

Celebrity Worship as a Factor in Marriage Delay: An Islamic Legal Perspective

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ABSTRAK: Ketika kekaguman pada selebriti berkembang menjadi obsesi yang selanjutnya dikenal sebagai celebrity worship, fenomena ini semakin meluas di kalangan masyarakat modern, terutama dengan berkembangnya sosial media yang memengaruhi persepsi individu terhadap aspek kehidupan, termasuk pernikahan. Studi ini berfokus pada pengguna media sosial X, yang menunjukkan perilaku obsesif terhadap figur publik dalam kadar yang memengaruhi minat mereka untuk menikah. Mengingat meningkatnya intensitas dan implikasi sosial dari celebrity worship, studi ini ditujukan untuk menganalisis dampak celebrity worship pada penundaan pernikahan di kalangan individu dewasa awal, dengan pendekatan perspektif hukum Islam. Melalui metode pendekatan deskriptif kualitatif, data dikumpulkan berdasarkan wawancara mendalam dan studi literatur. Hasil penelitian mengungkapkan bahwa keterlibatan emosional yang mendalam terhadap idola mendorong individu untuk menjadikan figur selebriti sebagai tolak ukur dalam menentukan pasangan. Selain itu, tingginya intensitas aktivitas pengidolaan juga membuat individu lebih fokus pada kehidupan selebriti dibandingkan menjalankan hubungan nyata, sehingga membentuk pola pikir di mana pernikahan bukanlah menjadi prioritas utama dalam kehidupan mereka. Dimana dalam Islam, pernikahan dipandang sebagai ibadah yang penting dan bagian dari penyempurnaan agama. Penelitian ini juga menggarisbawahi pentingnya pendekatan reflektif terhadap konsumsi media sosial, serta penanaman nilai pernikahan dalam Islam guna meminimalisir dampak negatif budaya populer terhadap persepsi dan kesiapan menikah. Dengan demikian, penelitian ini berkontribusi pada literatur studi Islam kontemporer dan psikologi sosial, serta menawarkan perspektif baru untuk memahami implikasi celebrity worship terhadap prioritas hidup dalam kerangka nilai-nilai Islami.

Kata Kunci: Celebrity Worship, Penundaan pernikahan, Perspektif Islam.

ABSTRACT: As celebrity admiration evolves into obsession, known as celebrity worship, this phenomenon has become more widespread in modern society, especially with the proliferation of social media that influences individuals' perceptions of life, including marriage. This study focuses on X social media users who exhibit obsessive behavior towards public figures, which affects their interest in marriage. Given the increasing intensity and social implications of celebrity worship, this study aims to analyze the influence of celebrity worship on marriage postponement in individuals in early adulthood with an Islamic legal perspective approach. Data was collected based on in-depth interviews and a literature study using a qualitative descriptive approach. The results revealed that deep emotional

attachment to idols encourages individuals to make celebrity figures a benchmark in determining a partner. In addition, the high intensity of idolization activities also makes individuals focus more on celebrity life than on genuine relationships, thus forming a mindset where marriage is not a top priority. Whereas in Islam, marriage is seen as an essential act of worship and part of the perfection of religion. This research also highlighted the significance of a reflective approach to social media consumption, as well as the inculcation of the value of marriage in Islam, to minimize the negative impact of popular culture on perceptions and marriage readiness. As such, this study contributes to the literature of contemporary Islamic studies and social psychology and offers a new perspective to understand the implications of celebrity worship on life priorities within the framework of Islamic values.

Keywords: *Celebrity Worship, Marriage delay, Islamic Perspective.*

I. INTRODUCTION

Celebrity worship has become an increasingly widespread phenomenon in modern society. Through social media platforms, the public has greater access to follow the lives of their idols. In the world as of October 2024, there are already 5.22 billion social media users globally, equivalent to 63.8 percent of the total global population (DataReportal, 2024). This access allows many, especially teenagers and early adults, to form deep emotional attachment with celebrities (Klostermann, Meißner, Max, & Decker, 2023). Studies show that excessive levels of attachment can develop into an obsession, defined as “celebrity worship,” where an individual engages in obsessive behavior patterns towards a particular public figure. Fans usually form parasocial bonds, which is a one-way imaginary relationship between a fan and the figure they idolize (Morgan, Katey, Wadei, Forkuor, & Pephrah, 2024). Individuals from various backgrounds now have various ways to achieve fame through professional achievements, unique occasions, or public exposure to be recognized as celebrities (Ahmed & Faiq, 2022). Among the figures most often the object of idolization are actors and singers whose lifestyles are often emulated by their fans, influencing the mindset and behavior of fans in various aspects of life.

