

THE ROLE OF DIGITAL IN EARLY CHILDHOOD ISLAMIC EDUCATION

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ABSTRACT

We are currently in an era where almost everyone is familiar with technology and everything is completely connected. With the advancement of digital technology now, every parent needs to keep updating information and learning how to educate their children, especially Islamic religious knowledge in today's digital era. Children must be instilled with Islamic religious values so that they can get used to doing good, taking action and making decisions in their lives based on Islamic religious values which serve as guidelines until adulthood. In order to avoid the negative effects of the internet, the role of parents is very important in accompanying children to learn, especially when they are playing and learning to use gadgets. Therefore, This study aims to find out how today's parents provide Islamic education by utilizing digital technology. This research is a library research using the mass media method. Research results have found the large role of digital in helping provide Islamic education to early childhood. In early childhood education, the inculcation of religious values is intended so that children can know God, imitate worship movements, say prayers, recognize good and bad behavior, and get used to good behavior. By utilizing digital tools in the learning process, parents will find it easier to provide understanding to children and can make children more enthusiastic, active and creative. This research is a library research using the mass media method. Research results have found the large role of digital in helping provide Islamic

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Keywords: digital, parents, early childhood.

BACKGROUND

Today's children have very different childhoods from us. They were born in the digital age. It is common knowledge that gadgets are like a double-edged sword that can provide both benefits and bad effects for anyone who doesn't use it wisely. The existence of gadgets often makes it easier for us to access information and establish long-distance communication, as well as spoil us with various entertainment application services. But unfortunately also, the consequences of the existence of gadgets. in the realm of children's lives it can be said that it has the potential to threaten the sustainability of educational programs towards a full generation of human beings. With this situation, parents must understand their obligations to their children so that they do not only meet

their physical needs, but the most important thing is to provide them with education, especially religious education. And the obligation of parents in providing education must begin early. Family education plays a very important role as the foundation for further education, especially to face the challenges of education in the 4.0 era. what the author wants to research is how parents take advantage of digital roles such as gadgets and television in providing Islamic education to early childhood.

THEORETICAL STUDY

Parents are the first and foremost teachers for their children. Both father and mother, the role of both is very important and needed in the process of child growth and development. Mother's love and father's role cannot be replaced with anything, no matter how sophisticated digital technology is now, it still cannot replace it.

Early childhood is individual population aged 0-6 years.¹Early childhood is the most important period for all of his life, early childhood is a period of forming the foundation and basis of personality that will determine further experiences. Thus the importance of this age, the needs of early childhood must be met.(2014a, p. p. 2)

Children are great imitators. Because parents are the first and longest place for children to interact, it is important for parents to realize that they have to maintain an attitude and set a good example, because all forms of good behavior, attitudes, speech and behavior in everyday life will be seen and recorded in the child's memory. , so that more or less it will have an impact and be imitated by the child.

Nowadays education is very diverse and uses sophisticated tools, some use television, computers, and so on. So that's why the accurate method is how to use this all-sophisticated tool so that it's easy to convey material to children. Between materials, methods, and educational goals

¹<https://kbbi.kemdikbud.go.id/entri/Anak%20usia%20dini> accessed on 16-11-2022.

must be interrelated and develop so that it is truly effective and efficient. So that it is consistent and relevant to the ultimate goal of Islamic education to be achieved. Methods that can be used to improve the quality of life of Muslims, especially Indonesia, are methods that are extracted from the main sources of Islamic teachings themselves, as well as methods that have recently emerged in the world of education that do not eliminate the factor of faith and Islamic moral values. .(Dacholfany & Hasanah, 2018, p. p. 55)

Islam is not only open to scientific reforms, but also encourages progress in this field. Islam places science and technology as a tool for human welfare that is based on divine values and is directed towards humanitarian goals, therefore Islam places science and technology on the basis of faith and piety.(2014b, pp. p. 17-20)

To minimize the negative impact of digital use, the role of parents is most important in finding solutions for children. Because they cannot avoid digital touch in their daily activities, parents can take the initiative to involve digital in the process of educating their children, especially Islamic education. Islamic religious education aims to foster a child's personality, especially behavior, speech, manners, and so on. If we educate children with Islamic education, it will affect the mindset of children's behavior in everyday life.

