

## Book Review: Marriage and Modern Women in North Lombok

Reni Silvia Yuli Safitri <sup>1</sup>, Aprilia Sinta Uli <sup>2</sup>, I Putu Buda Yasa <sup>3</sup>, Ni Kadek Wahyuni Marta Sari <sup>4</sup>, Evi Rosdianti <sup>5</sup>

<sup>12345</sup> Lombok Business Academy

---

### Article Info

#### Article history:

Accepted: 10 Juni 2026

Publish: 24 Juni 2026

---

#### Keywords:

Marriage ;

Modern Women ;

North Lombok .

---

### Abstract

*This community service activity aims to improve understanding regarding marriage, continuing education, and career planning, particularly among women in North Lombok Regency. This is also related to gender equality for women. Gender equality refers to the equal conditions for men and women to access opportunities and their rights as human beings, as well as equal access to the benefits of development in the fields of education, health, the economy, and politics. The methods used include preparation, conducting a book discussion (author presentation, reviewer feedback, and interactive discussion), and evaluation. The results of the activity indicate an increase in participants' knowledge regarding Marriage and Women Today (North Lombok) and raise awareness that education is also important for women because, in addition to broadening women's horizons, it also improves the quality of the next generation, since women are their children's first teachers as well but not only a woman so that mother and father together have the same role and portion in educating children to build intelligence and success of a child as a high level of enthusiasm for applying the book's values to their daily lives.*

*This is an open access article under the [Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/)*



---

#### Corresponding Author:

Reni Silvia Yuli Safitri

Lombok Business Academy, Indonesia

Coresspondent email: [renisilvia228@gmail.com](mailto:renisilvia228@gmail.com)

---

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Marriage has traditionally been seen as an obligation. For women today, however, marriage is no longer merely a tradition passed down through the generations, but a conscious decision. It is not the end goal, but rather one of many life paths chosen with reason, clarity of heart, and the courage to remain true to oneself. Times have changed, and women today are growing through education, experience, and critical awareness. Therefore, the meaning of marriage must be reinterpreted—not as a space of subjugation, but as a space of equal partnership. It must be approached thoughtfully so that it arises not from social pressure, but from readiness and conviction; and most importantly, it must offer choices, for a woman's dignity lies in her freedom to determine her own path in life. Marriage is a social institution that holds significant value in the lives of the people of North Lombok. In Sasak culture, marriage unites not only two individuals but also two extended families bound by customary norms, religion, and social values. In North Lombok, marriage is still viewed as a highly respected institution and an important part of community life. Strong Sasak traditional values and religious teachings help shape the community's views on the roles of men and women in family life.

However, with the passage of time, the phenomenon of modern women has emerged, with greater access to education, employment, technology, and public spaces. Modern women in North Lombok now have greater opportunities to pursue higher education, build careers, start businesses, and participate in various social and development activities. This situation has given rise to a new perspective on marriage, in which women are no longer viewed solely as

homemakers, but also as individuals with rights, aspirations, and opportunities for self-development. This creates a tension between traditional values that are still held in high regard and the demands of modern life, which emphasize equality and independence. On the one hand, marriage is still considered an important goal in the social life of the people of North Lombok. On the other hand, modern women tend to have more complex considerations when deciding to marry, such as mental readiness, economic stability, education, and support for career development.

This situation presents a new dynamic in how marriage is viewed in North Lombok.

In the book *\*Marriage and Modern Women\** (North Lombok), marriage is not seen as an obstacle for a woman to continue her education or to build her future career; rather, the education a woman receives serves as the foundation for her career. Moreover, once married, a woman becomes her children's first teacher, making education all the more important for her. With this book, there is no distinction between men and women in pursuing knowledge or managing their careers, so it can be seen that there is gender equality. Basically, the term gender refers to the duties and obligations of men and women that are created and embedded in culture and social life, including the expectations expected from a society about how men should be and how women should be, both expectations regarding character, behavior, and habits where someone lives.

