

IMPLICATIONS OF *LONG DISTANCE MARRIAGE* ON STUDENT LEARNING MOTIVATION (Case Study at STDI Imam Syafi'i Jember)

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ABSTRACT

Humans are social beings who in essence cannot live and meet their own needs. One manifestation of humans as social creatures is to get married. The couple Long Distance Marriage (LDM) who decided to live in different places and separated by distance cause each individual to need a role that should be obtained by a partner who lives one roof. Long Distance Marriage (LDM) will also interfere with the concentration of students in receiving education in lectures and motivation that tends to be unstable. This study aims to analyze the factors causing the occurrence of long distance marriage and impact as well as efforts made by STDI Imam Syafi'i students in maintaining learning motivation. This study uses a qualitative approach with the type of case study research. Factors causing the occurrence of long distance marriage in STDI students academic factors, economic factors, and work factors. Negative impacts include difficulty focusing, emotional burden, difficulty setting time. The positive impact includes better time management, motivation to complete studies. Solutions for couples Long Distance Marriage in maintaining their learning motivation include routine contacting couples, asking for family support, letting intentions, manage time well.

Keywords : *Implication Long Distance Marriage, Motivation to Learn*

ABSTRAK

Manusia merupakan makhluk sosial yang pada hakikatnya tidak dapat hidup dan memenuhi kebutuhannya sendiri. Salah satu wujud manusia sebagai makhluk sosial adalah dengan menikah. Pasangan *long distance marriage* (LDM) yang memutuskan tinggal di tempat yang berbeda dan terpisahkan oleh jarak menyebabkan masing-masing individu membutuhkan peran yang seharusnya didapat oleh pasangan yang tinggal satu atap. *Long distance marriage* (LDM) juga akan mengganggu konsentrasi mahasiswa dalam mengenyam pendidikan di bangku perkuliahan dan motivasi yang cenderung tidak stabil. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis faktor penyebab terjadinya *long distance marriage* dan dampak serta upaya yang dilakukan mahasiswa STDI Imam Syafi'i dalam mempertahankan motivasi belajar. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif dengan jenis penelitian studi kasus. Faktor penyebab terjadinya *long distance marriage* pada mahasiswa STDI faktor akademik, faktor ekonomi, dan faktor pekerjaan. Dampak negatif meliputi sulit fokus, beban emosional, kesulitan mengatur waktu. Adapun dampak positif meliputi pengelolaan waktu yang lebih baik, motivasi untuk menyelesaikan studi. Solusi bagi pasangan *long distance marriage* dalam mempertahankan motivasi belajarnya antara lain rutin menghubungi pasangan, meminta dukungan keluarga, mengikhlaskan niat, manajemen waktu dengan baik.

Kata Kunci: *Implikasi, Long Distance Marriage, Motivasi Belajar*

INTRODUCTION

Humans are social creatures who are inherently unable to live and meet their own needs. Man meets his needs with the help of others through socializing. One of the forms of human beings as social beings is by getting married. According to Indonesian law number 1 of 1974 regarding the meaning and purpose of marriage, namely “marriage is an innate bond between a man and a woman as husband and wife with the aim of forming a happy and eternal household, family based on the One Godhead” (Hatul Lisaniyah Et al., 2021). Thus it is clear that human beings can achieve the goal of life together by marriage. However, marriage cannot survive except with knowledge. With knowledge, a person can seek factors that support the maintenance of a marriage and prevent every factor that leads to separation (Rustam, 2024).

There are various ways to study, one of which is by attending college (Hidayah, 2024). Studying in college is different from studying outside of formal institutions. Lectures have rules that need to be obeyed by students, such as full attendance, tasks that must be completed responsibly as academic assessments and extra activities outside of lecture hours. Thus, every individual student, especially for married students, must manage their time in order to complete their lectures well (Rustam, 2024).

