

The Influence of Islamic Religious Education on the Formation of Students' Character in Schools

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Abstract

This journal aims to analyze the influence of Islamic religious education on the formation of students' character in schools. Islamic religious education has an important role in shaping the character of students, which includes aspects of personality, morals, and social norms. The methodology used in this study is a literature study, by collecting and analyzing a variety of written sources, including books, journal articles, and previous research reports related to this theme. The results of the study show that Islamic religious education applied consistently can increase students' spiritual awareness, instill ethical values, and support the development of positive attitudes such as tolerance, discipline, and a sense of responsibility. In addition, the integration of religious values in daily learning in schools has been proven effective in shaping better student character. This research provides important insights for educators, parents, and education policy makers in an effort to optimize character education through a religious approach.

Keywords: Islamic Religious Education, Character, Students, School, Ethics.

INTRODUCTION

Education is a very important process in the development of individuals and society. In the context of education, Islamic religious education has a strategic role in shaping the character of students. In Indonesia, where the majority of the population is Muslim, religious education is one of the important aspects of the formal education curriculum. This shows that Islamic religious education not only functions as a teaching about religious teachings and practices, but also has a significant impact on the formation of students' character (Hasan, B. (2018)

Character is a moral and mental quality that distinguishes individuals from each other. In an era of globalization full of complex

challenges, strong character is indispensable to face various social and moral problems. Character building through education must be done from an early age, so that students can grow into individuals who are not only academically intelligent, but also have integrity, empathy, and a high sense of responsibility. In this context, Islamic religious education plays an important role in creating a quality generation (Ali, M. (2019)

Islamic religious education emphasizes not only on the theoretical understanding of Islamic teachings, but also on its practice and implementation in daily life. Through the learning process, students are taught to internalize religious values into their behavior.

This includes respect for parents, tolerance of others, and honesty in daily actions. Thus, religious education not only educates students about what is and is not allowed, but also forms a way of thinking and acting in accordance with Islamic teachings (Ahmad, R. (2020)

However, in reality, there are still many challenges in the implementation of Islamic religious education in schools. One of these challenges is the difference in religious understanding and practice among students, which is often influenced by family backgrounds, social environment, and previous education. In addition, the lack of attention to character education as a whole is also one of the factors that hinder the effectiveness of religious education. Therefore, collaborative efforts from various parties are needed to overcome these challenges.

In order to increase the influence of Islamic religious education on the formation of students' character, the integration of religious values in all aspects of learning is very important. This can be done by associating other subject matter with religious values, so that students do not only learn from one point of view. With this approach, it is hoped that students will be able to see the relationship between science and religion, which in turn will strengthen their character.

In addition, the role of teachers as educators is also very vital in this context. Teachers not only function as material delivery, but also as role models for students. Teachers'

attitudes and behaviors that reflect religious values will have a great influence on students. Therefore, the development of teachers' competencies in Islamic religious education also needs to be a concern, so that they can teach more effectively and inspiringly.

This journal aims to explore more deeply the influence of Islamic religious education on the formation of students' character in schools. By using the literature study methodology, it is hoped that a comprehensive picture of how religious education can contribute to students' character values can be obtained. In addition, the results of this study are expected to provide recommendations for decision-makers in the world of education to optimize religious education programs in schools.

METHOD

In this study, the approach used is a literature study, which is a systematic method for collecting, evaluating, and analyzing information from various sources related to the influence of Islamic religious education on the formation of students' character in schools. This method was chosen because it provides in-depth insights into the topic by researching existing writings, thus allowing researchers to get a comprehensive picture of the issues being discussed.

The data collection process begins by searching for articles, books, and research reports that are relevant to the research topic.

These sources are drawn from academic databases, university libraries, and quality scholarly publications. In choosing the research to be analyzed, the researcher considers inclusion criteria such as relevance to the theme, validity of the source, and publication time to ensure that the information used is current and reliable.

After gathering a number of sources, the next step is to analyze the content of each source taken. This is done by comparing the findings, theories, and arguments presented by previous authors. The researcher also categorizes information based on certain aspects, such as character values formed through religious education, the teaching methods implemented, and the results achieved by students as a result of religious education.

It is also important to note possible biases in the existing literature, both in terms of authors and the research methods used in each study. The researcher seeks to consider various viewpoints and approaches in Islamic religious education, so that the resulting analysis becomes more objective and balanced. The holistic approach in this analysis aims to avoid one-sided conclusions and provide a more comprehensive picture of the role of religious education in the formation of student character.

As a final stage, the researcher compiles a synthesis of findings obtained from various sources and formulates conclusions and recommendations for educational practice. The results of this literature study are expected to

make a meaningful contribution to the development of Islamic religious education in schools, both in terms of theory and practice, as well as provide insight for educators, parents, and decision-makers in the world of education.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Islamic religious education has a very important role in shaping the character and personality of students. As a systematic process, this education transforms the values of Islamic teachings into the individual, not only as a collection of theories and practices of worship, but also as a moral and ethical foundation that forms good social interactions. The concept of Islamic religious education includes the teaching of faith, worship, morals, and muamalah as a guide in daily life, so that it becomes an important element in the formation of students' identities as individuals and part of society.

In Islamic religious education, teaching is not only limited to cognitive aspects, but also includes affective and psychomotor aspects. The goal is to shape students' attitudes and behaviors in accordance with Islamic values. For example, learning about noble morals not only teaches the definition of morality, but also provides examples and opportunities to apply it in daily life. Through this holistic approach, Islamic religious education is expected to create individuals who are not only intelligent in science, but also ethical and have good morals.