The goal is to help women—especially those in North Lombok—understand that marriage is not an obstacle to pursuing higher education, but rather a foundation for a better future. While choosing between marriage and education is ultimately a personal decision, it is possible to balance the two or pursue them simultaneously.

## 2. IMPLEMENTATION METHOD

The method used in the book discussion on marriage and modern women involved presentations by speakers on marriage and modern women, held in North Lombok; a summary of the book's key points; as well as a discussion regarding the book on marriage and modern women, which demonstrated that gender equality currently plays a significant role in this matter and that there are no restrictions on a woman's ability to choose between marriage and continuing her education.

## 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Research Results

Marriage is traditionally viewed as an obligation. In modern society, this notion is challenged by empirical reality, where many marriages have become restrictive and are therefore avoided. This has given rise to the notion that “marriage is scary.”

Obligations should be fulfilled with full awareness and deep reflection on one's readiness. Thus, the decision to marry is not merely a matter of fulfilling social expectations, but rather a means of perfecting one's worship and manifesting one's faith. Marriage is simply a means for a couple to attain His pleasure together.

Women are essentially “delaying” marriage, “choosing” to set different priorities, and “waiting” for the right person. Women continue their education but delay marriage—this is one choice a person makes, but it is not about delaying marriage itself; rather, it is an activity that a woman prioritizes in order to wait for the right person to accompany her through life. This is very common among women.

For modern women in North Lombok, marriage remains important due to its strong religious, social, and cultural values. However, there are several new considerations before deciding to marry, including: Mental and emotional readiness, not just age-related readiness. Economic independence, so women are not completely dependent on their partners. Equality within the household, including role-sharing and shared decision-making. Support for education and careers, so marriage does not hinder women's potential. This view demonstrates that modern women desire more equal and mutually supportive relationships.

### Discussion

The presence of Islam brought significant changes in improving the status and position of women. In Islamic teachings, women's status and honor are held in high esteem. Since the time of the Prophet Muhammad, women have been valued just as much as men in social life. Gender is a set of attitudes, roles, responsibilities, functions, rights, or behaviors that are inherent in a man or woman as a result of the cultural or social environment in which a person grows and is raised. Gender equality in Indonesia has generally been achieved, so it does not prevent women from pursuing higher education or even building a career; however, the decision to postpone, choose, or wait regarding marriage is ultimately up to the woman herself.

Choosing a life partner is one of the most important decisions that will shape a person's life in the long term. For modern women in North Lombok, the process of choosing a partner is no longer based solely on traditional factors such as family background or social status, but also takes into account various aspects that contribute to a healthy, equal, and harmonious relationship.

In Islam, the primary criteria for choosing a marriage partner are based on a hadith of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), which mentions four factors that are typically taken into consideration: wealth, lineage (nasab), beauty or handsomeness, and religion. Religion (the Most Important) is the most crucial pillar in choosing a spouse. Choosing a spouse who is devout, of noble character, and fears Allah (SWT) will serve as the best foundation for building a harmonious family and guiding you toward the path of righteousness. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said, "So choose a woman of religion, and you will surely be blessed." In addition, a partner's character and personality are factors that are given significant consideration. Modern women tend to look for partners who are honest, responsible, respectful of others, and good communicators. Good character is considered more important than mere physical appearance or social status because it determines the quality of the relationship in the long term. Commitment and responsibility are also key considerations. Couples who are serious about building a relationship, able to resolve problems maturely, and take responsibility for their family are considered better prepared for married life. This attitude is important because marriage involves not only happiness but also various challenges that require cooperation between husband and wife.

Modern women in North Lombok are no longer solely housewives. Many women are now pursuing higher education, becoming micro, small, and medium enterprise (UMKM) owners, teachers, healthcare workers, government employees, and even entrepreneurs. Various women's empowerment programs in North Lombok demonstrate the increasing participation of women in economic and community development. These changes have given women greater economic independence and decision-making power than previous generations. Consequently, views on marriage have also shifted. While marriage was once often considered a woman's primary goal, many now view marriage as part of a life journey that must align with education, career, and self-development.

