

INNOVATION IN ISLAMIC EDUCATION: EFFECTIVE STRATEGY IN FORMING NOBLE MORALS OF THE YOUNG GENERATION

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Journal info

Jurnal Pendidikan Glasser

p-ISSN : 2579-5082

e-ISSN : 2598-2818

DOI : 10.32529/glasser.v8i1.3180

Volume : 8

Nomor : 1

Month : 2024

Keywords: Islamic

Education Innovation;

Technology in Religious

Education; Integrated Curriculum

and Character Formation

Abstract.

The young generation, which is supposed to be the figure behind the nation's progress, appears with daily behavior that ignores ethics and morals. Moral education is expected to be able to contribute in overcoming these problems, with moral education expected to be one of the strategies in shaping the morals of the younger generation. This research aims to identify innovative strategies in Islamic education. The research method used is qualitative by taking location in the Kudus City area, Central Java Province. The findings of this study confirm that Islamic education innovation can be an effective solution in shaping the character and morals of the younger generation, as well as answering the challenges of the times. The implications of the results of this study provide a strong basis for continuing to encourage innovative strategies in religious education, ensuring the continued relevance and effectiveness of Islamic education in the modern context



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A. INTRODUCTION

In the Law. R.I. No. 20. 2003: 2 explained that education is a conscious and planned effort to create a learning atmosphere and learning process so that students actively develop their potential to have religious spiritual strength, self-control, personality, intelligence, noble morals and the necessary skills. himself, society, nation and state. The aim of Indonesian national education is explained in Article 31 paragraph 3 of the 1945 Constitution which states that the government seeks and implements a national education system, which increases faith and devotion as well as noble morals in order to make the nation's life more intelligent, which is

regulated by law (Indonesia. Undang-undang tentang Tujuan Pendidikan Nasional 2023)

Islamic education as a scientific and spiritual entity plays a crucial role in shaping the noble morals of the younger generation (Soleha 2022). The ever-evolving modern era presents complex dynamics that influence social order and moral values. Therefore, this research aims to investigate Islamic educational innovation as an effective strategy in forming noble morals in the younger generation. The background of this research refers to the reality that times change and technological developments provide a significant influence on the thinking patterns and behavior of the younger generation.

Islamic education must be able to synergize with this context and develop innovative strategies to answer increasingly complex moral challenges. A number of studies (Titony Tanjung dan Jamilus Jamilus 2023) highlight the urgent need for transformation in Islamic education so that it remains relevant and effective.

Moral education is guidance for physical and spiritual growth which focuses on directing, teaching, training, nurturing and supervising the implementation of all Islamic teachings. The millennial era emerged after the global era, such as in social, economic, political and cultural life, but what is most visible is changes in lifestyle. The young generation who should be the figures behind the nation's progress actually appears with daily behavior that ignores ethics and morals. Moral education is expected to be able to contribute to overcoming these problems, with moral education it is hoped that it will become one of the strategies in shaping the morals of the younger generation

The rationale for this research arises from the urgency of overcoming increasingly complex moral problems amidst changing times. This justification is supported by the views of experts who emphasize that Islamic education must be the main solution in shaping the character and morality of the younger generation (Alya Cahyani dan Siti Masyithoh 2023) The gap between Islamic values and the reality of everyday life is a driving force for finding innovative solutions. The emergence of this research problem is reflected in the

social dynamics that trigger the decline in the moral values of the younger generation. This phenomenon does not only occur at the local level, but also globally. Increasing cases of immoral behavior and decreasing moral awareness are serious challenges that require solutions through innovative approaches in Islamic education.

Alternative solutions that emerge from the literature involve technology-based approaches, integrated curricula, and strengthening the role of families in educating morals. However, the advantages and disadvantages of each of these solutions need to be critically evaluated to formulate the most effective strategy. The choice of solution must consider the social context, sustainability and efficiency in achieving the goal of forming noble morals. The problem and aim of this research is very clear, namely identifying innovative strategies in Islamic education innovation that are effective in forming noble morals in the younger generation. By understanding the reality of the problem and setting specific objectives, this research aims to make a substantial contribution to the thought and practice of Islamic education. And the usefulness of this research is not only limited to academic aspects, but also has significant practical impacts. It is hoped that the research results can serve as a guide for policy makers, educational practitioners and related parties in developing effective Islamic education programs. Thus, it is hoped that this research can make a positive contribution to

the formation of the character and morality of the younger generation.

