



Early Childhood Education in Islamic Perspective

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Abstract

The teachings of Islam, the Qur'an has given guidance about how to prepare generation or a child as a trustee, to make him a human being who can carry out of Islamic law well. The article discussed of the educational process and the developmental needs of early childhood in Islamic perspective. The researchers used a qualitative method by reviewing some of the previous findings with a coding system and in-depth analysis of each data. The collecting data used documentation, from online publication research. The researchers collected the data on online search publications, for instance Google Scholar, Science Direct, et al, specifically on articles published between 2010 and 2021. The result showed that several methods of Islamic education that be applied to educational activities for early childhood, for instance method by example, education by practice and practice, educating through games, songs, and stories, educating with targhib and tarhib, praise and flattery, instilling good habits.

Keywords: Early Childhood, Islamic Perspective, Childhood Education

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INTRODUCTION

Every country has an education system, because the education system is the embodiment and elaboration of the ideals of society. People's expectations for education are very large because education is expected to realize the ideals of society. Education functions as the agent of social change. From there it is clear that the role of education is the foundation of people's expectations to produce high-quality human resources so that they are ready and able to enter a period of time that contains new challenges, new inspiration, and new strengths that arise in a dynamic society (Siregar 2003).

Education is something that is urgent for anyone, including for children. At this time a lot of education is given to pre-school children or better known as early childhood education, as an effort to provide basic provisions for the interests of children's lives in the future and prepare children to enter the next level. Early childhood education becomes a strategy when it becomes a benchmark for success at the next stage. Because at an early age of 0-8 years is a

critical age range and at the same time strategic in the educational process which will color the process and results of education at a later stage (Mursid 2009)

Education gets very serious attention in Islam. This can be observed from the revelation that first came down where the command to "read" (iqra') was called for (Nur Faizah 2008). The command to "read" is basically a very strong suggestion about the importance of education in Islam. Given how important the position of children in the family, Islam also calls for managing the potential of children seriously. This call is to prevent children from being neglected so that they grow up to be human beings who are weak in everything (Ramayulis 2002). Based on this, this study will discuss early childhood education in an Islamic perspective.

METHOD

The researchers used a qualitative method by reviewing some of the previous findings with a coding system and in-depth analysis of each data. The collecting data used documentation, from online publication research. The researchers collected the data on online search publications, for instance Google Scholar, Science Direct, et al, specifically on articles published between 2010 and 2021, then analyzed them very critically to ensure that our findings are very close to the validity and reliability of answering the research questions. In searching the data, the researchers used keywords, which included "Childhood Education", "Childhood Education Islamic Perspective", the researchers followed the guidelines for reviewing education with qualitative methods recommended by experts, mainly research and development studies (Holliday, 2010; Sgier, 2012).

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The term education comes from the word "didik" which is given the prefix "pe" and the suffix "kan", meaning "deed" (things, ways and so on). The term education originally came from the Greek language, namely "pedagogic", which means the guidance given to children). The term education originally came from the Greek language, namely "Paedagogie", which means the guidance given to children. In the Big Indonesian Dictionary, education is "The process of changing attitudes and behavior of a person or group of people in an effort to mature humans through teaching and training efforts. (Suharno n.d.).

Article 1 paragraph 14 of the 2003 National Education System Law states that: "Early childhood education is a coaching effort aimed at children from birth to the age of six which is carried out through the provision of educational stimuli to help growth and development. physical and spiritual development so that children have readiness to enter further education. Another limitation regarding early age in children based on developmental psychology is between the ages of 0-8 years (Lif Khoiro Ahmadi, Hendro 1998).

In addition to the term early childhood education, there is also the term early childhood development, namely the efforts made by the community and/or the government to assist early childhood in developing their potential holistically in terms of education, nutrition and health (Novan Ardy Wiyanti 2011). When a child first comes into the world and sees what is in the house and its surroundings, a picture of the beginning of a picture of life is drawn in his mind. How should he initially be able to step in his life in this world. His soul which is still pure and clean will accept any form that comes to affect him. Then the child will be shaped by every influence that comes within him.

