

ISLAMIC RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AS THE MAIN PILLAR OF ETHICAL AND MORAL FORMATION IN SOCIETY

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Abstract

This study aims to explore the role of Islamic religious education as a major pillar in the formation of ethics and morals in society. The research method used involves the analysis of literature from primary and secondary sources related to the topic. The results showed that Islamic religious education not only conveys religious teachings, but also has a significant role in developing strong character, high morality, and good attitudes in everyday life. In the context of the relationship with Allah Almighty, Islamic religious education deepens the understanding of tawhid and obedience to Him. In addition, in relationships between individuals, Islamic religious education encourages individuals to be fair, empathize, and share compassion for fellow human beings. Social responsibility is also an important focus in Islamic religious education, by encouraging individuals to care for the needs of the surrounding community. In conclusion, Islamic religious education has a crucial role in forming a society that is noble, just, and harmonious.

Keywords: *Islamic Religious Education, Main Pillars, Ethics.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Islamic religious education is not just a series of lessons to learn, but rather a transformational process that shapes individuals holistically. In this context, it is important to understand that Islamic religious education not only teaches about religious rituals or legal rules, but also provides a strong moral foundation for individuals to interact with the surrounding world. Through a comprehensive understanding of Islamic teachings, individuals are encouraged to develop strong character, high morality, and good attitudes in every aspect of their lives (Abbas et al., 2021).

Islamic religious education teaches basic values such as honesty, patience, compassion, and justice, which are the foundation for the formation of solid ethics and morals in society. Through stories from the Quran and hadith, individuals obtain concrete examples of how to live a life with integrity and responsibility. In addition, Islamic religious education also emphasizes the importance of deepening an individual's relationship with Allah Almighty, which in turn strengthens moral and spiritual attachments, as well as motivates individuals to act in accordance with the values taught by the religion (Amaly et al., 2023).

As the main pillar, Islamic religious education plays a role in forming a noble personality and charity. By understanding that religion is not only relevant in the space of worship, but also in all aspects of life, individuals are trained to carry out their duties as servants of God well. They are taught to be fair leaders, productive workers, responsible family members, and caring citizens of society. Thus, Islamic religious education is not only a means to achieve spiritual salvation, but also a source of inspiration to create a just, prosperous, and harmonious society (Guna et al., 2020).

Since the time of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), Islamic religious education has been a solid foundation for the formation of behavior and morality in accordance with religious teachings. The Prophet not only taught faith in Allah Almighty, but also set a concrete example of how to apply these teachings in daily life. One of the main aspects of Islamic religious education is the establishment of a strong relationship with Allah Almighty. This not only includes ritual aspects such as prayer and fasting, but also deepens understanding of the concept of tawhid (the oneness of God) as well as fear and love for Him. Through a deep understanding of personal relationship with Allah Almighty, individuals are directed to live a life full of awareness of His existence, as well as act according to His instructions in every aspect of their lives (Komariah & Nihayah, 2023).

In addition to the vertical relationship with Allah SWT, Islamic religious education also teaches the importance of horizontal relationships between individuals. Islamic teachings encourage individuals to be just, empathetic, and share compassion for their fellow human beings, regardless of ethnic, racial, or religious differences. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) gave a concrete example of the importance of treating others well and being fair in everything. Social responsibility is also an integral part of the teachings of Islam. Individuals are taught to care for the needs of the surrounding community, whether through almsgiving, zakat, or other charitable deeds. The concept of ukhuwah (brotherhood) in Islam encourages individuals to help and support each other, thus creating a society that cares and empathizes with each other. Thus, Islamic religious education not only teaches about obedience to Allah SWT, but also forms individuals who have high morality, act fairly, and are responsible for society. This proves that Islam is not only a ritual religion, but also a complete guide to a good and beneficial life for all mankind (Alim, 2020).

In the context of modern society, where moral challenges are increasingly complex and diverse, Islamic religious education has a more vital role. By understanding the principles of Islam, individuals are expected to be able to make the right decisions, act fairly, and contribute positively to building a harmonious society. However, Islamic religious education is not only teaching moral values theoretically, but also teaching worship practices and morals that are integrated in everyday life. This helps individuals to internalize these values so that they become an indispensable part of their personality and character (Oktio Frenki Biantoro, 2017).

In the context of globalization and the challenges of the times, it is important for Islamic religious education to continue to develop and be relevant to the needs of the times. This involves applying innovative learning methods, strengthening social and critical skills,

and facilitating intercultural dialogue to strengthen understanding of inclusive and tolerant Islamic values. Thus, through quality Islamic religious education, it is hoped that the community can have a solid moral foundation, act in accordance with the principles of justice and compassion, and be able to maintain harmony and peace in interacting with fellow human beings (Khaidir & Suud, 2020).

