

The Role of Islam in Shaping the Millennial Generation's Morals and Character

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Abstract - Islamic education is an educational system that covers all aspects of life needed by the servants of Allah. Islamic education does not adhere to a closed system but is open to the demands of the welfare of mankind, both demands in the fields of science and technology as well as demands for fulfilling the needs of spiritual life. In entering the area of practical thinking, Islamic education focuses more on problems and educational processes that must be implemented in systems, patterns, and programs with various appropriate methods to achieve goals. The strategic target of Islamic education is to instill and develop religious values and scientific values deeply and widely in the personality of teenagers in this millennial era so that an attitude of faith and piety will be formed in them with the ability to develop knowledge in everyday life. In other terms, the goal of Islamic education is to integrate faith and piety with knowledge in the human person to realize the welfare of life in this world and happiness in the hereafter. Islamic education cannot be understood to be limited to "Islamic teaching". Because the success of Islamic education is not enough only in terms of how far the child masters things that are cognitive or knowledge of religious teachings alone but about how far these religious values are embedded in the soul and how far these values are manifested in behavior and behavior. the character of a teenager every day so that it can give birth to the noble character. Islamic education not only emphasizes religious teachings but must also lead to the mastery of science and other sciences and skills that will help to meet and deal with progress and changes that continue to occur. Because developing science and technology does not mean that Islamic education must abandon its role in providing the provision of religious sciences. Islamic religious education has a big role in the education system that builds the personality or character of the nation.

Keywords: Islamic education, morals, and character, role.

INTRODUCTION

In today's millennial era, there is a lot of attention from all walks of life, be it children, teenagers, to parents. The millennial generation is often discussed in all aspects, both in terms of education, social, culture, norms, and even the use of increasingly sophisticated technology. This is because there are many changes in the way of life that is different from the previous generation. Millennials are considered as carriers of negative values because they are associated with foreign cultures or westernized cultures. Millennials are very open to technology (Azhari et al., 2022; Emilia et al., 2022; Rahmawati et al., 2022; Susilawati et al., 2022; Tamam & Asbari, 2022; Tsoraya et al., 2022).

In addition to adolescent problems, current problems are also caused by social phenomena. Emerging social phenomena, such as education which is associated with rapid technological progress, rapid economic competition that requires competent human resources, changes in lifestyle, and others. However, among these symptoms there is also a negative stigma attached such as hedonism, materialism, individualism, and so on. This is where Islamic education is expected to be able to face problems in the current millennial era.

Islamic education is one aspect of Islamic teachings as a whole. Because the purpose of Islamic education is

inseparable from the purpose of human life and Islam, namely to create a person who is always pious and can achieve happiness in the world and the hereafter. Many millennials today are less interested in studying Islamic religion. Actually this happens because of many factors that influence both from family, environment, friends, and the wrong association. The family as a mini institution that can meet the needs of children as bio-psycho-socio-spiritual beings with the development of their personality.

DISCUSSION

The Role of Islamic Religious Education (PAI) in Student Life

Islamic religious education can be interpreted as education based on the values of Islamic teachings as stated in the Koran and al-Hadith as well as in the thoughts of the scholars and in the practice of Muslim history. The purpose of Islamic education is for humans to have a clear, complete and comprehensive picture of Islam and to prepare students to be able to carry out roles that require mastery of special knowledge about Islamic teachings.

PAI was built by two essential meanings, namely "education" and "Islam". One of the meanings of education according to Plato is to develop the potential of students, so that their morals and intellectuals develop so that they find the true truth, and teachers occupy an important position in motivating and creating their environment (Musyafa'Fathoni, 2010). In Aristotle's ethics, education is defined as educating humans to have a proper attitude in all actions (Bunyamin, 2018). In al-Ghazali's view, education is an educator's effort to eliminate bad morals and instill good morals in students so that they are close to Allah and achieve happiness in the world and the hereafter (Hamim, 2014). Meanwhile, Ibn Khaldun views that education has a broad meaning. According to him, education is not limited to the learning process with space and time as its limits, but means the process of human consciousness to capture, absorb, and live natural events throughout the ages (Akbar, 2015).

For John Dewey, education is growth, development, and life itself. He views progressively and is principled in an optimistic attitude about student progress in the educational process (Mualifah, 2013). Kihajar Dewantara stated that education is a guide for the growth of students' potential to become individuals and part of an independent society so as to achieve safety and happiness (Yanuarti, 2017).

From the opinions of several figures who have explained the meaning of education, it can be concluded the following things:

1. Education is a process that occurs reciprocally.
2. Students are independent human beings who are seen as having the potential for further growth and development of that potential through education.
3. Educators are people who have important positions in the educational process, including in motivating and creating a conducive environment.
4. Humans with intellectual intelligence and good character are the goal of education so as to find safety and happiness.

