

Pedophilia in Quranic perspective: A thematic analysis

La pedofilia en perspectiva coránica: un análisis temático

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ABSTRACT

Pedophilia is an issue that has not been addressed as much as the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer or questioning (LGBTQ) issues lately, although it has been going on for many years. It can contribute to a negative impact on children and society. This issue has undermined the family institution, community, and religion as it shows that most pedophile offenders who often make headlines are Malay Muslims. The question arises is, is there any discussion in the content of such revelations, or any Quranic verses discussing on this problem through specific methods. Therefore, the purpose of this article is to analyse Quranic verses on pedophilia or sexual abuse of children. By using qualitative method in collecting of Quranic verses and looking at the view of the infidelity regarding on pedophilia. This article found that the Quran is the best source in dealing with issues that faced by Muslims nowadays. Hence, this article as an effort to find solutions of pedophilia issues that affecting the humanities.

Keywords: Pedophilia, Perspective, Quran, Analysis, Thematic.

RESUMEN

La pedofilia es un problema que no se ha abordado tanto como los problemas de lesbianas, gays, bisexuales, transgénero y queer o cuestionamiento (LGBTQ) últimamente, aunque ha estado sucediendo durante muchos años. Puede contribuir a un impacto negativo en los niños y la sociedad. Este problema ha socavado la institución familiar, la comunidad y la religión, ya que muestra que la mayoría de los delincuentes pedófilos que a menudo aparecen en los titulares son musulmanes malayos. La pregunta que surge es, ¿hay alguna discusión sobre el contenido de tales revelaciones, o algún versículo coránico que discuta sobre este problema a través de métodos específicos?. Por lo tanto, el propósito de este artículo es analizar versos coránicos sobre pedofilia o abuso sexual de niños. Mediante el uso del método cualitativo en la recopilación de versos coránicos y mirando la visión de la infidelidad con respecto a la pedofilia. Este artículo encontró que el Corán es la mejor fuente para tratar los problemas que enfrentan los musulmanes hoy en día. Por lo tanto, este artículo es un esfuerzo por encontrar soluciones a los problemas de pedofilia que afectan a las humanidades.

Palabras clave: pedofilia, perspectiva, Corán, análisis, temático.

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1. Introduction

Pedophilia is not a new issue that is attacking Malaysian today, but it is an issue that the public does not care about due to lack of awareness and knowledge among parents and children. Pedophilia or sexual harassment of children is a serious crime in today's Malaysian society. While this is not a frequent case, it does have a huge impact on the family institution. And while most Malaysians do not understand what Pedophilia is, And who is at risk for the victim of Pedophilia? And what effect does it have on the victims?

Bell (2007) states that parents should be careful about pedophilia cases and child abuse around them. Bell added that the majority of children may be excluded from being victims of pedophilia and abuse if their parents have the knowledge and information about pedophilia as well as seeing the incident or case happen to the person closest to them. He also said that the government should involve in bringing awareness and knowledge to all, especially through government programs and campaigns that could open the eyes of parents.

2. The pedophilia

Pedophilia originated from the Greek word "love" (philia) and "child" (paedo). It belongs to the symptoms of paraphilia (Paraphilic Disorders), which is a category of 'illness' that has a tendency to be sexually satisfied or high sexual excitement in ways that are beyond the norm. Other examples of paraphilia disorders are voyeurism, frotteurism, exhibitionist and others. In the psychiatric reference book, *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*, Fourth Edition, a pedophile is an individual who fantasizes about, is sexually aroused by, or experiences sexual urges toward prepubescent children. According to the *Kamus Dewan Edisi Keempat*, pedophilia refers to the desire to have sex with children (Noresah, 2005). Thus, these sexual offenses directly affected crimes or sexual abuse to the child.

The definition of sexually abused children is generally defined by the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO). According to UNICEF (2010) and WHO (1999), sexual abuse of children is the involvement of children in sexual activities that they do not understand well, which they cannot reasonably recognize. Sexual abuse includes acts of sexual exploitation, raping, coercing or sexually assaulting a child, exposing confidential body parts or displaying pornographic material. Behaviors that do not involve touch-ups, exposed body parts and obscene words spoken to children are also sexual abuse. Additionally, exploiting children for pornography purposes through the internet and using such material to enable a child to be used by others as a prostitute is also a form of sexual abuse. Usually, child sexual abuse is aimed at giving sexual satisfaction to the pedophile.

