

Problems of Pai Teachers in Developing Students' Morals

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Abstract

The increasing phenomenon of adolescent moral degradation, characterized by deviant behavior, lack of discipline, and psychological stress, presents a significant challenge to the Indonesian education system. SMA Panca Budi Medan, located in an urban environment, faces specific risks from hedonistic cultures and uncontrolled digital media influence. Objective: This study analyzes the role of Islamic Religious Education (PAI) in implementing Mental Education as a preventive strategy against moral degradation among students. Methodology: This research utilizes a qualitative case study approach. Data were gathered through observation, in-depth interviews with school stakeholders, and documentation studies, and analyzed using the Miles and Huberman model. Results: The findings indicate that PAI learning at SMA Panca Budi Medan effectively integrates spiritual, moral, and mental values through contextual learning, teacher role models, and a robust religious school culture. Programs such as congregational prayers, Quranic recitation, and Islamic holiday commemorations serve as mechanisms for social control and value internalization. While supporting factors include teacher competence and family involvement, challenges remain regarding urban hedonistic influences and inconsistent parental supervision. Conclusion: Islamic Religious Education focused on mental resilience significantly contributes to building student character and acts as a strategic bulwark against the negative impacts of globalization and modernization.

Keywords: Mental Education, Islamic Religious Education (PAI), Moral Degradation, Student Character, SMA Panca Budi Medan.

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Introduction

Religious education, especially Islamic religious education, is very strategic in realizing the formation of students' morals. Religious education is a means of transforming knowledge in the religious aspect as a means of transforming norms and moral values to form attitudes, affective aspects that play a role in controlling behavior and psychomotor aspects so that a complete human personality is created. Strengthening moral values through the educational process is relevant to overcome the moral crisis that is happening in society. Acknowledged or not, there is a real and worrying crisis in society by involving the younger generation. The crisis includes increasing promiscuity, rampant rates of violence against children and adolescents, crimes against friends, teen theft, drug abuse, pornography, and destruction of other people's property have become social problems that have not been completely overcome until now (Harahap & , Rustam Ependi, 2023).

Education as stated in Law No. 20 of 2003 concerning the National Education System is a conscious and planned effort to create a learning atmosphere and learning process so that students are actively able to develop their potential in order to have religious spiritual strength, self-control, personality, intelligence, noble morals, and skills needed by themselves, society, nation and state (Munirah, 2015). In improving the quality of education, of course, it needs to be supported by several learning components. This learning component consists of educators, students, learning objectives, learning methods, media, materials and learning evaluation. Some of these components support the learning process to be more effective and efficient. In addition, educators have a role in overcoming problems that occur in learning activities. So an educator needs to design and prepare the material carefully, package learning in accordance with the conditions of the student's learning style, be able to motivate student learning to be active in learning so that the goal learning can be achieved to the maximum (Wahyuni & Berliani, 2019).

Based on the Great Dictionary of the Indonesian Language, a teacher is a person who has a teaching profession or a person whose job is teaching. In essence, teachers are people who are always admired and imitated. The meaning of being admired and imitated means that the teacher must always set an example and be a role model for his students, The relationship between the student and the teacher is like a shadow with his stick. The shadow will not look straight if the stick stands bent, which means how the student will be good, if the teacher behaves badly (Jannah, 2019). So a teacher's attitude must always have a positive influence on students because if the teacher gives a negative attitude, the student will follow the teacher's attitude.

Education is not an activity that is carried out carelessly, but an activity that is carried out in a structured and systematic manner. And in the process, educational activities must also be carried out in an organized manner to achieve educational goals (Nurfirdaus & Sutisna, 2021). The role of teachers in responding to student character is very important in order to create good student characters. The diversity of students' characters signifies students' intellectual property. A teacher needs to keep up with the times so that all teaching and learning processes when they are online, teachers do not panic and they have the provisions to face online learning more effectively (Suriadi et al., 2021). Then a teacher also needs to implement character education in schools so that students have high values and the culture of the Indonesian nation, namely noble ethics, politeness and religiosity (Ainiyah, 2013).