According to psychiatrists, the growth and development of a child is a period of changes in the body, intelligence, emotional and interaction abilities that have an influence on the completeness of the individual and the maturity of the personality. Education experts and experts determine that after passing through the birth period, a child experiences several growths and developments that parents must know to make it easier to determine educational steps at the age phase so that parents are able to make program plans to be implemented appropriately and in accordance with development and growth. so that children grow up with education naturally (Al Maghribi bin as-Said al-Maghribi n.d.).

Imam Al-Ghazali said that children are a mandate for their parents, their hearts are clean to accept everything they carve, and they will tend to anything that affects them. So if he is accustomed and taught to do good, surely that is how a child is formed. So that both parents will get happiness in this world and in the hereafter. The child will be an educated person. But if a child is accustomed to doing evil and is abandoned like a wild animal, miserable and woe to him. His sins will be borne directly by his parents as the person in charge of Allah's mandate (Hafizh 1997).

A. Child Development Period

As parents, educating children is an obligation that must be done. Making a child into a human being who loves God, has a character that reflects the Qur'an and can become a human being who can make a positive contribution to the surrounding environment. In this case there are several important things that need to be considered in the process of child development. There is something called the Golden Age, as the golden period in shaping the mental development of a child (Gertraud Diem-Wille 2018). So that during the golden age it is necessary to pay attention to the six foundations in educating a child. The six things are the first in terms of divinity and spirituality, this includes how to instill religious principles and strengthen the foundation of faith, instill the value of religious obedience, find good friends and pay attention to children's activities. The second is the moral aspect which includes teaching honesty and not being hypocritical,

and being able to maintain oral and noble character. The third mental and intellectual aspect includes getting used to enjoying quality reading that can improve self-quality, and can keep oneself from things that can damage common sense. The four physical aspects include being given a obligatory livelihood and basic needs for children, providing physical training such as sports, horse riding, swimming and archery. And get used to being able to avoid habits that can damage the child's body. The fifth is the psychological aspect which includes being able to teach children not to be too shy, inferior, spoiled, selfish and to avoid being angry. The sixth is the social aspect which includes teaching to always fulfill the rights of others and includes the social ethics of a child (Azhari n.d.).

As educators or parents, they must recognize the development and growth of children naturally so that they are able to determine the steps and policies of the education process correctly, so they should pay attention to the following things (Ariyanti 2016):

The toddler phase is a period of breastfeeding and weaning, namely after the child is 2 years old. Some of the characteristics below are manifestations of the developmental process in infants, namely:

1. The existence of physical development can be seen from the increasing length and weight of the baby. Motor development can be seen from the baby's response to stimuli in the form of whole body movements and reflexes. The development of thinking (cognitive) in infants is characterized by the requirement of curiosity.
2. The toddler phase between the ages of 3 to 5 years is the pre-school and playgroup education period. Some of the characteristics of development at this time are:
 - a. Motor development: with increasing maturation of brain development that regulates the neuromuscular system, it allows early childhood children to be more agile and active in moving.
 - b. Development of language and thinking: The ability to speak orally in children will develop because it occurs in addition to the maturation of the organs of speech and thinking, also because the environment helps develop it.

The childhood phase, which is between the ages of 6 to 8 years, is the phase when children start entering elementary school. This age stage is also known as the gangage age, where children begin to shift attention and intimate relationships in the family to cooperation between friends and attitudes towards work or study. One of the important things that children need to have is school maturity. At this time as schoolchildren, children compare themselves with their friends where it is easy for them to be afraid of failure and ridicule by friends, if at this time they often fail and feel anxious, they will develop a sense of inferiority, on the other hand, if

they know about how and what needs to be done in the face of the demands of his community and he succeeds in overcoming problems in friend relations and school achievement, there will be a high motivation for work in other words the "industry" will fall.

3. The transitional phase, namely the age of 9 to 12 years, is the end of the child receiving basic education. Starting with the growth of new teeth until the onset of symptoms of the functioning of the sex glands (sexual).
4. The adolescent phase or baligh, which is the age of 12 to 15 years, is the age of limb growth and psychological maturity or obligations for boys and girls.
5. The puberty phase between the ages of 15 and 18 is the phase when the child is already in high school.
6. Productive period of age 18 to 30 years.
7. Adulthood is a period of transition from productive to sixty years of age.
8. Old age is the period starting at the age of sixty (Hafizh 1997).