When a marriage contract occurs, there will be a transfer of the burden of responsibility from a father to his husband in the form of fulfilling the obligation to provide sustenance as Allah says:

وَعَلَى الْمَوْلُودِ لَهُ رِزْقُهُنَّ وَكِسْوَتُهُنَّ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ

It means: “It is the duty of the father to bear their food and clothing in a good manner.” (Q.S Al-Baqarah: 233).

According to explaining that the demands of education that are being pursued by the husband and wife at different universities, as well as the demands for providing alimony, are what cause the husband and wife to have to run a *long distance marriage* (Hayati, 2024).

Spouse *Long Distance Marriage* (LDM) who decide to live in a different place and are separated by distance causes each individual to need the role that should be obtained by a couple who live under the same roof or *Proximal Marriage*, so that it causes stress (Wakhidah et al., 2020). *Long distance marriage* (LDM) also causes disturbances in sleep quality, stress levels and cortisol levels. This impact will interfere with students' concentration in receiving education in college and motivation that tends to be unstable (Wakhidah et al., 2020). As evidenced by a previous study at one of the universities in East Java, 9 students who

underwent a long-distance marriage out of 10 who were married, 8 of them had difficulty concentrating (Wakhidah et al., 2020).

Concentration is a person's ability to focus on an activity or task at hand, concentration is one of the most important factors that can affect a student's learning outcome (Fatchuroji et al., 2023). According to his research, it found a relationship between concentration and student learning motivation, students who have high learning motivation increase their learning efforts by concentrating more. In line with the definition, learning motivation is an entire effort in students that arouses the desire to learn, ensuring learning to achieve a goal. Based on the definition above, learning motivation is a factor that affects student achievement or learning outcomes (Basri Et Al., 2022). This is in line with the opinion of an expert who stated that “motivation determines the level of success or failure of students' actions. Learning without high motivation can be difficult to succeed” (Mediawati, 2020).

Etymologically, the word motivation comes from the word “motiv,” which means drive, will, reason, or will. Thus, motivation is a force that awakens and directs individual behavior. Motivation is not the behavior itself, but rather a complex internal condition that cannot be directly observed, but has an effect on behavior. The interpretation of motivation is based on behavior, verbal or non-verbal (Nurjan, 2016).

Sekolah Tinggi Dirasat Islamiyah Imam Syafi'i Jember (STDIIS Jember) is an Indonesian private Islamic university located in Jember Regency. This college offers two undergraduate programs, the S1 Islamic Family Law Study Program and the S1 Hadith Science Study Program (Hadith Bachelor's Degree). Learning activities are entirely carried out in Arabic. Most of its curriculum is adopted from the Islamic University of Medina. STDI Imam Shafi'i also provides a pre-graduate program, known as P'dad Lughowy (Language Preparation), for students who are still beginners in Islamic Knowledge and Arabic.

Based on the results of initial observations, it was found that not a few students of STDI Imam Syafi'i Jember were married and came from various regions in Indonesia. This is a factor in students running *Long Distance Marriage* (long-distance marriage). Psychosocial impact on couples undergoing *Long Distance Marriage* (LDM) is quite significant. However, there is limited literature on the implications of distance marriage on student learning motivation to attract researchers to conduct further research.

Based on this phenomenon, the researcher is interested in conducting further research and research related to the implications of *long distance marriage* on the learning

motivation of STDI Imam Syafi'i students. This research is expected to provide an in-depth understanding of the causative factors and efforts made by STDI Imam Syafi'i students in maintaining learning motivation when in a long-distance relationship with their partner. In addition, this research is expected to be a source of reference and solutions for couples who are running *long distance marriages* to maintain learning motivation to remain consistent.

This study is different from previous studies because previous studies have not addressed the implications *Long Distance Marriage* on the motivation of students. It is hoped that the results of this study can provide an overview to the general public, especially students, regarding the implications *Long Distance Marriage* Learning motivation is also a reference for future research.

