

Long Distance Marriage to Keep Sakinah's Family Established

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ABSTRACT

The family is created as a result of a marriage performed by a man and woman who have fulfilled the requirements. The sakinah family is everyone's dream. But in reality creating a sakinah family is so difficult, one of which is for families with different places to live. Distance and time create problems for wife married couples because they cannot meet physically. It creates an obstacle for husband and wife to exercise their rights and obligations. Many married couples in running relationships experience problems, both couples who live together or couples who live differently. Couples who live differently, usually due to work, economic, and educational factors. As for ways that can keep the family well established, then the couple must do openness, mutual trust, and also communications that the family is maintained well and peacefully. This research uses a mixture of qualitative and quantitative methods. Then in the analysis the researcher uses the theory of social construction. In the results of this study there are several ways and solutions for family life in different places of residence, namely: 1) understanding and understanding marriage, 2) confidence and openness, 3) good communication between families, 4) commitment to the couple, and 5) deliberation and consensus before marriage. The results of this study are expected to have an impact on families of different places of residence, in order to remain sakinah families.

Keywords: LDM, Sakinah, Family.

ABSTRAK

Keluarga dibentuk sebagai hasil dari pernikahan yang dilangsungkan oleh seorang pria dan wanita yang telah memenuhi syarat-syarat. Dalam kenyataannya, menciptakan keluarga sakinah sangat sulit, salah satunya adalah bagi keluarga yang tinggal di tempat yang berbeda. Jarak dan waktu menciptakan masalah bagi pasangan suami istri karena mereka tidak dapat bertemu secara fisik. Ini menciptakan hambatan bagi suami dan istri untuk melaksanakan hak dan kewajiban mereka. Banyak pasangan yang menjalani hubungan mengalami masalah, baik pasangan yang tinggal bersama atau pasangan yang tinggal terpisah. Pasangan yang tinggal terpisah biasanya disebabkan oleh faktor pekerjaan, ekonomi, dan pendidikan. Untuk menjaga keluarga tetap kokoh, pasangan harus melakukan keterbukaan, saling percaya, dan komunikasi yang baik. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif dan kuantitatif. Dalam analisis, peneliti menggunakan teori konstruksi sosial. Hasil dari penelitian ini menunjukkan beberapa cara dan solusi untuk kehidupan keluarga yang tinggal di tempat yang berbeda, yaitu: 1) pemahaman dan pengertian pernikahan, 2) kepercayaan dan keterbukaan, 3) komunikasi yang baik antara keluarga, 4) komitmen pasangan, dan 5) musyawarah dan kesepakatan sebelum pernikahan. Harapannya, hasil penelitian ini dapat berdampak positif pada keluarga yang tinggal di tempat yang berbeda, agar tetap menjadi keluarga sakinah.

Kata Kunci: Pernikahan Jarak Jauh, Sakinah, Keluarga.

INTRODUCTION

A family is a small group of people in marriage with a father, mother and children. Most families live in the same house. According to article 1 of Law No. 1 of 1974, which states that marriage is a union of birth and mind between a man and a woman, the purpose of which is to form a happy and eternal family based on the command of God Almighty. (Act), 1974) The purpose of marriage is to create a family that is *sakinah*, *mawadah*, and *rahmah* in family members. (Talib 1974, 47.) Other than that, it is to have pious and pious offspring, to be filial to parents, and to be proud of parents and country, and to get along well with both families. In dealing with the family there are several things that need to be considered, namely: knowing the rights and obligations between husband and wife, rights and obligations between children and parents, and vice versa. (Rajafi 2015, 129-139.) In a household, everyone will definitely try to make their family always harmonious, happy, and peaceful, although in practice this is not easy to implement. This happens because there are different backgrounds that are united in one family. As with education, different traits, and habits. Apart from that, there are also differences in economy, employment and so on.

