INTEGRATION OF NAQLI (REVEALED KNOWLEDGE) AND AQLI (RATIONAL KNOWLEDGE) IN DESIGNING SYARIAH AND LAW CURRICULUM- UNIVERSITI SAiNS ISLAM MALAYSIA'S EXPERIENCE.¹

Dr. Syahirah Abdul Shukor, Dr. Norfadhilah Mohd Ali, Associate Prof. Dr. Lukman Abd Mutalib, Dr. Ahmad Zaki Salleh & Dr. Mohd Nasir Abd Majid
Faculty of Syariah and Law
Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia, Nilai
MALAYSIA

Abstract

Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (formerly known as Kolej Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia) is the twelve public university in Malaysia which was set up late 1998. Faculty of Syariah and Law (formerly known as Faculty of Syariah and Judiciary) was one of the pioneer faculties at that time. In designing the curriculum for Bachelor of Syariah and Law, it has been challenging as the intention is not to simply compare between Syariah law and Civil law only, but it also hopes to integrate between the two legal systems. As higher education markets become increasingly competitive domestically and internationally, Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM) is taking a unique approach—integrating Naqli (revealed knowledge) and Aqli (rational knowledge) to strengthen its reputation for research, teaching and learning. This unique approach is needed in a country which upholds two judiciary systems, the Syariah courts and the Civil courts. This paper will discuss the challenges of designing curriculum which attempts to integrate the two legal systems. Thus, works from Muslim scholar such as Bediuzzaman Said Nursi may inspire in designing syariah and law curriculum. Next, it will discuss the importance of Asian values and local circumstances in designing the curriculum and finally, the paper suggests that it is timely for the integration of revealed knowledge and rational knowledge in providing competence lawyers and law makers who understand both systems.

Keywords: syariah, law, USIM, Integration of knowledge, designing curriculum

¹ Abstract submitted for paper presentation for the International Conference On Empowering Islamic Civilization (ICIC 2015), “Reflection on Bediuzzaman Said Nursi Thoughts”, 6-7th September 2015 at Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin, Kuala Terengganu, Terengganu. This is an ongoing research sponsored by Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (PPP/GP/FSU/30/14015).