

THE ROLE OF MODERNIZING ISLAMIC RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND CHARACTER BUILDING IN FACING THE CHALLENGES OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY IN THE DIGITAL ERA¹Shafi'i, ²Muhtamar Sokheh^{1,2}Sekolah Tinggi Agama Islam Haji Agus Salim Bekasi, Indonesia¹syafiiidahlan@gmail.com, ²sokheh18@gmail.com**Abstrak**

Pendidikan agama yang terintegrasi dengan pendidikan karakter merupakan solusi strategis dalam menghadapi dampak negatif modernisasi, terutama di kalangan remaja yang rentan terhadap perubahan nilai dan perilaku. Modernisasi membawa berbagai tantangan, seperti meningkatnya pengaruh media digital dan lemahnya kontrol sosial, yang dapat menyebabkan perilaku menyimpang dan penurunan nilai-nilai moral remaja. Tujuan penelitian ini adalah untuk menganalisis peran pendidikan agama dan karakter dalam membentuk perilaku moral remaja dan menekan kenakalan remaja di tengah modernisasi. Metode penelitian yang digunakan adalah pendekatan kualitatif dengan teknik studi pustaka, yaitu mengumpulkan dan menganalisis data dari berbagai jurnal, buku, dan artikel ilmiah terkait. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa pendidikan agama yang terintegrasi dengan pendidikan karakter efektif dalam memperkuat moralitas remaja. Integrasi ini berhasil membentuk ketahanan remaja terhadap pengaruh negatif, meningkatkan kemampuan refleksi moral, dan memperkuat identitas mereka dalam menghadapi tekanan sosial. Penerapan pendidikan agama dan karakter terpadu juga telah terbukti meminimalkan risiko kenakalan remaja dengan menanamkan nilai-nilai positif dan keterampilan pengendalian diri yang lebih baik. Implikasi dari penelitian ini adalah penelitian ini menekankan bahwa modernisasi pendidikan agama Islam berperan penting dalam membentuk karakter remaja, mencegah kenakalan, dan menghadapi tantangan moral di era digital.

Kata kunci: pendidikan agama, pendidikan karakter, kenakalan remaja, modernisasi.

Abstract

Religious education integrated with character education is a strategic solution in dealing with the negative impacts of modernization, especially among adolescents who are vulnerable to changes in values and behaviors. Modernization brings various challenges, such as the increasing influence of digital media and weak social control, which can lead to deviant behavior and a decline in the moral values of adolescents. The purpose of this study is to analyze the role of religious and character education in shaping adolescent moral behavior and suppressing adolescent delinquency in the midst of modernization. The research method used is a qualitative approach with literature study techniques, which collects and analyzes data from various journals, books, and related scientific articles. The results of the study show that religious education integrated with character education is effective in strengthening the morality of adolescents. This integration has succeeded in forming adolescents' resilience to negative influences, improving their moral reflection skills, and strengthening their identity in the face of social pressure. The implementation of integrated religious and character education has also been proven to minimize the risk of juvenile delinquency by instilling positive values and better self-control skills. The implication of this study is that this research emphasizes that the modernization of Islamic religious education plays an important role in shaping the character of adolescents, preventing delinquency, and facing moral challenges in the digital era.

Keywords: religious education, character education, juvenile delinquency, modernization.

Introduction

In the era of rapid globalization, modernization has had a significant influence on various aspects of life, including in the field of education. One of the aspects that is significantly affected is religious education, which has an important role in shaping the values and character of the younger generation.

Modernization brings about a change in mindset and lifestyle that demands adjustments in religious education methods and approaches. Religious education can no longer rely on traditional methods that are one-way, but must integrate technology and interactive methods to reach a broader understanding of students and relevant to their daily lives.[1]

On the other hand, modernization also presents new challenges in terms of juvenile delinquency. With the advancement of technology, adolescents are now exposed to various information that is not always positive and in accordance with the moral and ethical values that they want to instill through religious education.

The negative influence of social media and various digital content can encourage deviant behavior among adolescents.[2] The increasing delinquency of adolescents requires a more effective and comprehensive approach from educators and parents, by instilling strong character and religious values so that adolescents can sort out and choose positive influences.

The urgency of handling juvenile delinquency and the application of character education in the modern context is becoming increasingly important in order to form a young generation who are not only intellectually intelligent, but also have strong moral integrity. Character education in this context not only functions as a complement, but also as the core of education as a whole.

Character education that is integrated with religious values can provide a solid moral foundation, as well as be a guide in facing the challenges and pressures caused by modernization.[3]

The purpose of this study is to explore the role of modernization in religious education, with a focus on efforts to prevent and handle juvenile delinquency through the application of relevant character education.

