

Integration of Family-Based Islamic Education in Preventing Radicalism

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Abstract

Islamic religious education in the family plays a crucial role in children's development, forming the foundation of their character, morals, and behavior. A conducive family environment influences how children interact at school, socialize with peers, and participate in society. Parents have a significant responsibility to ensure that religious education is implemented from an early age so that children develop strong Islamic values. Religious education helps children understand fundamental concepts such as honesty, compassion, patience, and tolerance, while also guiding them to respect parents, honor elders, and show care for younger individuals. By recognizing Allah and emulating the Prophet Muhammad, children are expected to grow into morally upright and devout individuals. This study aims to examine the role of Islamic religious education within the family in shaping children's character and personality. This study employs a qualitative approach using a literature review method by analyzing relevant Islamic and educational sources. The findings indicate that consistent family-based religious education fosters moral development, strengthens emotional bonds between parents and children, and supports the internalization of Islamic values in daily life. In conclusion, this study highlights that strengthening Islamic religious education within the family is essential for developing morally grounded individuals, and it implies the need for parents to actively integrate religious values into everyday parenting practice.

Keywords

Child Development; Family; Islamic Education; Islamic Values

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INTRODUCTION

Islamic religious education within the family plays a crucial role in a child's development, as the family is the first educational environment that shapes the foundation of character, morals, and behavior. The family environment significantly influences how children interact at school, socialize with peers, and participate in society. Parents therefore bear a major responsibility to ensure that religious values are instilled from an early age so that children develop strong Islamic character. However, in the modern era, the effectiveness of family-based Islamic education faces significant challenges. Rapid technological development, increased exposure to digital media, and changing social dynamics have reduced the intensity of parent-child interaction and weakened the transmission of religious values within the family. As a result, many children experience a lack of moral guidance and emotional connection at home, which may affect their behavior and character formation. This condition indicates a gap between the ideal role of the family as the primary agent of Islamic education and the reality of its current implementation.

In addition, religious education within the family is expected to help children understand fundamental Islamic values such as honesty, compassion, patience, and tolerance, as well as to encourage them to emulate the Prophet Muhammad as a role model. Parents are also motivated to create a loving and supportive environment through affection and attention, thereby strengthening emotional bonds with their children. Teachings from the Qur'an and Hadith further emphasize the obligation of parents to educate their children to be pious and to adhere to Islamic principles in daily life. Based on these issues, this study aims to analyze the role of parents in strengthening the implementation of Islamic religious education within the family in the context of contemporary challenges, as well as to identify effective strategies for instilling Islamic values in children to support their moral and character development.

RESEARCH METHOD

The research method used in this study is a qualitative literature-based approach with a conceptual design, focusing on the analysis of existing theories and scholarly perspectives rather than primary field data. This study employs a narrative literature review, drawing on relevant sources such as academic journal articles, books, and authoritative Islamic texts related to family-based Islamic education.

The data were analyzed using a thematic content analysis technique to identify, categorize, and interpret key themes concerning the role of family in Islamic religious education. The process involved selecting relevant literature, organizing the data based on recurring concepts, synthesizing findings, and presenting them systematically to draw well-founded conclusions. This approach enables a comprehensive understanding of the topic based on established knowledge and prior research.

RESEARCH RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The Importance of Islamic Religious Education in the Family

The family is the first place where children receive education and serves as their primary educational environment. This greatly influences children as they continue their education in school, interact with peers, socialize within society, and engage in other activities. The family plays a crucial role for children, and it is the responsibility of parents to fulfill this role, as it significantly shapes a child's character during their development.

The family is the main foundation in forming a child's character, traits, morals, behavior, and social interactions. In Islam, this is very important because it represents education that begins at home or within the family so that children can behave in accordance with Islamic values. Acting according to Islamic values is a basic manner that teaches children how to respect one another, their parents, elders, and younger individuals. In Islam, religious education is essential so that children recognize Allah and take Prophet Muhammad as their role model. Family education also includes values such as honesty, compassion, patience, and tolerance.

The motivation for providing education within the family is to give love and affection to children so that the family becomes a true "home." Nowadays, many families lack closeness, making children feel like strangers in their own homes. Therefore, giving affection is very important so children do not feel deprived of parental love, and in turn, they will show love to their parents. The Qur'an and Hadith instruct parents to teach their children to be devoted to Allah, perform acts of worship, avoid prohibitions, follow Islamic law, and carry out His commands. Allah says in Surah At-Tahrim verse 6:

"O you who believe, protect yourselves and your families from a Fire whose fuel is people and stones. Over it are angels, harsh and severe; they do not disobey Allah in what He commands them but do what they are commanded."

The family is an informal educational institution because it does not have a formal or structured program. It is also a natural institution because it is based on blood relations. The family is formed through a lawful marriage, both religiously and legally, with the aim of building a household that seeks Allah's pleasure and achieves a harmonious, loving, and compassionate family (*sakinah, mawaddah, warahmah*).

