

ABSTRACT

This research talked about women Islamic prayer group (majelis taklim perempuan) and female religious elite in Babelan, Regency of Bekasi, as main focus. Women Islamic prayer group is a non formal educational institution, usually teach about Islamic knowledge, and opened to women's from different status, class and ethnicity. Women Islamic prayer group has a dynamic condition, a complex circumstance, which not only involving women Islamic prayer group and female religious elite, but also Board of Mosque Prosperity (Dewan Kemakmuran Masjid [DKM]) and male religious elite. In one hand, the influence of female religious elite has increase significantly in women Islamic prayer group. The existence of female religious elite also connected with social and cultural backgrounds in society. In the other hand, female religious elite has meet face to face with male religious elite to defend their territories and influences in society. One thing for sure, both female religious elite and male religious elite share a same historical root. Both female religious elite and male religious elite is a part of social and cultural mosaic in society, that's why both of them can survive; but in order to survive, a friction and even conflict between them is something unavoidable. This friction has demeanor differently between female religious elite and male religious elite. At the end, this complex situation leads us to different condition, a transformation of religious authority in society. Women Islamic prayer group, female religious elite, male religious elite, Board of Mosque Prosperity, and the member of women Islamic prayer group, all of them play a different role in a complex mosaic of society. Perspective of feminist anthropology used to documented and explained about this mosaic, how this mosaic shaped, and how the ray of this mosaic shows us a different picture: a unique and specific experiences from women's in the area of field.

Key words: women Islamic prayer group, ustazah, kiai, authority.