

The Importance of Islamic Religious Education for the Current Generation

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ABSTRACT

The Teaching of Quran and Hadith on Education in the Modern Era is essentially in line with Islamic teachings, particularly the Quran which serves as the source of Islamic law. From these various characteristics, they are found within the verses of the Quran, Hadith, and commentaries as evidence that the concept of education in the modern era is in harmony with Islamic teachings in structuring human life on this earth, especially within the context of education. The author can conclude that education in the modern era is a demand and a heightened concern, with the main focus being on shaping the character and mentality of learners. Education is a process aimed at transforming, directing, and guiding the behavior of an individual/learner from negative to positive, enabling the current generation to utilize modern facilities/technology and dress in accordance with religious teachings.

1. Introduction

In the current modern era, education should receive greater attention and be the primary focus for shaping the character and mentality of learners. Education is a process aimed at transforming, directing, and guiding an individual's behavior from negative to positive. Education must have a mission and values that need to be developed by humans. There are at least three values contained within education: the transfer of knowledge, character building, and love of nation (Lajnah Pentashihan Mushaf Al-Qur'an, 2012).

One of the most important forms of education is Islamic Religious Education (PAI). Islamic Education is a conscious guidance from educators (adults) to children who are still in the process of growth, based on Islamic norms, to develop their personalities into Muslim individuals. Religious Education must be conducted at every level of formal education according to the religion embraced by the learners. This means the role of religious education is very significant. Religious Education is not just about imparting religious teachings to learners but also instilling commitment to and practice of the teachings in their daily lives. In religious education, the aspects of knowledge and action must be integrated, both should go hand in hand (Fatah Syukur, 2009).

Islamic Religious Education is a manifestation of human effort aimed at guidance and development, to help direct an individual towards forming a personality in accordance with religious teachings. Education fundamentally lays the foundation for human life itself, so that one does not fall into things that are deemed contrary to the commands or goals set by Allah SWT. Islamic Religious Education provides the necessary provisions and is grounded in sincerity of learning, particularly about Islamic

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Religious Education. Considering that in the present age, there are numerous factors that can easily lead us astray or towards negativity, the existence of Islamic Religious Education becomes crucial in making individuals more educated, both in terms of knowledge and noble character. Especially in the current era, particularly in the millennial generation, Islamic Religious Education has a restorative aspect for the intellectual continuity of the young generation. Given that there are many influences nowadays, driven by various interests, that contribute to the deterioration of the current generation, it is highly important for all young people to engage in the study of religious education.

2. Literature Review

customary Islamic Education serves as a foundation for shaping high-quality morals and character in humans. The study of worldly knowledge would not be balanced without being accompanied by religious knowledge. Teaching the importance of religious education should introduce children from an early age to the fact that, in this modern era, religion serves as a crucial foundation. Through religion, we can control ourselves from self-destructive behaviors and actions, benefiting both ourselves and the world. Islamic Education not only molds attitudes and behaviors but also serves as a form of devotion and submission to Allah SWT. Learning from the Quran and Hadith shapes noble character traits, contributing to the creation of a community that believes in and fears Allah. The Quran and Hadith are of utmost importance in the lives of every learner in the current era, enabling students to gain skills in reading and understanding the meanings and interpretations of the Quran and Hadith. Hadith holds a pivotal position in Islamic teachings, second only to the Quran, serving as a foundation for Islamic law. Hadith encompasses the teachings and actions attributed to the Prophet, serving as an explanation of the Quranic verses. Throughout history, the Islamic community has given considerable attention to Hadith (Darmalaksana, 2004).

Islamic Education in the modern era can help strengthen Muslims' understanding of their religion. By studying the Quran and Hadith, learners are equipped with a strong foundation to confront the complexities of the modern era. Islamic Education serves as a beacon, instilling strong moral values within individuals. Through Islamic education, individuals can grasp concepts such as justice, honesty, compassion, and good ethics. It teaches the importance of integrity and morality in daily life, helping individuals navigate the moral challenges of the modern era. Islamic Education in the modern era isn't solely focused on religious aspects but also integrates knowledge and technology. Islam encourages its followers to seek knowledge and utilize technology for the betterment of humanity. Indonesia, being one of the largest Islamic countries in the world, is home to diverse religions. Islamic Education prepares the millennial generation to fulfill their roles in this world and gain rewards in the afterlife. Islamic Religious Education guides the formation of better personalities and characteristics. Thus, our preparedness to face modernization involves maintaining faith and devotion to the One Almighty God, being diligent in learning, persevering, nurturing our culture, and resisting the influence of negative cultural elements.

The Quran, as the source of Islamic teachings, provides guidance for humans to follow the path pleasing to Allah. It covers various aspects of worship and education, and within it, there's a clear call for reflection and learning (Al-Shad/38:29). "This is a Book that We have revealed to you, full of blessings, that they may ponder over its verses, and that men of understanding may be mindful."

"Whoever seeks goodness in this world or the Hereafter, let him seek it through knowledge. Whoever seeks goodness in both worlds, let him seek it through knowledge." (Narrated by Bukhari and Muslim) From this hadith, it can be concluded that the Prophet greatly valued education and encouraged engagement in the fields of education and teaching. The distinction between education and teaching lies in the emphasis education places on

character and personality development of learners. With effective learning processes, nations can pass on religious values, thoughts, and skills to the current generation, enabling them to possess good characters.

