

The Urgency of Islamic Religious Education in the Formation of the Character of MI Students

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Abstract

The purpose of this study is to provide an overview of the importance of Islamic religious education in character development for elementary school students. This study employed a qualitative descriptive approach using a literature review approach. In this study, the researcher collected various literature sources related to the topic, such as books, journals, articles, and official documents. The results indicate that Islamic religious education plays a crucial role in developing the character of elementary school students, instilling Islamic values, and fostering good morals. Through Islamic learning, students understand religious concepts, act honestly and responsibly, and demonstrate mutual respect. The role of Islamic religious teachers is crucial in guiding students in the application of Islamic teachings. Studying Islam helps students understand Islamic history and the importance of religious identity. The importance of Islamic religious education in character development for secondary school students is to develop individuals with a sense of responsibility and noble morals.

Keywords: Islamic Religious Education, Character, Students

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Introduction

Elementary school is an important stage in the formation of children's character. During this time, children are very sensitive to external values and influences. Therefore, it is important to teach noble values from an early age, and Islamic Religious Education at MI plays a vital role in this. Madrasah Ibtidaiyah students are a very important stage of cognitive and moral development. They begin to understand the difference between right and wrong, and are able to consider the consequences of their actions. Therefore, the teaching of moral values and character at MI is very relevant and influential in shaping their behavior in the future. In addition, the character of Madrasah Ibtidaiyah students is also influenced by the environment around them, including family, peers, and the media. A positive and supportive environment will help strengthen their character, while a negative environment can hinder good character development.

Islamic Religious Education at Madrasah Ibtidaiyah is an important foundation in shaping children's character from an early age. Through this subject, children are introduced to Islamic religious values which include aspects of belief, morals, and worship practices (Yusri et al., 2023). Islamic Religious Education at MI not only focuses on understanding religious theory, but also teaches the application of Islamic guidelines in daily life. One of the main goals of Islamic religious education at MI is to form a good and noble character. By learning the teachings of Islam, students are taught to be responsible individuals, honest, disciplined, and caring for others.

Islamic religious education helps them understand concepts such as compassion, justice, hard work, and forgiveness, which are the moral foundation of their lives. In addition, Islamic religious education at MI also teaches obedience to religious teachings and upholds religious values. Children are taught about the importance of carrying out worship, such as prayer, fasting, and zakat, as well as understanding the meaning and purpose behind each worship. They are also taught to respect differences and maintain tolerance between fellow humans, in accordance with the Islamic teachings of peace and unity.

So in addition to providing an understanding of Islamic teachings, Islamic education at MI can provide an exemplary example for children through the role of Islamic Religious Education teachers. Islamic Religious Education Teachers are expected to be role models in applying Islamic values in their daily lives, so that children are able to learn from good examples and are able to practice these values in their own lives.

However, in recent years, there has been a decline in the quality of character in MI students. This can be seen from various cases of juvenile delinquency, fights between students, and disrespectful behavior that often occurs in the school environment. Uncontrolled media exposure can have a negative influence on children's character. Content that contains violence, pornography, and disrespectful behavior can affect a child's mindset and behavior. Parents' busy work and lack of communication with children can cause children to feel less cared for and loved.

This can make children seek attention in the wrong way, such as committing mischief. Lack of supervision at school can leave students free to do unwanted things, such as bullying, fights, and disrespectful behavior. Parents' busy work and lack of communication with children can cause children to feel less cared for and loved. This can make children seek attention in the wrong way, such as committing mischief.

Lack of supervision at school can leave students free to do unwanted things, such as bullying, fights, and disrespectful behavior. Several previous studies have shown that Islamic Religious Education has a significant role in shaping the character of MI students. Showing that Islamic Religious Education has an important and strategic role in shaping the nation's character. Islamic Religious Education Learning seeks to foster morals and instill honesty in students, so that religious education can function as character education. With the implementation of character education through Islamic Religious Education, it can be expected that the character of students will change to be more noble. Other research by (Faizah, 2022) shows that Islamic

character education is an effort made by teachers or schools to form a religious and moral student in accordance with Islamic teachings.

With the central role of Islamic Religious Education teachers through lectures, discussions, practicums, and storytelling, it is hoped that Islamic Religious Education can become an essential subject that helps students grow into individuals with noble character and benefit society. By understanding the importance of Islamic Religious Education in shaping the character of MI students, it is hoped that all relevant parties can work together to improve the quality of Islamic Religious Education at MI and realize a young generation with noble character, noble ethics, and can contribute positively to society and the nation.