Early adulthood is a stage of life characterized by an active pursuit of self-identity, making it a crucial period in personal development (Nurhudi, 2024). Early adulthood is the transition period from adolescence to adulthood. It starts from the age of 20-30 years (Taufiqah, 2024). Excessive admiration toward celebrities typically begins during adolescence and tends to become stronger as individuals reach adulthood. In such circumstances, they tend to seek role models who can provide direction or meaning in the process of identity formation (Ayu, 2024). At this stage, individuals begin to experience attraction towards relationships with the opposite sex. However, a deep fascination with

celebrities can affect their perspectives and priorities, posing a common challenge in finding a life partner (Kirana, 2022).

In the increasingly digital era, social media has become an integral part of people's daily lives around the world. Platforms such as Twitter, now known as X, not only help people communicate and share information, but also greatly influence society's culture and individual social behavior on a wide scale. X is a relevant locus in this study given that the platform has characteristics that allow direct engagement between celebrities and fans, either through status uploads, retweets, or personal interactions such as comment replies. The speed of information flow on X, along with a strong fanbase culture, makes this platform a strategic medium to observe the dynamics of celebrity worship. This phenomenon, which may initially appear to be a casual appreciation of a celebrity's achievements or life, can in reality evolve into a complex form of entanglement. Social media such X provides unlimited access to interact with their idols through various types of content, such as photos, videos, and updates on celebrities' daily activities, ultimately increasing excessive emotional attachment (Kim & Kim, 2020)

This phenomenon becomes more complex when associated with Islamic religious values. Marriage is considered an act of worship that has a noble position in Islam. Islam urges people to marry in order to preserve their honor, nurture their descendants, and provide peace of mind. If they delay marriage when they are able to, without a *shar'i* reason, they may fall into behavior that is not in accordance with the teachings of Islam. From the perspective of Islamic law, all factors that prevent or delay marriage need to be thoroughly examined, including those stemming from contemporary social phenomena such as celebrity worship. In cases where emotional attachment to a celebrity changes a person's life priorities and prevents them from fulfilling social-religious obligations such as marriage.

Previous research revealed that fangirling behavior towards K-Pop artists affects an interest in marriage among women. The results of the study found that most informants experienced decreased interest in marriage due to trust issues, hedonistic lifestyles, and idealized standards of celebrity figures. In contrast to research limited to K-Pop culture, this study aims to examine more deeply how the phenomenon of celebrity worship mediated by the users of X social media without being unlimited to one particular genre or culture, contributes to the delay in marriage among early adults. In addition, this study aims to analyze the phenomenon from the perspective of Islamic law by considering the *shari'ah* principles of marriage.

The urgency of this research is due to the increasing rate of delayed marriage in various parts of the world. On the other hand, the phenomenon of celebrity worship still receives less attention in studies that discuss marriage delays, especially from the perspective of Islamic law. In fact, understanding this dynamic is important given the strong influence of social media in shaping the preference and behavior of the younger generation today. This research is important given the increasing number of individuals

who exhibit an obsessive fascination with celebrities, which can potentially affect marriage postponement.

II. RESEARCH METHOD

This research uses a case study method with a qualitative descriptive approach to understanding the impact of celebrity worship on marriage postponement aged 20-30 engaged in celebrity fandom. Participants were selected via purposive sampling based on predetermined criteria such as obsessive attachment to celebrities and lack of interest in marriage. The sample is selected using purposive sampling, focusing on participants categorized into three levels of celebrity worship: entertainment-social, intense-personal, and borderline-pathological. Out of 150 questionnaire respondents, seven informants were selected for in-depth interviews lasting between 20 to 45 minutes. Data were collected in two stages: a pre-questionnaire and online structured interviews. Observations and interviews are conducted to evaluate opinions, perspectives, and characteristics (Ugwu & Val, 2023). Thematic coding was used to analyze qualitative data, while survey responses were examined descriptively.