Furthermore, according to Darajat (1992), education in its journey has been colored by religion in its role and process. According to him, religion is a motivation for life and life, including as a very important tool for development and self-control. Not just being known, understanding and practicing religion is very important for creating a complete human being. Because Islam is one of the religions recognized by the state, of course PAI has colored the education process in Indonesia. PAI is a continuous effort and process of planting something (education) between teachers and students, with morality as the ultimate goal. Instilling Islamic values in the soul, taste, and thought; and harmony and balance are its main characteristics (Rahman, 2012). The main characteristics in Muhaimin's view (2004) have become a way of life (one's views and attitudes to life).

Islamic Religious Education in The Millennial Era

Millennial vocabulary comes from English millennium or millenia, which means a thousand years (Echols, 1980: 380). Millennia then became a term for a period that occurred after the global era or the modern era, therefore the

millennial era can also be called the post-modern era, this era is defined by some experts as the era of Back to spiritual and moral or back to religion. This era emerged as a response to the modern era which prioritizes reason, empirical, and things that are materialistic, secularistic, hedonistic, pragmatic, and transactional. That is the view that separates the affairs of the world from the affairs of the hereafter. As a result of such a life, humans are free to act without any spiritual, moral, and religious basis.

In this increasingly modern era, Islamic religious education is very much needed. Where at this time there are many factors that can affect the millennial generation, both internal and external factors. Foreign culture that enters Indonesia has both positive and negative impacts. The positive impact of foreign cultures such as increasing Indonesian people's insight into the culture of foreign nations entering Indonesia, such as being able to learn a new language or English, the ease of obtaining technology and knowledge. The negative impacts of foreign cultures such as consumptive people's lifestyles and bad culture from outside are easy to enter Indonesia.

Lack of self-awareness is the biggest factor in the lack of Islamic religious education. A real example that we can take from the lack of Islamic religious education is what is happening in Indonesia today. Actually they know that what they are doing is wrong, but because of the lack of Islamic religious education they continue to do it.

The millennial generation must study Islamic religious education so that there is a balance with general education. Islamic education prepares the role of the millennial generation in continuing their duties in the world and later being able to obtain the results (rewards) in the hereafter. Islamic religious education is a guide to form a better personality and characteristics. Islamic education is aimed at achieving a balanced growth of the individual, the human being as a whole through mental exercises, reasoning, intelligence, feelings, and the five senses. Therefore, Islamic education must develop all aspects of human life, whether spiritual, intellectual, imagination, physical, spiritual, both individually and in groups to achieve a perfect life.

In demanding Islamic religious education in today's digital era, we can also get it through social media such as YouTube, Instagram, Tik Tok by listening to studies from lecturers and we can also see quotes related to Islam. In studying Islam, we must also pay attention so that what we learn is in accordance with what Allah has commanded. Do not let what we learn is not in accordance with what He ordered.

Although following the times, what the millennial generation does must still be in accordance with what the Apostle taught Muslims so that there are no deviations that can have a negative impact on the millennial generation. We, as Muslims, must strengthen each other in doing good in order to create Muslims with good morals and behavior.

In addition, it is known that humans, as creatures who have a religious nature that are born from birth, namely a sense of trust in God, obedience and submission to Him need religion. Without religion, humans will be in a void that can be dangerous, because it can be filled with bad things. Keeping people away from religion is an impossibility, because it is contrary to human nature given by God (Q.S. al-Ruum, 30:30). It is also impossible to think that religion is dead. On this basis, Komaruddin Hidayat wrote the book Religion has a Thousand Lives. The book describes a number of people who tried to kill religion, but it didn't work; Religion is still alive, it needs distribution and nourishment. That is, when religion is killed, it turns out that it is alive again. Because religion is integrated in human nature. This is one of the characteristics of the human soul in the post-modern era.

The millennial generation is a generation that must be able to compete and in this competition it must come out as a winner. For this reason, the millennial generation is a generation that excels both in terms of hard skills and soft skills (moral, mental, intellectual, emotional and spiritual). The superior generation will only be born by superior education. Islamic education with its main reference is al-Qur'an and al-Sunnah actually has a commitment to excellence. In fact, there are many Muslim figures who can be used as role models or models for humans, for example the Prophet Muhammad. However, it seems that the current objective condition of Islamic education seems to be that more are less prepared and less able to produce the superior generation needed by the millennial era. So that Islamic education must provide insight into normative teachings and historical experience related to the development of superior education, so that it will bring up a superior generation as well.

CONCLUSION

The role of Islamic Religious Education in shaping morals and character in the millennial generation is very important. The formation of the morals and character of the millennial generation so that later they can practice the teachings of Islam and not be negatively affected by an era that is all-sophisticated in technology and communication. In this digital era, the millennial generation must make the best use of technology to explore and learn Islamic religious values.

The millennial generation must continue to be equipped with Islamic religious education as the basis of life for the future, so as not to be carried away by the currents of modernization and globalization which tend to be permissive in matters that are instinctively and religiously limited. So that Islamic religious education is a barrier so that the millennial generation can prevent themselves from falling into negative things in the era of globalization and become millennials who have character, and fear Allah SWT.

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