Based on previous research, no research has been found that discusses the implications of *long distance marriage* on student learning motivation (a case study at STDI Imam Syafi'i Jember), which focuses on the impact of the implications of *long distance marriage* on student learning motivation, and solutions to the implications of *long distance marriage* on the motivation of students. Among the previous studies are as follows:

First, (Renaldi Saputra, 2024) which researches “Problematika Long Distance Marriage Anak Buah Kapal (ABK) dalam Menjaga Ketahanan Rumah Tangga Prespektif Hukum Keluarga Islam” which will be carried out in 2024. This type of research is *Field Research* (field research) with a phenomenological approach. Technique for determining informants using the *purposive sampling*, Data collection techniques using observation, interviews and documentation. The results of the study revealed the household problems of Crew Members (ABK) in undergoing *Long Distance Marriage* namely the research reveals the factors that affect the households of ABK in *Long Distance Marriage*, including communication barriers at sea, jealousy, family longing, unfulfilled obligations, and toxic work environments. However, the resilience of the ABK household depends on commitment, honesty, conflict management, and emotional control of the couple. The side of the equation is on the side of the discussion about *Long Distance Marriage*. Meanwhile, the difference is that this study examines the impact and solutions of couples *Long Distance Marriage* to the learning motivation of STDI Imam Syafi'i Jember students.

Second, (Adila et al., 2024) which researches “Upaya Pasangan Long Distance Marriage (LDM) Dalam Menjaga Ketahanan Keluarganya di Desa Darungan Rambipuji” which will be carried out in 2024. The approach used in this study is qualitative. The results of the study show that the efforts made to make the household safe and peaceful despite the

distance separating them are understanding each other, being honest with their partners, accepting each other, trusting each other, maintaining commitment, and being able to control each other's emotions. The similarity side is in the discussion of *long distance marriage* while the difference is the impact and solution of *long distance marriage couples* on the learning motivation of STDI Imam Syafi'i Jember students.

Third, (Bianti Deva Cesaria, 2022), which researched “Gambaran Trust Pada Istri Pegawai Bea Cukai Yang Menjalani Long Distance Marriage Description Of Trust On Bea Cukai Officer’s Wife Who Undergo Long Distance Marriage” which was carried out in 2022. The type of research used was qualitative using a phenomenological approach using interview techniques on four wives of customs employees with a minimum of 5 years of marriage. The analysis technique used is thematic analysis with an approach *theory driven*. The results of the study showed that the three components of trust appeared in the four respondents. The five aspects of forming trust are also owned by the four respondents. However, each respondent showed a different picture of beliefs caused by factors such as differences in background and communication patterns. The side of the equation is on the side of the discussion about *Long Distance Marriage*. Meanwhile, the difference is that this study examines the impact and solutions of couples *Long Distance Marriage* to the learning motivation of STDI Imam Syafi'i Jember students.

Fourth, (Rosyadi B. R et al., 2022) which researched “Resolusi Konflik pada Keluarga Long Distance Marriage (Studi Fenomenologi)” which was conducted in 2022. The type of research used is a qualitative method for phenomenology. Data collection uses interviews, observations, and documentation. The data analysis in this study using Miles and Huberman & Saldana included data condensation data summaries, data presentations and conclusion images. This study was conducted on 5 married couples who underwent a long distance marriage in Bloro village in KEC. The results of the study showed that there are several factors that make married couples experience long-distance marriages, including work, education, and living needs, namely the desire to have their own house. While efforts to maintain marriage are by positive thinking, openness, certainty, on social networks and distributing tasks. The side of similarity is on the side of the discussion about *Click or tap here to enter text.long distance marriage*. Meanwhile, the difference is that this study examines the impact and solutions of *long distance marriage couples* on the learning motivation of STDI Imam Syafi'i Jember students.