III. DISCUSSION AND RESULTS

Celebrity worship (hereafter CW) is described as an obsessive-addictive disorder in which an individual becomes overly involved and interested in the details of a celebrity's personal life (Swaminathan, 2020). Those who engage in celebrity worship have a one-way or parasocial bond with the celebrity. One form of this attachment is romantic attraction, which is an attraction that encourages fans to have more desire to have a relationship with their idols (Widiastuti, Mawarpury, Sulistyani, & Khairani, 2019). This phenomenon does not appear only in one culture; many of them idolize celebrities from various cultures, such as Western, K-Pop, J-pop, and Bollywood. One is K-pop, which has seen a significant increase in fans. According to recent data, K-pop fans will reach an estimated 150 million people worldwide by 2024, making it one of the music genres with the most extensive fan base globally (Natalie E, 2024). They give various reasons for their enthusiasm, from interest in the artwork to the personality of their idols. Some stated that their idols provided emotional support and inspiration, which helped them through difficult times.

Celebrity worship is categorized into three interrelated dimensions. Entertainment-social being the most fundamental level, whereas fan involvement is still based on interest in the celebrity's talent, behavior, and activities. At a low level, celebrity worship is usually entertainment and social in nature. At this stage, fans show interest in mild ways such as talking about the celebrity's activities with friends or feeling happy when they know the life story of the celebrity they like. This involvement emphasizes the social and pleasure aspects (Maltby, Day, McCutcheon, Martin, & Cayanus, 2004). This level is the most common and relatively harmless, as it involves following celebrity news, watching movies, listening to music, and engaging in conversations about famous personalities.

Many individuals find enjoyment in keeping up with their favorite stars, and this engagement can serve as a social bonding tool. Discussions about celebrities can bring people together, creating a sense of shared interest and community.

Followed by the intense-personal dimension at this level, which is characterized by strong emotional attachment, fans are not only attracted but also show compulsive and intense feelings towards the celebrity, which often approaches obsession (Athiyatul & Noviana, 2024). Individuals at this stage feel a strong attachment, sometimes believing they have a special connection with the celebrity. This emotional investment can manifest in different ways, such as experiencing joy when a celebrity succeeds, distress when they face controversy, or even a sense of betrayal when they behave contrary to the individual's expectations. People in this category may spend excessive time-consuming celebrity-related content, such as watching interviews, following updates on social media, collecting celebrity CDs, watching concerts, purchasing products endorsed by their idols (Jamilah, 2020). The attachment may also lead to heightened emotions, where an individual experiences sadness or disappointment when a celebrity is criticized or involved in a scandal. While this level does not necessarily disrupt daily functioning, it can sometimes lead to personal dissatisfaction. Individuals may compare themselves to celebrities, leading to feelings of inadequacy or an unrealistic perception of success, beauty, and lifestyle. The media often portrays an idealized version of celebrities, making it easy for individuals to feel as if their own lives are lacking in comparison.

At the borderline-pathological level, which is the highest level, where fans show such deep attachment that they are willing to go to extreme measures, including illegal behavior, for the celebrity they idolize (Rizky, Loisa, & Sudarto, 2023). Borderline-pathological levels of celebrity worship are significantly associated with clinical personality characteristics, particularly a high tendency toward fantasy proneness and dissociative experiences (Chen et al., 2022). Individuals in this category exhibit obsessive thoughts and may engage in problematic behaviors such as stalking, excessive financial spending on celebrity-related items, or attempting to contact the celebrity in inappropriate ways. Some individuals at this stage may experience delusions, believing that they have a personal relationship with the celebrity, despite no real interaction. This level of attachment can interfere with daily life, work, and relationships. Some people may prioritize their celebrity obsession over their responsibilities, spending large amounts of time and money to get closer to their idol. Financial strain is a common consequence, as individuals may invest in expensive merchandise, travel to events, or donate large sums to celebrities' causes without considering their own economic situation.

Celebrity worship among early adults is often mediated by social media, allowing fans instant access to the latest information about their favorite celebrities. The increased use of social media has enabled unprecedented access to the lives of celebrities (McCutcheon & Aruguete, 2021). Social media is as an intermediary for finding and sharing information widely. The intensity of social media use affects fanaticism, affecting

cognitive, affective, and behavioral (Hayati, Prabowo, & Hijrianti, 2022). Fans are willing to spend several hours every day following the activities of their celebrities through platforms such as Instagram, TikTok, Weverse, and X, which provides easy access to the information and interaction offered. These platforms enable fans to follow their idols' activities in real-time and engage directly with them through comments, retweets, or even personal conversations in direct messages. Such repeated exposure can increase parasocial relationships, where fans feel a personal bond with the celebrities they admire, creating a sense of emotional intimacy they may not feel in their everyday relationship.