The introduction of moral values contained in the Qur'an and hadith is an important aspect of

Islamic religious education. A well-done religious education helps students understand the importance of those values and how to apply them in their lives. For example, the values of honesty, compassion, and responsibility taught in Islam can be a guide for students in behaving and acting, both at school and outside the educational environment. By understanding and internalizing these values, students are expected to become better individuals and be able to make a positive contribution to society.

In an era of globalization full of negative influences such as materialism and low moral tendencies, Islamic religious education serves as a bulwark against values that are contrary to Islamic teachings. Through religious education, students are taught to have a strong understanding of their identity and morals, which will help them remain steadfast in their beliefs despite being faced with temptation. Therefore, it is important for educators to create a conducive learning environment and support the development of students' character based on Islamic values.

The involvement of parents and the community also plays an important role in Islamic religious education. The family as the first educational institution is expected to support religious teaching given in schools. For example, parents can invite their children to be active in religious activities, such as studying, and provide examples of behavior that are in accordance with Islamic teachings. With the synergy between formal and non-formal

education, the process of internalizing religious values will be more effective, and students will have a better understanding of religious teachings and their application in daily life.

Although there are many benefits that can be gained from Islamic religious education, challenges in its implementation remain. One of the problems that may be faced is the difference in perspective in understanding religious teachings between students and teachers. This can lead to confusion and contradiction in the application of religious principles. In addition, there is also the influence of the social environment that can affect students' understanding of religious values. Therefore, it is important for educators to always adapt and open a dialogue with students about religious teachings so that the learning process becomes more dynamic and relevant.

Overall, the concept of Islamic religious education is more than just teaching about religious theory and practice. It is an integral process in forming individuals who have character, morals, and social awareness. Islamic religious education serves to bridge the gap between knowledge and practice, between theory and application in real-life contexts. Thus, religious education can be expected to be a solid foundation for the formation of a generation that is not only academically intelligent, but also has good morals and is able to contribute positively to society.

Character formation is a complex process that involves a variety of factors, including

environment, teaching, and life experiences. Various theories have been developed by experts to understand how characters are formed. One of the theories that is often used as a reference is behavioral theory, which argues that character is formed through interaction with the environment and the reinforcement of certain behaviors. For example, if a child is praised every time they behave well, they are likely to repeat the behavior, so that the good behavior becomes part of their character.

In addition to behavioral theory, cognitive theory also provides an important perspective in understanding character formation. This theory emphasizes the role of mental processes, such as thinking, perception, and judgment, in shaping the way individuals behave. In the context of education, this understanding means that students must be engaged in learning that encourages them to think critically and reflect on the values being taught. By reflecting on actions and consequences, individuals can develop a character that is in harmony with the moral principles they adhere.

Humanistic theory, pioneered by figures such as Carl Rogers and Abraham Maslow, also contributed to the understanding of character formation. This theory emphasizes the importance of self-actualization and personal potential in character formation. According to this view, every individual has a basic need to be understood, accepted, and appreciated, which in turn will encourage them to develop positive character. In the context of education, a

supportive and accepting environment will help students feel comfortable expressing themselves, so that they can develop into confident individuals and have strong character.

Social-cognitive theory, put forward by Albert Bandura, integrates elements of behavioral and cognitive theory by emphasizing the role of observation in learning. Bandura posits that individuals can learn new behaviors by observing others and evaluating the consequences of those actions. In this context, education that prioritizes role models or positive role models can accelerate the formation of students' character. When students see good behavior done by teachers or community leaders, they tend to imitate those behaviors, which contributes to character formation that prioritizes moral values.

Meanwhile, the theory of constructivism pioneered by Jean Piaget and Lev Vygotsky emphasized the active involvement of the individual in the process of learning and character formation. According to this theory, character is formed through valuable learning experiences, in which students are invited to interact with the environment and actively contribute to the learning process. Relevant and contextual learning will enhance students' understanding of moral values as well as how to apply them in real life. In an educational environment, learning methods that encourage collaboration and discussion will be more effective in character building compared to one-way approaches.

The theory of the holistic approach has also gained attention in the context of character building, where the importance of balance between intellectual, emotional, social, and spiritual aspects is emphasized. A person's character is not only shaped by rational thinking, but also by their emotions and social relationships. Therefore, an education that integrates all these aspects can pave the way for the formation of a more complete character. In practice, this can include activities that involve cooperation, empathy, as well as the development of social and emotional skills necessary to interact well in society.

Islamic Religious Education (PAI) teachers have a strategic role in shaping the character of students. They not only serve as educators, but also as educators, role models, mentors, and motivators. The role of PAI teachers includes teaching religious values, setting examples of good behavior, fostering student morale, and creating positive interactions in the school environment. PAI teachers are also responsible for fostering students' character in accordance with Islamic law, helping students develop good behavior, and strengthening religious values in daily life.

CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis carried out in this study, it is clear that Islamic religious education has a significant influence on the formation of student character in schools. Through effective

teaching methods and the integration of religious values in the curriculum, religious education can shape students' positive attitudes and behaviors. Values such as honesty, tolerance, and a sense of responsibility emerged as a result of the systematic internalization of religious teachings. In addition, the role of teachers as role models and facilitators in the learning process is also an important factor in strengthening the influence of religious education on students' character.

Nevertheless, the challenges faced in the implementation of Islamic religious education need to continue to be overcome. Differences in understanding between students and lack of attention to character education as a whole are some of the issues that need to be considered by decision-makers in the world of education. Therefore, to strengthen the impact of religious education, collaboration between various parties, including educators, parents, and the community, is urgently needed. This research is expected to be a reference for the development of more effective religious education, so that it can create a generation that is not only intelligent, but also has superior and moral character.

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