Distance and time create problems for wife married couples because they cannot meet physically. It creates an obstacle for husband and wife to exercise their rights and obligations. Many married couples in running relationships experience problems, both couples who live together or couples who live differently. Couples who live differently, usually due to work, economic, and education facts. As for ways that can keep the family well established, then the couple must do openness, mutual trust, and also communication so that the family is maintained well and peacefully. (Novellencha 2019)

There are similar studies that discuss families who live in different places of residence, namely: *First*: Auriga Agustina and Sri Budi Lestari, (Auriga 2017) Arif Sugitanata. (Sugitanata 2020) This paper explains families with different places of residence in order to remain a *sakinah* family, namely by establishing communication between husband and wife well. *Second*: Amalia Nur Hidayani (Hidayani 2022) Sigit Dwi Purnomo. (Nugroho 2016) that explains in different marriages where you live causes psychologists for married couples. While in this study will discuss how to settle different families where to live so that *sakinah* remains intertwined.

METHODS

In this research, the author uses qualitative-quantitative mixed research with data sources of documents, articles and from research that discusses *sakinah* families who live differently from where they live. The approach used in this study is a sociological approach with social construction theory. This paper focuses on how to settle different families where they live to stay established *sakinah* and the results of interviews from informants that researchers conducted. The systematics of the discussion starts from, the definition of long-distance family, the definition of *long-distance marriage* and *sakinah* family, families who live in different places of residence, then the last is the conclusion.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Long Distance Marriage

Long distance marriage or long-distance marriage occurs a lot in society. The marriage occurred due to several factors, such as: education and economy. Some scholars have the definition of long distance marriage, among others, Sarwono argues

that *long distance marriage* is a married couple who are separated because of distance and time that results in not being able to meet. Hampton added the above understanding that couples who are separated between distance and physical will result in physical closeness for the couple. Couples who choose a *long-distance marriage* will undergo problems and sacrifices due to the lack of togetherness as done by couples who live in the same house in general. Scoot defines long-distance marriage, which is a couple's long-distance relationship characterized by rarely being able to meet face-to-face between husband and wife due to residential factors. (Rahmayanti 2018)

The conclusion from the opinions of the experts above is that *long distance marriage* is a relationship between married couples separated by distance and time with factors, namely work and education so that they cannot meet face-to-face directly for a certain period of time.

Definition of the Sakinah Family

The family is the smallest group consisting of father, mother, and child that occurs as a result of marriage. (CH, n.d., 38.) A good family is one that is done by getting married between two different people who aim to be a happy, peaceful, and based family based on God Almighty. (Act), 1974) The virtue of marriage is also explained in the Qur'an Surah Ar-Rum (30):21 which reads:

وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ أَنْ خَلَقَ لَكُمْ مِنْ أَنْفُسِكُمْ أَزْوَاجًا لِتَسْكُنُوا إِلَيْهَا وَجَعَلَ بَيْنَكُمْ مَوَدَّةً وَرَحْمَةً إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِقَوْمٍ
يَتَفَكَّرُونَ

The above verse makes it clear that marriage is a place where a man and a woman can have affection for each other without fear of God's wrath and bring peace and happiness to both. The purpose of marriage is to live a peaceful life full of love and affection is. *sakinah*, *mawadah*, *rahmah* and produce pious and pious offspring by channeling biological needs and maintaining honor and ways of performing worship. (Nasution 2005, 37.)