Various factors contribute to the intensity of celebrity worship. Internal factors include admiration for an idol's work ethic, personal values, and achievements. Fans often relate to their idols on a deeply personal level, seeing them as reflections of their own aspirations and struggles. Identification attraction occurs when fans internalize their idols' characteristics, adopting their attitudes, behaviors, and lifestyles. This form of attachment can have both positive and negative consequences. On the positive side, it can serve as a source of inspiration, motivating individuals to pursue personal growth and success. On the negative side, excessive identification can lead to a loss of individuality and an unrealistic pursuit of an idealized self-image.

Romantic attraction is another dimension of celebrity worship that affects early adults. Many fans develop fantasies of being in a romantic relationship with their idols (Widiastuti, Mawarpury, Sulistyani, & Khairani, 2020), elevating their emotional attachment to an intense level. This type of attachment is often associated with the highest levels of fan engagement, where individuals not only admire their idols but also experience deep emotional longing. Research has shown that high levels of romantic attraction toward celebrities can result in unrealistic expectations in real-life relationships, further complicating an individual's ability to form genuine connections with others.

In conclusion, celebrity worship among early adults is a complex phenomenon shaped by psychological, social, and media influences. While admiration for celebrities can offer positive inspiration and motivation, excessive attachment can lead to negative consequences, including unrealistic relationship expectations and social isolation. A balanced approach to celebrity admiration is essential to ensure that it enhances, rather than disrupts, personal growth and real-life relationships. By fostering self-awareness and critical media engagement, individuals can appreciate their idols in a healthy and constructive manner.

The Impact of Celebrity Worship on Marriage Delay

The increasing phenomenon of celebrity worship in the modern era impacts various aspects of life. It is associated with various factors affecting individual romantic relationships, such as attachment styles and beliefs about soulmates (Velicha, 2024). This

phenomenon not only affects lifestyle but also affects perspectives on choosing a partner and marriage, which will be explained in the following table:

Table 1: Impact of Celebrity Worship on the Informants' Postponement of Marriage

No	Initial Name	Statement	Description
1	AD	"I always imagine having someone like my bias, so it really influences me. When I do get married, I want a partner whose personality resembles my bias. I've set a standard for what kind of guy should approach me.	AD regards her idol as the ideal standard when seeking a partner, leading her to prioritize fangirling activities over considerations of marriage.
2	AM	"Fangirling is a factor that makes me delay marriage. It sets a standard that my ideal partner needs to be like this before I even consider it; if there isn't someone like that, then I'm not interested. I feel like they become my reference or benchmark—I have to find a partner like my idol."	AM uses her idol as a standard in determining her ideal partner. This leads her to postpone marriage until she finds someone who aligns with the characteristics of her idol.
3	NW	"Marriage is a secondary factor because we take inspiration from them	NW is inspired by her idol,

		(the idols). We don't see marriage as the ultimate goal in life, so it doesn't need to be a priority. I set a standard that, although a partner doesn't have to completely resemble them, I look for qualities like those of my idol."	who prioritizes career over marriage. This influences NW not to prioritize marriage. She uses her idol's personality as a benchmark when seeking partner.
4	HT	"I feel like I'm not alone in this situation. It's fine to postpone marriage for now; I'm still comfortable with fangirling. From the beginning, I was interested in their personality, which certainly influences my criteria for choosing a partner."	HT feels that fangirling provides a sense of comfort, and her standards for a partner are influenced by her idol, making her criteria for a potential partner increasingly specific.
5	AF	"I feel like fangirling and hyping up my idol is already enough for me, so thinking about having a partner doesn't	AF feels that fangirling brings her

		really cross my mind. My standards have gotten higher because of them (the idols)."	happiness. She has not considered having a partner, leading her to postpone marriage.
6	AR	"I'm still too comfortable doing things I enjoy, one of which is fangirling. There are other reasons too, like personal goals that haven't been achieved yet."	AR greatly enjoys her current life, particularly fangirling activities. Additionally, she feels she must achieve personal goals before considering marriage.
7	WT	"It just so happens that in real life I'm not financially ready either. getting married is not an easy thing either. Especially to find a partner at this time, because I'm obsessed with Dokyeom, looking for a personality like him."	WT is not yet financially ready to get married, especially she uses her idol's personality as a benchmark when seeking a partner.

