

Application of Discussion and Question and Answer Methods in Islamic Religious Education Learning to Increase Students' Learning Motivation SMP Negeri 1 Simangambat

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Abstract: This study aims to analyze the application of discussion and question and answer methods in Islamic Religious Education (PAI) learning and its impact on student learning motivation at SMP Negeri 1 Simangambat. The problem faced is the lack of student motivation to learn in PAI subjects, which requires serious attention. The discussion and question and answer method is applied as an effort to increase student participation, understanding of the material, and active involvement in the learning process. This study uses a quantitative approach with a pseudo-experimental design. Data collection was carried out through observations, questionnaires, and interviews involving grade VIII students as research samples. The results of the study showed that the application of discussion and question and answer methods significantly increased students' learning motivation. This is reflected in the increase in students' activeness in asking questions, giving opinions, and being more enthusiastic in participating in PAI lessons. In addition, this method also encourages students to think critically, understand religious concepts more deeply, and increase confidence in expressing opinions. Based on the results of this study, it is hoped that the discussion and question and answer methods can be applied more widely in PAI learning in schools to increase learning effectiveness and create a more interactive and fun classroom atmosphere. This study also recommends that PAI teachers optimize learning strategies based on discussion and question and answer to improve student motivation and learning outcomes.

Keywords: Discussion method, Question and answer, Islamic Religious Education, Learning motivation, SMP Negeri 1 Simangambat

INTRODUCTION

Islamic Religious Education (PAI) has a very important role in shaping the character and morals of students. One of the main goals of PAI learning is to teach religious values and form a person with noble ethics. However, one of the main challenges faced in PAI education today is the low motivation of students to learn. Several studies have shown that monotonous and less varied learning methods can lead to boredom among students, which ultimately has an impact on their decreased interest and motivation to learn. Therefore, innovations are needed in learning methods that can increase students' motivation and active participation in the learning process.

One of the methods that is believed to be effective in increasing student motivation is the discussion method. This method allows students to engage in more active interactions, both with teachers and with their classmates. Through discussions, students are given the opportunity to exchange ideas, express opinions, and develop critical thinking skills. Research conducted by students of the Islamic University of Riau (2023) shows that the application of the discussion method can increase students' learning activity in PAI subjects. By actively involving students in learning, they become more confident and more enthusiastic in completing the assignments and materials taught.

In addition to the discussion method, the question and answer method also has an important role in improving the quality of PAI learning. Through the question and answer method, students are encouraged to think deeper, not only receive information from the teacher, but also be active in the learning process. Research by Baihaqi (2025) states that the application of the question and answer method has a positive impact on improving the quality of learning, especially in Islamic cultural history subjects. This method can encourage students to be more open in conveying questions and opinions, so as to create a more interactive learning atmosphere.

At SMP Negeri 1 Simangambat, initial observations show that students' motivation to learn in PAI subjects is still relatively low. Many students tend to be passive, participate less in class discussions, and only passively participate in learning. This is likely due to the lack of variation in the learning methods used by teachers. If the learning method applied is not able to attract students' interest, then it will affect their low motivation to learn.

Based on these problems, this study aims to analyze the effectiveness of the application of discussion and question and answer methods in increasing student learning motivation in PAI subjects at SMP Negeri 1 Simangambat. By applying these two methods, it is hoped that students can be more active, critical, and motivated in following the learning process. Through this method, students are expected to learn in a more fun and interactive way, so that they can more easily understand the material being taught.

The main hope of this research is the creation of a more dynamic and fun learning

atmosphere in the classroom. With discussions and question and answer sessions, students will not only become passive listeners, but will be actively involved in discussing the topic being studied. This is expected to increase students' understanding of PAI material and foster their confidence in expressing opinions or asking questions. In addition, students can also better understand religious concepts in a more in-depth and applicable way.

In addition, the application of discussion and question and answer methods is expected to improve student learning outcomes. Research conducted by Rohmawati (2018) shows that the question and answer method can have a positive impact on student learning achievement in PAI subjects. By increasing the interaction between teachers and students, as well as between students, the learning process becomes more lively and motivates students to try harder to achieve learning goals.