Research conducted by Eka Cahya Maulidiyah with the title Embedding Religious Values in Children's Education in the Digital Age. This research is a literature research that aims to describe the inculcation of religious values from an early age in the digital era which is full of extraordinary challenges through several strategies for instilling religious values such as understanding parental responsibilities, parental commitment to children, and learning from noble role model in Islam. The results of this study indicate that several strategies for instilling religious values in children are expected to be implemented by parents consistently so that parents can accompany their children in choosing good schools for their children, being able to set an example for children to say positive words such as "sorry", "excuse me", (Maulidiyah, 2018, p. p. 73)

While the research conducted by Ida Latifatul Umroh with the title Role of Parents in Educating Children Islamically Early in the Millennial Era 4.0. This study uses a literature study which aims to determine the role of parents in educating children from an early age in an Islamic way in the 4.0 era. The results of this study are that parents have a role as forming the positive

character of children from an early age. In shaping the positive character of children in the 4.0 era, parents must continue to learn about ways to educate children. Things that parents can do in educating children in the 4.0 era are: maintaining good communication, knowing trends that children love so they know how to filter them, setting aside free time for children, being gentle with children, digging up information about children's activities,(Umroh, 2019, p. p. 208)

The research was written by Suryadi, Desy Ayuningrum, Nopiana with the title Father's Role in Early Childhood Education in the Digital Age. This study uses qualitative methods with qualitative data analysis techniques. This study aims to obtain an overview of the physical-motor development of early childhood in the digital era. The subjects of this study consisted of 3 children with an age range of 5-6 years consisting of 1 boy and 2 girls. The results obtained from this study are physically, father's involvement in family life shows a positive impact. It can be said that even though the father is busy working, he still has time to play or teach physical motor development stimulus to his child.(2020, p. p. 279)

So, in this case this article will discuss how important the role of digital is in helping parents when providing an understanding of Islamic education to children and children's enthusiasm in the learning process.t.Parents' concern for the educational development of their children can also be applied by becoming peers for children. So that when children want to play gadgets, parents can suggest applications that involve joint activities between children and parents. It is intended that contact or interaction between parents and children will get better and stronger. This includes when children want to watch television, parents must be concerned and ready to accompany them. Choose educational television shows for the sake of developing scientific insights and motivating children.²

² <https://hidayatullah.com/artikel/mimbar/read/2017/03/17/113467/mendidik-generation-gadget.html> accessed on 14-11-2022

RESEARCH METHODS

This research is a library research, which is a research that is based only on written works, including the results of both published and unpublished research. The type of research used is mass media analysis, namely observing and analyzing a mass, namely gadgets.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. Early childhood Islamic education

Education in general is an institution of human life, to form identity and build a more qualified generation of people. The family is the first and foremost institution in providing education for children, while the school is a formal institution where children gain knowledge and develop it. Education is a conscious and planned effort to create a learning atmosphere and learning process so that students actively develop their potential to have religious spiritual strength, self-control, personality, intelligence, noble character and the skills needed by themselves and society.(Widodo, 2019, p. p. 2)

In Indonesia, what is meant by early childhood is children aged 0-6 years. So, it is slightly different from the concept of early age that applies in foreign countries, namely 0-8 years according to world child conventions. The age difference is actually not a problem if the concept of early childhood education is applied by learning through play. Based on the results of research by neurologists, about 50% of the intelligence capabilities of adults have occurred when the child was 4 years old, 80% had occurred when the child was 8 years old, and reached the culmination point when the child was 18 years old.(Azis, 2018, p. p. 81)

One important part that must get attention related to early childhood education is the education of Islamic religious values. Religious value education is related to the willingness to carry out religious teachings in everyday life. Children must be given proper guidance and direction in understanding the religious values of early childhood.(Ardinasari, 2022, p. p. 421)

The purpose of early childhood education in an Islamic view is to nurture, assist the growth and development of the child's human nature, so that the child's soul born in natural conditions is not polluted by worldly life which can make a child a Jew, Christian or Zoroastrian. Or in other words that early childhood education in Islamic education aims to instill Islamic values in children from an early age.(Sholeh, 2018, p. p. 74)