Literature Review 2.1. Islamic Religious Education

Islamic religious education plays a very important role in shaping the personality of students, especially elementary school students (Harahap Yunan et al., 2024). It is true that elementary school is the initial stage of shaping children's character and personality. (Siregar et al., 2023) explained that the responsibility of Islamic religious education is not only the responsibility of religious teachers but requires the support of all school residents, the community and parents. Schools must be able to coordinate the learning of Islamic Religious Education with various stakeholders to develop students with noble character and integrity.

Several other studies also emphasize the importance of Islamic religious education in shaping students' personalities. (Hikmatullah, 2021) states that Islamic Religious Education learning aims to develop ethics and instill an honest attitude in students. Islamic religious education can play a role as character education and change the personality of students to be more noble.

As the opinion (N. Sari et al., 2023) also emphasizes that Islamic education aims to produce students who are religious and have noble character according to Islamic teachings (Al-Quran and Hadith). In addition, research conducted by (Musyarafah & Adiyono, 2024) focuses on the role of Islamic religious education in forming honest character in students. Islamic Religious Education learning teaches religious values that serve as guidelines in social interaction in the school environment and emphasizes good and correct good manners, good and correct communication ethics, and respect and dignity. (Bisri, 2021) also emphasized the importance of Islamic religious education and moral education in developing the character of elementary school students. Islamic religious education helps students understand Islamic values, practice them in daily life, and develop good ethics in accordance with religious teachings.

Therefore, it can be concluded that various literary studies highlight the importance of Islamic religious education in shaping the personality of elementary school students. Islamic religious education has an important role in instilling religious values, ethics, morality and moral nobility in students. In addition, Islamic religious education also helps students comprehensively understand Islamic teachings and apply them practically in daily life.

2.2. Definition of Student Character

According to (Muhammad Arroyan & M. Ali Ghufon, 2024) Character is "Psychological, moral or ethical traits that distinguish one person from another". Meanwhile, according to (Ismaraidha et al., 2024) Character as "A subjective assessment of a person's personality related to personality attributes that may or may not be acceptable to society". That character will form motivation with dignified methods and processes. Good character includes caring and actions based on ethical values, as well as covering the cognitive, emotional, and behavioral aspects of moral life (Ananda, 2024)

Character is the psychological trait, morality or ethics that characterize a person or a group of people as well as the values of human behavior related to God Almighty, oneself, fellow humans, the environment, and nationality that are manifested in thoughts, attitudes, feelings,

words, and deeds based on religious norms, laws, manners, culture, and customs (W. N. Sari & Faizin, 2023).

Character can be interpreted as the same as morality, so character is synonymous with morality. A nation with character is a nation with morals, on the other hand, a nation with no character is a nation that does not or lacks morals or does not have good norms and behavior (Latifa, 2024). Based on the above understanding, it can be affirmed that character is human behavior that is related to God Almighty, oneself, fellow humans, the environment, and nationality which is manifested in thoughts, attitudes, feelings, words, and deeds based on religious norms, laws, manners, culture, and customs. People whose behavior is in accordance with norms are called noble characters.

Research Methodology

This research method uses qualitative research by utilizing a literature review (Miza Nina Adlini, 2022). This approach is an approach that allows for an in-depth study of the topic of the role of Islamic Religious Education in the development of students' character in elementary school. In this study, the researcher collected and analyzed from various literature sources related to the subject of discussion, such as books, journals, articles, and official documents (Fadli, 2021). This research will pay attention to various aspects, such as learning religious values, worship practices, and the development of moral and ethical attitudes. Literature analysis will involve identifying the concepts, values, and principles taught in Islamic Religious Education, as well as how they can be applied in Character Education (Adlini et al., 2022). In addition, the researcher will also examine the following factors that affect the effectiveness of Islamic Religious Education in developing student character in elementary school, teacher qualifications, and in the learning environment (Susanto et al., 2025). By analyzing findings from various literature sources, this research aims to provide a more detailed reflection on the importance of the role of Islamic Religious Education in shaping the character of elementary school students (Darmalakšana, 2020).

