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The Role of Islamic Education Teachers in Increasing Social Awareness and Environmental Awareness in the Young Generation

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Abstract

Purpose this article discusses the important role of Islamic religious education teachers in increasing social awareness and environmental awareness in the younger generation. Islamic religious education has a strategic role in shaping students' character and morals, including awareness of social and environmental issues. Teachers of Islamic religious education have the responsibility to integrate religious values with social and environmental issues in the learning process. This type of research is literature research. Data collection by observation and documentation. The result of this study is the existence of Islamic values that include ethics and social responsibility towards the environment. Teachers are also expected to be exemplary examples in practicing these values in everyday life. Through creative and interactive teaching strategies, teachers can help students understand the importance of caring for fellow humans and the environment and their role as agents of change.

Keywords: *Teacher, Islamic Education, social, Environmental Concern*

Abstrak

Tujuan artikel ini membahas peran penting guru pendidikan agama Islam dalam meningkatkan kesadaran sosial dan kepedulian lingkungan pada generasi muda. Pendidikan agama Islam memiliki peran strategis dalam membentuk karakter dan moral siswa, termasuk kesadaran terhadap isu-isu sosial dan lingkungan. Guru pendidikan agama Islam memiliki tanggung jawab untuk mengintegrasikan nilai-nilai agama dengan isu-isu sosial dan lingkungan dalam proses pembelajaran. Jenis penelitian ini adalah penelitian kepustakaan. Pengumpulan data dengan observasi dan dokumentasi. Hasil penelitian ini adalah adanya nilai-nilai Islam yang mencakup etika dan tanggung jawab sosial terhadap lingkungan. Guru juga diharapkan menjadi contoh teladan dalam mengamalkan nilai-nilai tersebut dalam kehidupan sehari-hari. Melalui strategi pengajaran yang kreatif dan interaktif, guru dapat membantu siswa memahami pentingnya kepedulian terhadap sesama manusia dan lingkungan serta bagaimana peran mereka sebagai agen perubahan positif

Kata Kunci: Guru, Pendidikan Islam, Sosial, Kepedulian lingkungan



Introduction

Education is a systematic process or effort to transfer knowledge, skills, values, and culture from one generation to the next (Minawati, 2020). The main objective of education is to help individuals develop their potential to the maximum, so as to contribute positively in society and achieve personal success. Education becomes the basic foundation for the formation of personality and character (Sarinastitin, 2019). Moral breakthroughs in life can be found at the root cause in education. Educational orientation errors can cause graduates who only have brain intelligence, but do not have the glory of character. So far, education focuses on cognitive filling, while the affective, emotional and spiritual intelligence sides are less considered and do not seem to be the work of education (Yanti dkk., 2023). People prefer to assume that intelligent people are those who are able to memorize many mathematical formulas, master foreign languages fluently and are able to answer class questions precisely and carefully. As a result, education only produces brain-intelligent people.

Islamic religious education plays a central role in shaping the character and morals of the younger generation (Mahmud, 2022). As a religion that advocates the values of compassion, empathy, and justice, Islam provides a solid foundation for the

development of social awareness and environmental care. In facing the challenges of an increasingly complex and dynamic era, the role of Islamic religious education teachers is becoming increasingly important in guiding students to become responsible, empathetic, and caring individuals for others and the environment.

Today's young generation is faced with various social and environmental challenges that affect their mindset and behavior (Nurhasanah dkk., 2021). Globalization, urbanization, and technological advances have had a positive impact on ease of access to information and connectivity, but also bring challenges in the form of social inequality, indifference to the environment, and lack of awareness of growing social issues. Therefore, the younger generation needs to be equipped with strong Islamic values, so that they can understand and deal with various social and environmental problems wisely.

Islamic religious education has a noble goal, which is to shape the character and morals of students to become individuals of faith, piety, and noble character (Imamah dkk., 2021). Islamic teachings teach moral values, ethics, and kindness, which are the foundation for the formation of a generation with integrity, empathy, and care for others. Through Islamic religious education, students are invited to internalize these teachings in

everyday life, so that they can become agents of positive change in society and the surrounding environment.

In this context, the role of Islamic religious education teachers becomes very strategic. Teachers are not only informers, but also role models who provide inspiration and guidance for students. With attitudes and behaviors that reflect Islamic values, teachers become models that influence and shape the character of students (Cahyaningrum dkk., 2017). Through innovative teaching methods, Islamic religious education teachers can increase social awareness and environmental awareness in the younger generation, so that they become future leaders who are responsible, empathetic, and contribute positively to society and the earth where we live.

Method

The type of research used is a literature study (Darmalaksana, 2020). Literature research or literature research is research whose place of study is literature or literature. In this study, research was conducted by utilizing studies which are similar or related. In analyzing it is done in several steps, namely reducing data where researchers select the data needed and which data is not needed (Noor, 2011). Then, the next step is to present data that has gone through the data reduction process. And

after that, the data that has been presented earlier will then be interpreted through the process of data analysis.