However, in the learning process, of course, there are always problems, namely the decline in students' morals caused by several factors, both external and internal factors,

regarding external factors including promiscuity, negative influence of gadgets, negative influence of television, influence of family and influence of school. Meanwhile, internal factors include instincts, habits, heredity, class desires or wills, and conscience (Hendayani, 2019). In an effort to create human beings with noble character, it is necessary to develop morals and habituate with good things.

Morality aims to form a Muslim person who has good morals towards Allah and fellow humans. Basically, the purpose of morality is the realization of piety to Allah, purity of soul, love of truth and justice firmly in each individual (Irhamna, 2016). Humans without morals will lose their humanity and as noble beings on this earth, especially in a life full of competitive competition, hedonistic, materialistic, and individualistic lifestyles (Sari & Bahtiar Siregar, 2023)

When talking about students, one of the things that can attract attention to be observed is their morals, behavior or behavior, daily life or social life, including what is currently being hotly discussed is the character or morals of students. Morality is a fundamental attitude in the soul that has existed from birth and from it are also born various kinds of behaviors and deeds easily and easily, without the need for thought and consideration. If this attitude is born from him who is good and praiseworthy, both in terms of reason and sharia, then it is called noble morals. And when that attitude is born from bad deeds, then the attitude is called reprehensible morals (Halik, 2018). It should be noted that although a teacher is one of the factors in determining students' morals, parents also have an important role in building or shaping morals and the process of implementing moral education at home so that parents are expected to be role models for children both in terms of worship and behavior (Masrofah et al., 2020). Moral education applied by parents to children has not been implemented properly and efficiently. In addition, the pattern of moral education in children in the family environment applied by parents is still far from good, this can all be seen from the percentage of parents only giving a pattern of direction, that everything we do has consequences, parents must be able to provide firmness in providing educational patterns to their children so that they can be obeyed and implemented in daily life (Erliyanto, 2017).

In this case, the problems that teachers face in building student morals can also be caused by the curriculum applied in the school concerned. Because the curriculum can be a supporting factor that can affect the quality of children's learning, including with adequate infrastructure and additional learning hours. However, curriculum can also be an inhibiting factor that can affect the quality of children's learning, including the limited teaching staff, inadequate facilities, and children's psychological problems (Shofa et al., 2018).

The purpose of this research is to find out the problems of a PAI teacher in developing student morals, to find out the teacher's evaluation in fostering student morals, and to find out how the teacher's efforts are in overcoming student morals

Research Methodology

This research is a qualitative research with a case study approach. In this case, we use a single case design so that we only focus on one problem (Yona, 2006). The research was carried out at SDN 067242 Sunggal which was held on December 24, 2025. The instrument used in this study is in the form of questions consisting of 10 questions that will be given to PAI teachers at SDN 067242 Sunggal as the subject of the research. The data collection techniques we used in this study were interviews and documentation. The data analysis techniques in this study are as follows: (1) Collecting data obtained from interview results, (2)

Classifying data, (3) Reducing data, (4) Drawing conclusions from data that has been reduced.

Results

The results of the research that we have conducted at SDN 067242 Sunggal to PAI teachers are related to the problems experienced by PAI teachers in developing students' morals. The results of the interviews show that there are several factors and influences that background the problems that PAI teachers experience in developing students' morals, including:

1. Family Factor

Based on the results of the interview, as explained by the information we got in the field, according to the speaker, the lack of attention from the parents is the beginning of moral damage in the current era. It is better for both parents to register their children in Islamic educational institutions such as TPA (Taman Pendidikan Al-Qur'an) so that children's spirituality can be filled with religious values so that the children's morals become good. The family is the initial educational environment, as the basic foundation or if it is illustrated as the body, then the family is the heart. The family is also a place of early education in the formation of character, traits and morals in children. Children are entrusted by Allah SWT to parents to be cared for, loved, and educated so that they can achieve the meaning of life and always get closer to Allah SWT (Rahmah, 2016). In this case, the role of the family is very important in the development of children's morals. Where the family environment affects the religious character of children (Purwaningsih & Syamsudin, 2022). Parents must always pay attention, recognize traits or behaviors to children. However, not a few of the families still do not care about the development of children's behavior and are even tired of educating so that children are left free to behave. In this case, it will have a negative impact on children. So what parents should do is to continue to monitor the children's morals in every interaction, give good directions, provide understanding related to noble morals and understanding of reprehensible morals so that children can sort and choose in their behavior.