The result showed that celebrity worship caused informants to shift their life priorities, especially regarding marriage. There main themes emerged in the interviews: 1) deep emotional attraction to celebrities, 2) postponement of marriage due to the desire to achieve celebrity-like lifestyles and standards, and 3) distrust of real relationships due to celebrity idealization. For example, some informants admitted that celebrities' daily interaction and updates on social media brought them happiness. Some informants also showed a tendency to postpone marriage because they felt that no partner could meet the same standards as the celebrities they idolized.

In the early stages of the experience of idolizing celebrities, informants indicated that they were initially attracted to the idol's work or physical appearance. However, as their admiration deepened, they became increasingly interested in the celebrity's personality and their relationship with fans. HT said:

The senior group that I had stanned before I liked because of the visuals. When I finally met the one I'm stanning now, it was initially because of the visuals, but over time, because I speak Japanese, I could automatically understand what my idol was talking about. I like reading the magazine, listening to the radio, and then I like the way he thought, present himself, and the way he was branded as an idol. (Interview with HT)

At the entertainment-social level, individuals idolize celebrities as a form of entertainment and inspiration in their daily lives. People in this category revealed that having an idol brings happiness and serves as a way to enjoy life without being burdened by societal expectations regarding marriage. One of the main influences of this level on marriage delay is how celebrities are perceived as a sufficient source of motivation and entertainment, replacing the need for romantic relationships. Informants expressed that they feel fulfilled by consuming content related to their idols, such as concerts, songs, and social media interactions. As a result, their drive to seek a real-life partner diminishes because of the satisfaction they derive from fangirling or fanboying activities. Moreover, a common mindset is that many celebrities remain single even at a mature age, leading to the perception that marriage is neither a necessity nor a primary life goal. Celebrities who achieve remarkable careers without getting married become role models, inspiring fans to focus on personal development before considering marriage.

At the intense-personal level, emotional attachment to celebrities becomes deeper. Informants in this category exhibit how their idolization significantly affects their perspectives on relationships and marriage. One of the most apparent effects is the tendency to compare potential partners to their idols. Informants feel that their idols set a standard or benchmark for choosing a life partner. This results in unrealistic expectations, making it difficult to find a partner who meets those criteria in real life. The transition from visual to idol's personality attraction fosters a strong emotional attachment, wherein fans perceive a special connection with the idol, despite interacting solely through social

media platforms. This attachment impacts the way fans view their idols, as they indirectly set new standards for their ideal partners. Several informants indicated that fans idolize celebrities because of their seemingly perfect personalities, such as having attractive looks, being hardworking, gentle, and talented. This aligns with the explanation given by AD:

I want to have a man like Dokyeom. He's good at cooking, words of affirmation, likes photography, and he's very soft spoken. I get cranky easily if I'm yelled at, so I want to have a man who is soft spoken like Dokyeom. I can set the standard of what kind of guy I want. The downside is that I'm freaked out by guys and I'm afraid that if someone who gets close to me doesn't meet my standards and doesn't have a personality like Dokyeom. (Interview with AD)

The statement reveals that fans idolize both physical appearance and personality traits that they consider ideal. Fans like AD find it challenging to find a partner that matches their expectations. Individuals in heightened emotional states also often create fantasies that idols are soulmates (Salsabila, Eva, & Nugrahani, 2024). These fantasies do not arise spontaneously; rather, they are created through repeated exposure and interaction so that the relationship is seen as a real relationship (Laksono & Noer, 2021). Standards are often higher than what they encounter in their daily lives. Hence, they tend not to think about partners and delay marriage until they find someone who matches these expectations. Consequently, marriage is postponed as they struggle to find someone who aligns with their idealized image. Additionally, informants prefer to delay marriage to continue enjoying their freedom as fans. They believe that marriage would restrict their fangirling or fanboying activities, especially if their partner does not support this hobby. The potential for conflicts in a marriage due to differing views on fandom is also a reason why they are not in a hurry to get married. Another significant impact is how fangirling or fanboying serves as a major life motivation, often more compelling than romantic relationships. Informants mentioned that idolizing celebrities gives them clear financial goals, such as saving money for concerts or purchasing merchandise, which they find more meaningful than preparing for marriage. This demonstrates how emotional attachment to celebrities shifts their focus from marriage to personal achievements within the fan culture.

