

# INSTILLING ISLAMIC EDUCATION STRATEGY FOR CHILDREN IN INDONESIA AT DIGITAL ERA

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**Abstract:** The world experiences massive fundamental changes as a result of the digital era. Not only in the field of technology and communication, changes also occur in children's daily behavior. Bad various shows can be accessed easily by children and can cause negative behavioral effects on children. Supervision is needed from parents to guide children for negative impacts can be minimized. The problem that occurs is most parents are confused about what should be done to prepare children in facing their environment. Instilling religious values from an early age is expected to be one of the strongholds for children to face changes. Pendidikan Agama Islam (PAI) is one of the most important pillar of education. A child's character will build well, if it is started from cultivating religious sense of students.

**Keywords:** Digital Era, Instilling Religious Values, Islamic Education

## INTRODUCTION

In Indonesia, National education system is regulated by National Education System Law (Sisdiknas) Number 20 of 2003 article 1 paragraph (1), explained that education is defined as basic and planned effort to create learning and studying spirit in order that the children actively develop their potency to gain the religious spiritual power, self-control, personality, intelegency, noble character and also skills possessed by themselves, community, nation and state.<sup>1</sup> Therefore, education in Indonesia becomes one of the systems concerned by the government.

Education in Indonesia has its variety in the learning process, whether conducted in public school or in Madrasa School which is called *Pesantren*. Because of the importance of education in Indonesia, Islamic Education is also included into one of the subject in Public School or in Madrasa School. So,

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<sup>1</sup> Maragustam, *Mencetak Pembelajar Menjadi Insan Paripurna, Filsafat Pendidikan Islam*, (Yogyakarta: Nuha Literia Publishing, 2010), 120

Islamic education is not just given inside the scope of family but also in the school. This is because Islamic education is one of the main education pillars.

The world nowadays, particularly in Indonesia experiences massive fundamental changes as a result of digital era. Not just in technology and communication, the changes also occur toward children daily behavior. Various of bad shows can be accessed by the children easily and provoking negative effects for children behavior. It is needed the supervision from parents to guide children in order to minimize the negative effects. The problem that occur is most of the parents confused in what should be done to prepare the children to face their neighborhood. Instilling religious values in the early age hopefully becomes one of the children's shields to face the changes.

Today's facts, the children are already familiar with the changes in digital era, especially with the usage of Internet. Research conducted in Surabaya for children of 6-12 years old shows that respondents who use internet at the first is 8 years old (27%), and which is interesting is some of the respondents have used internet since toddler at 5 years old (12%), 4 years old (4%), and 3 years old (1%). This case must become attention for the parents, because aside of searching information, children of 10-14 years old often watch videos. One of them is in *You Tube* site which makes extraordinary achievement, that is in 12 years no less than 300 million videos are uploaded every minutes with the viewer up to 2 billion per month. Moreover, social media is one of the Internet contents which is often accessed that reaches 97.4% or 129.2 million users (Eka Cahya Maulidah, 2018:73). Whereas, we all know that the influence of excessive use of the internet for children is affecting the children's psychomotoric development. Minimizing the negative influence in this case is instilling the Islamic education values.

## **THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

### ***Review on Islamic Education***

Education is one of the important aspects for human life which always develops from time to time along with the era. Adequate education will easily realizes the National development suitable with what is expected.

Review of education in Ibn Miskawaih's perspective is the manifestation of virtuous person or noble-minded. On of the function of education according to Ibn Miskawaih is must humanize humans in order not to fall into uncivilized degree, as a place of individual socialization and instill the feeling of shame.<sup>2</sup> Education is a means to make humans think rational in everything. One of the

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<sup>2</sup> Abdur Rahman Assegaf, *Pendidikan Islam di Indonesia*, (Yogyakarta: Suka Press, 2007), 13

education that is needed by Muslims is to form a character which is inseparable from Al-Qur'an and As-sunah. It is teaching Islamic education from an early age.

According to Al-Qabisi, the goal of children's education is giving Islamic knowledge also religious practices. Here, Al-Qur'an instilling becomes important goal in children education. Moreover according to Al-Qabisi, the law of educating children is "compulsory", according to syara'.<sup>3</sup>

Religious education, particularly Islamic Education (PAI) has important position in national education system. Religious education becomes a compulsory subject to be taught in every school. Principally, Islamic education gives teaching by instilling spiritual values to pupils in order becomes noble human, ethical and also civilized as a part of national education goal. While religious education learning that is conducted in school can be internalized inside or outside of the class and more focusing on applying religious teaching in daily life.