The Role of Parents as Role Models

The family is the child's immediate environment and the smallest unit within society. It is the best place to instill religious values in children. This education must be given from an early age, as it significantly influences the child's future development (Rahmadania, Sitika, dan Darmayanti 2021). Parents play a crucial role in character formation because children tend to imitate their parents. This process can be explained through social learning theory (Bandura), which emphasizes that children learn behaviors, values, and attitudes through observation, imitation, and modeling of significant others, particularly parents. When parents behave well, children will follow and practice similar good behavior.

Parents as role models are an essential aspect of shaping a child's character and must be applied in parenting.

A righteous child is not only one who prays for their parents but also one who strives to practice Islamic teachings in accordance with Shari'ah in daily life. This reflects that parents are the first educators in the family, as stated in the hadith of the Prophet Muhammad: *"Every child is born in a state of fitrah, then his parents make him a Jew or a Christian."* This hadith also aligns with developmental theories that highlight the formative role of early environmental influences in shaping children's identity and belief systems. Although parents are obligated to send their children to formal education, they should not rely entirely on schools. Children are not always fully aware of what is taught by educators. Therefore, parents must complement education at home as a practical application in daily life to build good habits. Schools cannot always monitor children continuously due to various responsibilities; thus, parents must actively oversee their children's education within the family, as it is the primary factor in shaping personality and character. There are several important aspects of parents as role models:

- a. Exemplary behavior, parents provide good examples in speech, attitude, and positive thinking.
- b. Trust (amanah), parents are entrusted by Allah to educate their children and fulfill their rights.
- c. Family as a unit, the family, as the smallest social unit, plays a vital role in habits, education, and character building.

With the advancement of technology, parents face increasing challenges, especially from peer influence and digital exposure. Parents should utilize technology positively by introducing children to stories of prophets, companions, and Islamic figures as role models. Parents must also be technologically literate to supervise children effectively.

Open and Effective Communication with Children

Communication is fundamental in relationships, including between parents and children, to build a strong educational foundation at home. Through open communication, children feel safe to express themselves. Parents should avoid judging children prematurely, allowing them to explain their experiences. From the perspective of attachment theory (Bowlby), open and supportive communication fosters secure attachment, which is crucial for children's emotional regulation, self-confidence, and moral internalization. Good communication helps prevent children from being influenced by radical ideologies. Additionally, communication theory in education suggests that dialogic interaction enables children to develop critical thinking and moral reasoning, rather than merely receiving values passively. Strategies for effective communication include: (1) creating a comfortable environment; (2) actively listening to children; (3) asking open-ended questions; (4) avoiding judgment; (5) providing clear explanations appropriate to the child's age; (5) using stories of prophets as examples; and (6) parents acting as communication role models.

Involving Children in Social and Community Activities

Engaging children in social activities is an effective way to apply Islamic values in daily life. Through such involvement, children learn responsibility and social roles. This aligns with social constructivist theory (Vygotsky), which emphasizes that learning occurs through social interaction and participation in cultural practices. Methods include:

- a. Teaching empathy through charity and social service (e.g., donations, visiting orphanages)
- b. Encouraging participation in community cooperation (gotong royong), such as mosque cleaning
- c. Involving children in religious activities (Qur'an recitation, Islamic schooling, youth mosque groups)
- d. Encouraging participation in community or religious organizations to strengthen responsibility and religious understanding (Rahmadania, Sitika, dan Darmayanti, 2021)

Integrating Islamic education within the family is essential but challenging in modern times. These challenges can be understood within the framework of ecological systems theory (Bronfenbrenner), where children's development is influenced by multiple interconnected environments, including family, peers, media, and broader societal systems. Solutions include:

- a. Lack of time due to parental busyness, parents should prioritize family time, schedule special moments with children, and maximize available time, especially during days off.
- b. Lack of knowledge and confidence among parents, parents should engage in continuous learning alongside their children, utilizing educational videos, religious lectures, and other Islamic learning resources.

CONCLUSION

This study demonstrates that Islamic religious education within the family functions as a foundational mechanism for shaping children's moral character through the integration of value internalization, behavioral modeling, and emotional bonding. The findings indicate that the effectiveness of family-based Islamic education lies not only in the transmission of religious knowledge but also in the consistent practice of values such as honesty, compassion, patience, and tolerance within daily interactions. Furthermore, the study highlights that parental involvement through role modeling, emotional support, and structured religious activities significantly strengthens children's moral development and social behavior. Conceptually, this study contributes to the understanding of family education as a value-based and relational process, emphasizing the interplay between cognitive, affective, and behavioral dimensions. Practically, it underscores the importance of strengthening parents' capacity to implement Islamic educational practices at home as a strategic effort to foster children's character formation in contemporary social contexts.

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