

## **UNDERSTANDING THE CENTRALITY OF BAITULMAQDIS AMONG THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

Most of the study discuss theoretical and historical perspectives as well as contemporary political and socio-economic issues. However, there are lack of studies has been done on the community awareness and understanding regarding the centrality of Baitulmaqdis. So, there is a gap where research is needed to learn more on how does level of understanding among Muslim community regarding the centrality of Baitulmaqdis. This study intends to choose Muslim community in Kedah due to its particular significances.

Kedah is one of the oldest governments and civilizations in the world, particularly in the Southeast Asia region, and it stands out as one of the earliest states on the Malay Peninsula to accept Islam and establish a Muslim government. Additionally, Kedah serves as the main gateway for Malaysia in the northern area, sharing borders with Thailand and maritime borders with Indonesia. The state is also home to Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM), which has successfully established the Institute of Excellence for Islamic Jerusalem Studies since 2014, making it one of the earliest institutions of its kind in the world, particularly in the Asian region.

This study aims to address several key research questions regarding the Kedah Muslim community's relationship with Baitulmaqdis: first, it seeks to determine how aware the community is of the centrality of Baitulmaqdis; second, it aims to examine the level of understanding that community members have concerning its significance; and third, it investigates how the community reflects this understanding through their actions. To achieve these aims, the research objectives are threefold: to identify the awareness levels of the Kedah Muslim community regarding Baitulmaqdis, to assess the depth of their understanding, and to analyze how this understanding manifests in their behaviors and initiatives.

### **METHODOLOGY**

This research adopts qualitative research methodology. Semi-structured in-depth interviews have been conducted among the people within Kedah Muslim community that come from various background Secondary data - peer-reviewed journal articles, books, government, and non-government organization reports.

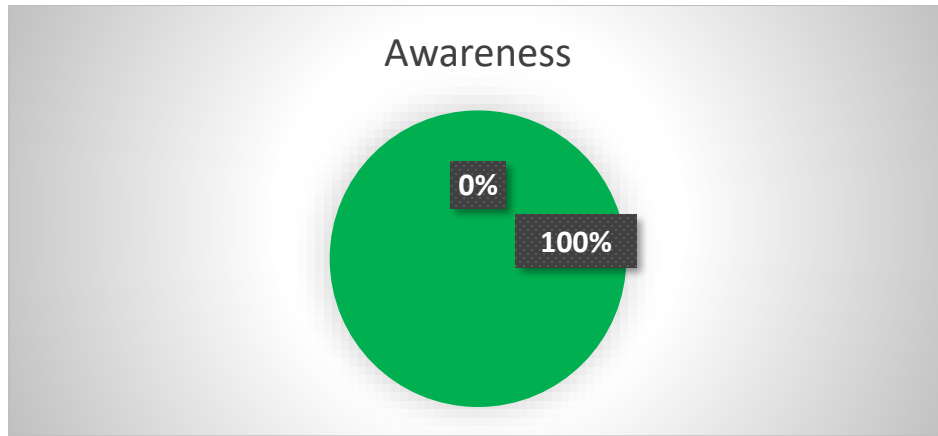


Chart 1: Awareness on the Centrality of Baitulmaqdis

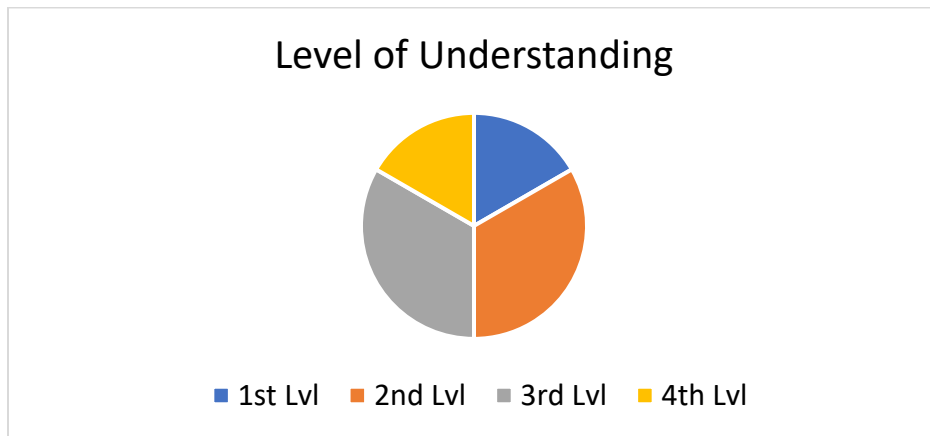


Chart 2: Level of Understanding

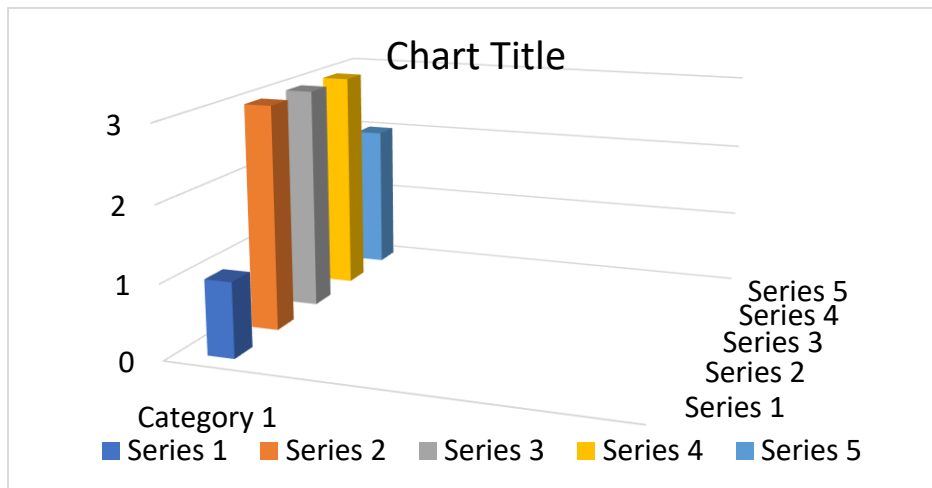


Chart 3: Reflection in Action

## CONCLUSION

Firstly, Kedah Muslim community are fully aware about the centrality of Baitulmaqdis. Secondly, the researcher has found different level of understanding among Kedah Muslim community regarding the centrality of Baitulmaqdis with the majority are in a good level. Thirdly, majority of Kedah Muslim community has initiated some efforts due to the reflection on their understanding of the centrality of Baitulmaqdis. Fourthly, the researcher has found that more objective, creative and intensive approaches have to be increased to enhance the best level of understanding among Muslim community regarding the centrality of Baitulmaqdis.