B. Islam Scope of Children's Education in Islam

The scope of children's education is broadly divided into 5, namely:

1. Faith Education

The most essential purpose of education in Islam is to introduce students to Allah SWT. Introducing in the sense of providing learning about the oneness of Allah SWT, human obligations to Allah SWT, human obligations to Allah and other aspects of aqidah.

2. Moral Education

Allah sent Prophet Muhammad to mankind to improve human character. In the process of education there is a hadith from Ibn Abbas that the Messenger of Allah once said: "Be friendly with your children and educate their morals.", Likewise the Messenger of Allah said: "Tell your children to pray when they are seven years old and beat them if they leave when they are seven years old. they are ten years old, and separate their beds." (Narrated by Abu Dawud).

3. Intellectual Education

According to the Psychology dictionary, the term intellectual comes from the word intellect, namely the cognitive/thinking process, or the ability to judge and consider. This intellectual education is adapted to the child's thinking ability. According to Piaget, a psychologist who discusses the theory of development which is also known as the Theory of Cognitive Development, there are 4 periods in human cognitive development, namely: (Desmita 2010).

- a. Period 1, ie 0 – 2 years (sensory motor)
- b. Period 2, which is 2 years – 7 years (thinking Pre-Operational)
- c. Period 3, ie 7 years-11 years (Concrete Operational Thinking)
- d. Period 4, which is 11 years old - Adults (Formal Operations)

4. Physical Education

By fulfilling the need for a balanced diet, providing adequate sleep and activity so that their physical growth is good and they are able to carry out activities as Sunnah of the Prophet: "Teach your children archery, swimming and horseback riding" (HR. Thabrani)

5. Psychic Education

Efforts in carrying out psychological education for children include:

- a. Providing emotional needs, by giving love, understanding, behaving politely and wisely.
- b. Cultivate self-confidence
- c. Giving encouragement does not weaken (Hafiz and Noor 2016).

C. Early Childhood Education in an Islamic Perspective

1. Basics and Objectives of Early Childhood Education

In the view of Islam, everything that is carried out, of course has a legal basis that comes from the naqliyah basis aqliyah. Likewise with the implementation of education at an early age (Sholeh 2018). In Islam, children are a trust in the hands of their parents. Her pure heart is a precious gem, innocent and free from all kinds of engravings and images. Carving in the form of good education will thrive in children, so that they will develop well and according to Islamic teachings, and in the end will achieve happiness in this world and in the hereafter. If a child is accustomed and educated from an early age with good things and taught kindness to him, he will grow and develop well and will gain happiness and avoid misery/torment both in his life in this world and in the hereafter.

2. Early Childhood Education Curriculum and Materials

There are various forms of curriculum developed by experts in early childhood education. There is what is called a separate curriculum, namely the curriculum has separate subjects with one another that is not related, because each subject has an integrated organization. There is also an interrelated curriculum, namely between each subject there is a relationship, between the two subjects there is still a connection. Thus, children have the opportunity to see the relationship between subjects, so that children can still learn to integrate even though it is only between two subjects.

Then there is also what is called the Integrated Curriculum, in this curriculum children get extensive experience, because between one subject and other subjects are interrelated. In relation to educational materials for early childhood, Ibn Sina has mentioned in his book entitled *As Siyasa*, brilliant ideas in educating children. He advised that in educating children, start by teaching

them the Qur'an al Karim which is a physical and mental preparation for learning (Aryani 2015).

3. Early Childhood Education Methods

To realize the implementation of educational activities in early childhood and to achieve encouraging results, educators should always look for various effective methods, as well as look for educational principles that influence in preparing and assisting early childhood growth, both physically and mentally. mental and moral, spiritual and social ethos. Based on the Qur'an and hadith, there are several methods of Islamic education that can and should be applied to educational activities for early childhood. The methods in question are:

a. Method by Example

Exemplary in Islamic education, is a method that is influential and proven successful in preparing and shaping the moral, spiritual, and social ethos of children from an early age. This is because educators are the best figures in the eyes of students whose behavior and manners, whether consciously or not, will become the attention of children and imitate them.