There are two opinions about the purpose of marriage. First, the opinion of *ijma'* explains that the purpose of marriage is to form a *sakinah* family, while its function is to have offspring and meet human needs i.e. to channel lust and affection, to follow the *sunnah* of the Prophet, to protect oneself honor, and family from evil and corruption, foster responsibility between rights and obligations and build a good home. Second, opinions that reflect differences in the aims and objectives of marriage. The second opinion has something in common with the first opinion that the purpose of marriage is to build a *sakinah* family. While the function of marriage is: creating a family that obeys the teachings of Islam, getting children down, carrying out social functions, education and also recreation. (Nasution 2008)

While the word *sakinah* comes from the word *سكن* which means tranquility and the plural from the word *سكان* which means calm. (Munawir, n.d., 646.) In terms of *sakinah* is a family that is able to provide a sense of peace, happiness for its family. In the Qur'an there are verses that mention the word *sakinah*. The verse is:

First, Q.S. At-Taubah (9): 26

ثُمَّ أَنْزَلَ اللَّهُ سَكِينَتَهُ عَلَى رَسُولِهِ وَعَلَى الْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَأَنْزَلَ جُنُودًا لَمْ تَرَوْهَا وَعَدَّبَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا وَذَلِكَ جَزَاءُ الْكَافِرِينَ

This verse describes Allah's power in the form of tranquility given to His Messenger, the believers, and sending down an army of soldiers who could not be seen by the eyes, and Allah tormenting the unbelievers.

Second, Q.S al-Baqarah (2): 248

وَقَالَ لَهُمْ نَبِيُّهُمْ إِنَّ آيَةَ مُلْكِهِ أَنْ يَأْتِيَكُمُ التَّابُوتُ فِيهِ سَكِينَةٌ مِّن رَّبِّكُمْ وَبَقِيَّةٌ مِّمَّا تَرَكَ آلُ مُوسَىٰ وَآلُ هَارُونَ تَحْمِلُهُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ ۗ إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَةً لِّكُمْ إِن كُنْتُمْ مُّؤْمِنِينَ

This verse explains the majesty of God spoken by the Prophet by saying that the sign of the kingdom is the coming of the Ark to You in which there is the tranquility of God left from the family of Moses and Aaron brought by angels. Indeed, this shows the fatherhood of Allah for believers.

Third, Q.S Al-Fath (48): 4 and 18

هُوَ الَّذِي أَنْزَلَ السَّكِينَةَ فِي قُلُوبِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ لِيَزْدَادُوا إِيمَانًا مَّعَ إِيمَانِهِمْ ۗ يُولِيهِ اللَّهُ جُنُودَ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ ۗ وَكَانَ اللَّهُ عَلِيمًا حَكِيمًا

This verse tells us that Allah will bring peace of mind to believers so that their happiness will increase. And more believe that Allah is the one who has mercy on heaven and earth. Allah is truly All-Knowing and All-Wise.

لَقَدْ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ إِذْ يُبَايِعُونَكَ تَحْتَ الشَّجَرَةِ فَعَلِمَ مَا فِي قُلُوبِهِمْ فَأَنْزَلَ السَّكِينَةَ عَلَيْهِمْ وَأَثَابَهُمْ فَتْحًا قَرِيبًا

This verse describes Allah's compassion for believers when they promised to obey the Prophet Muhammad to take shelter under a tree. Allah has the nature of knowing the nature that is in the heart, then Allah gives calm, victory in return for them.

According to KH. Hussein Muhammad the sakinah family is a group that must be protected, avoid discomfort, feel safe and at ease. (K. RI 2011) The word sakinah can be interpreted as happiness and tranquility of a spiritual nature that creates a sense of calm in passing through physical and spiritual sadness. (D. A. RI 2012, 65.)

The sakinah family, it is basically difficult to measure. The sakinah views of one family differ from one another, but in general there are characteristics about the sakinah family. (Sofyan 2018)