At the borderline-pathological level, the influence of celebrities on marriage delay becomes more pronounced due to the extreme emotional attachment involved. Informants in this category exhibit a mindset where marriage is perceived as an obstacle to their involvement in fandom activities. One key indicator of this level is the reluctance or outright refusal to consider marriage due to the fear of losing their freedom as a fan. Informants' express concerns that marriage would limit their ability to idolize celebrities, particularly if their spouse does not support their passion. Some even stated that they would rather remain single than marry someone who does not understand or approve of their devotion to their idols. Furthermore, the excessive emotional attachment to idols makes some individuals feel as though they already have sufficient emotional fulfillment,

despite the relationship being one-sided. This reduces their motivation to seek a romantic partner in real life, as their emotional needs are already met through digital interactions with their idols or participation in fan activities.

Beyond setting high standards, in some cases, individuals postpone marriage due to other responsibilities, such as financial stability and family obligations, but still use fangirling or fanboying as an escape or source of entertainment amid life pressures. Consequently, their priorities remain focused on personal achievements and responsibilities rather than pursuing a serious romantic relationship. They not prioritize marriage due to the influence of their idols. They explained that marriage is not an ultimate goal in life, taking inspiration from idols who prioritize their careers. This perspective shifts personal aspirations, where career advancement and personal achievements become more significant than forming a marital bond. This indicate that celebrity worship not only affects partner selection but also alters life priorities.

This phenomenon becomes relevant in early adulthood when individuals are expected to focus on personal development tasks such as securing stable employment and seeking a partner for marriage. However, intense celebrity worship activities often make adults more focused on their idols, leading to the neglect of these responsibilities (Ingkeatubun, Sukiatni, & Kusumandari, 2024). They allocate considerable time to follow their idols' activities and gather information through various platforms, including fan communities and social media. As WT said, *"How often is every day. The time can be up to 3-6 hours because I am also still unemployed, so I spend a lot of time relieving fatigue after studying as a civil servant."* Similarly stated by AD, *"As busy as I am, I take 1-2 hours to scroll through Twitter or find out what my idols are up to. If I am at home all day, I scroll Twitter or TikTok and then watch content."* These activities can be an alternative for fans when they feel exhausted and need to charge energy (Puri, Dewi, & Waruwu, 2023).

More than just entertainment, being a fan may be one of the most incredible things in some people's lives. Individuals motivated by entertainment and social factors are generally more optimistic, sociable, and cheerful (Griffiths, 2024). Fans reveal that they feel adequately entertained and motivated by following the lives of their favorite celebrities. In the stage of adolescence to early adulthood, idolizing celebrities is normal, as this attachment allows them to feel romantic feelings and sexual attraction to someone without dealing with the consequences of a real relationship (Lupahla, Guhwa, Kumar, & Choedra, 2023). However, when this attachment becomes too intense, some people find sufficient happiness in their activities as fans that reduces their desire to seek a partner. For them, following the idol's activities provides enough happiness. AM said, *"It turns out that being busy fangirling is not so bad without thinking about when to get married."*

Based on the explanation above, it can be concluded that celebrity worship is one factor influencing the decision to postpone marriage in early adulthood. Fans' obsessive

attitude may lead to excessive idealization of potential partners, expecting their potential partners to meet the standards set by celebrities. They also prefer to spend time on fan-related activities and shift priorities to other things they find more interesting. These factors cause them to be uninterested in getting married and postpone marriage. A reflective approach is also needed to raise awareness of the potential negative impact of celebrity worship. Individuals who focus too intensely on the lives of celebrities are influenced by the standards of beauty, happiness, and success promoted on social media are likely to de-prioritize marriage and genuine relationships.

An Islamic Perspective on Celebrity Worship and Delayed Marriage

Marriage in Islam is considered a highly recommended act (*sunnah muakkadah*) and, in some cases, even obligatory (*wajib*) when one has the means and fears falling into sin (*zina*). The Quran and Hadith emphasize the importance of marriage for maintaining moral values and fulfilling human needs for companionship and procreation. In Islamic teachings, the concept of marriage is based on the principle that spouses must be of the same kind, specifically between a man and a woman. This verse indicates that marriage in Islam is not merely a social or biological bond, but rather a means to attain spiritual tranquility (*sakinah*), founded upon affection (*mawaddah*) and mercy (*rahmah*).