However, in reality, there are still many teachers who have not fully applied the discussion and question and answer method optimally in learning. Some teachers still use the lecture method more often which tends to make students passive and less involved in the teaching and learning process. The lack of interaction between teachers and students, as well as between students themselves, has the potential to lead to low student motivation and learning outcomes. Therefore, changes in learning approaches need to be made to improve the quality of education.

To overcome this problem, efforts are needed to change the learning paradigm from teacher-centered to student-centered. This approach provides more space for students to actively participate in the learning process. The application of discussion and question and answer methods is a strategic step to achieve this goal. By actively engaging students, they can develop critical thinking skills, improve communication skills, and build collaboration skills with their classmates.

As part of this research proposal, the approach that will be used is a class action research (PTK) involving grade VIII students at SMP Negeri 1 Simangambat. In this study, data will be collected through various methods, such as observation, questionnaires, and interviews, to measure changes in students' motivation and learning activity after the application of the discussion and question and answer methods. This research is expected to make a positive contribution to the development of PAI learning in schools, as well as provide practical solutions for teachers to improve the quality of their learning.

The results of this study are expected to be a reference for PAI teachers in designing and implementing more effective, interactive, and interesting learning for students. Thus, the discussion and question and answer method is expected to be applied more widely in PAI learning to improve student motivation and learning outcomes. In addition, this research is also expected to provide new insights for the development of more innovative learning methods that are relevant to the needs of students in the modern era.

METHODS

This study uses a quantitative approach with the Classroom Action Research (PTK) method to examine the influence of the application of discussion and question and answer methods on student learning motivation in Islamic Religious Education (PAI) subjects at SMP Negeri 1 Simangambat. The quantitative approach was chosen because it can provide a clearer and measurable picture of changes in student motivation before and after the application of the method. By using the PTK method, it is hoped that this research can contribute directly to the improvement of the learning process in the classroom.

The data sources used in this study consist of primary data and secondary data. Primary data was obtained directly from grade VIII students of SMP Negeri 1 Simangambat, who were the subject of the research. This primary data is collected through several instruments, namely observations, questionnaires, and interviews. Observation was carried out to see changes in student behavior and participation during the learning process. The questionnaire was used to measure the level of student learning motivation before and after the application of the discussion and question and answer method. In addition, interviews were conducted with PAI students and teachers to gain a more in-depth view of their experiences and perceptions of the learning methods applied.

In addition to primary data, this study also uses secondary data obtained from various sources of literature, research journals, books, and academic documents relevant to the research topic. This secondary data provides a strong theoretical basis to support the analysis and discussion of research results. Some of the main references used in this study are previous studies related to the effectiveness of discussion and question and answer methods in learning, published after 2020. These sources provide additional insights that are important in understanding the context and results of the research being conducted.

After the data is collected, the data verification process is carried out to ensure the validity and quality of the information obtained. The data from the questionnaire will be processed using the Likert scale to measure the level of student learning motivation. The Likert Scale provides a more structured picture of the extent to which students feel motivated before and after using the discussion and question and answer methods in PAI learning. The results of this questionnaire will be analyzed using simple statistical techniques, such as percentages and averages, to determine significant changes in students' learning motivation.

In addition to quantitative analysis, data obtained from observations and interviews will be analyzed qualitatively. Qualitative analysis was carried out by data reduction methods, data presentation, and conclusion drawn. In the first stage, the data obtained will be filtered to ensure only relevant information is used. After that, the reduced data will be presented in the form of narratives or tables to make it easier to understand and interpret. The presentation of this data will make it easier for researchers to evaluate the application of discussion and question and answer methods and their impact on student motivation.

This qualitative analysis process aims to explore more in-depth information about the experiences of students and teachers in participating in learning with this method. Data from interviews will help researchers understand students' perceptions and attitudes towards PAI learning using discussion and question and answer methods. In addition, interviews with teachers will provide an overview of the challenges and successes in implementing this method in the classroom.