Islamic Religious Education should ideally begin with parents, gradually introducing Islamic teachings through small acts. For instance, teaching children to speak courteously and to become accustomed to prayers. This approach helps children develop these practices into habits.

Every child/learner should honor and respect their parents and uphold their parents' reputation as an example, providing protection and being polite in speech and behavior. They should avoid being cynical, arguing, or speaking louder than necessary, not walking ahead of them, addressing them with respectful titles like "mother," "father," or equivalent terms. They should seek permission or at least consult them regarding plans or journeys. The current generation must learn Islamic Education to complement their general education. Islamic Education prepares the millennial generation to fulfill their roles in this world and reap rewards in the afterlife. Islamic Religious Education serves as guidance to form good personalities and characteristics, allowing the current generation to utilize modern facilities in accordance with religious teachings.

3. Methodology

This type of research is qualitative research, which aims to uncover a problem as it is, presenting facts in their natural context. The research generates descriptive data in the form of written or spoken words from individuals and observable behaviors. (Hadari Nawawi, 2016)

4. Results and Discussion

It is a necessity for adults, especially parents, to strive diligently in rectifying their children's mistakes at all times, and to instill the habit of doing good. Hence, Islamic Religious Education in schools is regarded as an excellent medium of learning for students. In Indonesia, the current generation demands significant attention. What if Indonesia progresses as a nation, yet lacks education, both Islamic and other forms? Islam is a religion revealed by Allah SWT to Prophet Muhammad, complementing the teachings of previous prophets. Islam regulates the relationship between Allah and His servants (*hablumminallah*) and the relationships among people (*hablumminannas*).

According to Prof. Dr. Hasan Langgulung, Islamic Religious Education serves four functions: 1) Preparing the younger generation for specific roles in society in the future. 2) Transferring the knowledge relevant to these roles from the older generation to the younger generation. According to M. Yusuf al-Qardhawi, Islamic Religious Education encompasses the full development of the human being—intellect and heart, spirituality and physicality, character and skills. Therefore, Islamic Religious Education equips individuals to live harmoniously, prepared to face both the pleasant and challenging aspects of society.

Considering the modern era, Islamic education is indeed crucial. There are numerous internal and external factors influencing the current generation. Positive impacts of foreign cultures include the broadening of Indonesia's knowledge of foreign languages and cultures. However, there are negative repercussions as well, particularly evident in immodest clothing choices influenced by foreign cultures. Lack of self-awareness is a significant factor causing the deficiency in Islamic education. A real example in today's society is the inadequate adherence to proper hijab attire, with many millennials wearing hijab in a manner not aligned with teachings. Despite knowing the correct way, many still choose to follow their own interpretations due to insufficient Islamic education.

Islamic Religious Education is greatly needed for the current generation. Due to the infiltration of foreign cultures, many Muslims, particularly women, are neglecting the commands of Allah. They openly display their *aurah* (parts of the body that should be covered) to non-mahrams (non-mahram individuals are those with whom one is not

permitted to have a marriage relationship). This includes wearing excessively revealing clothing, showing body curves, wearing the hijab with hair exposed, and not covering the chest. Often, these acts are showcased on social media for the purpose of gaining fame, which clearly deviates from Islamic teachings.

In Islamic teachings, parents, particularly the mother and father, are primarily responsible for educating and developing their children. Therefore, parents hold this responsibility due to both natural reasons and their vested interest in their children's development. Hence, Islamic Education positions parents as the primary educators. Millennials must study Islamic education to strike a balance with general education. Islamic Education prepares them to fulfill their roles in this world and gain rewards in the afterlife. Islamic Religious Education guides the formation of better personalities and characteristics. Islamic Education aims to achieve a balanced growth of the individual, addressing mental, intellectual, emotional, and sensory aspects, both individually and collectively, to achieve a complete life.

Islamic Education is an integral aspect of overall Islamic teachings, as its goal aligns with the purpose of human life and Islam—to create individuals who remain conscious of Allah and attain happiness in this world and the Hereafter. Many millennials nowadays are reluctant to engage in learning Islamic knowledge. This occurs due to various influences, including family, environment, friends, and misguided associations. In the digital age, one can pursue Islamic education through social media platforms like YouTube, Instagram, TikTok, by listening to lectures and reading related quotes. However, while doing so, it's essential to ensure that the teachings align with Allah's commands. Our study of Islamic education must conform to His teachings. Thus, Islamic Religious Education is crucial for the current generation, enabling them to adapt to the times while adhering to the teachings of the Prophet and avoiding deviations that might negatively impact them. As Muslims, we must strengthen each other in doing good, thereby fostering a generation characterized by good morals and behavior.

5. Conclusion

Islamic education is inseparable from the purpose of human life, which is to create individuals who are servants of Allah, consistently conscious of Him, and capable of attaining a happy life in this world and the Hereafter. Meanwhile, in his presentation by Azra, Hasan Langgulung formulates Islamic education as a process of preparing the younger generation to fulfill roles, transferring Islamic knowledge and values harmonized with the human function of practicing in this world and reaping its rewards in the Hereafter. Here, Islamic education is a process of shaping individuals based on the teachings of Islam revealed by Allah SWT to Muhammad (peace be upon him), through which individuals are molded to reach a higher status, enabling them to fulfill their role as stewards on Earth. In a broader context, this leads to the realization of happiness in both this world and the Hereafter.

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