Based on the paragraphs above, the definitions of sexual abuse includes three parts, which are touching, non-touching, and child pornography. The act of touching is when there is sexual interaction on the part of a child such as inserting an object into the vagina, mouth or rectum, oral and anal sex, kissing with or without the tongue, sexual touching the private parts and parts of the body. While non-verbal acts include showing children obscene materials, encouraging children with words, words manipulation, coercing or threatening children to engage in any sexual activity or prostitution, encourages children to view private parts, obscene calls, send obscene words, record videos, and pictures (Norazla, & Mohd Farok, 2018).

Pedophilia is also classified in the sexual orientation group as defined in the Diagnostic Statistical Manual, pedophilia does not occur only when individuals engage in stimulant behaviors child sexual abuse, but the act of preserving, imagining and fantasising about children sexual activity is also referred to as pedophilia (American Psychological Association, 2000; Eher et al., 2015). Thus, every child is at risk of becoming a victim of pedophilia.

3. Thematic analysis

To achieve the objective of the study, to analyse Quranic verses on pedophilia or sexual abuse of children. The thematic analysis begins with the collection of child-related sentences. Table 1 below lists some of the verses of the Quran that have been found.

Table 1. Children's theme in the Quran.

No.	Theme	Surah
1.	Children are a gift	al-Shura [42]: 49
2.	The daughter was buried alive	al-Takwir [81]: 8
3.	Afraid of being poor	An'am[6]: 151
4.		al-Isra'[17]: 31

5.		al-Nahl [16]: 72
6.		Al-Isra [17]: 64
7.		Maryam [19]: 77
8.		Al-Kahfi [18]: 46
9.		Shu'ara [26]: 133
10.		Saba'[34]: 37
11.		Saba'[34]: 35
12.		Ghafir [40]: 67
13.	General children	al-Ahqaf [46]: 15
14.		al-Hadid [57]: 20
15.		al-Mujadilah [58]: 17
16.		Al-Munafiqun [63]: 9
17.		al-Taghabun [64]: 14
18.		al-Taghabun [64]: 15
19.		al-Qalam [68]: 14
20.		Nuh [71]: 12
21.		Al-Mudathir [74]: 13
22.		'Abasa [80]: 36
23.	The Orphan	al-Nisa'[4]: 127
24.	Born in ignorance	al-Nahl [16]: 78
25.	Breastfeeding for 2 years	al-Baqarah [2]: 233
26.	Allah knows what is in the womb	Luqman [31]: 34
27.	Adopted child	al-Ahzab [33]: 5
28.		al-Nahl [16]:58
29.	Daughter of the evil sign	Zukhruf [43]: 18
30.		al-Najm [53]: 21

Based on the table above, 30 verses of the Quran have been compiled based on 10 themes of children. After examining each of these verses, it is found that there are no verses in the Quran specifically discussing the context of pedophilia or sexual abuse of children. Most of the context of the sentences in the table above focus on the well-being and rights of the children.

4. Pedophilia according to Quranic perspective

The Quran is the source of Islamic jurisprudence and a major reference of all Muslims all over the world. The meaning of the Quran is divided into two, languages and terms. In linguistic form, Quran means reading (qiraat, tilawah). While the Quran in terminological meaning as described in *Mu'jam al-Asasi* is the word of Allah passed on to the prophet Muhammad, the majority of the verses were revealed in Mecca and partly revealed in Medina, consisting of 114 surahs in 30 constituencies. While in the book of *Mabahith fi Ulum al-Quran*, Quran means the word of Allah revealed to Prophet Muhammad in Arabic. The Quran is written in *mashaf* which is passed down from generation to generation and is rewarded by anyone who reads it. It begins with surah *al-Fatihah* and ends with surah *al-Nas* (Al-Qattan, 1981).

To discuss pedophilia from the Quranic perspective, it is a contemporary study that needs to be addressed in order for this issue to be resolved in light of the role of the Quran as a source of Islamic law. Thus, pedophilia in Islam is also an act prohibited by religion and is an act of *Zina*, the person who commits the act commits a great sin and is punished justly (Eko, 2016).

4.1 Zina

Allah says in Surah Isra' verse 32:

"Nor come nigh to adultery: for it is a shameful (deed) and an evil opening the road (to other evils)."