2. IMPLEMENTATION METHOD

The research methods used in this study involve two main stages: literature analysis and case studies. First, this study uses literature analysis to collect data from various primary and secondary sources related to the topic of Islamic religious education and the formation of ethics and morals in society. Primary sources include religious texts, such as the Quran and hadith, as well as the writings of prominent Islamic scholars and religious figures. Secondary sources include books, academic journals, articles, and related research from various disciplines, such as education, sociology, and psychology. Literature analysis is conducted to understand in depth the key concepts in Islamic religious education, the role of religious education in the formation of ethics and morals, and its impact on society. Second, this study uses a case study approach to explore the implementation of Islamic religious education in the formation of ethics and morals in society. The case study was conducted by taking examples from several Islamic religious educational institutions, such as madrasas, pesantren, and other Islamic educational institutions, which have had a good reputation in building student character and morality. Data were collected through participatory observation, interviews with teachers and students, and analysis of official documents from these institutions. The case study aims to provide a concrete picture of how Islamic religious education is implemented in practice and how it affects the formation of ethics and morals in society. By combining literature analysis and case studies, this research can provide a comprehensive understanding of the role of Islamic religious education as a key pillar in shaping ethics and morals in society (Sugiyono, 2018).

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of the research obtained consistently confirm that Islamic religious education plays a very important role as the main pillar in shaping ethics and morals in society. Research highlights that Islamic religious education not only serves as a medium to convey religious teachings, but also as a powerful means of shaping attitudes, values, and behaviors that are in accordance with Islamic teachings. The main findings of this study illustrate how Islamic religious education provides a solid foundation for the formation of individual character and the construction of morality in society. The values upheld in Islam, such as honesty, justice, patience, and compassion, are found to be the main foundations that guide individuals in making decisions and acting in daily life. In addition, research confirms that Islamic religious education is not limited to ritual or worship aspects alone, but also involves a deep understanding of an individual's relationship with Allah Almighty and fellow human beings. In the context of the relationship with Allah Almighty, Islamic religious education encourages individuals to strengthen their faith and piety, as well as deepen understanding of the meaning of obedience and devotion to Him. Furthermore, the research highlights the importance of Islamic religious education in forming good and harmonious relationships between individuals in society. The concepts of compassion, tolerance, and

brotherhood in Islam provide a solid foundation for the creation of close social bonds among members of society. In conclusion, these findings provide a deeper understanding of the significance of Islamic religious education as a key pillar in shaping ethics and morals in society. In this evolving and challenging era, Islamic religious education remains a very relevant instrument in forming individuals who are noble, responsible, and contribute positively to the progress of society (Komariah & Nihayah, 2023).

Islamic Education as an Ethical and Moral Foundation

The results of the study stated that Islamic religious education not only acts as a means to convey religious teachings, but far more than that, it becomes the main foundation for the formation of strong character and high morality in individuals. The religious principles learned in Islamic religious education, such as honesty that underlines integrity, patience that teaches perseverance, compassion that encourages empathy, and justice that affirms the principle of social justice, all become the main foothold for individuals in developing behavior that is in accordance with Islamic teachings. These principles are not only taught theoretically, but also applied in everyday life through concrete examples and worship practices. For example, the concept of honesty is taught not only as a rule that must be obeyed, but also as a value instilled in every social interaction. Through an understanding of these values, individuals are trained to be dependable individuals who hold fast to moral principles even in the most difficult situations. Furthermore, the religious principles taught in Islamic religious education concern not only the individual's relationship with God, but also the relationship with fellow humans and the surrounding nature. For example, the compassion taught in Islam is not only limited to love for family, but also extends to all mankind and other creatures of God. It inspires individuals to act with compassion and empathy towards others, as well as preserving the environment as a manifestation of their social responsibility as caliphs on earth (Lukens-Bull, 1970).

Thus, the results of this study confirm that Islamic religious education not only provides a theoretical understanding of religious teachings, but also shapes individual attitudes, values, and behaviors in accordance with religious principles. These principles form a strong foundation for the formation of good character and high morality, helping individuals to become agents of positive change in inhabited societies.