Fifth, (Neni dewi, 2021) which researched the “Analisis Artikel Metode Motivasi dan Fungsi Motivasi Belajar Siswa” article conducted in 2021. Data collection is to find empirical studies including: quantitative, qualitative, mixed methods, and literature reviews published in per-review journals since 2000 to identify methods and functions of student learning motivation in education. Databases used for literature research include *Science and Technology Index* (Sinta). The problem is embracing student learning motivation that identifies from the methods and functions of student learning motivation. Based on the analysis carried out on some of the articles used, it can be concluded that motivation is indispensable to increase interest in learning and improve student achievement. Student motivation in learning can be increased through various models and approaches, and can also be influenced by several factors. The side of the equation is on the side of discussion about learning motivation. Meanwhile, the difference is that this study examines the impact and solutions of couples *Long Distance Marriage* to the learning motivation of STDI Imam Syafi'i Jember students.

RESEARCH METHODS

This study uses a qualitative approach. Qualitative research is a research process to understand human or social phenomena by creating a comprehensive and complex picture that can be presented in the form of a narrative, reporting detailed views obtained from informant sources, and carried out in a natural setting (Walidin Et Al., 2015). Qualitative research aims to gain a deep understanding of problems related to humans and society. (Fadli, 2021).

The type of research is a case study. A case study is an intensive, detailed and in-depth scientific activity about a program, event, and activity, whether at the level of an individual, group, institution or organization (Ridlo, 2023). Case study research aims to analyze ongoing events and how the research object interacts with the surrounding environment (Sahir, 2021).

The data collection techniques used were observation, observation, document utilization and interviews with informants. In general, the type of interview used is a structured interview, where the interview is conducted by asking a number of questions with predetermined alternative answers (Sahir, 2021). The criteria for informants selected in this study are STDI Imam Syafi'i Jember students who are or have had a long-distance relationship with their partners while undergoing studies at STDI Imam Syafi'i Jember. The determination of informants was carried out through the results of observation through an

online questionnaire distributed to STDI Imam Syafi'i Jember students who had or were in long-distance relationships. By determining these criteria, the researcher hopes to get a complete picture of the circumstances and problems of couples undergoing *Long Distance Marriage*, which is the formulation of the problem in this study.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Factors Causing Long Distance Marriage in STDI Students

Long distance marriage is a common phenomenon in some circles, including students. There are many factors that are the reasons why students do *long distance marriages*. Among the factors that encourage students to do long distance marriages are due to various backgrounds. Among these factors are:

Academic Factors; One of the important causes of long-distance marriage is the educational factor. Education often encourages individuals to change locations, either to continue their studies or to pursue better career opportunities. This was conveyed by an informant named Muhammad Farhan Hadi Kusumawijaya (25 years old), a student of the final semester of the Islamic Family Law study program who had undergone a long-distance marriage for one month at the beginning of the marriage before bringing his wife to Jember, Farhan said “One of the main reasons I have been in this LDM relationship is the education factor, and this reason I have planned in advance even before making a marriage contract, At that time I got married on a quiet Sunday and it was not possible to bring my wife to Jember.”

This factor is supported by another informant named Rahmatullah Ramdhani (24 years old), an eighth-semester student of the Islamic Family Law study program who has undergone *a long distance marriage* for one semester due to academic factors. The informant said “I am undergoing LDM because I am still continuing my studies outside the city, precisely in Jember, East Java, we took this decision because we want to continue to pursue our dreams while remaining committed to living our marital relationship.” In addition, Yunus Ilham Saputra (24 years old) is an informant from the eighth semester of the Hadith study program who is undergoing a long distance marriage. Yunus said, “The reason my wife and I are committed to this long-distance relationship is an academic factor, because yes I am still in college and my wife is also busy so it is not possible to bring my wife to Jember.”

This factor was also corroborated by an informant named Moh Diki Purwanto (27 years old), a student of the Islamic Family Law study program who was in a long distance

marriage. Diki Purwanto said, “At that time, what was my driving factor for long distance marriage was the education factor, because I wanted to be more flexible in learning and at that time with the intention of also minimizing displacement.” Education is one of the reasons for long-distance relationships is when individuals strive to reach a higher level of education so that their relationship must be separated by distance (Tanjung & Ariyadi, 2021).