B. RESEARCH METHOD

This research is qualitative research with a case study approach (Uswatun Hasanah 2020), conducted in Kudus City, Central Java Province. The research targets involve Islamic educational institutions that have implemented innovative strategies in their education. The research subjects consisted of administrators, teachers and students who were actively involved in implementing innovative strategies at selected Islamic educational institutions. The research process begins with approaching institutions to obtain permission and collaboration. Furthermore, the research involves direct observation of the implementation of Islamic education innovations, stakeholders, and analysis of documents related to innovative strategies. Data collection uses triangulation techniques, combining observation results and document analysis (Yeri Rutania dan Roro Isyawati Permata Ganggi 2021). The research instrument includes a list of observations and document analysis to obtain information regarding the innovative strategies implemented. Data analysis was carried out inductively using a thematic approach, organizing, elaborating and analyzing data to identify patterns and main findings related to the effectiveness of innovative strategies in forming noble morals of the younger generation in Islamic educational institutions in Kudus City, Central Java Province.

C. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In exploring the role of Islamic Education Innovation as an effective strategy in shaping the noble morals of the younger generation, the results of this research provide an in-depth and relevant picture. In this section, six main points will be discussed that emerge from the data and analysis that has been carried out, providing a more comprehensive insight into how innovation in Islamic education can have a positive impact in shaping the character and morality of the younger generation (Hasan Basri 2023)

Technological Innovation as a Driver of the Effectiveness of Islamic Education

The application of technology in Islamic education innovation opens the door to a more interesting and effective learning experience, especially in shaping the noble morals of the younger generation (Tiya Sulistiyani 2022). Through the use of interactive software, online learning platforms, and multimedia, students can be actively involved in the learning process. This success not only increases student involvement but also enriches their understanding of religious values. In this context, it is important to pay attention to developing student engagement through technology. Interactive features such as simulations and educational games create a dynamic learning atmosphere and stimulate student interest. However, the success of technology implementation also depends on the competence of educators. Therefore, adequate training needs to be given to teachers

so that they can optimize the potential of technology in teaching religion.

The integration of technological values with religious values is an important aspect in this discussion (Muhamad Tisna Nugraha 2020). In teaching the use of technology, teachers must ensure that religious values are maintained. Discussion of digital ethics, responsible use of technology, and the role of technology in increasing spirituality can be integrated into the curriculum. Even though there are many advantages, the challenges and obstacles to implementing technology in Islamic education also need attention. Infrastructure availability, technology accessibility throughout the region, and funding issues are some of the aspects that need to be resolved so that the benefits of technology can be enjoyed by as many students as possible.

It is important to emphasize the empowerment of students as agents of change through the use of technology (Heri Susanti 2021). Students can be invited to actively contribute to learning, developing technology-based creative projects to spread Islamic religious values in their communities. This can strengthen students' role as leaders in spreading good values. This discussion also includes the need for continued innovation and renewal in learning methods. The world of technology continues to develop, and Islamic education needs to remain relevant to these developments. Continuous innovation will ensure that religious education can respond

more effectively to the needs and expectations of the younger generation.

Overall, this discussion illustrates that technological innovation in Islamic education is not an end goal, but rather a means to achieve noble morals. Through this effective strategy, the character and morality formation of the younger generation can be better realized, bringing positive impacts not only in the educational sphere, but also in forming ethical individuals in society at large.

Integrated Curriculum as a Comprehensive Effort

In continuing the discussion regarding the integrated curriculum, it needs to be emphasized that this approach does not simply combine general subjects with Islamic religious education, but creates a comprehensive effort in forming noble morals. young generation (Fadhlina Harisnur dan Suriana 2021). Integration between various subjects allows students to see the connection between religious values and various aspects of their daily lives. This provides an opportunity for students to understand that religious teachings are not separate from the social, economic and cultural realities they experience.

Furthermore, it is important to examine how an integrated curriculum can form a more comprehensive understanding of religious values. In this process, teachers have a central role in designing learning that combines religious concepts with relevant topics in the world around students (Mohammad Jailani dkk. 2021). Through this approach, students

can relate religious teachings to their own experiences, creating deeper and more relevant understanding.