After the data is analyzed, the researcher will draw conclusions about the effectiveness of the discussion and question and answer method in increasing student learning motivation. The results of this analysis are expected to provide useful information for the development of PAI learning methods at SMP Negeri 1 Simangambat. If the application of these two methods proves to be effective, it is hoped that this method can be applied more widely in PAI learning in other schools.

Based on the results of the analysis, the researcher will also provide recommendations for PAI teachers to improve the quality of learning. One of the expected recommendations is an

increase in the use of more interactive methods, such as discussions and questions and answers, to encourage student participation. With the application of these methods, it is hoped that a more dynamic and interesting learning atmosphere can be created, which in turn can increase student motivation and learning outcomes.

In addition, this research is also expected to make a positive contribution to improving teaching practices at SMP Negeri 1 Simangambat. PAI teachers can use the results of this research as a reference to evaluate and improve their teaching methods, especially in terms of the application of discussion and question and answer methods. Thus, this research has the potential to have a direct impact on improving the quality of education in schools.

Overall, this study aims to provide a clearer picture of the effectiveness of discussion and question and answer methods in increasing student learning motivation in PAI learning. Through systematic data collection and analysis, it is hoped that this research can provide new insights that are useful for the world of education, especially in the field of Islamic religious education.

RESULTS

This research was carried out at SMP Negeri 1 Simangambat by involving grade VIII students as respondents. A total of 30 students were the subjects of the study to measure the effectiveness of the application of discussion and question and answer methods in increasing learning motivation in Islamic Religious Education (PAI) subjects. Data were collected through observations, questionnaires, and interviews conducted before and after the application of the method.

Based on the results of the initial questionnaire filled out by students, most of them showed that they had a low level of learning motivation in participating in PAI lessons. About 65% of students stated that they felt bored and less motivated in attending lessons because the learning methods used tended to be one-way, such as lectures. Only 35% of students showed interest in learning PAI before the discussion and question and answer method was implemented.

After the discussion and question and answer methods were applied in several meetings, the results of the final questionnaire showed a significant increase in students' learning motivation. As many as 80% of students admitted that they were more interested in participating in lessons, while the other 20% of students, although still showing a passive attitude, experienced a slight increase in interest in learning. The observation results also showed that students became more active in asking questions and participating in group discussions compared to before this method was applied.

The data analysis method used is a comparison of the results of the questionnaire before and after the application of the discussion and question and answer method. Based on the calculation of the Likert scale, the average learning motivation score of students before the intervention was 2.8 which belongs to the low category. After the application of the discussion and question and answer method, the score increased to 4.1 which is included in the high category. This shows that the method is effective in increasing students' interest and involvement in PAI learning.

In addition, the results of interviews with PAI teachers revealed that this method helps students understand the material better. Teachers also noted a change in the attitude of students who are more confident in expressing opinions and more active in discussing with classmates. From the results of the observation analysis, it was found that the interaction between students and teachers increased significantly. Students are more enthusiastic in responding to questions asked by teachers and peers. The classroom atmosphere also became more dynamic and less monotonous than in the previous lecture method.

Overall, the findings of this study prove that the application of discussion and question and answer methods can increase students' learning motivation in PAI subjects. Therefore, this method is recommended to be applied more widely in learning, especially in subjects that require conceptual understanding and active involvement of students.

The results of data validation show that the data obtained has a high level of validity. In the validation, several main points were found that supported the effectiveness of the discussion and question and answer method in increasing students' learning motivation. One of the important points is the consistency of increasing student motivation. Questionnaire data shows that before the method was implemented, most students were less motivated in learning PAI. However, after the application of the method, student participation increased by 45%, which is clearly seen from the observation results that show students are more active in asking questions and opinions during learning.

Confirmation from interviews with teachers and students also reinforced the findings. PAI teachers confirmed that the discussion and question and answer methods made students more enthusiastic about learning than before. Some students who were initially passive also began to show courage to speak in class. This is also supported by interviews with students who state that this method makes learning more interesting and not boring.