The curriculum content of religious education in the attachment of Constitution no. 22 of 2006, including religious education curriculum with learning objectives are to build person that always accomplish its faith, piety, and honor also active in building civilization and life harmony, especially in advancing dignified nation culture. The such person is expected to be tough in facing challenges, obstacle, and changes that appears in social interaction whether in local, national, regional or global scope. Next, the scope of Islamic education covers aspects such as: Al-Qur'an and Hadist, Aqidah, Akhlak, Fiqih, Tarikh, and Islam Culture.<sup>4</sup>

Ibnu Faris explains that education concept in Islam is to guide someone by paying attention to all pedagogic potency that they have, through appropriate steps for educating their souls, honors, physics, religion, social political, economy, beauty, and their spirit of Jihad. This case brings up comprehensive honor education concept, where the real ultimate demand of human life is actually balanced relation between human and God, relation among others and also between human and surroundings.<sup>5</sup>

Honor or Islamic character is the main goal in education. This case can be seen in Hadist of the Prophet that explain about virtues of character building or honor, which one of them is following Hadist: "Teach your children with goodness and educate them". Islamic education concept regards that humans are born with external potency which are: potency to do good to the nature, potency

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<sup>3</sup> Abdur Rahman Assegaf, *Pendidikan Islam di Indonesia*, 15

<sup>4</sup> Nur Ainiyah, "Pembentukan Karakter melalui Pendidikan Agama Islam", *Al-Ulum Journal*. Volume 13. No 1, Juny 2013, 30

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, 32

to create damage to the nature, potency in divinity that has function on non physical. Those are three potentials that is given back to humans. This case then led to the concept of a holistic approach in Islamic education that includes elements of knowledge, honor and belief.<sup>6</sup>

Therefore, Islamic education in Indonesia continuously becomes the most important aspect in Human Resource development of a nation, particularly in today's limitless digital era. Islamic education becomes aspect that cannot be separated from national education learning.

### ***Review on Digital Era***

Digital Era is an era where the world belongs to everyone; information is rapidly spread and enjoyed by all people, without exception. Information is no longer exclusive; even someone's personal data can be easily tracked. Digital era with all its easiness has various impact toward children or teenage. This impact directly or indirectly influences the children's daily behavior.

Even these days, we rarely find children who play traditional games. Even though, the traditional games have many advantages such as, promote brotherhood and closeness, children also will become more creative in using traditional games. Compare to these days, many children are shifting to technology game, such as gadget and video game.

Children of Digital era have been spoilt with sophisticated technology, such as search learning material through *Google* site and traditional games had been left. Characteristic of digital generation, such as;

1. Digital Generations commonly make account in social media to prove their existence.
2. Digital generation tend to be more open, blunt, and thinking more aggressive.
3. Digital generation tend to desire freedom. They do not like to be ordered and restrained. They want to take control and internet offers freedom of expression.
4. Digital Generation always access using *Google*, *Yahoo*, or other sites. Their learning ability is more rapid because all of the information is on the tip of their finger.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Nur Ainiyah, *Pembentukan Karakter*, 31-32

<sup>7</sup> Dini Palupi Putri, "Pendidikan Karakter pada Anak Sekolah Dasar di Era Digital". *Jurnal Pendidikan Dasar*. Vol. 2 No 1, 2018, 45

Digital era is a harsh era for those who have not grip in life or faith. However, digital technology has negative and also positive impacts. Positive impacts of digital technology are :

1. As a mean in delivering information, information of an event are delivered quickly, precisely, and accurately.
2. Facilitating access toward new information, easy to gain information anytime and anywhere.
3. Social media bridging individuals with new person, reunite individuals with old friend who are rarely meet up and as a mean to do business.
4. Helping to search information of student learning material.
5. Entertainment media, such as online game.
6. Simplify the communications.

The negative impacts of digital technology are :

1. Children become more individual, the lack of direct meeting or interaction among humans.
2. Tempramental, the habitual socialization with social media make children assume that the world outside is a threat.
3. Irresponsible news, Hoax news and bullying are everywhere.
4. Vulnerable to eye health, especially nearsightedness and farsightedness.
5. Cannot enjoy the life because while attending to a party, we even busy by ourselves with (*selfie*) photo and video without enjoying the show and music.
6. Gadget radiation endangers children brain health.
7. The raise of fraud case by telephone, sms, and internet.
8. Easiness accessing porn video.
9. Children will forget their homework given by the teachers or parents and also forget or lazy to do worship such as praying and recite.
10. Children will become target of a crime such as kidnaping and child rape .<sup>8</sup>

Recently, it was widely reported about bullying case in elementary school children. The impact of bullying are elementary school perpetrator can do the same when he continues the school to the next level, bullying perpetrators can commit violence again to Junior High school. Bullying impacts toward their victims are they will have low self-esteem, inferior, and unconfident; tendency to be not easy mingles with their friends in school. Bullying impacts toward friends

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<sup>8</sup> Ibid., 46

who watch it are their friends will feel threatened and afraid if they will be the next victims.

