
Early Childhood Education: The Importance of Learning Islamic Education

Busahdiar¹, Ummah Karimah^{2*}, Farihen³, Sri Wahyuni⁴, Putri Qursiasih⁵, Putri Haezah Fahriah⁶, Umu Mu'minah⁷

^{1,2,5,6,7} Faculty of Islamic Studies, Universitas Muhammadiyah Jakarta, 15419

³ Faculty of Education, Universitas Muhammadiyah Jakarta, 15419

⁴ Universitas Muhammadiyah Sumatera Barat, 25172

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ABSTRACT

Early childhood education is a level of education before the primary level aimed at children aged birth to six years old. The cultivation of religious values from an early age is very important for the formation of noble individuals. Children are taught Islam from a young age through an early understanding of how Allah created nature and everything in it. PAUD will provide preparation for children to face the future, the closest of which is facing school. With the role of parents in providing education that contains Islamic religious values, it is hoped that early childhood children can adapt to the outside environment because they already have a strong nature and faith to undergo the process of child development. The method of working mechanism during the implementation of this program is that the team goes directly to the field to examine the situation and problems in the Saung Jingga environment. Through the presentation of material on how the importance of Islamic religious education in early childhood growth and development can be done from the smallest things starting from prayer in all children's activities, with parents who set an example will make good habits that children do. His service resulted in the importance of instilling religious values from an early age to create a noble human being.

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INTRODUCTION

Early childhood education is a level of education before the primary level aimed at children aged birth to six years old. It aims to help children's physical and mental growth and development so that they are ready to enter further education, which can be provided formally, non-formally, or informally. In early childhood, which is the most important period in a child's development, the child's brain absorbs information quickly. Following the early childhood period, which is still a lot of play, then efficient, effective, and fun education needs to be developed, especially basic Islamic education which is important as guidance in living life. (Tiara 2022)

It is very important to provide religious education from an early age, as it is the golden age for children due to extraordinary physical and mental growth and development. It is also a time of major personality formation for children. (M. Ali 2016)

According to the National Education System Law No. 20 of 2003, early childhood education is a coaching effort aimed at children from birth to the age of eight years and is carried out through educational stimuli to help the physical and spiritual growth and development of children so that they are ready to start further education. (Mastiyah 2014)

PAUD will prepare children for the future, the closest of which is school. In early childhood education institutions, children are taught the basics of how to learn. Of course, at an early age, they will

* Corresponding author.

E-mail address: ummah.karimah@umj.ac.id

learn the foundations. They are taught in the way they know, through play. But not just play, but directed play. Through directed play, they can learn a lot; how to socialise, problem-solving, negotiation, time management, conflict resolution, being in large/small groups, social obligations, and 1-3 languages. (Aidil 2018)

As stated by Mujib and Mudzakkir, parents and teachers are required to be educators who provide knowledge to their children, provide the necessary attitudes and skills, and manage their lives. Parents and teachers must perform two important tasks to their students simultaneously or continuously. This helps the child accept and assume all the responsibilities given to them so that in the future they can be useful for religion, nation, state, and others. (Hanipah 2016)

The implementation of religious moderation-based character education in children must start early at the golden age because early childhood is the right time to provide a moderate character foundation that is in accordance with Islamic values. (Mardan, Feiby, Nizma 2021)

The community's expectation is great enough to make a child or individual able to get a good character education, in order to become a human being with character, noble character, and can live his life in accordance with Islamic law. (Momod 2021)

Based on the explanation above, the conclusion is that the socialisation carried out by the Real Work Lecture (KKN) team which provides an increase in the ability of parents to teach and educate children is very important because the success of the learning process depends on them. This service activity shows an increase in students' knowledge of parenting skills through the application of parenting related to parenting and early childhood development stages. The parents' response to the material and assistance was very positive. Thus, parents can apply the materials well into learning tools, learning media, and school activity programmes. This is also bound to have an impact on public awareness of the importance of early childhood education.

