information professionals, and the integration of AI in education. These articles underscore the rapid pace of technological change and its impact on various sectors.

We also feature thought-provoking pieces on self-directed learning, mobile-assisted English learning, and the transformative power of social media in libraries. These articles explore the intersections of technology, education, and communication, offering valuable insights into modern learning environments. Our goal with this e-bulletin is to foster a deeper understanding and spark meaningful conversations among our readers. We hope that the knowledge and ideas shared here will inspire and engage you.

A heartfelt thank you to all our contributors for their hard work and dedication. And to our readers, thank you for your continued support and interest in the RMU4U E-Bulletin.

Happy reading!
Warm regards,

Dr Azyyati Anuar
Chief Editor, RMU4U E-Bulletin



ADDRESSING CHILD MARRIAGE DISPARITIES IN MALAYSIA

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Child marriage refers to any formal marriage or informal union where one or both parties are under 18. It encompasses marriages or partnerships between a child and an adult or between two children. The practice, which has its roots in disparities in gender, frequently takes place without the complete and free consent of the individuals involved, particularly in cases of forced marriage.

The critique of child marriage in Malaysia centres on certain fundamental concerns. Firstly, there are concerns about the violation of children's rights and the lack of protection for minors who are forced into marriage. International human rights standards, such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child, are often cited as frameworks Malaysia should adhere to more strictly. Health-related criticisms focus on the higher risks of infant and maternal mortality associated with early pregnancies among child brides. Moreover, the act of marrying at a young age might disrupt child's educational pursuits and curtail their potential for personal and professional growth in the future. Socially, child marriage perpetuates gender inequality and reinforces traditional gender roles, impacting girls' autonomy and overall well-being. Critics also highlight the need for legal reforms to raise the minimum age of marriage and ensure a comprehensive protection for children. Despite ongoing discussions and advocacy efforts, Malaysia has faced criticism for perceived inaction in effectively addressing the issue of child marriage and protecting the rights of children.



Child marriage persists as a legal practice in Malaysia despite condemnation and demands for change. This issue has ignited debates and discussions, with various stakeholders advocating for change. However, as of now, there hasn't been a comprehensive legal prohibition on child marriage in the country. The coexistence of civil and Shariah rules in Malaysia's dual legal system contributes to the complexity of resolving this matter.



There are two distinct legal systems in Malaysia: **Syariah law** and **civil law**. Thus, different procedures must be observed for civil and Syariah law regarding child marriage. It is governed by different laws depending on the religious affiliation of the individuals involved.

In Malaysian civil law, the procedures for a child to get married involve several key steps. Firstly, there is a legal minimum age requirement for marriage, which is 18 years old for males and 16 years old for females under the Law Reform (Marriage and Divorce) Act 1976. However, marriages below these ages can be permitted under certain circumstances with the Chief Minister's consent or Menteri Besar's consent. Additionally, parental consent is generally required for individuals under the age of 21 to marry under civil law. The marriage application process involves submitting relevant documents to the National Registration Department (JPN) or the respective state's Islamic Religious Department for processing. Once the application is approved and all legal requirements are met, the marriage can be solemnised by a registered marriage officer. It is worth mentioning that these procedures may differ significantly based on the particular state in Malaysia due to the federal structure in force.

In Malaysian Syariah law, the procedures for a child to get married involve several steps and considerations. Firstly, the minimum age for marriage is generally 18 years old for males and 16 years old for females, although exceptions may exist based on specific circumstances and state laws. The process of applying for marriage must be initiated through the appropriate Islamic Religious Department. This involves submitting the required documents, such as birth certificates, and, if needed, obtaining parental consent. Furthermore, several days or weeks could be delayed between submitting the application and the commencement of the marriage ceremony. During this time, the department may conduct interviews and assessments to ensure the marriage is suitable and compliant with legal requirements. After receiving approval, the marriage can be solemnised by an authorised religious authority in the presence of witnesses. It's essential to note that the exact procedures and requirements may vary slightly between different states in Malaysia due to the decentralised nature of Syariah law.



In conclusion, child marriage in Malaysia is a complicated and diverse issue with significant social, cultural, and legal repercussions. Notwithstanding endeavours to increase consciousness and promote legislative changes, obstacles endure in effectively tackling this practice. Efforts to combat child marriage face challenges such as cultural norms, religious considerations, gaps in the implementation and enforcement of laws, and a lack of comprehensive data. Overcoming these challenges requires a collaborative approach involving government agencies, civil society organisations, religious leaders, and communities. To effectively address child marriage, recommendations include legal reforms to establish a minimum age of marriage, raising awareness about the negative impacts of child marriage, providing support services for at-risk individuals and families, and promoting education and economic empowerment for girls.

Biodata of authors

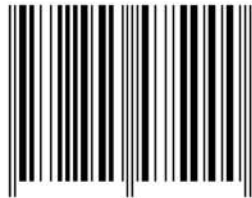
Irma Kamarudin is currently a senior lecturer at the Law Department UiTM Kedah Branch. She obtained her Bachelor of Laws (LLB Hons) from the International Islamic University of Malaysia (IIUM) in 2004. Then, in 2006, she completed her Master of Comparative Laws (MCL) at the International Islamic University of Malaysia (IIUM). Her expertise covers Business and commercial Law and Administrative Law, while her research interests include child law, business law, and administrative law.

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