Relationship with Allah SWT

Islamic religious education plays a crucial role in helping individuals deepen their personal relationship with Allah Almighty. The concept of tawhid, which affirms the oneness of God, became a solid foundation in Islamic religious education. With a deep understanding of this concept, individuals are encouraged to believe that only Allah Almighty is worthy of worship, and that everything in this life depends entirely on Him. Thus, Islamic religious education provides a firm foundation for individuals to understand the essence of their existence in this world. Through an understanding of tawhid, individuals are empowered to live a life with a deeper awareness of the existence of Allah Almighty in every aspect of their lives. Awareness of His existence not only affects individuals' vertical relationship with God, but also influences their attitudes and actions in interaction with fellow humans and the environment. By realizing that Allah Almighty is All-Knowing and All-Seeing, individuals feel compelled to act with sincerity, honesty, and responsibility,

because they realize that everything they do will be accounted for before Him (Wijaya & Ramadhon, 2022).

Islamic religious education also encourages individuals to obey the instructions of Allah Almighty in every aspect of their lives. It involves applying the moral and ethical values taught in Islam in everything they do, whether in personal, social, or societal affairs. By obeying His instructions, individuals strengthen spiritual bonds with God and undergo transformations in their behavior and character that reflect loyalty and obedience to Him. Thus, Islamic religious education not only provides a theoretical understanding of the concept of tawhid, but also forms a deep spiritual awareness and motivates individuals to live a life with awareness of the existence of Allah SWT, and obey His instructions in all aspects of life. This has a positive impact in shaping strong character and high morality in individuals, and provides a solid foundation for the development of a society based on religious values.

Interpersonal Relationships

Research has revealed that Islamic religious education not only emphasizes the vertical relationship between individuals and God, but also strengthens the horizontal relationship between individuals in society. One crucial finding is that Islamic religious education encourages individuals to interact with fellow human beings with fairness, empathy, and compassion. These concepts are not only taught in theory, but also applied through real examples from the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) and his companions. The Prophet Muhammad SAW was known as a figure who was compassionate, wise, and fair in interacting with fellow humans, regardless of differences in status, ethnicity, or religion. These real-life examples from his life serve as strong guidelines for Muslims in treating others well and being fair in everything. Through Islamic religious education, individuals are encouraged to emulate the noble character of the Prophet in their daily interactions. They are taught to be fair and empathetic towards others, as well as maintain good relationships with everyone around them. Islamic religious education also emphasizes the importance of forgiving the mistakes of others, seeking to understand their perspective, and providing assistance to those in need.

More than just providing moral teachings, Islamic religious education also builds strong social awareness in individuals. They are taught to be attentive to the needs and sufferings of their fellow human beings, and to actively participate in efforts to help them. Thus, Islamic religious education not only forms individuals with noble morals personally, but also promotes the creation of a society that cares for and empathizes with each other. Thus, these findings confirm that Islamic religious education has a significant impact in shaping the way individuals interact with fellow human beings. Through the teachings and concrete examples of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), individuals are encouraged to treat others with fairness, empathy, and compassion, creating a strong foundation for the creation of a society based on human values and justice.

Social Responsibility

Islamic religious education encourages individuals to not only pay attention to their own needs, but also care for the needs of the surrounding community. This is reflected in the practice of benevolent charity, the payment of zakat, and other efforts aimed at benefiting

others. When the implementation of Islamic religious education is carried out firmly and sustainably, a significant positive impact can be felt in society. Societies filled with individuals who have high morality and strong ethics tend to become more harmonious, just, and prosperous. Their presence creates an environment that promotes cooperation, mutual understanding, and equality, which in turn results in a more stable and peaceful society overall. Thus, Islamic religious education is not only relevant in the context of individual spirituality, but also plays an important role in forming a strong moral and ethical foundation in society.

From the results of existing research, it becomes clear that Islamic religious education has an impact that is not only limited to individual spirituality, but also extends to the formation of a noble and responsible society. Islamic religious education forms a strong moral foundation, encouraging individuals to live in accordance with the commendable values and ethical principles advocated in the Islamic religion. This includes not only aspects of worship, but also attitudes and behaviors in daily interactions with fellow humans and the surrounding environment.

In this context, it is important to continue to develop and strengthen Islamic religious education as the main pillar in the moral and ethical development of society. Through quality and continuous Islamic religious education, the younger generation can be equipped with a deep understanding of Islamic values and how to apply them in daily life. This will not only improve the overall quality of individuals, but will also form a society that is more aware of social responsibility, maintains justice, respects diversity, and strives to create a harmonious and inclusive environment.

Thus, efforts to integrate Islamic religious education in various aspects of people's lives are very important. This can be done through increasing access to quality Islamic religious education, training teachers and religious leaders, and forming policies that support moral and ethical development in society. Only in this way can the full potential of Islamic religious education as a moral and ethical stakeholder be realized, making a real contribution in creating a better and more civilized society.