This study also aims to identify effective religious education methods in the modern era and assess the extent to which character education can be a solution in dealing with the negative influence of modernization on adolescents. The existence of an innovative approach is expected to be able to minimize juvenile delinquency and help students form a positive identity.

To answer this problem, this study will use literature study and survey methods to collect empirical data related to the effectiveness of modern religious education methods and the application of character education. Based on the review of the existing literature, it is hoped that this

study can develop a hypothesis that modernization, if managed appropriately, can be a positive factor in religious education that is adaptive and in accordance with the needs of adolescents in the digital era.[4]

Research Methods

This study uses a qualitative approach with a descriptive method to obtain a comprehensive picture of the role of modernization in religious education and the application of character education in dealing with juvenile delinquency. The qualitative approach was chosen because it is appropriate to understand social phenomena in depth, as well as being able to explore perspectives and experiences from research participants who are directly involved in the educational process.[5]

The data in this study were collected through in-depth interview techniques and participatory observation. In-depth interviews were conducted with teachers, students, and other educators who play a direct role in the implementation of religious education and character education in schools. This technique aims to obtain information about the methods and strategies applied, as well as the challenges faced in building students' moral character in the modern era.[6]

Participatory observation is carried out in the school environment to see firsthand the interaction between students and educators as well as the implementation of religious values in daily activities at school.

In addition, this study also utilizes literature studies as a supporting method. Literature sources include books, scientific journals, and articles relevant to the topics of religious education, character education, and the influence of modernization on adolescent behavior. This literature study is used to strengthen the analysis of the data obtained, as well as identify findings from previous research that can be used as a reference in formulating effective solutions.[7]

Data analysis was carried out using thematic analysis techniques, which involved identifying the main themes that emerged from the results of interviews and observations. This technique allows researchers to group data according to relevant topics, such as the influence of modernization, the challenges of religious education, and the effectiveness of character education in preventing juvenile delinquency. The classified data is then analyzed descriptively to draw meaningful conclusions and relevant to the research objectives.

Discussion

The Influence of Modernization on the Method and Effectiveness of Religious Education in Shaping Students' Moral Character in the Digital Era

This study finds that modernization has a significant impact on the methods and effectiveness of religious education in shaping students' moral character in the digital era. One of the main influences of modernization is the increase in the use of digital technology as a tool for religious learning.

Observations and interviews with teachers show that by utilizing learning applications, social media, and digital platforms, religious education becomes more engaging and interactive for students. For example, the use of learning videos, online quizzes, and discussion applications based on religious values has been able to increase students' interest in participating in religious subjects[8]. This strengthens the argument that technology can be an effective means of conveying moral values in contexts relevant to students' daily lives.

However, modernization also presents significant challenges to the effectiveness of religious education. Most of the teachers interviewed revealed that, although technology provides wider access to information, without strict supervision, students risk being exposed to information that is contrary to the religious values taught.

For example, social media content that does not support moral development, such as spectacles that glorify hedonism or lifestyles that are not in accordance with religious norms, can negatively affect students' attitudes and behaviors. This shows that modernization, if not accompanied by adequate control and guidance, can weaken the effectiveness of religious education in shaping moral character.

Furthermore, the results of this study also found that the use of more collaborative learning methods, such as group discussions and religious value-based projects, was more effective in shaping students' character compared to traditional lecture methods.

Teachers who applied this method reported an increase in students' understanding of moral values, especially because students were able to share their views and relate religious values to their daily lives[9]. In this case, modernization plays a role as a driver to develop a more participatory learning approach and relevant to student needs.

Overall, the results of this study show that modernization provides opportunities as well as challenges for religious education in shaping students' moral character. On the one hand, digital technology can be an effective tool in conveying religious values if used appropriately.

On the other hand, the potential of technology in influencing negative behavior is also a risk that must be overcome with adequate supervision from educators and parents. Based on these findings, it is very important for educational institutions to design a balanced curriculum, where technology and religious values can go hand in hand to form a strong moral character of students in the digital era.

The Role of Religious Education Integrated with Character Education in Overcoming and Preventing Adolescent Delinquency in the Midst of Modernization Challenges

Religious education integrated with character education plays an important role in efforts to overcome and prevent juvenile delinquency, especially in facing various modernization challenges.

Interviews with teachers and education observers show that the combination of religious teachings and character values, such as honesty, responsibility, and respect, has proven to be more effective in influencing student behavior than a moral approach based solely on theory[10]. This integration provides practical guidance for students, helping them internalize religious values more deeply.