Accessing videos that have pornographic contents is very difficult to be limited by government, pornographic sites are rooted everywhere in the internet. Therefore, there must be strict supervision toward children when using smartphone. It is recommended that children of elementary school do not need to be given facility such as gadget, in order children get focus in undergoing their childhood by socializing with nature and outside world.

## FIND AND DISCUSSION

### *Strategy in Instilling Islamic Education Values*

Instilling religious values to the children in digital era is focus on how to give Islamic religious values related with personality shaping inside the children. Personality shaping is really needed in order that children have a strong foundation and do not easily adrift in current situation. Some cases that need to be understood and conducted by the educators especially parents are as follows:<sup>9</sup>

#### 1. Understanding Parental Responsibilities

Parents' responsibilities as main educator are very difficult. Parents' responsibilities start from child birth until puberty or until become mukallaf (fulfilled with obligation). This responsibility is implemented in order that the child has positive character inside themselves, so that they are able to form civilized society. Some of Al-Qur'an verses that discuss this matter are in QS. Thaha (20:132), which means "And command your family to stand praying and be patient in doing it...." QS. At-Tahrim (66:6) which means "O the believers, keep yourself and your family from hell fire...". As for some Hadiths regarding to educate children are as follows: (1) 'Someone who educate their children are more better than donating with one sha' ".(2) "There is no better gift from parents to children than good etiquette". The next Hadith is (3) "Educate your children on three things; in loving your Prophet, loving its descendant, and recite Al-Qur'an". (HR. Ath-Thabrani).

Based on the evidence of Al-Qur'an and Hadith above, parent should be educator, and understand the meaning of important education and parenting inside the family. Parent also has to conduct parenting to the children wholeheartedly primarily in worshiping and forming child honor in order that

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<sup>9</sup> Eka Cahya Maulidiyah, "Penanaman Nilai-Nilai Agama dalam Pendidikan Anak di Era Digital", *Women and Children Journal*. Volume 02. No 01, July 2018.

they can be spared from undesirable things. Including, the parent chooses environment and education that are able to educate and give good direction and also have good courtesy. Those are intended that children have good attitude, responsible to themselves, perform their duty in the right way based on Islamic education and also the children feel that they are always being watched by God in every occasion. The Parents' responsibilities to their children are Islamic education, moral education, physical education, intellectual education, psychic education, social education and sexual education responsibility.<sup>10</sup>

## 2. Parent Commitment

Parent is the main factor in educating children. Intimacy relationship between parent and children greatly affects the values hold by the children. When children do not have intimacy relationship with parents and also do not know applicable values inside family then the children will be weaker in facing pressure from their friend.<sup>11</sup> Children who are raised by the parent wisely will gain better life and on the contrary parents who do not support children's development can cause the children get suffer. This statement is supported by the children's ability in absorbing information rapidly so that the behavior and speech of the parent will be recorded in their mind. The next result is parent's behavior is transmitted to the children in the terms that it will be imitated by the children both positive and negative values.

A study conducted in Shenyang China describes juvenile offender behavior including murder. It turns out when it was reaserched on their childhood, there are the same pattern trend in parenting of their parents. Parents often say rude words, do not appreciate the children, shout with scolding and also make the children felt unwanted. Those things are recorded inside the children from childhood until teenage, so that, the impacts occur are the children become rebellious and have offensive juvenile, and also sentenced to juvenile prison for the crime they have done.

## 3. Learning from the Noblest Model of Islam

Prophet Muhammad SAW is the noblest man on the Islam history. He is Allah's messenger who has the perfect moral. His moral is as role model to his follower that did not separate from his life since childhood. Prophet Muhammad was born fatherless, in his development, he gained love and affection from his

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<sup>10</sup> Abdullah Nashih Ulwan, 2012, *Pendidikan Anak dalam Islam*, Terj. Arif Rahman Hakim et al (Solo: Insan Kamil), 110.