Imam al-Din Abi Fida' Ismail Ibn Kathir (d. 774 H) explained that Allah prohibits his servants from committing adultery or getting near adulterous behavior (Ibn Kathir, 2000). The prophet Muhammad said:

"I did not see anything so resembling minor sins as what Abu Huraira said from the Prophet, who said, "Allah has written for the son of Adam his inevitable share of adultery whether he is aware of it or not: The adultery of the eye is the looking (at something which is sinful to look at), and the adultery of the tongue is to utter (what it is unlawful to utter), and the innerself wishes and longs for (adultery) and the private parts turn that into reality or refrain from submitting to the

temptation.”

[Al-Bukhari, Sahih Bukhari, *Kitab al-Qadr, Bab haram ala Qurbatu ahlaknaha Annahum la Yarji'un*, No hadis 6612]

It is clear that the meaning of “*do not approach*” in the Quran indicates that all means that lead to *Zina* such as eyesight, touch are illegal and shunned, even if they are considered as minor sins. And the eyes are the senses that Allah commands to protect because through them men will die with lust.

Zina is defined by any unauthorized sexual intercourse. This is an act that is defined as referring to *Zina*. In the sense that all premarital sex with marriage refers to *Zina*. There are, however, those who are married, but the contract (*akad*) is not lawful or binded, either marrying a mahram or marrying someone else's wife or marrying a person in *Iddah* (Hamka, 1983). Therefore, Allah commands the believers to lower his gaze, as He says in surah al-Nur verse 30:

“Say to the believing men that they should lower their gaze and guard their modesty: that will make for greater purity for them: and God is well acquainted with all that they do.”

Because the eye is the main source of damage to the heart, as some scholars say, it is a poisonous arrow that pierces the heart. So Allah commands that the genitals be kept, just as He commands the eyes to be kept because the eyes are the windows of the heart (Ibn Kathir, 2000).

Imam Abu 'Abdullah Muhammad ibn Ahmad ibn Abu Bakr al-Ansari Al-Qurtubi, when interpreting the above verse states that Allah commanded to hold your gaze, then preserve the genitals, because the eye is the leader of the heart.

Syeikh Muhammad ibn Muslim ibn Ubaydullah ibn Shihab al-Zuhri (d. 741) said, do not look at prepubescent girls, even though he was young. Abu Muhammad Atha bin Abi Rabah Aslam bin Shafwan (d. 115 H) said that it is *makruh* (frown upon) watching little girl relieving themselves in Mecca (Al-Qurtubi).

So the same approach should be taken against pedophiles, in the view that children can stimulate their appetite, so lower therefore his gaze as the first step in preventing them from pushing into sexual act. The context of prevention is stressed by Allah with the phrase ‘*do not approach Zina*’. Next, the discussion looks at another context of pedophilic crime, the act of incest. The term is different compared to pedophilia but the sample and victims are the same.

4.2 The incest

Often incidents involve older family members engaging in sexual abuse of children or adolescents in the family. Incests, in particular, have a more serious impact on the victim as it also affects the primary support of the child, his or her own family. Children who are victims of sexual abuse of their own family often do not receive full support from family members (Tsun, 1999; Roesler, & Wind, 1994; Lorentzen et al., 2008). Quranic verses on incest may also be associated with pedophilia, this is because incest can happen to children, English proverb calls it, like leaning on a glass door it breaks when it should give you comfort. This act of incest is a cruel act and it is forbidden by the evidence from the Quran. Allah said in Surah an-Nisa' verses 23:

“Prohibited to you (for marriage) are: your mother daughters sisters father's sisters mother's sisters; brother's daughters sister's daughters foster-mothers (who gave you suck) foster-sisters; your wives' mothers; your step-daughters under your guardianship born of your wives to whom ye have gone in no prohibition if ye have not gone in; (those who have been) wives of your sons proceeding from your loins; and two sisters in wedlock at one and the same time except for what is past; for Allah is Oft-Forgiving Most Merciful.”

Ibn Kathir (2000) This honorable verses is the verse that establish the degrees of women relatives who is not eligible for one to marry, because of blood relations, relations established by suckling or marriage. Ibn Abi Hatim recorded that Ibn 'Abbas said, “(Allah said) I have prohibited for you seven types of relatives by blood and seven by marriage.” Ibn 'Abbas then recited the verses, (Forbidden to you (for marriage) are: your mothers, your daughters, your sisters). At-Tabari recorded that Ibn 'Abbas said, “Seven degrees of blood relation and seven degrees of marriage relation are prohibited (for marriage).