- Households based on the Qur'an and hadith: when there are problems in the family should be resolved in a good way by being guided by the Qur'an and Hadith. This method is mentioned in the Qur'an sura an-Nisa': 59.
- Households based on love: families without love and affection will result in disharmony in the family. So that love and affection are needed in the family so that disharmony and peace occur in the family.
- Understand the rights and obligations: everyone must understand and have rights and obligations, in order to create mutual respect and respect between family members. For example, the husband must provide for and comfort to his wife and children, the wife must give love, service, and obedience to the husband, as well as children must obey and deserve parents. This is explained in the Qur'an surah an-Nisa': 34.
- Respect and love both parents: Marriage is not only a union between husband and wife but must unite both families. Because in marriage must get permission and blessing from parents. This respect and love does not only apply before marriage, but these qualities must be applied anytime and anywhere so that their lives get the blessings of the world and the hereafter. This is explained in the Qur'an surah Al-'Ankabut: 8.
- Maintain relationships with the extended family: with marriage will establish a relationship between the bride and groom, so that it will cause a sense of affection, comfort, and tranquility. This is explained in Q.S ar-Qa'du: 21-24.

The Problem of Long-Distance Marriage

Problems are the spice of domestic life, especially for those who run long distance marriages. Problems can serve as household testers and reinforcements for those who are able to solve them, but not a few households become messy for those who are not able to solve them quickly and well. (Farichatul Azkiyah 2022) The problems that arise in long distance marriage are as follows:

1. Inner Needs

One of the purposes of marriage is to legalize sexual relations between a man and a woman in accordance with religious guidelines. Distance and time apart can certainly cause several things to be hampered, one of which is an inner need that cannot be represented through any media except by physical meetings. For couples who run a long-distance marriage, of course, this must be delayed for a while because they cannot meet physically.

2. Economic or financial needs

Financial needs are also one of the serious problems, because if finances are not sufficient, inner needs will also be delayed. This can be illustrated in a situation of distance between husband and wife who are far apart. The longer the distance traveled to meet each other physically, the greater the costs that will be incurred both in the form of transportation costs and souvenirs brought.

3. Community environment

One of the problems of long-distance marriage that often occurs is caused by external factors in the family, namely the surrounding environment. Not a few households become chaotic and even lead to divorce because of the comparison of other households that are happier and more peaceful and the existence of invalid information so that there is a misunderstanding between husband and wife which can reduce trust and loyalty in the household.

4. Education and parental affection for children

Children are the greatest treasure bestowed by Allah SWT to both parents, this grace needs to be considered specifically by providing education and parental love to their children with the aim that the development and growth of children continue to take place well and become quality strong regeneration. In general, households that run long distance marriages often experience difficulties and become a separate problem in providing education and affection to children due to limited distance and time. Not a few children and adolescent delinquency in a society often becomes a hot issue because of lack of attention from parents and affection for children due to distance and time limitations. Not a few children and adolescent delinquency in a society often becomes a hot issue because of lack of attention from parents.

Long Distance Marriage

Long distance marriage is a difficult decision for family couples. The existence of this difference in residence results in more problems that are passed by families who live together. However, this risk must be faced by couples when deciding to stay different. There are factors that influence couples to do so, such as: job demands, economy, and other factors. In the results of interviews with two informants who lived different lives from where they lived. In the interview as follows:

First: husband and wife with initials A (husband) aged 54 years old last education SMK and (wife) aged 52 years with Madrasah Aliyah education they both come from Tuban and Tulungagung, various Islam, married already 5 years when the husband died has not been blessed with children, but the wife brings one son married and the woman has graduated Madrasah Aliyah. A works as a contractor in Kalimantan while J works as

a self-employed person in Tuban. Before marriage, both parties have agreed and deliberation will carry out their lives with different residences. (Interview with A, Private, n.d.)

The couple between A and J is one of the couples who decided to live in different places of residence, they lived it because of the demands of work done by the husband, A worked in Kalimantan while J worked in Tuban. In living a long-distance domestic life there are several obstacles, such as: communication with each other, more responsibility of wives when there is no husband. This is expressed by J as follows.

"When living a different life with your husband, there are several obstacles, one of which is communication. In this case, communication has a bit of an obstacle due to the distance that separates it, because the husband in his job is located in a rural area, so the signal is quite constrained."

