

## ABSTRACT

Title of the Study: **THE LIVED EXPERIENCE OF FEMALE MUSLIMS  
IN TARBIYYAH ISLAMIC FEMALE INSTITUTE  
(TIFI): A PHENOMENOLOGICAL STUDY**  
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This study went through the subjective experiences of the female Muslim students under Tarbiyyah Islamic Female Institute's educational and personal cultivation strategies and curriculum. Phenomenological method was used in investigating and developing a deeper sense of understanding about the lived experiences of the female Muslims in the institution, specifically in the aspect of: (1) Personal Development and (2) Social Development. Through In-depth interview, this study discovers the textural (*what*) and structural (*how*) description of the meaning of experiences that symbolized the invariant structure (*essence*) of the experiences of all the participants in the study.

Six bonafide female Muslim students with at least one to three years of stay in the institution were selected to represent the whole group. Based on the results, the study revealed the most common with the participants' experiences in the institution. In terms of personal development (Self-Empowerment), they were able to: a) develop positive

values and attitude upon acquiring knowledge and skills in line with the institutions' mission and philosophy; b) develop sense of achievement by learning new skills (e.g. cooking etc.) taught by the institution as part of the educational goal; c) improve communication skills and gain confidence in expressing and presenting themselves to other people; d) discover their strengths and potentials that drives them to achieve further with their personal goals in life; e) develop self-esteem and self-direction; f) experience to rely on own skills and strength in facing day to day life challenges; and g) develops determination to continue pursuing their education despite of difficulties in some areas such as adjustment, being away with the family and the culture of the institution.

In terms of social development (Role in the Society), on the other hand, the participants; a) adapted behavior that shows decorum and humility as a woman in terms of action, words and the way she relates to other people; b) learned to live without the use of technology or any means of communication outside the school and dormitory premises; c) experienced to be nurtured by the institution's way of teaching and shaping their characters that now serves as their primary motivation to give back by sharing their knowledge to their fellow Muslim women in the future.