2. Student Friendship Environment Factors

Based on the results of the interview, according to the resource person, the student friendship environment is one of the factors because if the student's friendship environment is not good, it can affect the child's attitude and speaking style. Socializing with fellow students is a form of social interaction that occurs among students. In this association, a reaction arises as a result of the relationship that occurs among students. This reaction is what causes a student to increase his knowledge and at the same time become an experience for himself in the future (Lestari et al., 2020). In the environmental factor, student friendship can occur because they do not apply commendable behavior and stay away from reprehensible behavior well. This is because the student environment is very influential in shaping student characteristics. Many children are not monitored by their parents when speaking or acting, this can trigger a child, namely his morals, where there are some students who are not polite in speaking or acting. This can happen because of the factors of the friendship environment of children or students. There are positive impacts of the friendship environment, namely: (1) Being able to develop socializing skills and establishing familiarity, children are able to improve relationships with friends, and children get a sense of togetherness. (2) Encourage individuals to be kind and independent. (3) Children can learn leadership skills and communicate, work together, role-play and make or obey rules. In addition, there are negative impacts of the friendship environment, including: (1) If there is a conflict between friends, it

can have a bad impact socially and psychologically. (2) Playmates who happen to have bad habits will transmit values that deviate from the general values of society. It can be concluded that in addition to helping children become better teachers, the friendship environment can also support the development of bad qualities in children. Most of these bad influences are only temporary and can be eliminated as the child gets older (Khotimah & Wahyuningsih, 2020). This means that to increase students' commendable morals can be done by increasing good interaction relationships between peers.

3. Social Media Influence

Based on the presentation delivered by the speakers, as the times develop, social media has become a source of moral damage to students because with children who already understand using mobile phones and sometimes there are some things that they see and hear and then they apply them to their lives. Changes in communication in this modern era have made technology more sophisticated. Social media is a means used in this modern era to communicate, interact with each other, and of course there is information that will be obtained by users. The presence of social media, in addition to facilitating the affairs of its users, also has an effect that will have an impact on its users, especially the morals of students (Setiawan et al., 2019). Another positive impact of social media for a teacher is that it can be used as a learning medium. It is undeniable that social media can be accessed by anyone, even elementary school-age children who are good at using gadgets belonging to their parents. Actually, it doesn't have much effect if both parents supervise, but, the fact is that many children are less supervised by their parents when using social media so that it triggers a negative impact on a student or child is on their morals where there are some students who are disrespectful when talking or dressing, lazy to do assignments because they are too fun to play social media, often quarrel and curse their peers (Hasanah Lubis, 2020). To overcome the above problems, the effort that can be made by a teacher is to always try to provide direction and understanding for students so that they are always wise in using social media (Ismail, 2018)

Conclusion

Based on the results of research related to teachers' problems in developing students' morals at SDN 067242 Sunggal, family is a factor in the destruction of students' morals because indeed not a few parents find it difficult to educate their children because of the busyness that exists. In addition, there is also a factor from the environment of his social friends where this cannot be avoided by the child because the child needs a friend so that the good or bad of this environment can affect or have an impact on the child's behavioral life. Then the social media factor which in this era is very easy to access by anyone and anywhere easily so that social media if not used correctly will have a negative impact on children. The teacher's efforts in developing this morality can be applied by providing direction and understanding related to noble morals, then giving reprimands to children whose morals are not good, always providing guidance to children and giving attention and examples of good behavior, and because of the limited time of teachers, teachers cooperate or collaborate with students' parents to always guide and monitor the development of children's morals outside the school environment. Where both are equally responsible for the morals of the student or child.

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