Ruling on bridesmaids

I was just wondering if it is permissible to have brides maids for a reception in Islam. I am not sure if the practice is cultural or religious.

Praise be to Allaah.

It is permissible for the bride to have someone to help adorn her and accompany her, or a female servant who will serve her, in return for a specified wage paid by the husband or bride or someone else. This was widespread in ancient times and is still done in some countries. It is permissible according to sharee ‘ ah, as stated above. The fuqaha ’ stated clearly that if it is the woman's custom to have a servant, then the husband has to bring someone to serve her.

It says in Kashshaaf al-Qinaa ‘ (5/463): If the wife needs someone to serve her, because a woman like her does not serve herself or because of her high position, and she has no servant, then she is entitled to a servant because Allah says (interpretation of the meaning): “ and live with them honourably ” [al-Nisa ’ 4:19], and because it is something that is needed all the time. But the servant should only be someone for whom it is permissible to look at the wife, either a woman or a relative who is a mahram. End quote.

Having bridesmaids or a servant is not something that belongs to one particular culture or that has to do with religion; rather it a matter of custom or tradition, which varies from one society to another, and may be necessary.

And Allah knows best.