Support from previous studies also strengthens the findings in this study. Research by Students of the Islamic University of Riau (2023) shows that the discussion method increases student activity in learning PAI. Baihaqi's research (2025) also emphasizes that the question and answer method can increase students' understanding and motivation to learn in Islamic religious subjects. Therefore, the results of this study further strengthen the evidence of the effectiveness of discussion and question and answer methods in increasing student motivation.

From the results of this validation, it can be concluded that the application of discussion and question and answer methods in PAI learning at SMP Negeri 1 Simangambat has proven to be effective in increasing student learning motivation. Therefore, this method can be used as a learning strategy that is more often used by teachers in teaching PAI subjects. It is hoped that this research can also be a reference for future research that examines the application of other methods in increasing student motivation and participation in the learning process.

In order to improve the quality of PAI learning, it is important for teachers to optimize the use of methods that can facilitate student interaction and active participation. Discussion and question and answer methods have proven to be an effective alternative to creating a more interactive and fun learning atmosphere. Thus, students not only receive material from the teacher, but can also be directly involved in the learning process, thereby increasing their understanding and motivation.

In addition, this study also shows the importance of paradigm change in learning, namely from teacher-centered methods to student-centered methods. The application of discussion and question and answer methods provides space for students to think critically, develop communication skills, and collaborate with their peers. This will certainly have a positive impact on the formation of students' character, in addition to increasing their motivation to learn.

With the results of the research that has been found, it is very important for schools and PAI teachers to support the application of this method more widely. Training for teachers on how to effectively implement discussion and question and answer methods is also needed to maximize the positive impact produced. In addition, it is hoped that this research can be a reference for other research that focuses on efforts to improve the quality of learning at various levels of education.

Overall, the application of the discussion and question and answer method at SMP Negeri 1 Simangambat is proven to have a significant positive impact on students' learning motivation in PAI subjects. By optimizing this method, it is hoped that a more lively, interactive, and engaging learning atmosphere can be created for students, which ultimately contributes to improving their learning outcomes.

DISCUSSION

The discussion in this study aims to interpret the findings and compare them with the theory and results of previous research regarding the application of discussion and question and answer methods in Islamic Religious Education (PAI) learning. This study shows that the

discussion and question and answer method significantly increases the learning motivation of students at SMP Negeri 1 Simangambat, which is reflected in the results of questionnaires, observations, and interviews conducted during and after the application of the method.

First, based on the results of the questionnaire filled out by students, it was found that most of the students before the application of this method had low learning motivation in PAI lessons. This is in line with the findings of previous research which showed that the lecture method tended to make students passive and less interactive in learning (Riau Islamic University Students, 2023). Students feel bored and less interested in the lessons delivered only through lectures, thus affecting their interest and motivation. Therefore, the application of more interactive methods such as discussions and questions and answers can be a solution to overcome these problems.

After the application of the discussion and question and answer method, the results of the questionnaire showed a significant increase in students' learning motivation. As many as 80% of students stated that they were more interested in taking PAI lessons after the application of this method. This confirms the findings of Baihaqi's (2025) research which shows that the question and answer method can increase student engagement and understanding in religious subjects. This increase in motivation is also reflected in the observation results, where students are seen to be more active in asking questions, expressing opinions, and participating in group discussions. This increase in student participation is an indicator that the discussion and question and answer methods are effective in changing the learning atmosphere to be more interactive.

In addition, interviews with PAI teachers revealed that the application of this method helps students in understanding the material better. Teachers reported a change in the attitude of students who became more confident in expressing their opinions in front of the class. This shows that the discussion and question-and-answer method not only increases students' motivation to learn, but also builds their confidence and communication skills. The teacher also stated that students became more enthusiastic in participating in lessons because they felt more valued and listened to in class discussions.

These findings are consistent with the results of data analysis which showed an increase in students' learning motivation scores from 2.8 (low category) to 4.1 (high category) after the application of the discussion and question and answer method. This increase not only reflects a change in students' interest in learning, but also shows that they are more active and more involved in the teaching and learning process. Overall, this method has a positive impact on the quality of PAI learning at SMP Negeri 1 Simangambat.