One of the inherent characteristics of humans since they were created is the tendency to imitate and follow others, both in terms of good and bad. This is observed in the phenomenon of celebrity worship, where extreme admiration for celebrities often arises. Fans tend to imitate their idol's lifestyle, appearance, and even beliefs of their idols without considering whether these align with Islamic teachings. From an Islamic perspective, admiration for someone should be based on their faith, because in the afterlife we will be gathered with those we love. Above all forms of love, love for Allah is the greatest. Therefore, our affection for something should not be greater than the love for Allah and His Messenger. As mentioned in the hadith:

حَدَّثَنَا سُلَيْمَانُ بْنُ حَرْبٍ، حَدَّثَنَا حَمَّادُ بْنُ زَيْدٍ، عَنْ ثَابِتٍ، عَنْ أَنَسٍ . رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ . أَنَّ رَجُلًا، سَأَلَ النَّبِيَّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ عَنِ السَّاعَةِ، فَقَالَ مَتَى السَّاعَةُ قَالَ " وَمَاذَا أَعَدَدْتَ لَهَا " . قَالَ لَا شَيْءَ إِلَّا أَنِّي أُحِبُّ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ . فَقَالَ " أَنْتَ مَعَ مَنْ أَحْبَبْتَ " . قَالَ أَنَسٌ فَمَا فَرَحْنَا بِشَيْءٍ فَرَحَنَا بِقَوْلِ النَّبِيِّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ " أَنْتَ مَعَ مَنْ أَحْبَبْتَ " . قَالَ أَنَسٌ فَأَنَا أُحِبُّ النَّبِيَّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ وَأَبَا بَكْرٍ وَعُمَرَ، وَأَرْجُو أَنْ أَكُونَ مَعَهُمْ يَوْمَئِذٍ إِيَّاهُمْ، وَإِنْ لَمْ أَعْمَلْ بِمِثْلِ أَعْمَالِهِمْ.

"A man asked the Prophet about the Hour (i.e., Day of Judgment) saying, "When will the Hour be?" The Prophet said, "What have you prepared for it?" The man said, "Nothing, except that I love Allah and His Apostle." The Prophet said, "You will be with those whom you love." We had never been so glad as we were on hearing that saying of the Prophet (i.e., "You will be with those whom you love.") Therefore, I love the Prophet, Abu Bakr and `Umar, and I hope that I will be with

them because of my love for them though my deeds are not similar to theirs.” (Qaalarasulallah, 2024)

The hadith highlights the critical lesson that loving someone will affect our afterlife. If someone's love is directed towards Allah, His Messenger, and the righteous, they will get the path to happiness and salvation, which will be assembled with them in the akhirah. Conversely, if someone's love and admiration are primarily focused on worldly idols, such as celebrities who do not bring us closer to Allah, there is a concern that they may be far from the people we hope will accompany us in the akhirah (Yuyaina & Sakni, 2022). This happens because celebrities often give us a love directed towards ephemeral and temporary aspects that encourage individuals to emulate their idols' lifestyle and be willing to do anything for their idol.

The concept of celebrity worship, particularly at the Intense-Personal and Borderline-Pathological levels, raises concerns from an Islamic perspective. In Islamic teachings, excessive admiration toward someone, to the extent of prioritizing them over personal responsibilities, can lead to an unhealthy attachment that affects one's faith and life decisions. From the perspective of Islamic law (*fiqh*), celebrity worship that leads to marriage delay can be analyzed through the principles of *maqasid al-shariah* (objectives of Islamic law), particularly in relation to the preservation of religion (*hifz ad-din*), lineage (*hifz an-nasl*), and intellect (*hifz al-aql*).

Hifz ad-Din (Preservation of Religion): If celebrity worship leads to neglecting religious duties or prioritizing worldly attachments over spiritual obligations, it can be considered *makruh* (discouraged) or even *haram* (prohibited) if it results in deviation from Islamic teachings. *Hifz an-Nasl* (Preservation of Lineage): Marriage is one of the key means to preserve lineage in Islam. If celebrity worship leads to an indefinite delay or complete avoidance of marriage, it may be seen as contradicting Islamic principles that encourage family formation. *Hifz al-Aql* (Preservation of Intellect): Islam promotes the use of reason and critical thinking in making life decisions. An extreme obsession with celebrities that alters life priorities and disrupts rational decision-making may fall under *ghuluw* (excessiveness), which Islam discourages.