Results and Discussion

A. The Importance of Islamic Education in Character Building

The importance of Islamic religious education in shaping the character of children carried out by parents is essentially a conscious and planned effort to prepare children to understand, believe, internalize, and practice the teachings of Islam through guidance, training, and direction activities (Minarti, 2023). This can be done through a long process and has a goal by optimizing the basic potential (fitrah) of children through intellectual and spiritual processes based on the values of Islamic religious teachings derived from the Qur'an and As-Sunnah to achieve happiness in life in the world and the hereafter. So that children grow and develop into educated human beings both intellectually and spiritually based on the values of faith and science (Zamroni, 2010). All of that is actualized through charity deeds by having a broad insight as a good citizen and noble blessings, and being a human being who benefits all mankind in the world.

Instilling spiritual values derived from religious teachings is included in the field of education which must be a

serious concern from the family to their children(Hardiensah, 2023). This can make the foundation and filter firm instinctive for children, which can awaken awareness and spiritual strength for children as early as possible, so that the role of the family in creating a conducive family environment in instilling moral and spiritual values becomes very important in shaping the child's personality and character. Thus, the role of parents is very important to shape the character and personality for their children(Somad, 2021).

A child's personality is greatly influenced by parental guidance and education in directing and providing education (Bariyah, 2019). This is because religious education that is instilled as early as possible for children can be the main pillar for children in forming character and personality in accordance with Islamic values in order to create a generation with charisma(sahri, 2022a).

B. Learning Social Values in Islam

Learning social values in Islam is a process of education and teaching that aims to introduce, understand, and practice social values taught by Islam(Idris dkk., 2021). Social values in Islam encompass various aspects of social life, from relationships with fellow human beings to relationships with the

environment and nature around.

The learning of social values in Islam is centered on the teachings of the Qur'an and Sunnah (the tradition of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)). Islam as an overarching religion provides guidelines on how a Muslim should interact with society and others. Some of the social values taught in Islam include:

1. Justice: Justice is one of the main values in Islam. Muslims are taught to be fair and impartial in all aspects of life, including deciding disputes, treating families, and interacting with fellow human beings.
2. Sincerity and Honesty: Islam encourages its people to always be honest and sincere in word and deed. Honesty is an important value in Islam and is the basis of trust in social relations.
3. Modesty and Ethics: Muslims are taught to always maintain modesty in speaking, dressing, and acting. Good ethics are strongly emphasized in Islam so that social interaction runs harmoniously and respectfully(Karakas dkk., 2015).
4. Cooperation and Help: Islam teaches the importance of cooperation and help among human beings. Sharing with others and helping those in need is part of

Islamic social values.

5. Tolerant and Respect for Differences: Islam encourages its Ummah to respect ethnic, racial, cultural, and religious differences. Tolerance is a valued attitude in Islam, and maintaining interfaith harmony is an obligation.
6. Compassion and Empathy: Islam teaches the importance of compassion and empathy towards others. Showing concern for others, especially for the weak and needy, is a sign of kindness in Islam.
7. Independence and Entrepreneurship: Islam encourages its people to become self-reliant and have an entrepreneurial spirit. Seeking knowledge and working hard to achieve success are values that are emphasized.
8. Simplicity and Environmental Care: Islam teaches to live modestly and not excessively in consumption. Concern for the environment is also emphasized to protect nature and natural resources for survival.
9. Hygiene and Health: Islam encourages its people to keep their bodies and surroundings clean. Health is important and is

considered a blessing from God that must be maintained properly.

10. Humility and Forgiveness: Islam teaches the importance of having humility and always being ready to forgive the mistakes of others. Admitting one's own mistakes and forgiving others are noble values in Islam.

The study of social values in Islam does not only focus on theory, but also encourages to practice these values in everyday life (Oktaviyanti dkk., 2016). By living and practicing these teachings, Muslims are expected to become individuals who contribute positively to society and the world at large.

C. Environmental Education in Islamic Perspective

Environmental education in an Islamic perspective is an educational approach that aims to awaken and shape the awareness of Muslims on the importance of maintaining and preserving the natural environment as a mandate from Allah (Parker, 2017). In Islamic teachings, the universe and everything in it is considered to be a beautiful and perfect creation of God, and Muslims are given the responsibility of being the caliph (manager) on earth to maintain and maintain that nature.

Here are some key points in environmental education in an Islamic

perspective:

1. Understanding of Tawhid (Recognition of Allah): Environmental education in Islam begins with an understanding of tawhid, that is, the belief that Allah is the creator and regulator of the universe. This understanding motivates Muslims to contemplate the greatness of Allah in His creation and take responsibility for the preservation of nature as a sign of gratitude to Allah.
2. Amanah (Responsibility) as Caliph: Man is considered as the caliph of God on earth, which means man is given the responsibility by Allah to manage and care for the natural environment wisely. Environmental education in Islam emphasizes that humans should act as responsible managers, not as irresponsible exterminators or exploiters.
3. Exemplary from the Sunnah of the Prophet: Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) was an example for Muslims in all aspects of life, including in protecting the natural environment. Environmental education in Islam will teach examples from the life of the Prophet that show an attitude of respect and concern for nature, such as maintaining cleanliness, planting

trees, and not excessive consumption. Environmental Laws in Islam: Islam also has laws related to the environment, such as laws on logging, hunting, water use, and so on. Environmental education in Islam will introduce and explain these laws as a guide for Muslims in action.