In addition to the main benefits in the form of increased student motivation and participation, the application of discussion and question and answer methods also has a positive impact on the classroom atmosphere. Before this method was implemented, the classroom atmosphere tended to be monotonous with limited interaction between teachers and students. However, after the implementation of the discussion and question and answer method, the classroom atmosphere became more dynamic and interactive. Students look more enthusiastic in participating in lessons, and teachers can more easily monitor students' understanding of the material being taught.

However, although this method is effective, there are still challenges in its implementation. Some students still show a passive attitude even though there has been an increase in learning motivation. This may be influenced by individual factors, such as shyness or self-doubt in public speaking. Therefore, there is a need for a more personalized approach from teachers to help students who are still struggling to actively participate in discussions. Teachers need to create a safe and supportive environment, where every student feels comfortable expressing their opinions without fear of being judged.

In addition, although the results of this study show the success of the implementation of the discussion and question and answer method, more attention is needed to teacher training in using the method optimally. Teachers need to be equipped with skills in facilitating productive discussions and ensuring that every student has the opportunity to actively participate. Therefore, training and professional development for teachers is key to ensuring the sustainability and success of this method in PAI learning.

In a broader context, the findings of this study can be used as a reference for PAI

teachers in other schools who face similar problems related to low student motivation to learn. The application of discussion and question and answer methods is expected to be an effective solution in improving motivation and quality of learning at various levels of education. However, it is important to remember that each class has different characteristics, and therefore, the approach used needs to be tailored to the needs and conditions of each student.

Thus, this study concludes that the discussion and question and answer method is one of the effective learning strategies in increasing students' learning motivation in PAI subjects. The application of this method not only increases student participation in the learning process, but also improves the classroom atmosphere and helps students understand the material better. The success of this method, as demonstrated in this study, shows that more interactive learning and actively engaging students can create a more meaningful and enjoyable learning experience.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the study, the application of discussion and question and answer methods in Islamic Religious Education (PAI) learning significantly increases student learning motivation at SMP Negeri 1 Simangambat. Before the application of this method, the majority of students showed a passive attitude and were less interested in learning PAI. However, after the intervention with discussion and question and answer methods, there was an increase in students' activeness in asking questions, discussing, and understanding the material more deeply.

The results of the questionnaire showed that the level of students' learning motivation increased from an average score of 2.8 (low category) to 4.1 (high category) after the application of the method. In addition, observations in the classroom also show that students become more enthusiastic, confident, and active in participating in discussions and answering questions asked by teachers and peers. Interview data with PAI teachers also confirmed that this method has a positive impact on student involvement in the learning process.

Academically, this study shows that learning strategies that involve active interaction between students and teachers can increase understanding of concepts and improve learning outcomes. By using discussion and question-and-answer methods, students not only memorize the material, but are also able to develop critical thinking, communication, and cooperation skills in groups.

In addition, this research makes an important social contribution, especially in building students' character to be more active, confident, and have the courage to express their opinions. This method also creates a more dynamic and interactive classroom atmosphere, which can improve social relationships between students and teachers. This shows that learning that actively engages students not only affects their motivation to learn, but also helps to strengthen social interaction in the classroom.

Thus, the results of this study can be a recommendation for schools and educators to implement discussion and question and answer methods in the learning process, not only in PAI subjects, but also in other subjects. The application of this method is expected to bring positive changes in the quality of learning, which will have a direct impact on improving student learning outcomes.

Through this research, it is hoped that teachers can be more innovative in choosing learning methods that suit the needs of students, so that their motivation and learning outcomes can continue to increase. With the right approach, learning becomes more interesting and relevant for students, which in turn will increase their activeness and understanding of the material being taught.

Going forward, further research can be conducted with a wider scope to measure the effectiveness of these methods in different levels of education and other subjects. This research can also be a reference for future research that wants to examine more deeply the influence of other interactive methods in improving student motivation and learning outcomes.

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