For modern women in North Lombok, marriage is no longer simply about fulfilling social demands; it is a decision based on personal readiness, equality, and the hope of building a mutually supportive family. Tradition and religious values remain important foundations, but educational and economic developments have fostered a more modern perspective on marriage. With the support of family, society, and government, women can fulfill their roles as wives, mothers, and productive and empowered individuals in both social and economic life.

#### 4. CONCLUSIONS

The desire to marry must stem from a deep conviction that building a just, loving, and blessed Muslim family is something a woman truly wants, and that every woman is ready for that commitment. Women are essentially "delaying" marriage, "choosing" to set different priorities, and "waiting" for the right person. A woman continuing her education while postponing marriage is one choice she makes; however, it is not about delaying marriage itself, but rather a priority she sets to wait for the right person to accompany her through life.

## 5. BIOGRAFFY

- A. Hanapi, "Peran Perempuan dalam Islam," *Gend. Equal. Int. J. Child Gend. Stud.*, vol. 1, no. 1, pp. 15–26, 2015.
- ADHKI Team. (2020). "Progress of Islamic Family Law in Indonesia Post-Reformation." Yogyakarta: Istana Publishing.
- Annisa Dyah Fathimatul Husna, *The Meaning of Gender Equality from a Western and Islamic Perspective*,  
<http://imm.fai.uad.ac.id/makna-kesetaraan-gender-dalam-perspektif-barat-dan-islam/13/>  
<https://ejournal.uin-malang.ac.id/index.php/egalita/article/view/12968> Vol 16, No 2 (2021)  
[https://www.google.com/search?q=criteria+memilih+pasangan+dalam+islam&sca=55948097ae9b8ce0&rlz=1C1GCEA\\_enID1195ID1195&sxsrf=ANbL\\_](https://www.google.com/search?q=criteria+memilih+pasangan+dalam+islam&sca=55948097ae9b8ce0&rlz=1C1GCEA_enID1195ID1195&sxsrf=ANbL_)
- Khusen, Moh. (2012). "Family Law Reform in Muslim Countries." Central Java: STAIN Salatiga Press.
- MQ Alfaizi, "Building Gender Equality in Family Life: An Islamic Law Perspective," by Muchammad Qosim Alfaizi, Faculty of Sharia and Law, UIN Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta, *Restor. Law.*, vol. 5, no. 1, pp. 88–104, 2022
- Mufidah. (2014). "Gender-Aware Islamic Family Psychology." Malang: UIN Maliki Press.
- Muhammad Sufi, Mohammad Farhan Akbar et al., *Gender Equality in Islam: An Analysis of the Teachings and Their Implementation in Society*, *Gudang Jurnal Multidisciplinary Ilmu* Volume 2; Number 7; July 2024
- Mulia, Musdah. (2004). "Islam's View of Women." Jakarta: Institute for Islamic and Gender Studies.
- N. Azizah, "The Position of Women in World History and Islam with Gender Equality," *SETARA J. Stud. Gen. and Children*, vol. 2, no. 2, p. 21, 2021, doi: 10.32332/jsga.v2i2.1911.
- Rajafi, Ahmad. (2015). "The Reasoning of Islamic Family Law in Indonesia." Yogyakarta: Istana Publishing.
- Ramadhani Putri, Suci. (2026). "Marriage and Modern Women: Gender Relations, Justice." North Lombok: AKBIL Berkarya Publisher.
- Rofiah, Nur. (2016). "Women and Social Change: Critical Notes on Gender Inequality from Various Perspectives." Jakarta: ICRW.
- Siti Nurul Khaerani, *Gender Equality and Injustice in the Economic Sector in the Traditional Sasak Community in Bayan Village, Bayan District, North Lombok Regency*, [Vol. 11 No. 1 \(2017\): Qawwam: Journal for Gender Mainstreaming](#)
- Ulil Hidayah, *The Meaning of Mother as the First Madrasah in Family Education: A Gender Study Perspective*,