Islamic religious education as a major pillar in the formation of ethics and morals in society has profound implications in various aspects of life. The discussion on this subject brought attention to several crucial aspects which include education, law, economics, as well as relations between individuals and between states. First of all, in the context of education, Islamic religious education plays an important role in shaping the character and morality of individuals from an early age. Through the teaching of Islamic values such as compassion, justice, and honesty, the younger generation is taught to become responsible and caring individuals for others. Second, in terms of law, Islamic ethical principles form the basis for the establishment of a just and just legal system. Concepts such as human rights, social justice, and protection of minorities have a firm foothold in Islamic teachings, and these can be reflected in the formation of law and public policy. Third, in the field of economics, Islamic religious education encourages economic practices based on moral and ethical values. The concepts of zakat, almsgiving, and distributive justice became the basis for an Islamic economic system that emphasized partiality for the weak and equal distribution of wealth. Finally, in relations between individuals and between countries, Islamic religious

education teaches tolerance, peace, and cooperation across cultures and religions. It helps to address people-to-people and international conflicts with an approach based on dialogue, mutual understanding, and peaceful resolution. Thus, it is important to understand that Islamic religious education is not only limited to spiritual aspects, but also has far-reaching implications in shaping the social, legal, economic, and political order based on high morality and ethics. Through quality and integrated Islamic religious education, society can achieve peace, justice, and sustainable prosperity (Sahin, 2018).

Foundation of Values and Ethics

Islamic religious education provides a solid foundation of values and ethics for individuals in society. This is because Islam has teachings that are rich in moral values that cover all aspects of life. Values such as honesty, justice, compassion, and patience are not only considered abstract concepts, but become an integral part of the daily practices and behavior of Muslims. When individuals deepen their understanding of these values through Islamic religious education, they are equipped with a strong moral framework to deal with various situations in daily life. For example, the concept of honesty encourages individuals to always tell the truth and act fairly in all situations, both in personal and professional matters. Islamic justice teaches to grant appropriate rights to all people indiscriminately, ensuring that every individual is treated fairly and equally before the law.

In addition, the value of compassion and patience teaches individuals to treat others with empathy and understanding, and to be patient in facing trials and challenges in life. All these values form a strong foundation for individuals to interact positively with their fellow human beings and their environment, create harmonious relationships and build a civilized society. Thus, Islamic religious education not only provides a theoretical understanding of moral values, but also teaches the application of those values in daily practice. It enables individuals to be agents of positive change in society, promoting peace, justice, and well-being for all. Thus, Islamic religious education is not only relevant in the context of individual spirituality, but also has a profound impact in shaping morals and ethics in society at large (Lafrarchi, 2020).

Character and Attitude

Islamic Religious Education aims to develop strong character and good attitude in individuals. Through religious education, individuals are not only given knowledge about Islamic teachings, but also taught to apply these values in everyday life. One of the main aspects of character building is respecting and respecting others, regardless of differences in religion, ethnicity, or other backgrounds. By understanding that every individual is created by Allah Almighty and has equal dignity, individuals are prepared to interact with an attitude of compassion and respect for others.

In addition, Islamic religious education also instills the value of empathy and concern for the difficulties and sufferings experienced by fellow humans. By understanding and feeling the feelings of others, individuals are encouraged to provide support and assistance to those in need, both materially and morally. This attitude of empathy strengthens solidarity and unity in society, making individuals more sensitive to the needs of others and better prepared to make a positive contribution in helping them. Furthermore, Islamic religious education also emphasizes the importance of acting fairly in all matters. Individuals are

taught to treat all people with justice, without taking sides or differentiating based on social standing, wealth, or power. This fair attitude creates an inclusive and equitable environment for all members of society, where every individual has equal opportunities to develop and reach his or her potential (Lahmar, 2020).

Thus, Islamic religious education not only aims to spread religious knowledge, but also to form a positive character and attitude in individuals. It forms the basis for the creation of healthy and harmonious social interactions in society, where values such as compassion, empathy, and justice become the main cornerstones in relationships between individuals. By having a strong character and good attitude, individuals will be able to play an active role in building a peaceful, just, and prosperous society.

Strengthening Relationships with God and Others

Islamic religious education not only forms a vertical relationship with God, but also strengthens horizontal relationships between individuals. In addition to viewing the relationship with God as the main focus, Islam also places great emphasis on interaction and relationship between people. The concepts of compassion, brotherhood, and solidarity in Islam provide a solid basis for building close social bonds among members of society. Through Islamic religious education, individuals are encouraged to understand that everyone is part of one great humanity, and that they have a moral responsibility to support and help each other. The concept of affection (*rahmah*) in Islam includes not only affection between man and God, but also affection between individuals. It emphasizes the importance of having a soft heart and feelings of empathy towards the hardships and sufferings of others (Alim, 2020).

