



Bunga Telur in the Malay Culture

By Wan Noorli Razali

Bunga telur consists of hard-boiled eggs decorated with flowers or other embellishments or placed in a decorative container or basket given to guests as a memento for attending the wedding ceremony or reception. In the Malay culture, the gifting of eggs signifies fertility between a married couple.

Bunga pahar, on the other hand, is a collection of *bunga telurs* arranged in cone-shaped structure. It has dual functions; one for decorative purposes and the other, presented to elder family members after they have blessed (blessing would include sprinkling of rose water and flower

potpourri on the bride and groom) the wedded couples who are seated on a wedding dias during the *bersanding* ceremony.

In the past, preparation of *bunga telur/bunga pahar* was a communal effort, prepared two days before the reception. Family members, neighbours and friends would normally help to prepare the eggs. Sometimes eggs were gifted by the kampong folks to the host. This act of contribution is called *menanam* which literally means planting. The host would record the contribution and return the favour when it is their turn to host a wedding later.



Today modern couples have opted to replace eggs with candy in their wedding preparations due to the challenges associated with egg preparation. Boiling eggs requires proper technique as they tend to crack easily and spoil quickly. In addition, voluntary help is sparse nowadays when most people hold an 8-5 job.

In conclusion, the tradition of *bunga telur* and *bunga pahar* is a beautiful aspect of Malay culture that reflects the community's spirit of togetherness and generosity. It not only serves as a decorative piece but also carries a deep meaning of fertility and blessings for the newlyweds. Although the modern world has brought challenges to the preparation of *bungatelor* and *bunga pahar*, the essence and significance of this tradition remain timeless. It is a reminder of the importance of community, family, and the blessings of marriage.



References:

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