Results 3.1. Characteristics of Madrasah Ibtidaiyah (MI) Students

According to Understanding the characteristics of madrasah ibtidaiyah students is very important for educators and parents. This is because this understanding helps to create an effective and conducive teaching and learning process and build positive relationships with students (Richter et al., t.t.). Madrasah ibtidaiyah students are the next generation of the nation. They are in the process of forming characters and personalities that will affect the social and cultural development of the nation.

Understanding the characteristics of madrasah ibtidaiyah students is important because it provides a clear view of their needs in education. One of the main characteristics of madrasah ibtidaiyah students is high curiosity. They have a natural drive to explore the world around them and have a great curiosity about everything. This can be seen in learning activities in the classroom, where they often actively ask questions and try to understand new concepts. In addition, students of madrasah ibtidaiyah also have high energy. They tend to be active and have difficulty staying still for long periods of time.

Therefore, learning that involves active interaction and physical activity is often more effective for them. Another characteristic is the need for recognition and acceptance from peers. Students of madrasah ibtidaiyah begin to develop social relationships and pay close attention to the views of their friends. Therefore, a supportive, inclusive, and child-friendly madrasah environment is essential to shape their confidence and well-being. The cognitive abilities of madrasah ibtidaiyah students are developing rapidly. They begin to understand abstract concepts, although they still need help to relate them to everyday experience.

Therefore, a concrete and supportive learning approach such as the use of teaching materials that are diverse and relevant to daily life is essential. In addition, madrasah ibtidaiyah

students are also developing social and emotional skills. They learn to manage emotions, cooperate with others, and understand the difference between right and wrong. Therefore, a holistic educational approach that includes social-emotional learning is very beneficial for them. According to Piaget, madrasah ibtidaiyah students are at the concrete operational stage. At this stage, students are already able to think logically and abstractly, but are still bound to concrete objects (Author 1 et al., 2017).

This means that madrasah ibtidaiyah students still need direct and concrete experience in learning. The concrete operational stage, which occurs between the ages of 7 and 11 years, marks the child's ability to think logically about concrete events and objects (Wahyuni et al., 2022). They can classify objects and perform reversible mental operations related to real objects. This operation allows the coordination of several characteristics of objects and understanding the relationships between them. The importance of the concrete stage of surgery is that children begin to be able to overcome more complex problems than the previous stage. They can perform more complex mental operations and understand more abstract relationships between objects. For example, they can logically sort objects and understand the transitive relationships between them. This stage is an important step in the child's cognitive development towards more mature thinking.

3.2. The Role of PAI in Shaping the Character of MI Students

The role of the purpose in learning Islamic religious education is to develop students' personalities which are reflected in students' behavior and mindsets in daily life. So learning Islamic religious education is not the task of a teacher alone, but requires the cooperation of all madrasah residents, regions, and most importantly parents. Therefore, to develop students with noble character and high character, madrasahs must be able to coordinate and communicate the learning model of Islamic religious education with various stakeholders, including individual communities that support and care for each other (Ainiyah, 2013).

The role of Islamic religious education is an important starting point in the development and development of student personality in madrasahs, the role of Islamic religious education is very important to implement and implement strategies for shaping students' character in schools. So in situations like this, to create a positive, active and efficient learning atmosphere and carry out learning in an environment outside the classroom is important for education to achieve educational goals and results that are moral and have good character is important as a strategy (Jai et al., 2020).

The role of Islamic religious education is to shape students' personalities which are reflected in students' behavior and thinking patterns in daily life. Learning Islamic religious education is not just an initiative of Islamic religious education educators, but requires the support of all schools and local communities. Schools should be able to organize and implement the learning model of Islamic religious education through various mutually supportive and considerate meetings in order to develop students with noble ethics and high character. Islamic religious education plays an important role in schools because it is the foundation for learning other sciences and creates a qualified and religiously oriented workforce.

The implementation of Islamic Education in madrasah Ibtidaiyah and Islamic Education Institutions is important and should be further developed because it is the foundation of character education there. As part of the evolving Islamic education experience, students are guided to develop the qualities imparted through religious learning. They are encouraged to show loyalty, be trustworthy in carrying out their duties, look out for each other, and care for each other, and students are prepared to act wisely. The role of learning Islamic religious education in madrasahs is so that religious education becomes the basis for learning other sciences that produce human resources with religious character and high knowledge. Therefore, the application of Islamic religious education in madrasahs and Islamic Education Institutions is the most important thing and needs to be further developed, because it is the main pillar of education there.