The way to keep the relationship harmonious, this is done by giving news to each other, trusting each other, and understanding each other. So that the relationship between family members will always run well and harmoniously. (Rubyasih 2016) This was also expressed by J:

"In order for our relationship to remain harmonious, we communicate using *whatsapp* or *video calls*. The discussion that we often discuss is the issue of family news, finances, child development, and also releasing each other's problems. Apart from comication, we also apply mutual trust, mutual care, and mutual understanding. So that our relationship is good and harmonious. My husband usually comes home during Eid al-Fitr."

Second, the couple with the pseudonym SH (husband) aged 25 years came from Tuban last high school education and M (wife) aged 23 years came from Tuban last high school education. Both are Muslims, while their marriage has been going on for three years and has not been given a baby. (Interview with M, Private, n.d.)

The second informant will talk about his experience when living a different life with his partner. After marriage, SH lived in Banyuwangi, while M lived in Tuban. They have different places to live due to work factors, the husband has not been able to live together because he still has an employment contract. While the wife lives in Tuban to take care of her mother and has a job in her own area. The decision he took was agreed and deliberated before the wedding. So, this couple already understands each other.

In starting a family, you will definitely encounter problems that will be faced, both small and big problems. However, these problems can be solved by trusting, understanding, and understanding. Likewise M, he said that:

"With different places to live due to job demands, husbands usually see their wives only before once and briefly. Sometimes M also visits SH to Banyuwangi when there is a misunderstanding, so that unsustainable problems do not occur. Therefore, mutual understanding, understanding, trust, and also lowering egos must be applied so that relationships are harmoniously established."

From the data and application of the interviewees, it can be concluded that families who live different lives will have obstacles, such as long distances that cause difficult communication, time and environment usually cause problems, and maintain relationships to remain well established and harmonious. However, these problems can be resolved by trusting, understanding, respecting and maintaining good communication between family members, especially husband and wife.

Implementation of different Sakinah families where to live

In a family, you definitely want a life that *is sakinah mawadah wa rahmah*, apalgi for families whose lives are different places to live. This creates a view and a way for families to get a good family, because in practice there are different ways. In this presentation, we will explain ways and efforts to make a family that is sakinah:

1. Understand and understand the purpose of a marriage

In marriage, husband and wife are obliged to obey the purpose of marriage, *namely sakinah, mawadah, wa rahmah*. In the purpose of marriage is to obtain pious and pious descended children, tranquility of life (harmony and tranquility), channel lust, maintain dignity, and as one of the sunnah of the prophet to perform worship. (Nasution 2005) This information is explained in the Qur'an Surah Ar-Rum (30):21:

وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ أَنْ خَلَقَ لَكُمْ مِنْ أَنْفُسِكُمْ أَزْوَاجًا لِتَسْكُنُوا إِلَيْهَا وَجَعَلَ بَيْنَكُمْ مَوَدَّةً وَرَحْمَةً إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِقَوْمٍ يَتَفَكَّرُونَ

Ayat above explains that one of the greatness of God seen by man is that man was created in pairs (male and female) so that man is calm and happy. The purpose of marriage is to make people happy, peaceful, and peaceful, then get godly and pious offspring, and channel their sexual desires so that adultery does not occur. It was a very noble worship. (Nasution 2005)

After understanding about marriage, there is an understanding of the rights and obligations that must be carried out by husband and wife. The husband in this case is obliged to maintain and meet the needs of the family, both material needs and service needs. This is explained in Q.S an-Nisa' (4): 34, and Q.S al-A'raf (7): 157:

لِرَجَالٍ قَوَّامُونَ عَلَى النِّسَاءِ بِمَا فَضَّلَ اللَّهُ بَعْضَهُمْ عَلَى بَعْضٍ وَبِمَا أَنْفَقُوا مِنْ أَمْوَالِهِمْ ۚ فَالصَّالِحَاتُ قَانِتَاتٌ حَافِظَاتٌ لِّلْغَيْبِ بِمَا حَفِظَ اللَّهُ ۗ وَاللَّي تَخَافُونَ نُشُوزَهُنَّ فَعِظُوهُنَّ وَاهْجُرُوهُنَّ فِي الْمَضَاجِعِ وَاصْرَبُوهُنَّ ۚ فَإِنِ اطَّعْتُمْ فَلَا تَبْغُوا عَلَيْهِنَّ سَبِيلًا ۗ إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ عَلِيمًا كَبِيرًا

Q.S Al-A'raf (5): 157:

الَّذِينَ يَتَّبِعُونَ الرَّسُولَ النَّبِيَّ الْأُمِّيَّ الَّذِي يَجِدُونَهُ مَكْتُوبًا عِنْدَهُمْ فِي التَّوْرَةِ وَالْإِنْجِيلِ يَأْمُرُهُمْ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَيَنْهَاهُمْ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ وَيُحِلُّ لَهُمُ الطَّيِّبَاتِ وَيُحَرِّمُ عَلَيْهِمُ الْخَبَائِثَ وَيَضَعُ عَنْهُمْ إِصْرَهُمْ وَالْأَغْلَالَ الَّتِي كَانَتْ عَلَيْهِمْ ۗ فَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا بِهِ وَعَزَّرُوهُ وَنَصَرُوهُ وَاتَّبَعُوا النُّورَ الَّذِي أُنزِلَ مَعَهُ ۙ أُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْمُفْلِحُونَ

In living a family life, do not make the wife a family servant (konco wingking), the wife must be maintained and served optimally. So that the rights and obligations of the wife run well, and a sense of affection and peace arise in the family. When you understand the purpose of marriage and implement it properly and correctly, then what is expected in life is peace and harmony in the family, even though there are different places to live with the couple. Because in reality, what the couple did was to provide happiness and problems for their family, not just for personal interests.

2. Trust and openness for the couple

Trust and openness of partners is key in a relationship, especially for couples who differ in residence. Because in practice, when couples live differently without applying this method will result in disharmony in the relationship. Therefore, this method has an impact on couples in living different lives where they live, so that there is a harmonious life and benefits for their family. (Rubiyasih 2016)

3. Good communication between families

In family life, especially for couples with different places of residence, there is usually a misunderstanding or problem in the family. So that communication is the right way to solve these problems, which can use social media in the form of telephone, *whatsapp*, *videocall*, *facebok*, and so on. So that family harmony is maintained.

Therefore, technological developments provide problems for couples who live differently. So that the relationship of couples who are different places of residence, will still be able to communicate well and maintain their relationship.

4. Commitment for the couple

A relationship will be harmonious and peaceful when both people take care of each other, understand, and commit to each other, both in joy and sorrow. This is what makes family relationships remain harmonious. Not when there is a problem even avoid, even looking for vent outside because of different places to live.

Therefore, couples must understand what commitment means to the relationship. Your partner's commitment must be upheld when anything happens. That method makes the integrity and harmony of the family will be maintained.

5. Deliberation and consensus before marriage

Before marriage, it is necessary to make an agreement and deliberation between the two parties that they will live in domestic life. This method is very important, because in marriage between spouses must know the nature and purpose of their future goals, so that life after marriage does not experience disputes or unwanted problems. This deliberation and consensus aims to avoid discomfort, loss for one party. So that it will minimize problems that occur after marriage.

CONCLUSIONS

The family is created as a result of a marriage performed by a man and woman who have fulfilled the requirements. The *sakinah* family is everyone's dream. But in reality, creating a *sakinah* family is so difficult, one of which is for families with different places to live. There are several ways and solutions for families who live different lives with their partners, namely: 1) understanding and understanding marriage, 2) trust and openness, 3) good communication between families, 4) commitment to the couple, and 5) deliberation and consensus before marriage.

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