Economic Factors; Long-distance relationships, especially in marriage, face various challenges. One of the main problems that often arise is the financial or economic aspect. This issue can have an impact on the quality of the relationship, the way of communication, and the emotional stability of the couple. This was conveyed by an informant named Ibnu Zaid (24 years old), a student of the Islamic Family Law study program who was in a long distance marriage with his wife due to economic factors. Ibnu Zaid said, “For me, economic factors are also the reason for me to do LDM, indeed at first before marriage I had a small side to wash shoes, but after the marriage I decided to resign to focus on college because I was afraid of not being able to balance work and study so I was afraid of not being able to do both.”

A similar statement was also conveyed by Rahmatullah Ramdhani, the informant said, “Another factor that is the reason why I am in a long-distance relationship is economic problems, because at the beginning of marriage the economy was still unstable, and I did not work when I was in college, so my wife and I decided to separate first while maintaining our marriage commitments.”

Marriage is a lifelong worship that requires careful preparation. One of the main challenges is financial issues. Economic instability can trigger domestic conflicts, especially since men have a great responsibility to provide for the family both physically and mentally, including meeting basic needs such as clothing, food, and decent housing for his wives and children (Rozak et al., 2020).

Employment Factors; One of the main causes of long-distance marriage is work or career factors. Some couples are forced to live in different places because of their jobs (Qorifah et al., 2023). This is as conveyed by an informant named Ibnu Zaid (24 years old) who said, “the second factor that prompted me to undergo this LDM was the wife's work factor, where at that time my wife was already bound by a teaching contract at one of the schools in the area where we lived, besides that my wife was already a permanent teacher at the school and it was not possible to bring her wife.”

A similar statement was conveyed by an informant named Yunus Ilham Saputra. The informant said, “My reason besides academic problems is that my wife is teaching at *Ma'had* and already has a work relationship from the beginning of marriage until the end of August, so I am forced to not be able to bring my wife to Jember.”

Based on the explanation above, it can be concluded that the factors that cause *long distance marriage* in STDI students include: academic factors, economic factors, and employment factors.

The Impact of Long Distance Marriage on STDI Students

Long distance marriage on students has various impacts, both negative and positive impacts. The following will describe the **negative impacts**:

Difficulty focusing; Some students feel the impact of this *long distance marriage*, among the impacts felt by students is that it makes it difficult to focus on studying. This was conveyed directly by an informant named Ibnu Zaid (24 years old) who said “this long-distance relationship also had a negative impact on me who often felt lazy in studying and had difficulty controlling focus.”

The same statement was also conveyed by David Sanjaya (28 years old), David said “what I often feel when in this relationship is that it is more difficult to control the focus in studying, because of the lack of communication between me and my wife, even though this LDM relationship needs good communication between husband and wife.”

Another informant named Rahmatullah Ramdhani also said, “at first I had difficulty focusing because I was often worried and missed my partner, but it didn't make me lose my enthusiasm for learning because there was support from my partner.”

Emotional burden; One of the negative impacts of *long distance marriage* is the appearance of emotional burdens. When a partner is separated by distance, feelings of longing and loneliness can cause stress and learning disruptions. Limited communication can also worsen a person's emotional state. This was conveyed by Rahmatullah Ramdhani (24 years old), the informant said, “At first I felt quite sad and lonely because I had to be away from my partner, and it caused my motivation to study to decrease. However, I try to divert those feelings by focusing on studies so as not to dissolve in emotions.”

This statement was also conveyed by Kemal Luthfi (24 years old) an STDI student, Kemal said, “The first feeling when I was in LDM was mixed, sad and lonely. And as time went by, these feelings were disrupted in my learning process.” Ibnu Zaid also said, “At the

beginning of establishing a long-distance relationship, I felt heavy and often felt missed by my wife and felt lonely because of the absence of my wife and that made my studies unmotivated.”