2. The use of digital media in the learning process of early childhood

Until now, digital technology is still seen as a parallel in our education. Loved for the wrong reasons just because it's classy and sophisticated. He was feared because he became a dangerous opiate and made children escape from the control of the adults around them. Technology is actually a powerful way, a tool that can be very effective in cultivating potential, at any age. Technology is a tool that can be utilized in a meaningful way, improving the quality of relationships between people, our schools and families.(Shihab & Learning Archipelago, 2021, p. h. 3)

Digital technology does not all have a negative impact, technology can also have a positive impact if used wisely. Parents can take advantage of television or gadget media through the YouTube application by providing quality viewing for children.

YouTube is a video-sharing website founded by Chad Hurley, Steve Chen, and Jawed Karim, who were PayPal's first employees in February 2005. The website allows users to upload, watch, and share videos. The company is headquartered in San Bruno, California, and uses Adobe Flash Video and HTML5 technology to display a wide variety of user/creator-generated video content, including movie clips, TV clips, and music videos. Apart from that, amateur content such as video blogs, short original videos, and educational videos are also present on this site.³

Various videos can be easily found in the YouTube application including content for children such as Islamic films and cartoon series. Islamic films and cartoon series are educational media

³<https://id.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/YouTube> accessed on 16-11-2022

for instilling religious values in children, and are considered the most effective compared to conventional methods which seem serious and boring. Apart from presenting interesting stories, these Islamic cartoons will also teach children to worship and always do good. In fact, not a few also insert Islamic songs to memorize Asmaul Husna, the names of the prophets, and daily prayers. Here is a list of Islamic and educational cartoon films for children:

a) Nussa

This nation's children's animated series has two main characters named Nussa and Rara. This cartoon emphasizes Islamic values a lot, and also includes Islamic songs such as the Pillars of Islam, memorizing prayers, the Pillars of Faith, and many more.

b) Omar and Hana

Not only educative for children, this animation from a neighboring country also shows the role of parents in the child's growth and development and instilling Islamic teachings. So, the Omar and Hana series can also be educational media for your little ones as well as mothers and fathers in educating their children. Starting from teaching the Koran, praying, to daily prayers that are heard through simple songs in each episode.

c) Riko The Series

Switching to a slightly modern Islamic cartoon, Riko The Series comes with a story about a boy named Riko and his favorite robot. This children's series presents knowledge of Islamic values, in which the robot is able to answer various questions raised by Riko, and in each episode it also displays murottal Al-Qur'an.

d) Adit Sopo Jarwo

The series, which was also successfully adapted into a film, often inserts Islamic-valued advice so that the audience always does a lot of good for others. This Islamic cartoon features two characters, namely Bang Jarwo and Adit. Adit's character is described as a child who is polite, devoted to his parents, and likes to help anyone. While Bang Jarwo was often irritated with Adit, he later had the heart to always apologize for his mistakes.

e) Upin and Ipin

In this series, twins named Upin and Ipin are described as normal children, who are active and like to play. Not only that, they are also always enthusiastic to always learn and respect

their parents. Some of the episodes also include Islamic teachings such as prayer, fasting, reciting the Koran, and giving alms.

f) Ali and Sumaya

This series of brothers Ali and Sumaya is an Islamic cartoon that uses English, which can be used as an educational medium about religion and English. It can be said that this Islamic cartoon adequately describes the situation of today's children. The reason is, Ali and Sumaya have a hobby of making vlogs about their activities. There are many things that can be taught through this series, such as how to do ablution and read the Al-Qur'an, starting with reading the short surahs of Juz Amma.

g) Shamil and Dodo

This Islamic cartoon, which received an award from the Indonesian Broadcasting Commission as a quality children's show, tells the story of the friendship of two children, namely Syamil and Dodo. Dodo is described as a child with a bald head who is cheerful and mischievous, while Syamil has the character of a smart and obedient child. Through this animation teaches children to maintain brotherhood among fellow Muslims.

h) Joseph: The King of Dreams

If mom and dad want to show one of the stories of the prophets, this Islamic cartoon series might be the reference. This cartoon tells the story of Joseph who is very loved by his father, making his older brother jealous. One day, his brother sold Joseph to become a slave to a rich merchant. Even so, Joseph still had the heart to forgive his brother. From here, we can teach our little ones to learn to forgive others.