4. Environmental Impact Awareness: Environmental education in Islam will provide an understanding of how human activities can impact the natural environment and how to reduce such negative impacts (Ali dkk., 2021). This includes an understanding of pollution, global warming, and other environmental damage.
5. Environmental Justice: Islam emphasizes the importance of justice in all aspects of life, including in environmental management. Environmental education in Islam will discuss how important it is to ensure that the rights of future generations to enjoy a good environment must also be safeguarded.
6. Awareness of Overconsumption: Islam teaches to live modestly and not over-consume. Environmental education in Islam will emphasize the importance of reducing

excessive consumption to maintain the balance of the environment and natural resources.

Environmental education in an Islamic perspective not only provides knowledge about environmental issues, but also teaches values and ethics to become a wise and responsible environmental manager (Afriana & Hidayat, 2022). With this approach, it is hoped that Muslims can become actors who contribute to efforts to preserve the natural environment for the welfare of mankind and the sustainability of the universe as a whole.

D. Teacher Teaching Strategies in Increasing Social Awareness and Environmental Awareness

Teacher teaching strategies in increasing social awareness and environmental awareness are a series of approaches and actions undertaken by teachers to help students develop understanding and attention to social and environmental issues (Hasanah & others, 2021). The purpose of this strategy is to shape the character of students who are caring, responsible, and active in improving social conditions and the surrounding environment.

Increasing social awareness and environmental awareness is an important goal in education (Sabardila

dkk., 2019). As a teacher, there are several strategies that can be implemented to achieve these goals:

1. Introduction to Social and Environmental Values: Teachers can introduce social and environmental values explicitly in curriculum and learning. Values such as helpfulness, empathy, justice, cleanliness, and respect for nature can be part of everyday learning.
2. Exemplary Example: Teachers can be role models for students in practicing social values and caring for the environment. Concrete actions from teachers, such as participation in environmental activities, reduction of single-use plastic use, and energy savings, will affect student behavior and awareness.
3. Real Experience: Through field activities or visits to the natural environment, students can experience firsthand the beauty and diversity of nature, as well as the challenges it faces (Bell dkk., 2016). This real experience can evoke a sense of awe and concern for the environment.
4. Environmental Projects: Teachers can organize environmental projects in schools or local communities, such as tree planting, beach cleaning,

or recycling campaigns. These projects will actively involve students in efforts to preserve the environment and create a sense of belonging to the surrounding environment.

5. **Use of Technology and Media:** Teachers can utilize technology and media in teaching to introduce environmental and social issues (Greenhow & Askari, 2017). For example, showing videos about the impacts of climate change, holding online discussions about social issues, or utilizing educational apps that focus on the environment.
6. **Integrated Curriculum:** The integration of social and environmental issues into the curriculum of various subjects will also help increase students' awareness. For example, discussing the impact of industry on the environment in economics lessons or investigating social issues in history lessons.
7. **Community Collaboration:** Teachers can collaborate with environmental and social organizations in the local community to hold joint activities or invite resource persons to talk about environmental and social issues.
8. **Provide Discussion Space:** Create an open and supportive atmosphere in

the classroom for discussion of social and environmental issues. Provide opportunities for students to talk about their views, share ideas, and find solutions together.

9. **Evaluation and Feedback:** Engage students in evaluation and reflection on their efforts in raising social awareness and environmental awareness. Providing constructive feedback and positive reinforcement will encourage them to continue participating in efforts to preserve the environment.

By implementing the above strategies, a teacher can help increase social awareness and environmental awareness among students (Sahri, 2022b, hlm. 19). This will have a positive impact on the future, because students will grow into individuals who are caring, responsible, and play an active role in preserving the environment and improving the quality of social life.

Conclusion

The role of Islamic religious education teachers is very important in shaping social awareness and environmental concern in the younger generation. In the context of Islamic religious education, teachers have the opportunity to convey Islamic values that include ethics, morals, and social responsibility towards the natural environment. By adopting the right teaching

strategies, teachers can exert a positive influence on students, helping them realize how important caring for fellow humans and the environment is as part of the teachings of the Islamic religion.

Through the introduction of social and environmental values, as well as their application in daily life, teachers can help students understand that concern for the environment and attention to social issues are obligations as a Muslim. In practicing the teachings of Islam, students are taught to uphold the values of simplicity, justice, tolerance, and empathy, so that they can contribute to creating a civilized, harmonious, and environmentally sound society.

Social awareness and environmental concern instilled by Islamic religious education teachers in the younger generation will have a positive impact on the future. Young people who have a deep understanding of religious teachings and awareness of their social responsibilities are expected to become agents of change that have a positive impact on society and the environment. Thus, the role of Islamic religious education teachers in increasing social awareness and environmental awareness is very important in forming a generation that plays an active role in building a just and sustainable society.

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