The Application of the Islamic Principle in the Muslim Student Society, Prince of Songkla University, Hat Yai Campus

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Abstract

This full paper on ‘The Application of the Islamic Principle in the Muslim Student Society, Prince of Songkla University, Hat Yai Campus’ is a part of the study on the ‘Evolution, Organization and Roles of the Muslim Student Society at the Prince of Songkla University, Hat Yai Campus’. Furthermore, this full paper aimed to study and present the development of the University, in particular, the issue of selection of suitable people to be the Muslim Student Society Chairman.

From the study about this issue, it was found that an Islamic Principle is applied to the organization of the Muslim Student Society that is ‘Shu-ra’. The Shu-ra is an organization pattern. It has an indefinite principle; moreover it can be adapted to be compatible with every period and situation. Therefore, it is a strength which applied to the selection of suitable people to be the Muslim Student Society Chairman, in order that, some details of the selection be improved for each year. Thus, the Muslim Student Society gets a suitable leader to function as chairman and able to carry out effective management.

Key words: The Muslim Student Society, Islamic Management, Shu-ra
Background

Prince of Songkla University was the first university which to be established in the South, so it is also an important one. The University has a major role in education, but it does not overlook human development. For this purpose, there is a policy to encourage all students to attend extra-curricular activities for aptitude and interests and for training the students. Thus, the University has many activities that students are able to participate in. (The Student Union and the Student Affairs Division at Prince of Songkla University academic year 2007 2007, 38). ‘Prince of Songkla University Student Union Hat Yai’ or P.S.U.S.U.H. is one of those activity sectors. (Prince of Songkla University Student Union Hat Yai 2006, 55)

There are 40 clubs and societies which belong to the Student Union (Alongkorn Padungkool n.d.) such as the Football Club, the Chinese Language Club, the Study for Social Club and the Muslim Student Society and so on.

According to the History of the Muslim Student Society, it was defined that there were fewer Muslim students in the past. Hence, there was no concrete aggregation. Later, because of the increasing number of Muslim students, there was a request to establish a club formally under the name ‘Muslim student Club of Prince of Songkla University, Hat Yai campus’ in 1978 and its name was later changed, in 1996 to become ‘Muslim Student Society’.

Since the establishment of the club 35 years ago, many activities have been arranged continuously, so, the Muslim Student Society is a long-lasting society at the University. Furthermore, an orderly management of the club is a reason for its continuation, so it is interesting to study the pattern and procedure of its organization to develop, strengthen. In addition, this study makes students to be ready to step into life in the outside world steadily and happily.
Research Methodology

There are 4 main steps for the research methodology of this study which refer to the Stake’s research methodology (1995 quoted in Cresswell 1998 quoted in Chai Podhisita 2009, 168-169), but it was modified for harmonization with this study. The procedures are as follows:

1. Collected data by interview from 15 key informants.
2. Data collected from documents related to the Muslim Student Society and from an office of the university involved with the Muslim Student Society.
3. The information from documents and interviews were analyzed and interpreted by the researcher who took into consideration the objectives and context of this study.
4. The results were presented in the form of descriptive analysis to show clearly the details of this study.

Findings

From the study of this issue, it was found that the Muslim Student Society’s management structure consisted of 17 positions such as chairman, vice chairman, secretary, treasurer and the board covering other sections such as academic, public relations, guidance, activities, fund-raising sections, as well as a special section, member relations section, human resource section, evaluation section, information technology or IT section, supplies and facilities section, journal section and welfare section. Nevertheless, both Muslimeen students- male Muslim students and Muslimah students-- female Muslim students are the head of each section, but there is either the Muslimeen students or the Muslimah students for some sections or positions.

Furthermore, Ahmad Ibrahim Abusin (2010, 42-44) says an Islamic Principle was applied to organization—the Islamic Management of Muslim Student Society, based on the Holy Qur’an, the sacred book of Islam, and on the Hadith, the sayings of the Prophet Muhammad, Peace be upon him (The Royal Islamic Strategic Studies Centre 2010, 9 and 11)

An Islamic Principle is applied to the selection of suitable candidates for the important position of Muslim Student Society. The chairman is called ‘Amir’, the male chief and ‘Amirah’, the female chief. Both Amir and Amirah are from Arabic words. In the past, there was no Amirah because there were fewer members than there are now, and as the
number of members has increased, the Amirah is needed for taking care of the female members. In addition, the chairman and the committee of the Muslim Student Society have a term of a year for working. There is the nomination and the selection of the suitable persons of the Muslim Student Society Chairman at the end of every year, in November. Besides, the qualification of the persons who will be nominated to be candidates are fixed by the Muslim Student Society such as

1. They must be 2nd year Muslim students who will be 3rd year Muslim students in the following year at the Prince of Songkla University, Hat Yai only.
2. They have pass status as their academic status.
3. They have leadership qualities and responsibility for the works assigned by the Shu-ra council, the consultative council (SensAgent 2007)
4. They must be healthy students with no virulent congenital diseases which can be an obstacle to working.

Islamic Principles are applied to search for the suitable candidates to be the Chairman by the Shu-ra, the consultation. Moreover, the democratic electoral process is also applied to search for that. The following is the searching process for suitable candidates:

1. The 1st opinion poll.

This step is open to nominate one student per one vote for a person who is a suitable one. 16 People are the maximum number that can be nominated: i.e. there are 8 Muslimeen students and 8 Muslimah students chosen to be ‘the candidates’ for the 2nd opinion polls. Meanwhile, the number of 7 suitable persons will be chosen by the committee and the subcommittee of the Muslim Student Society for being ‘the first Shu-ra council’s committee’ from the extraordinary meeting; the resolution of the meeting is final.