i) Alif and Alya

As the title suggests, this Islamic cartoon is centered on characters named Alif and Alya in living their daily lives. Children who watch this cartoon are invited to participate in implementing what the main character exemplifies. Examples include helping each other,

starting any activity by praying, and respecting parents. The series also features nursery rhymes.⁴

The presence of YouTube is very helpful for everyone in obtaining information, providing an understanding of something through explanations in the form of videos, as well as entertainment such as songs, comedy content, or films. What differentiates YouTube from television is time and theme. Every program on television has a predetermined theme and time schedule for airing, so if we are busy at that time, we will miss the program. Meanwhile, YouTube has a flexible time, so it can be accessed whenever we want, and we can choose what content we want to watch. Likewise, in accompanying children to play gadgets, adult supervision and control is needed so that children avoid rich content. Parents can direct children to watch content with themes that are appropriate for the child's age,

3. Strategies used by parents in the learning process

Learning strategy is a means to achieve the goal of a subject or a series of lessons that have been given to children. (Wuwung, 2020, p. p. 36) For young children, playing is learning and learning is playing, when playing becomes an activity that is carried out repeatedly and creates a feeling of pleasure and satisfaction for children. Learning should be structured in such a way that it is fun, makes children interested in participating and does not make children feel forced. (2017, p. p. 4)

Observing child development and the need for learning in early childhood, it appears that there are two things that need to be considered in early childhood education, namely educational materials and educational methods used. In short, it can be said that the educational materials and methodologies used in the framework of early childhood education must really pay attention to their level of development. Paying attention to the level of development means also considering their developmental tasks, because each period of development also carries certain developmental tasks. (Fajarwati, 2014, p. p. 38)

⁴<https://shopee.co.id/inspirasi-shopee/film-dan-serial-kartun-islami/> accessed on 16-11-2022

In order for the learning process to be maximized and directed, one of the steps to having a strategy is having to master presentation techniques or what is usually called a teaching method. The following are several learning methods, including:

a) Lecture method

The lecture method is a method that parents can use as a means of oral communication between parents and children in the learning process.

b) Discussion method

Discussion method, in this discussion the teaching and learning process occurs when two or more participants are involved in exchanging experiences and information to solve a problem.

c) Question and answer method

In implementing the question and answer method, it can be applied in presenting fiqh and moral study materials as well as other language subjects that contain question and answer values such as fasting, pilgrimage, roses and others.

d) Learning task method

The learning task method is a task method to train children to learn to do assignments so that children are expected to get a result, a change in certain behavior in accordance with a predetermined goal. In implementing the drill method, it can be implemented to train students to be skilled at reading the Koran, practicing prayer and various other topics. While the repetition is one tool to regulate the extent to which the child has mastered and absorbed the lessons that have been given.

e) Demonstration method

The demonstration method is a way of presenting material by demonstrating or demonstrating to students, or process situations, or certain objects that are being studied, either actual or imitation, which are often accompanied by oral explanations. In the implementation of the demonstration method can be used can be used in the delivery of fiqh lesson materials, for example how to do ablution, how to do the correct afternoon prayer

f) Experimental method

The experimental method is a way of presenting learning material in which children must conduct experiments, by experiencing themselves, proving themselves, following a process, observing objects, drawing their own conclusions about an object, a state or a process of something. Experimental methods can be used, for example trying to memorize the verses of the Qur'an, trying to write down the correct ones and so on.(Budi Utomo, 2018, pp. h. 147-149)

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the results of the research previously described, it can be concluded that the role of technology is very important in helping parents and children in the learning process. Learning through digital media really helps children to be more focused, enthusiastic, and motivated to apply what they learn, such as praying, giving alms, saying good things, being honest, and so on. Being accompanied by parents will make children happier, and can make the relationship between parents and children closer and harmonious. The relationship between parents and children is very important for building trust in others and in oneself. It can also help social, emotional and cognitive development in children.⁵

⁵ <https://kanalknowledge.fk.ugm.ac.id/peran-keluarga-dalam-usaha-tumbuh-kembang-anak/> accessed on 17-11-2022.

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