ABSTRACT

Women’s Bargaining Position in Mut’ah Marriage: The Study on Power and Capitalization of Marriage at Rembang Subdistrict, Pasuruan

The objective of this research is to answer the following questions. The first is to find out why Rembang women prefer mut’ah marriage to the formal one Vat is recorded by the KUA. Secondly, it explores the kinds of power that the kiai, atim and pengarep use to control women in the mut’ah marriage. Thirdly, it also seeks the roles that the kiai, atim and pengarep perform in the process of mut’ah marriage. Finally, this research tries to find the women’s bargaining position in the mut’ah marriage.

This research draws on qualitative methods in which the data are collected directly through in-depth interview, participant observation and documentation. Then, the data are analyzed by exploring and elaborating the life History of the key informants. By doing so, the informants’ unique characteristics can be perceived by elaborating the life history of the relevant informants.

The result shows that the majority of women in Rembang regard the mut’ah marriage as legal because it is compatible with Moslem doctrine. They considered it as legal as the formal marriage recorded by the KUA. The women prefer to take mut’ah to formal marriage because they consider that mut’ah marriage is relatively inexpensive and easy to engage in. The finding shows that he women prefer mut’ah to formal marriage is mainly based on economic consideration.

Furthermore, the research finds out that kiai, atim and pengarep manifest heir power by their profound control over the women’s body. In this case, atim and pengarep constantly supervise and closely watch both single and married women in their territory. The struggles and forces of the actors in the "field" of mut’ah institution are eminently dependent on their capital ownership. It can be social, cultural, physical, or spiritual one. The larger the capital they own, the larger opportunity they have to get financial rewards.

Even though the Rembang women have to obey the pengarep and atim, they also initiate a slight resistance against them. In this case, the women bequest improve their physical appearance to ask for higher dowry. In some cases, the women’s demand will jeopardize the pengarep existence in the mut’ah institution. Some women deliberately exercise polygamy, in which they can have more than one husband at the same period. They do that to resist the mut’ah institution or to resist their husband. However, they never express their resistance directly and openly vis a vis the mut’ah institution, i.e. the pengarep who have control over their body. Instead of declaring their resistance openly, the women express their protest by talking about the pengarep among them. Due to their weakness, the women use any strategies