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Hygiene Practice and the Adaptation of the Modern Muslim

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Abstract

Muslims travel for various purposes. The obligation to perform prayers and be in hygienic status in other countries is under the mainstream issue. The aimed is to apply the model of a design approach for experiential design and phenomenological research design. Consequently, investigate the challenges of the hygiene practising behaviour of the modern Muslims. The hygiene practising knowledge and behaviour influenced by some factors and identification of those factors help to develop the outcomes of this study. The differences between knowledge and practices of the Muslims established; thus, produce a valuable conceptual design as the design solution.

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Keywords: Hygiene; hygiene practice; toilets; Muslim

1. Introduction

Hygiene is the most important topic in Islam as the Qur'an teaches Muslims to be in physical hygiene and ritually clean whenever possible. Several hygiene fundamentals for Muslims identified. They are ablution, full ablution, taking care of hair and beard, cleaning the private parts, cleaning for worshipping, cleaning the mouth, cleaning the

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hands and feet and cleaning after going to toilet. This fundamental hygiene united to most of the time at the toilets. When discussing toilets, water will be the main topics after it, this study lies in the synthesis of these two, and they cannot be separated. Toilets contribute to the needs of the people in need. However, it also could be as the transmitters of the water-borne disease. If the people who use it, was not properly clean themselves after it, then, the water-washed diseases will most likely affected them. Dr. Rohani Jahis (2011) stated that the water-borne disease is still a problem in Malaysia and using safe water supply is the best strategy to overcome it.

2. Research problem

For this study, the current toilet design will not be discussed further; however, the person's experience and practicing behavior with the toilets environment itself are the primary focus here. Often, designing of these toilets involving design that are universal (Waraporn Mamee, et al., 2010). They may also consider the practical design for the disable (Waraporn Mamee, et al., 2010). Hence, the Study of human experience and practicing behavior are more towards adapting experiential approach. Davenport and Prusak (1998) stated that experience refers to what has happened to individual in the past. Resulting designers and theorist separate the idea of user research (ED) and phenomenological stimuli; therefore, designers need to understand the connection between these two design concentrations. Any experience may, in principle, transformed into knowledge. David Kolb (1984) emphasizes the relationship between experience and knowledge as a dynamic process of continuous reproduction and regeneration. Knowledge together with person's experience has a close relationship and interaction, and a holistic approach carries these convictions into design research and practice (Texteira, 2007).

The researcher's interest in Islamic-way of the hygiene issue ignited during her travelling experiences within Malaysia and abroad. Force her in recorded her personal experiences and other Muslims (the respondents) on hygiene practicing behavior during travels. The study aim is to apply the model of a design approach for experiential design in hygiene related knowledge and practicing behavior of the Muslims. Therefore, the challenges or the experiences that Muslims face in relation to the adaptations of their hygiene knowledge and practicing behavior in regards to using the toilets-matter is investigated. Moreover, after the hygiene knowledge and practicing behavior is identified, and then, the outcome is developed, which is, to propose a new design concept of a product as the solution for the Muslim. The outcome typically is the synthesis of knowledge brought together in a novel or creative manner. The toilet issues are taboo to most people and rarely been discussed, furthermore to be investigated among or for the Muslims. Living in the modern world where every facility designed to be universal in design, this, however, limits the practices that Muslim inherits and taught from their belief. Therefore, the objectives are to identify the hygiene practicing-behavior and products used by the travels Muslim for the purpose of sanitation and purifying. Recognition of the existing product in the market for comparison study is conduct before a new conceptual product is designed.

This Islamic hygiene practicing study could not undertake in a vacuum. Due to space and time limitations, this study focuses mainly, on the Muslim that resided and lived in Malaysia but possesses an experience of travelling locally and overseas. Of course, use toilet facilities in those visited countries. Due to budget constraints, only the visual data of the existing products design of hygiene-toilet product is used for comparison study. Therefore, only conceptual design of a product is proposed as the outcome of this study without further testing. This testing may conduct by other researchers within the same subject under study in the near future.

3. Literature review

There are long histories of hygiene, toilets, sanitations and cleanliness research studies done by previous researcher, nonetheless, they are no specific research focusing on the Muslims specifically regarding hygiene practicing issues in using the toilets. They are also very few studies focusing on the toilets design in the literature. However, for this study, the toilet design's evolution has been used to examine the design stages and the historical development of managing human waste. Moreover, the different types of toilets design have a strong relationship between cleaning habits, cultural differences and belief of people with the designs of their toilets. Toilets facilities are available in many countries. Variety of toilets design, different flushing systems or flushing mechanism exists (Maj-Britt Quitzau, 2007). Cleansing facilities such as water taps and hose supply, toilet papers and hand dryer

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