From an Islamic perspective, the phenomenon of celebrity worship is not encouraged, especially when it reaches excessive levels that divert individuals from more essential life goals, including marriage. Islam teaches balance in all aspects of life, including admiration for public figures. While appreciating a celebrity's talent or achievements is not inherently prohibited, it should remain within reasonable boundaries and should not negatively impact one's personal or social responsibilities. However, in practice, celebrity worship often escalates into an obsession that contradicts Islamic teachings. One significant consequence of this behavior is the postponement of marriage, as individuals feel that their involvement in fangirling or fandom communities

sufficiently fulfills their emotional and social needs. In Islam, marriage is a highly recommended Sunnah for those who are mentally and financially prepared.

As Muslims, we should know that the character of Messenger of Allah is a reflection of the Qur'an, which means he lived and practiced all of its teachings. Hence, when seeking role models, the Messenger of Allah and his followers since the early period of Islam are the best role models (Islamswayblog, 2024). Hence, it is important to be careful in choosing a role model. If not realized, this behavior can lead a person to move away from Allah's commands and closer to His prohibitions. When a person follows the behavior or lifestyle of those who do not adhere to the teachings of Allah and His Messenger, they risk becoming involved in the wrongful acts. This can impact a Muslim's faith and piety, as a human's tendency to imitate will influence their faith, actions, and perspective.

Islam strongly encourages marriage for anyone who follows it. In Islam, marriage completes half of someone's faith and helps prevent oneself from committing heinous and sinful acts (Nashrullah, 2023). However, the influence of celebrity worship can lead individuals, especially in early adulthood, postpone marriage as they may feel they have already gained happiness, safety, and desire a partner who matches the personality of their favorite celebrities. They tend to follow the lifestyle of the celebrities they admire, which results in marriage not being a top priority for them. Delaying marriage in Islam is a prohibition that is forbidden if it does not have a reason that is in accordance with the Islamic Sharia (Nashrullah, 2023). The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ has also reminded his followers about the importance of marriage to maintain chastity, preserve honor, and strengthen faith. He said:

حَدَّثَنَا عَبْدَانُ، عَنْ أَبِي حَمْزَةَ، عَنِ الْأَعْمَشِ، عَنْ إِبْرَاهِيمَ، عَنْ عَلْقَمَةَ، قَالَ بَيْنَا أَنَا أَمْشِي، مَعَ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ . فَقَالَ كُنَّا مَعَ النَّبِيِّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ فَقَالَ " مَنْ اسْتَطَاعَ الْبَاءَةَ فَلْيَتَزَوَّجْ، فَإِنَّهُ أَغْضُ لِلْبَصَرِ وَأَحْصَنُ لِلْفَرْجِ، وَمَنْ لَمْ يَسْتَطِعْ فَعَلَيْهِ بِالصَّوْمِ، فَإِنَّهُ لَهُ وَجَاءٌ " .

"While I was walking with `Abdullah he said, "We were in the company of the Prophet (ﷺ) and he said, 'He who can afford to marry should marry, because it will help him refrain from looking at other women, and save his private parts from committing illegal sexual relation; and he who cannot afford to marry is advised to fast, as fasting will diminish his sexual power.'" (Al-Bukhari)

This hadith emphasizes that marriage is the leading solution to maintain chastity and prevent one from committing acts that can lead to zina and sin. Marriage is a sunnah that must be followed by Muslims, especially for those who are capable. If one understands the importance of marriage in a religious context and is not influenced by other cultures, then the postponement of marriage due to celebrity worship can be minimized. Therefore, Muslims are urged not to be influenced by celebrity lifestyles that are not in line with the rules of Islam and to get married as soon as they are able, as the Prophet ﷺ commanded.

IV. CONCLUSION

This research reveals that celebrity worship among early adults considerably influences individuals' priorities and views towards marriage, often leading to postponement of marriage due to deep emotional attachment to celebrities. As a result, a mindset is formed where marriage is not a top priority. In comparison, the teaching of Islam recommends marriage to complete half of the religion and prevent sinful acts. Postponing marriage without a shar'i reason is contrary to the teachings of Islam, which emphasizes the importance of preserving personal chastity and strengthening faith through marriage. According to the outcomes of this research, it is suggested that individuals, especially early adults, be more aware of the impact of celebrity worship on their lives and expected to make wiser decisions. In subsequent research, it could be beneficial in order to examine the long-term effects of celebrity worship on relationship dynamics and marital stability from psychological and Islamic law perspectives.

V. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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