

UNIVERSITY TEKNOLOGI MARA

**EXPLORING THE LEARNING AND
INTERNALIZATION OF PRAYER
AMONG SECONDARY SCHOOL
STUDENTS**

SITI NORAZIAN RAZALI

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ABSTRACT

Islamic Education subject is compulsory for every Muslim student in Malaysia since Islam is the official religion in the country and majority of the citizens are Malay and Muslims. The curriculum for the Islamic Studies subject include learning to pray since performing the five-times prayers in a day is one of five pillars of Islam. Many studies have shown that most of the students were unable to internalize the concept of prayer spiritually in their life. This is due to lack of knowledge, understanding and internalizing of prayer as the core '*ibadah*' in their life. Accordingly, this study attempts to explore in depth the process of internalization of prayer and how learning prayer takes place internally. This study was designed to be a qualitative method of inquiry that utilizes in-depth interview. This study highlighted more on the emic perspective of students' understanding on the process of internalization of prayer and explore students' feeling, emotion and the way they learn or experience prayer. To this end, the researcher conducted an individual interview and focus group interview with seven students from a daily secondary school in Selangor. The researcher used in-depth interview for data collection and thematic analysis to analyse the data. All the students were selected purposively using criteria determined by the researcher. This study was guided by Al-Ghazali's theories of spirituality. The finding of the research indicates that students view the learning of Islamic Education as enjoyable and able to develop good moral character. In addition, students perceive learning prayer as capable in developing connection and intimacy with Allah. This research also shows that students learn to perform prayer in practical way and through memorization. Finally, the themes from al-Ghazali's framework of spirituality shows that, internalization of prayer among students consists of gratitude and positive empowerment; strengthening the faith with ritual act; peaceful state of heart and strengthening the faith towards the creator. This research concludes that Islamic Education teachers make some improvement on learning and internalizing of prayer in school. It is recommended that teachers should teach students to focus more on the detail of every step in their prayer to achieve great concentration in their daily prayer. The researcher also believes that teachers need to improvise their teaching approach from time to time by providing a variety of techniques and spiritual activities to help students internalize prayer and attract them to practice prayers dutifully without being forced.

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