Moreover, the concept of brotherhood in Islam affirms that all people, regardless of differences in ethnicity, race, or other background, are brothers and sisters. By understanding this brotherhood, individuals are encouraged to act as one, helping and protecting each other just as true brothers and sisters do. This creates close and solid social bonds among community members, making society more inclusive, harmonious, and resilient in the face of challenges. Thus, Islamic religious education not only creates a vertical relationship between individuals and God, but also strengthens horizontal relationships between individuals in society. By understanding and applying the concepts of affection and brotherhood in everyday life, individuals can form close and solid social bonds among others, creating an environment of love, mutual support, and harmony.

Social Responsibility

Islamic Religious Education encourages individuals to understand and carry out social responsibilities towards society by integrating the principles of religious teachings in daily life. The concepts of zakat, almsgiving, and giving donations became an important part of Islamic religious practice that emphasized caring for people in need. Zakat, as one of the pillars of Islam, is not only a religious obligation but also a benevolent charity that flows wealth from the well-off to the underprivileged in society. Through zakat, individuals are given the opportunity to share their sustenance with people in need, thus creating a more equitable distribution of resources in society.

In addition to zakat, alms is also an emphasized practice in Islam. Alms teaches individuals to give help voluntarily to people in need, without expecting anything in return.

This creates a pattern of proactive behavior in helping to improve the overall well-being of society, as alms not only meet the material needs of the receiving person, but also help strengthen social bonds and solidarity among community members. Donations, both material and non-material, have also become an integral part of Islamic religious practice. By making donations to charities, social foundations, or poverty alleviation programs, individuals can play an active role in efforts to improve social conditions and improve the quality of life of society as a whole.

Thus, Islamic religious education not only strengthens the vertical relationship between the individual and God, but also encourages individuals to carry out their social responsibilities towards society. Through the practice of zakat, almsgiving, and donations, individuals can form proactive behavior patterns in helping to improve the overall welfare of society, creating a more just, harmonious, and resilient environment.

Contribution to Society

With individuals shaped through Islamic religious education, society as a whole will experience significant positive impacts. Societies dominated by individuals who have high morality and strong ethics tend to become more harmonious, stable, and just. When individuals have a deep understanding of Islamic values and apply them in daily life, they tend to act with integrity, honesty, and empathy towards others. This positive impact extends to various aspects of people's lives. Socially, societies filled with individuals with noble morals tend to have more harmonious interpersonal relationships, mutual respect, and mutual support in facing challenges. This creates an inclusive environment and reduces conflict and social tension.

Economically, individuals who are grounded in Islamic values such as honesty in business transactions, fairness in wealth distribution, and the obligation to pay zakat, will make a positive contribution to sustainable and inclusive economic growth. The practice of zakat, for example, helps reduce social inequality by strengthening the redistribution of wealth from those who can afford it to those in need. In the political sphere, individuals who have high morality tend to be fair, transparent, and responsible leaders. They will strive to create public policies that take into account the interests of all walks of life and promote social justice. This discussion highlights the importance of Islamic religious education as the main pillar in shaping ethics and morals in society, and emphasizes that Islamic religious education is not only relevant in the context of individual spirituality, but also has a broad impact in shaping a noble and responsible society. Therefore, investment in Islamic religious education is key in creating a better, fairer, and more prosperous society overall.

4. CONCLUSION

The conclusion of this study confirms that Islamic Religious Education has a very important role as the main pillar in the formation of ethics and morals in society. Various findings in this study show that Islamic religious education is not only conveying religious teachings, but also provides a strong foundation for the formation of good character and high morality. Islamic religious education strengthens the vertical relationship of individuals with God as well as the horizontal relationship between individuals in society. Through the values and ethics taught in Islam, individuals are encouraged to interact with their fellow human beings with fairness, empathy, and compassion, as well as understand their social

responsibilities towards society. The implementation of strong and sustainable Islamic religious education can have a significant positive impact on society. Societies dominated by individuals who have high morality and strong ethics tend to become more harmonious, just, and prosperous. Thus, it is important to continue to develop and strengthen Islamic religious education as a major pillar in moral and ethical development in society. This conclusion provides a deep understanding of the crucial role of Islamic religious education in shaping a noble, just, and responsible society. Therefore, commitment and joint efforts from various parties are needed to ensure that Islamic religious education remains a priority in educating future generations with high character and ethics.

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