

Islamic Education Philosophies In Primary, Secondary Schools Must Be Differentiated
Bernama
December 13, 2011

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 13 (Bernama) -- The teaching philosophies for Islamic Education subject in primary and secondary schools must be differentiated to ensure a more focused learning process for the targeted groups, according to an academician.

Professor Dr Rosnani Hashim of the International Islamic University of Malaysia said the difference was vital because what should be achieved by the students differed according to their age.

"In primary school, it's better if we focus on basic matters such as the reading of the Quran, as well as moral, character and personality developments.

"In secondary school, however, we should prepare the students to face the ever-challenging world with, for example, proper sex education and how to benefit, rather than being influenced by the negative aspects of Internet use."

She said this to reporters after attending the experts' conference on the effectiveness of Islamic Education subject in national schools at the Institute of Islamic Understanding Malaysia here Tuesday.

Rosnani said if the teaching philosophies were not differentiated and the principles were not explained, the outcome of the learning process could not be distinguished.

Meanwhile, Education Ministry Islamic Education Division director Abdullah Md Din said the ministry had conducted periodical review on Islamic Education subject to ensure that it would remain relevant.

"So, any changes in the Islamic Education system will only be made if necessary," he said.

Earlier, while presenting his working paper at the conference, Abdullah also said that all primary schools nationwide would implement the J-QAF programme by 2016.

"Up to 2006, a total of 2,442 primary schools had implemented the J-QAF programme, which was first introduced in 2005 in a bid to strengthen and empower Islamic education to enable the pupils to master the four skills namely Jawi, Quran, Arabic and Fardu Ain," he said.

The one-day conference was aimed at fine-tuning the teaching and learning processes for Islamic Education and to find suitable improvement methods to empower the subject.

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