In the learning process of Islamic religious education, students are guided to internalize the characteristics imbued by religious teachings. They are encouraged to demonstrate obedient behavior, carry out duties with integrity, protect each other, and show concern for each other. In learning, religious values become a guideline in social interaction in the madrasah environment and useful habits are also emphasized. Children need Islamic religious education to always strive to strengthen their faith, piety, and noble morals. Education teaches morality, ethics, and ethics (Rustan & Irmawaddah, 2022).

Islamic religious education also plays an important role in the formation of Islamic character by instilling and instilling Islamic qualities such as morality, sincerity, and commitment based on the Quran and Hadith. In addition, Islamic education also has the following role: It becomes a fortress or barrier for those who need to protect themselves from the pattern of globalization that emphasizes unlimited possibilities.

Discussion

Education plays an important role in shaping the personality of elementary school students. This is because the madrasah Ibtidaiyah period is the beginning of the development of children's personality and morals. An important part of education is religious education, especially teaching in Islam for Muslim students. Therefore, Islamic religious education can provide a strong moral and spiritual foundation for students and be able to help them to understand Islamic values, which serve to build good character.

Through Islamic religious education, students receive Islamic teachings such as Aqidah, prayer, ethics, and Islamic rules. We are also taught to know and love Allah SWT and practice His wisdom in our daily lives. Therefore, Islamic religious education prioritizes the values of honesty, integrity, patience, and concern for others in students. Madrasah ibtidaiyah also plays an important role in discussions about Islam. Because at this stage students begin to get to know more about the characteristics of Islam. In addition, madrasah ibtidaiyah is the right place to develop students into human beings who steadily practice Islamic religious education, so Islamic religious education in madrasah ibtidaiyah based on Islamic teachings is able to provide a solid foundation for the development of good student character.

Islamic religious education lessons for madrasah Ibtidaiyah students not only help you understand Islamic lessons theoretically, but also help you apply the characteristics of Islam in your daily life. By studying Islam, students develop an attitude of mutual respect, mutual help, and care for others (Sari & Haris, 2023). They are also taught to always respect parents, educators, and elders, as well as to respect differences between people.

Therefore, the importance of Islamic religious education for the development of students' character in madrasah ibtidaiyah cannot be denied. As society becomes increasingly complex and faces various moral and social challenges, Islamic religious education provides a strong support for students to deal with a variety of situations. By studying and attending Islamic classes, students can become honest, caring, and respectful people in their daily lives.

Thus, Islamic religious education plays an important role in the formation of the character of madrasah ibtidaiyah students. Islamic religious education helps students build a strong moral foundation, advance ethical behavior, and contribute to society. By prioritizing Islam, students develop intellect, strengthen strong morals, and become human beings with common sense and character.

Madrasah Ibtidaiyah plays an important role in supporting and implementing Islamic religious education for students. Islamic religious education in madrasah ibtidaiyah must be strengthened and carried out seriously with the aim of making a significant contribution to the development of the character of this generation.

Conclusion

Islamic religious education plays an important role in shaping the personality of elementary school students. Islamic education helps students in understanding the qualities of Islam, practicing them in daily life, and fostering good ethics according to Islamic lessons. The essence of Islamic education is to develop the personality of students which is reflected in their daily behavior and mindset. Through Islamic learning, students are educated to appreciate, appreciate and help others, as well as show how to behave legitimately, capable, and self-aware in general. In addition, Islamic teaching helps students in understanding the concept of monotheism, the verses of Allah, the knowledge of Allah, and understanding Islamic lessons as a whole. The role of Islamic religious educators is very important in Islamic religious education in elementary schools. They teach Islamic lessons hypothetically, but also guide students to always apply Islamic qualities in daily life. Islamic teachers must be a good example for students in applying Islamic lessons in their lives. In addition, learning about Islam in elementary school helps students in understanding the background of Islamic history, the progress of Islamic development, and the importance of maintaining a personality in a difficult and diverse climate. By understanding the characteristics of Islam and applying it in daily life, it is hoped that students can be formed into capable human beings, have a respectable personality, and are ready to face the challenges of the modern world. Therefore, the urgency of Islamic religious education in the development of students' personalities in elementary schools is very high. Students can develop good morals, build a solid moral and spiritual foundation, and contribute to society by studying Islam. Therefore, serious consideration and serious efforts must be given to strengthen and implement the implementation of Islamic religious education in elementary schools so that it can provide maximum improvement and contribution to the formation of character and personality of future generations.

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