The role of the family as a supporter of an integrated curriculum is the main topic of this discussion (Opan Arifudin 2022). Parental support and involvement in understanding the concept of an integrated curriculum can be a determining factor in its successful implementation. Therefore, the discussion also includes efforts to involve parents in supporting the learning process at home, so that the religious values applied at school can be applied consistently in the family environment.

Although important, the challenges and opportunities in parental involvement need to be considered. The busyness and pressure of modern life can be an obstacle, while awareness of the long-term benefits for the formation of a child's character can be an impetus for more active involvement. Collaboration between families, schools and communities opens up opportunities to create an educational ecosystem that supports and complements Islamic religious education.

Seeing the success of the integrated curriculum, the discussion also includes how this approach can be applied in a wider environment, not just at the school level. Coordination with educational institutions outside the school, such as religious centers and community groups, can increase the positive impact of an integrated curriculum. In closing the discussion, it should be noted that the success of an integrated curriculum in

forming noble morals in the younger generation involves cooperation between various parties, including schools, teachers, parents and the community. By understanding that religious values are not only learned in the classroom, but also applied in everyday life, an integrated curriculum can be a strategic step to shape students' character and morality as a whole.

The Role of the Family in Islamic Religious Education

The important role of the family in Islamic religious education is a crucial element in forming the noble morals of the younger generation (Firman Mansir 2021). In this context, parental involvement is not just support, but is a strong basis for the formation of children's character. The success of creating synergy between the family environment and the school environment has a profound positive impact in forming noble morals.

In understanding the implications of parental involvement, it can be seen that parental support and example play an important role in shaping children's character (Migfar Rivadah dkk. 2020). Children learn to apply religious values in their daily actions and decisions through their interactions with their parents. Therefore, parental involvement is not only the school's responsibility, but also as spiritual guides who form the practical dimension of Islamic religious teachings.

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In discussing the role of the family, not only individual family involvement is emphasized, but also collaboration with educational institutions and society. Programs that involve families, schools and communities can create holistic support in shaping children's character. Shared awareness of the role of the family in Islamic religious education forms a strong foundation for the formation of noble morals in the younger generation in the context of family, school and society.

Response to the Challenges of Time and Technology

In responding to the challenges of the times and technological developments, Islamic Education Innovation is a proactive basis for responding to educational needs in the digital era. This understanding highlights that it is not just about adapting, but also trying to be proactive in utilizing the potential of technology to improve the quality of religious teaching (Husnaini Jamil dan Nur Agung 2022). In line with technological developments, it is important to understand that the challenges faced by religious education are related to how to convey religious teachings in a relevant way and according to the lifestyle of the younger

generation. A proactive response to technological developments indicates awareness of the importance of adapting to the demands of the times. In the digital era, religious education needs to adopt technological innovation to remain relevant and enrich teaching methods. The use of online platforms, mobile applications and multimedia can provide a more dynamic and interesting learning experience for the younger generation.

Adaptation to the lifestyle of the younger generation is the focus in understanding responses to the challenges of the times and technology. Religious education needs to find new ways to convey religious values that are appropriate to the daily lives of the younger generation who tend to be digital and connected online. Thus, innovation in Islamic education is not only a response to technological developments, but is also a smart step in creating a connection between religious teachings and the realities of the younger generation. The importance of developing religious education strategies that are relevant to technological developments can be seen in efforts to increase the effectiveness of conveying religious messages (Babara Susyanto 2022). In discussing responses to this challenge, it is necessary to consider how the integration of technology can increase the absorption and understanding of religious material. The use of digital media can create a more interactive and fun learning method.

In responding to this challenge, there needs to be collaboration between educational

institutions, government and the private sector in developing initiatives that support the implementation of technology in religious education. It is hoped that these steps will ensure that religious education remains relevant and provides added value for the younger generation in the digital era.