<sup>11</sup> Thomas Lickona. *Educating for Character: How Our School Can Teach Respect and Rsponsibility*, Terj. Juma Abdu wamaungo. Jakarta; Bumi Aksara, 2016, 54

mother, then uncle, and grandfather. The prophet gained early neighborhood with condition of the cleanest desert air and Arabic language in the desert area, that was more pure and higher than in Mekkah. Prophet Muhammad never experienced rough treatment from his closest environment or bad experience that was inflicting trauma and depression in childhood.<sup>12</sup>

The Prophet had sad experience that made him cry, however he cried because of his deep love and affection to his mother and grandfather who had died, so that, it formed softness in his heart. The sadness was different with sadness because of afraid, mad, or disappointment which can cause hardness of heart. It had been said while his grandson was died “(Crying) is a mercy which has given by Allah inside his servants’ hearts who are full of compassion”.

It is told that the way prophet treated his family properly especially to the children. Rasulullah from Anas bin Malik said “Rasulullah once brought his son, Ibrahim, then kissed and kissed him (HR Bukhari). Rasulullah is a loved father and grandfather. He has soft personality but it does not eliminate his firmness. One of the Prophet traits that is needed to be followed by children is his honest character, so that he was called al-Amin since his youth. He also had heart softness and forgiving trait that was showed in good behavior and forgiving toward his haters during his preach, he also had patient and not easy to get angry, and also had full of love and compassion to his parent as how he showed to his uncle who was always respected by him.

So much noble character that he performed everyday and so did his softness behavior to the children and his family. It is the same things that should be given by parents to their children, not anger and mockery that make the children get heart broken, sadness, and depression. Parents also should pay attention to the child education and also collaborate with school to give the best parenting to the children.

### ***Points should be considered by parents in child’s education***

1. Acknowledge the school that will be entered by the children.

Choosing school for the child is not merely on quality and good facility. Furthermore, parents should know the educators and environment where the school lies. Those are in order to guarantee the child’s security and also social interaction derived in school. The school is the parent’s partner in educating the child, the teacher also must have the same perception with the parents in

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<sup>12</sup> Martin Lings, Muhammad, Kisah Hidup Nabi Berdasarkan Sumber Klasik (Jakarta; Serambi Ilmu Semesta, 2016).



educating the child. The important thing must be concerned by the parent is religious and moral values education program in school. The instilling of religious values such as attitude when worshipping, praying, and treating friend in brotherhood must be included in children' basic program for building their behavior as a human foundation in individual and social living.

2. Being parent does not mean knowing everything.

Early childhood children still do not know normative things. They are learning what they see, feel, and experience. Those will be done in their daily behavior. For instilling religious values essence must be accustomed from wake up until sleep again to be a habit, beside understanding and appreciation. Becoming parent for the children do not mean the parent must know all kind of things asked by the children. This can make the parent depressed and angry because the children continuously ask questions. What needs to be avoided by parent is making excuses that cannot be accounted for answering the children's questions. Be the parent that has openness to the children, including when we have not had the answer yet. Because parent's obligation is to guide children, become a good listener for his need and the best place to find solution of problems together that is faced by the children. Thus, the children do not fall into bad and irresponsible society.

## CONCLUSION

Instilling religious values in child's education should be given in early childhood. It is parent's obligation toward children. Especially in Digital Era that is full of challenges for children. Instilling religious values is the important thing that hopefully can minimize negative impacts of Digital Era which is also called Disruptive Era. Starting form instilling religious values for children that hopefully in the future, the children have good personality, responsibility, and also always remember to God, so the children's behavior will have positive values and useful for himself or other people.

Instilling religious values starts from the family as the child's closest environment. Some negative impacts of digital era which negatively influence the child must be watched by parent, so that, it can minimize the impacts to the daily behavior showed by the child. Several differenced values that occur nowadays are affected toward parenting to the children, so as the parent needs to integrate mutual consent values in family parenting. Some strategies of instilling the religious values can be done by parent to the child, such as parent's commitment in showing good role model for the child in behavior or speech, imitating positive character behavior showed by Prophe Muhammad SAW,

applying the positive examples of Islamic religious figure, and also giving loving care parenting toward the child in order that the child always feels appreciated and received in his family environment.

Some strategies in instilling religious values to children hopefully can be done by parent consistently, so that, parent can guide their child in selecting the good school for the child, capable to become role model for their child to say positive words such as: sorry, excuse me, thank you, and please, and also can become the child's best partner that do not have to know everything, but willing to support and accompany the child in solving the their problems.

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