

The Role and Status of Chaplains in Patients' Medical Treatments in the PKU Muhammadiyah Hospital of Yogyakarta

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ABSTRACT

The study aimed to explore the role played by and the status occupied by Chaplains in the medical services in the PKU Muhammadiyah of Yogyakarta. The presence of Chaplains has been established in private hospitals owned or affiliated to socio-religious organizations including the PKU one as it has linked to the Islamic organization of Muhammadiyah. The study attempted to examine forms and modes of the religious-spiritual services offered by Chaplains together with the medical treatments received by patients; and to elaborate their status within the organization of PKU Muhammadiyah Hospital of Yogyakarta. Based on the fieldwork, the study showed two main findings, that is (i) the established status of Chaplains as an internal body of the Islamic Religio-Spiritual Services within the hospital organizations and occupied a highly regarded role in shaping the medical services for the patients; and (ii) as a continuation of their strategic role, Chaplains have been responsible not only to office a religio-spiritual services to the patients but also expandable to design, supervise and execute various policies and programs to islamize the hospital as a whole – including to lead the daily prayers in the Mosque, supervise prayers and rituals for medical and administrative staffs and held Islamic preaches for the people living around the hospital and within Muhammadiyah communities.

Kata Kunci: Chaplains, Spiritual care, Islamic Preaching, Hospital.