Difficulty managing time; One of the negative impacts of *long distance marriage* (LDM) is the challenge of managing time between studying and spending time with your wife. Time constraints often make individuals feel stressed, as they have to divide attention between academic responsibilities and emotional needs in relationships. This situation can result in an imbalance that affects the quality of learning and interaction with the partner. This statement as conveyed by an informant named Muhammad Farhan Hadi Kusumawijaya (25 years old) a student of the Islamic Family Law study program, Farhan said, “I have to divide my time between time with my partner and time to study which makes a lack of time to study and do campus assignments. And on the other hand, we also have to prepare our own meals and provide for our own needs.”

The same statement was also conveyed by an informant named David Sanjaya (28 years old), the informant said, “*long distance marriage* (LDM) requires communication between couples, but what I have experienced when my wife needs me again, *qaddarullah* I am busy or studying, but when I have free time my wife has affairs, and that is also one of the reasons why my motivation to study has decreased.”

Meanwhile, the **positive impacts** of long distance marriage on students are as follows:

Better time management; *Long distance marriage* on students also has a positive impact, one of which is better time management, this as conveyed by an informant named Muhammad Farhan Hadi Kusumawijaya (25 years old), Farhan said, “by getting used to determining the conditions between our wives and college time, it will foster a sense of responsibility and direction in time management.” Such things were also conveyed by David Sanjaya (28 years old), David said, “the positive impact I feel is that I can make the best use of my time because LDM is able to complete assignments from campus.” Diki Purwanto said, “this relationship actually makes me more focused and better at using time for *murajaah*, studying together and working.”

Motivation to complete studies; Among the positive impacts of *long distance marriage* is the motivation to complete studies faster. This is as conveyed by an informant named Rahmatullah Ramdhani, the informant said, “precisely because of the distance separation, I

am more motivated to quickly complete my studies so that I can immediately get together with my partner.”

The same statement was also conveyed by an informant named Muhammad Nadhif (24 years old), Nadhif said, “because of this relationship, it does not make me want to postpone lectures, but rather it becomes an encouragement for me to study more actively and become a motivation to graduate faster because there are wives who must be educated and nourished both physically and mentally.”

The above opinion is also strengthened by the opinion of Yunus Ilham who stated, “I am motivated to finish my studies immediately because there is a wife who must be accompanied and accompanied.”

Based on the explanation above, it can be concluded that the impact of *long distance marriage* on learning motivation in STDI Imam Syafi'i students is divided into negative impacts and positive impacts. Negative impacts include difficulty focusing, emotional load, difficulty managing time. The positive impacts include better time management, motivation to complete studies.

Long Distance Marriage Couples Solution Maintains Learning Motivation

In establishing a marital relationship, there will always be problems and trials, especially for those who are in a long-distance relationship. STDI Imam Syafi'i students who are undergoing *long distance marriages* have their own solutions in facing problems and trials due to living far away from their partners. These solutions include:

Regularly contact your partner; Regular activities of contacting a spouse is one way or solution for couples who are undergoing *a long distance marriage*. This solution was conveyed by Ibn Zaid who said, “the most important and most important thing in a long-distance relationship is to establish good communication with your partner, dedicate time to your partner, and confide in your partner, because it will help us in doing something, including in terms of studying.”

A similar solution was also put forward by Muhammad Nadhif. The informant said, “I usually take the time to contact my wife, give each other support and motivation.” Rahmatullah Ramdhani said, “the key is good communication with your partner, taking the time to make regular video calls with your partner to give each other enthusiasm and motivation in learning and other things.”

Contacting a spouse is one solution if a couple is going through *a long distance marriage* who is feeling lazy in studying. Yunus Ilham said, “communication and confiding with your partner is a strategy to be more enthusiastic in learning, and so that there is no gap between couples.”