In order that, there are 15 persons for being the first Shu-ra council’s committee is compose of 7 persons who are chosen by the committee and the subcommittee of the Muslim Student Society and 8 persons who are chosen by the opinion polls from all the Muslim students—undergraduates and postgraduates. Besides, the first Shu-ra council’s committee has to choose the number of 15 suitable people for being ‘the last Shu-ra council’s committee’ in an extraordinary meeting; moreover, they also have to choose the suitable candidates who were chosen on the 2nd opinion polls for getting into the last Shu-ra council later on.
2. The 2nd opinion poll.

This process is open for Muslim students to vote for the candidates who were nominated from the first step. Nevertheless, 10 candidates who receive the majority vote; i.e. there are 5 Muslimeen and 5 Muslimah students. They get into the first Shu-ra council.

In addition, a place which is determined in the University for being the polling station is the Student Activity Building. Then the date and time for election are determined later on. When the place, the date and the time are determined, they will be announced to all Muslim students to nominate suitable persons for the 1st opinion poll and to vote for the candidates for the 2nd opinion poll.

Furthermore, a Muslimeen student has the right to nominate and to vote for a candidate who is appropriate for Amir, the male chief only, but a Muslimah student has the right to nominate and to vote both for a candidate who is appropriate for Amir and a candidate who is appropriate for Amirah, the female chief because the Muslimah students in the University are taken care of both by the Amir and the Amirah.

3. Getting into the first Shu-ra council.

From the second process, 10 candidates will be selected by the first Shu-ra council committee by interview until 6 candidates remain; i.e. there are 3 Muslimeen students and 3 Muslimah students. They get into the last Shu-ra council.

4. Getting into the last Shu-ra council.

The number of 6 candidates who are selected from the third step will be selected again by the last Shu-ra council committee by interview 2 people remain; i.e. one Muslimeen student and one Muslimah student who become the Amir and the Amirah-- the Chairman of Muslim Student Society for the following semester.

The process of search for the suitable candidates for Chairman is shown in the following figure:
The committee and subcommittee of the Muslim Student Society

The Muslim students

The Muslimeen students

The Muslimah students

‘The 1st opinion polls’ (nomination)

The number of 7 people was selected by the extraordinary meeting to be the first Shu-ra council committee.

The number of 8 people was nominated to be the first Shu-ra council committee.

The suitable people were nominated.

The number of 16 people; i.e. there are Muslimeen and Muslimah students each of 8 people will be chosen to be the candidates.

‘The 2nd opinion polls’ (vote)

There is the number of 15 people for the first Shu-ra council committee.

The number of 10 people; i.e. there are Muslimeen and Muslimah students each of 5 people will get into the 1st Shu-ra council.

‘The first Shu-ra council’

The number of 15 people was selected by the extraordinary meeting to be the last Shu-ra council committee.

The number of 6 people; i.e. there are Muslimeen and Muslimah students each of 3 people will be chosen to be the candidates.

‘The last Shu-ra council’

The number of 2 people; i.e. there are a Muslimeen and a Muslimah students each of one will be chosen to be Amir and Amirah.

There is Amir and Amirah or the chairman of Muslim Student Society.
In addition, some details of the search for chairman are improved and increased every year to be compatible with all periods and situations. Nevertheless, both improvement and increase will solve any problems which occurred in the preceding year too; for example, before 2008 each group of freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors and postgraduate Muslims held a meeting for the selection of candidates. They faced two problems; first, there were too many candidates, so it was complicated to select by the first Shu-ra council. Second, there were few participants at the meeting, so its resolution did not come from the needs of the majority. Therefore, the opinion polls were adapted to search for chairman processes. Besides, the Shu-ra is an organization pattern which has an indefinite principle, but it has conditions (Abdulsuko Din-a 2009) as follows:

1. The Shu-ra must be managed with sincerity and virtue.
2. It must respond to the common interest and deny personal interest.
3. There must be no lies or deception.
4. The people who attend the meeting must be honored and other opinions must be tolerated even though you might not agree with them.
5. To accept the resolution of the majority as long as it does not oppose an Islamic principle of the meeting even if you do not agree with it.

Discussions

Abdulsuko Din-a (2009) says the ‘Shu-ra’ is a word in Arabic. The full word is ‘Ash shura’. It means consultation according what God says, in the Holy Qur’an: “…and who (conduct) their affairs by mutual consultation…” (The Holy Qur’an, chapter 42 : verse 38) (Muhammad Taqi-ud-Din Al-Hilali and Muhammad Muhsin Khan 1995, 658). Nevertheless, the religious prescription meaning of the Shu-ra is the meeting or the consultation in the way of Islam for finding the conclusion or result which will be put into practice.

Therefore, the Shu-ra is applied to select the chairman of Muslim Student Society is an Islamic Principle application for organization. Although some details are improved and increased every year, those were for modernization and solving of problems which may have occurred in the preceding year. Because the Shu-ra has a flexible pattern, it can be adapted to be compatible with all periods and every situation. Moreover, the process of search for the chairman showed the importance of awareness and the meticulousness or carefulness for the
roles of chairman because the organization’s success may depend on the chairman’s role. (Ahmad Ibrahim Abusin 2010, 214)

Recommendations

The Shu-ra is applied to organization and search for the chairman and participation in the work of members of clubs or societies in the University for Achievement, strength and continuity.

References

Thai Language

Books

Websites
English Language

Books


Websites