EXPERIMENTAL METHOD

The socialization of early childhood education on the importance of learning Islamic religious education will be held on Saturday 12 August 2023 at Saung Jingga, Pamulang, South Tangerang. The first working mechanism during the implementation of this program is for the team to go directly to the field to examine the situation and problems of the partners. After that, the team talks

to create a work plan, which includes the name of the activity and its implementation date. Each activity will have a person in charge so that the activities run according to plan. The team always collaborates with Saung Jingga as a partner during implementation, so that partners understand and can use the technology that has been transferred through workshops and socialization with intensive assistance from each activity. Through providing professional services to the community including socialization, education, counseling, and demonstrations showing how to teach Islam in early childhood.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Teaching children religious values requires patience because not all actions work in the blink of an eye; it takes time and repeated actions to achieve the desired results. Familiarising children with kindness from an early age will create a pattern of behaviour that will last well into their childhood. This is because early childhood memories are very strong for what they see, hear and feel. Therefore, to get good results, start planting something good.

Parents' experience also greatly influences personality development and early childhood religious education. Parents should increase their piety to Allah SWT as an inspiration for their children to follow their example. This will definitely influence their children's character development, which in turn will positively impact their lives in society. (Syahid and Kamaruddin 2020)

Early childhood religious development is influenced by their life experiences since childhood, both in the family, at school, and in society. By providing religious education from an early age, it means that we have created a strong personality based on religion in educating children. The more religious experiences, the more attitudes, actions, behaviours, and ways of dealing with life will be in accordance with religious teachings. (M. Ali 2016)

Increasingly complex learning demands lead to fewer activities related to Islamic religious values in early childhood. Meanwhile, Islamic religious value education in early childhood is a very important foundation for laying a religious foundation in order to become a person who obeys worship. (Bina and Dimiyati 2021)

Because at this age, the growth and development of children is very important, so religious values must be instilled early so that children can form an Islamic personality. In addition, because this age is a period that determines the success of children in the future, it is necessary to instil religious values early on.

The role of parents is very important to direct the child to education and mental development. As a result, the moral education a child receives by his or her parents determines his or her moral quality. In this 4.0 era, children's education must consider the Islamic method of educating children. In Islamic education, children are not only taught to be intelligent, but also taught noble morals. This is in line with the main role of the Prophet Muhammad SAW.

In the world of education, the introduction of learning is very important, especially in early childhood, learning does not have to use books or explanations to the child, one of the alternative media for children's learning is to use android mobile devices that are used to help children's growth and development, and are expected to improve children's motor skills. in this study. (F. Ardhy, G. Adam, A. Setiawan, A. Aisyah 2022)

To stimulate all aspects of early childhood development cannot be separated from learning media because for early childhood learning is done through playing by using learning media both real media, audio media, visual media, environmental media and audio-visual media, so that learning activities in early childhood run effectively. (Herman and Kurnia 2017)



Fig 2. Opening Moment of the Event

The use of technology in learning activities is very important, because the use of technology, software in learning activities is very helpful for teachers in delivering learning materials and encouraging student interest in learning. (Guntoro 2020)

Cultivating character in early childhood through games as a character education strategy. In this day and age, character education is very important to instil in children from an early age. Modern life with its increasingly diverse social activities is feared to change and affect children's character.

This character cultivation can be started from their smallest and closest environment, namely the family. Furthermore, it can be developed again in the school education environment and the community environment around them. Character cultivation in children is not only done through the provision of learning materials at school or habituation. But it can also be done through fun activities, namely playing. This play can use educational games using media and or without using media. Through these educational games, it is expected to be able to instil good characters in children. (Andika 2018)



Figure 1. Activity Banner

The results of this Socialisation Activity show how enthusiastic and interested the parents are in introducing and teaching Islamic Religious Education to early childhood. Through this Socialisation delivered by Dr. Farihen, M.Pd, Busahdiar, MA and Dr. Ummah Karimah, M.Pd who will provide motivation and guidance to guardians of early childhood how to foster and nurture in preparing children to know, understand, appreciate, believe and practice the teachings of Islam through the basic teachings of the Qur'an and hadith through behaviour to the use of technology.