b. Education through practice and practice

In terms of education through practical training, the Messenger of Allah, as the first and foremost Islamic educator, has actually applied this method and it has produced encouraging results for the development of Islam among the companions. In many ways, the Apostle always taught it accompanied by practical exercises, including; procedures for purification, ablution, performing prayers, performing the pilgrimage and fasting.

c. Educating through games, songs, and stories

In accordance with their growth, early childhood is indeed fond of playing various games that are interesting to him. In this regard, education through games is an interesting method applied in early childhood education. Of course the game is positive and can develop children's intellectual and creativity. For children under five, playing with their mother certainly has more positive impacts because it facilitates communication between the two of them, is their best friend (Irawati Istadi 2006).

d. Educating with Targhib and Tarhib

Targhib is a promise that is accompanied by persuasion and makes happy about something benefit, enjoyment, or pleasure in the hereafter. While tarhib is the threat of punishment as a result of committing a sin or mistake that is forbidden by Allah, or the result of being negligent in

carrying out the obligations ordered by Allah (An-Nahlawi 1989). This is a method of Islamic education that is based on the nature that Allah has given to humans.

e. Praise and Praise

Undoubtedly, praise for children has a very dominant influence on him, so that it will move his feelings and senses. Thus, a child will rush to straighten out his behavior and actions. His soul will be cheerful and also happy with this compliment to then be more active. The Prophet as a human being who understands the human psyche has reminded him of praise that has a positive impact on the child's soul, his soul will be moved to welcome and carry out the tasks assigned to him (Suwaid Muhammad 2003).

f. Instilling Good Habits

In an effort to provide education and help the development of early childhood, in addition to developing intelligence and skills, it is also necessary to instill positive habits from an early age. Education by teaching and habituation is the strongest pillar for early childhood education, and the most effective method in shaping children's faith and rectifying their morals, because this method is based on participation. Undoubtedly, educating children by habituation from an early age is the most guaranteed to bring positive results, while educating and training after adulthood is very difficult to achieve perfection (Nashih 1996).

D. Evaluation of Early Childhood Education

The final series of an early childhood education process is evaluation or assessment. Evaluation is an activity to determine the level of progress of a job in the educational process (Ferdian Utama 2017). In Islamic education, including early childhood education, evaluation is an important component of the Islamic education system that must be carried out systematically and planned as a tool to measure success or targets to be achieved in the educational process and learning process (Ramayulis 2002). In a limited scope, evaluation is carried out in order to determine the level of success of education in delivering educational materials to students. Meanwhile, in a broader scope, evaluation is carried out to determine the level of success and weakness of an educational process in achieving the desired educational goals (Sari 2018).

Several assessment tools that can be used to obtain an overview of the development of children's abilities and behavior include:

1. Portfolio is an assessment based on a collection of children's work that can describe the extent to which children's skills have developed.

2. Performance is an assessment that requires children to perform tasks in the form of observable actions, for example singing practices, sports, or demonstrating an action; such as how to brush your teeth, how to rest, how to perform ablution' and a little about movements in prayer.
3. Assignments (projects) are tasks that must be done by children that require a relatively long time to do it, for example conducting experiments to plant seeds.
4. The work (product) is the result of children's work after doing an activity (Boediono 2003).

All evaluation activities carried out in early childhood education are to determine the development of students, which includes two main aspects, namely aspects of habituation and basic abilities. In the habituation aspect, the assessment includes the development of moral and religious values, social, emotional and independence. Meanwhile, in the aspect of basic abilities, the assessment includes language skills, cognitive abilities, physical/motor abilities, and artistic abilities.

CONCLUSION

Another limitation regarding early age in children based on developmental psychology is between the ages of 0-8 years. In terms of early childhood development, namely the efforts made by the community and or the government to assist early childhood in developing their potential holistically, both aspects of education, nutrition and health during early childhood development. The scope of children's education in general, namely: faith education, moral education, intellectual education, physical education psychological education. Early Childhood Education in an Islamic Perspective includes: There are various forms of curriculum developed by experts in early childhood education, including: separate curricula, interrelated curricula, and integrated curricula. There are several methods of Islamic education that can and should be applied to educational activities for early childhood. The methods in question are: Method by example, education by practice and practice, educating through games, songs, and stories, educating with targhib and tarhib, praise and flattery, instilling good habits, the final series of an early childhood education process is evaluation. or assessment.

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