Asking for family support; is one of the solutions for couples who are going through *a long distance marriage*. This solution was conveyed by Muhammad Farhan Hadi Kusumawijaya. Farhan said, “A wife is a *support system* for me in everything, both from prayer, words and actions, in terms of prayer, of course the wife prays for her husband to be facilitated in all his affairs, in terms of words my wife always gives support and encouragement when calling, from actions also my wife often helps me with my college assignments.”

This is corroborated by Ibn Zaid's statement. The informant said, “My wife's role in my learning success is very important, in terms of giving encouragement my wife always encourages her enthusiasm in college. And usually in the afternoon and evening I always take time to communicate with my wife, not just a story, but there my wife always provides support and motivation. And no less important is the support of my parents who always support me and give me encouragement.”

For couples who are undergoing *a long distance marriage*, the solution that can be done is to ask for support from their families. Rahmatullah Ramdhani said, “I am very helped by the support of my family, especially couples who often provide motivation. Many college friends also helped me in the learning process.”

Sincere intention; in learning is an important factor to maintain motivation. When we learn with sincere intentions, unburdened by expectations or outside pressures, the learning experience becomes more meaningful. By giving up our intentions, we can enjoy every stage of learning, feel the happiness of knowledge, and face challenges more lightly. This solution was conveyed by Kemal Luthfi. The informant said, “the trick is to sincerely study for the sake of Allah, the intention to increase knowledge to educate children and wives because it is a mandate from Allah *Almighty*.”

A similar statement was also conveyed by David Sanjaya. David said, “pray and be sincere in seeking knowledge, because something difficult will be easy by praying to Allah, because *long distance marriage* is very hard.” Nadhif said, “a student of knowledge must be sincere because of Allah, the intention to increase knowledge because there is a family that we must educate.”

Managing time; well is one of the effective ways to maintain motivation to learn. With efficient timing, we can form regular routines, reduce stress, and increase productivity. When time is used wisely, we can focus more on the material being studied, thus deepening our understanding and interest. In addition, good time management allows us to set realistic goals, celebrate small achievements, and maintain a high spirit of learning. An informant named Muhammad Farhan Hadi Kusumawijaya said, “you have to be smart to manage your time, when to study, family and work.”

The same solution was also conveyed by Moh. Diki Purwanto. The informant said, “smarter in seeing opportunities and taking advantage of time, because you are not with your wife, do not have to divide time with your children and wife and can focus more on studying and *murajaah*.” David Sanjaya said, “make the best use of time as possible for LDM, so that college assignments can be completed.”

Based on the explanation above, it can be concluded that solutions for *long distance marriage* couples in maintaining learning motivation include: regularly contacting their partner, asking for family support, sincere intentions, and managing time well.

CONCLUSION

This research reveals that the phenomenon of long distance marriage (LDM) among STDI Imam Syafi'i Jember students is a complex and challenging social reality, especially in the context of maintaining learning motivation. The main causative factors of long distance marriage among students include three dominant aspects, namely academic demands, economic conditions, and spouses' work obligations. Although LDM often causes emotional distress, impaired concentration, and difficulties in time management, this study also shows that some students are able to respond positively to the situation by strengthening time management and making the LDM situation a trigger to complete their studies more quickly.

Furthermore, this study highlights that the success of students in maintaining learning motivation in the midst of LDM relationships is strongly influenced by the adaptive strategies they carry out. These strategies include regular and meaningful communication with spouses, getting support from family as the main support system, cultivating sincere intentions in studying, and effective time management skills. With these strategies, students are not only able to maintain their enthusiasm for learning, but also improve the quality of their marital relationship despite geographical separation.

This research contributes a new understanding in the discourse of education and family relations, especially in the context of students undergoing long-distance marriage. Not many previous studies have explicitly examined the implications of LDM on student learning motivation in Islamic higher education institutions. Therefore, this finding opens space for new contributions to the academic literature and can be used as a reference for educational institutions, counselors, and students who face similar conditions. Follow-up research with a quantitative or mixed approach is needed to test the strength of the relationship between variables found in this study more broadly and representatively.

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