Fig 3. Islamic Religious Education Education by Dr Farihen, M.Pd.

The results showed that the Educational Game Tool media was able to increase children's interest in learning. The types of Educational Game Tools media used in learning Islamic Religious Education in early childhood are; Hijaiyyah Puzzles, Replicas of Houses of Worship, Standing Prayer and Ablution Toys, Hand Puppets, Hijaiyyah Bowling and Number Towers. (Hefniy and Siti)

To prevent the negative impact of technological and scientific advances, parents should provide strong religious education to their children. Child education in Islam starts as early as possible, not just when the child reaches puberty. Now also, parents must be aware and understand if the changing times cause changes in educating their children. (Umroh 2019)

From the literature review, it is known that the family environment is the main place where a child gets education. Fathers and mothers in the family become the first educators in the process of developing children's lives. Parents do not just build friendships and carry out various family goals for reproduction, continuing offspring, and establishing affection. The main task of the family is to create a building and atmosphere of the family education process so as to give birth to a smart and noble generation as a firm foothold in treading the life and journey of the human child. (M. Syahran 2014)

Fig 4. Prize distribution after the event

Parents sometimes only concentrate on teaching children to read and write Latin letters, but forget to introduce and teach them to read and write Arabic letters. In accordance with the Prophet's command to Malik bin Al-Huwairits and his people, when he said to them, "Return to your families, stay with them, and teach them (the guidance of Allah/Al-Quran)." (HR. Al-Bukhari No: 602)

Indeed, children can be the pride of parents if they grow and develop in accordance with the expectations of parents and in harmony with the expectations of Allah. Thus, children can be a source of happiness. However, if parents do not fulfil Allah's mandate or for some other reason, their

disobedient and mischievous children can cause disaster and disappointment. (Khadijah 2015)

To summarise, the Prophet (SAW) strictly prescribed religious education to begin when children are young, i.e. before they reach the age of puberty. Children should pray until they are seven years old. Teaching children to start worshipping does require a lot of preparation, such as teaching them the pillars of faith and the pillars of Islam, but if done from now on it will have a tremendous impact in the future.

With the role of parents in providing education that contains Islamic religious values, it is hoped that early childhood children can adapt to the outside environment because they already have a strong nature and faith to undergo the process of child development. (Erica 2022)

So it can be concluded that the socialisation activities carried out provide many benefits. The benefits obtained by parents of early childhood at Saung Jingga are that they gain a better understanding of Islamic religious education for their children and how to educate them to develop good morals. Another benefit of the community service programme (KKN) team is better experience in delivering the knowledge learnt with the help of lecturers who are experts in the field. The results show that this activity is one of the effective methods to improve praiseworthy morals, especially for young children who have poor morals. This is due to the fact that when young children do things without knowing it is a good or right thing, through this socialisation their parents will remember the importance of Qur'anic verses in educating children.

CONCLUSION

The cultivation of religious values from an early age is very important for the formation of noble individuals. Children are taught Islam from a young age through an early understanding of how Allah created nature and everything in it. Then worship is added, especially prayers and ablutions, which are performed every day. In addition, they are educated to develop good character through Islamic practices.

Early childhood is also the most important period for children, because it is the main period of personality formation. The importance of instilling religious values from an early age in order to create a human being with noble character. Islamic religious education is given to children from an early age through the introduction and habituation of habituation first regarding the introduction of God's creation of nature and its contents. Then introduced to worship, especially prayer, ablution,

daily prayers. Also about habits that have Islamic nuances in order to form good morals.

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