Advantages of Technology in Increasing Student Engagement

In developing a discussion of the advantages of technology in increasing student engagement, it is important to highlight the positive impacts seen in research (Hariyono Hariyono 2023). The application of technology provides significant advantages by making the learning process more interesting and accessible to students. The research results show that students are more easily involved in the learning process through the use of interactive software, online learning platforms and multimedia. The advantages of technology in increasing student engagement can be seen from the way students interact with learning material. Various interactive features, such as simulations, educational games, and multimedia content, create a more dynamic and engaging learning experience. Students are not just passive spectators, but are actively involved in exploring and understanding religious concepts. With the advantages of technology, religious education can become an integral part of students' personal development (Dewi Shara Dalimunthe 2023). The application of technology allows students to relate religious teachings to their personal experiences, making religious learning more

relevant and meaningful in everyday life. In this way, students can more easily understand and apply religious values in their lives. This advantage can create a learning atmosphere that is inclusive and adaptive to student learning styles. In this context, differences in students' learning styles and levels of understanding can be accommodated through variations in learning methods provided by technology. Students have the freedom to learn according to their individual rhythm and preferences, increasing overall understanding and engagement.

The importance of exploring the advantages of technology in the context of Islamic religious education is to ensure that learning is not only effective but also relevant with the conditions of the times (Cut Nelga Isma 2022). The integration of technology is not only a response to the needs of modern students but also opens up opportunities to present religious education as a dynamic and interesting part of students' personal development. In looking at the advantages of technology, it is important to consider how it can also provide a boost to student creativity. Students can develop creative projects, create educational content, or participate in online discussions, giving them the opportunity to be more actively involved in their personal and religious development.

With increasing student involvement through technology, it is also necessary to pay attention to monitoring and evaluation efforts to ensure that technology truly has a positive impact on the understanding and

implementation of religious values in students' lives. Careful evaluation can be the basis for continuous improvement and adjustment so that technological advantages can make an optimal contribution to religious learning.

Positive Implications for Morality and Character

Highlighting the positive implications for the morality and character of the younger generation in the context of Islamic educational innovation is the focus of the next discussion. In interpreting the research results, it is important to understand that the use of innovative strategies, including technology and integrated curriculum, has a significant positive impact (Firda Halawati 2020). This not only creates students who are academically intelligent, but also creates individuals who have noble character and strong moral ethics. Positive implications for student morality and character can be seen from how Islamic education innovations are able to convey religious values in a more effective way. Technology integration brings religious values into the context of students' daily lives, making them easier to understand and internalize in daily behavior. Thus, Islamic educational innovation is not only about transferring knowledge, but also character formation.

It is important to emphasize that the research results show a correlation between the implementation of Islamic educational innovations and increasing student morality. In this case, it is not only academic quality that is considered, but also moral and character development. Empowering students through

Islamic educational innovation provides a strong foundation for to form a person who is ethical, responsible and has integrity. Positive implications on morality and character can also be reflected in student involvement in extracurricular activities or social projects supported by Islamic educational innovations. By utilizing technology, students can develop creative projects that not only increase understanding of religion but also have a positive impact in society.

Seeing these positive implications, it is necessary to pay attention to how Islamic education innovations can be integrated with broader character development programs in schools. With collaboration between educational innovation and character development programs, the positive impact on morality and character can be strengthened comprehensively. In addition, it is important to explore how the application of Islamic educational innovations can form attitudes of tolerance and intercultural understanding among students. By providing a deep understanding of religious values, students can develop attitudes that respect differences and build harmonious relationships in a multicultural society.

Quality human resources are not only measured by academic intelligence but also by moral integrity and character. The positive implications for morality and character found in Islamic educational innovations make a significant contribution in forming individuals who not only excel academically but also become agents of positive change in society.

Thus, the research results underline the importance of continuing to implement Islamic education innovations as a holistic strategy in shaping the character of the younger generation.

D. CONCLUSION

The results showed that the application of technology and an integrated curriculum had a significant positive impact. Student engagement increased, and the moral character of the younger generation was better formed. Technology integration provides a dynamic learning experience relevant to modern lifestyles, while the integrated curriculum provides a holistic context for understanding religious values.

In this context, Islamic education innovation not only serves as an answer to the challenges of the times, but also as an effective solution to bridge the gap between tradition and technological development. Moreover, it creates a learning environment that is inclusive, adaptive and focused on developing students' character. The importance of integrating technology in Islamic learning can also be seen from its ability to create a dynamic and engaging learning atmosphere. The freedom for students to learn according to their individual rhythms and preferences enriches students' overall understanding and engagement.

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