The above Quranic verses prohibit the practice of incest to safeguard the family lineage. Islam is very concerned about sexual offenses as it affects the five main purposes of Islamic law: religion, life and dignity, property, intellect, and posterity (Al-Zuhaili, 1992). Thus, Incests is a complex form of sexual abuse to deal with and is the most frequently secret form of abuse compared to other forms of sexual abuse and abuse perpetrated by psychological

trauma (Chen et al., 2007). And it is similar to a pedophile crime case because the victim is an innocent child.

4.3 Homosexual and bisexual

Pedophiles are subdivided into several classifications. One of the first distinctions made when classifying pedophiles is to determine whether they are “exclusively” attracted to children (exclusive pedophile) or attracted to adults as well as children (nonexclusive pedophile). In a study by Abel and Harlow (2001) of 2429 adult male pedophiles, only 7% identified themselves as exclusively sexually attracted to children, which confirms the general view that most pedophiles are part of the nonexclusive group. Pedophiles are usually attracted to a particular age range and/or sex of the child. Research categorizes male pedophiles by whether they are attracted to only male children (homosexual pedophilia), female children (heterosexual pedophilia), or children from both sexes (bisexual pedophilia) (American Psychiatric Association, 2000).

The percentage of homosexual pedophiles ranges from 9% to 40%, which is approximately 4 to 20 times higher than the rate of adult men attracted to other adult men (using a prevalence rate of adult homosexuality of 2% to 4%) (Hall, R. C., & Hall, R. C., 2007). Therefore, this study looks at the arguments regarding sexually explicit acts such as homosexuality can be *qias* on pedophilia issues. This is because there are pedophiles who love children of the same sex, different sexes and both. Allah said in Surah al-Araf verses 80-81:

“We also (sent) Lut: he said to his people: “Do ye commit lewdness such as no people in creation (ever) committed before you? “For ye practice your lusts on men in preference to women: ye are indeed a people transgressing beyond bounds.”

Ibn Kathir (2000) in *Tafsir al-Azim* said, they did some of that none of the children of Adam or any other creatures ever did before them. They used to have sexual intercourse with males instead of females. This evil practice was not known among the Children of Adam before, nor did it even cross their minds, so they were unfamiliar with it before the people of Sodom invented it, may Allah’s curse be on them.

Al-Qurtubi (2009) stated the true meaning of the word *al-fahsyah* in this verse is same-sex relationships between man. The true meaning is disgusting, but Allah SWT specifies this word in surah al-Isra verse 32 which means: *“Nor come nigh to adultery: for it is a shameful (deed) and an evil opening the road (to other evils).”*

The verses below are the story of the Quran which tells the story of the Sodomites whom the Almighty God inflicted on their disobedience to God. According to Ibn Kathir’s view above, it is clear that it is an act contrary to the original nature of human creation. Therefore, such an act is not new in Islamic history but it is a recurring issue with the same context but different space and time. So, it is not surprising that new terms such as pedophilia exist in the millennium today. Allah said in Surah al-Syu’ara verses 165:

“Of all the creatures in the world will you approach males.

In another verse, Allah says in surah al-Ankabut verse 29:

“Do you indeed approach men, and cut off the highway? And practice wickedness (Even) in your councils? ” But his people gave no answer But this: they said: “Bring us the Wrath of God If thou tellest the truth.”

Other scholars argue that the meaning of this verse is that they commit abusive (homosexual) acts on travelers (Al-Tabari, 2009). Therefore, homosexual acts resemble pedophilia, just different from several angles. The first difference, in the age of pedophilia, is between adults and minors as stipulated by the Children Act 2001. And second, the differences in agreement between the two parties, both parties committed homosexual relations with consent. In the case of pedophiles, children are being forced by pedophiles.

5. Conclusion

The crime of pedophilia cases to this day is increasing with the number of victims among children. Every child is exposed to victimization and every person at risk of becoming a pedophile. Although there is generally no specific discussion of pedophilia in the Quran or the hadith, Islam provides the *Qias* way of finding the closest argument. Thus, this study brought three contextual themes that are discussed through arguments and *qias* through the proposition of *Zina*, incest, and homosexuality. This study can see the value of revelation in the discussion and search for solutions to contemporary issues that hit the country.

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