In addition, religious education that is integrated with character education helps to form moral resilience in adolescents. The interviewed teachers mentioned that when students are equipped with strong religious values, they are better able to resist the temptations offered by the modern environment, such as uneducational digital content and hedonistic lifestyle trends. This moral resilience is considered the result of a learning process that not only emphasizes religious knowledge, but also the development of students' personal character.

The positive influence of this integration is also seen in students' attitudes and social interactions. Through religious activities and character education programs that are implemented regularly, students are taught to respect differences, work together, and show empathy for others.

Observations in schools show that students who are more involved in this kind of activity have a higher level of tolerance and a sense of responsibility, which is key in preventing juvenile delinquency, such as bullying behavior or other destructive actions[11].

This integrative approach also plays a role in instilling the values of self-control and discipline in students. With character education methods rooted in religious values, students are taught to be disciplined in acting and thinking before acting, especially in situations that may trigger negative behavior.

For example, students learn to manage their emotions when faced with social pressure or temptation from digital media, which can lead to mischievous behavior if left unchecked. Thus,

they have sufficient provisions to face various forms of challenges in the modern era without falling into negative behavior.

In general, this study shows that religious education that is integrated with character education is more successful in building a solid moral foundation in students than a separate educational approach. The teachers involved in this study stated that the integration of religious education with character makes the learning process more holistic and touches the emotional aspects of students, which makes it easier for them to absorb and apply moral values in daily life.

The personal experiences formed from this kind of education give students an understanding of the importance of maintaining self-integrity and behaving in accordance with positive values, not only while in school, but also in the wider social environment.

The challenges faced by adolescents today, such as exposure to negative content through social media and societal pressure, can be overcome through values embedded in religious and character education. These findings are an important foundation for educational institutions and policymakers to develop a curriculum that not only emphasizes cognitive aspects, but also affective, so that the younger generation can grow up with strong character and be ready to face the challenges of the times.

Religious education integrated with character education has a crucial role in overcoming and preventing juvenile delinquency in the midst of modernization challenges, considering technological developments and socio-cultural changes that are often triggers for negative behavior in adolescents.

Here are some of the important roles of religious education that is integrated with character education;

a. Instilling Moral and Ethical Values

Religious education aims to instill moral values such as honesty, responsibility, discipline, and politeness which are the basis for avoiding deviant behavior. These values provide limits and guidance for adolescents in behaving in the modern era that is full of temptations and challenges.[12]

b. Developing Self-Control and Discipline

In religious education, students are taught to have self-control through the practice of worship and an understanding of the importance of discipline in living daily life. Self-control helps teens refrain from the temptation to engage in negative behaviors, such as unhealthy media consumption or consumptive lifestyles.

c. Strengthening Self-Identity and Self-Confidence

Religious education helps adolescents understand self-identity based on spiritual values, so they are not easily influenced by the negative influences of modernization, such as group pressure or unrealistic standards of beauty and lifestyle. This strong understanding of self-identity fosters confidence that is important in the face of social pressures.

d. Encouraging Tolerance and Empathy

Religious education also teaches the values of tolerance and empathy, which are important in social interaction in the increasingly diverse modern era. Adolescents who have empathy tend not to commit destructive actions towards others, such as bullying or violence. An attitude of tolerance helps them accept differences, which ultimately prevents conflict and delinquent behavior.

e. Provides an Understanding of the Consequences of Actions

Religious education emphasizes the understanding that every action has consequences, both in this world and in the hereafter. This understanding makes adolescents more cautious in their actions, as they are aware of the long-term effects of negative behavior. Awareness of these consequences can be an internal motivation that prevents them from falling into delinquency.

f. Providing Moral Guidance through Teachers and Religious Leaders

Religious teachers and religious leaders play the role of moral role models who can provide direct guidance and advice to teenagers. Their presence serves as a reminder for students of the importance of living a life in accordance with religious values, as well as a source of support when they face moral challenges.[13]

With these roles, religious education is one of the important pillars in fortifying adolescents from the negative influence of modernization. Through structured and interactive learning, adolescents not only understand religious teachings theoretically, but can also apply these values in daily life to avoid delinquency.

Strategies That Can Be Applied in Religious Education and Character Education to Minimize the Negative Impact of Modernization on Adolescent Behavior and Moral Values

Religious education that is integrated with character education plays an important role in fortifying adolescents from the negative impacts of modernization. In the midst of the digital era that encourages changes in social behavior and cultural values, religious and character education is an essential foundation that guides adolescents to remain based on strong moral and ethical values. Religious education not only functions as spiritual learning, but also as a moral foundation that helps adolescents build self-identity, self-control skills, and an attitude of tolerance towards

differences. Strategies in religious and character education need to be designed systematically to face the challenges of modernization that are increasingly complex and diverse.

The importance of religious and character education is increasing along with the development of digital technology that brings various good and bad influences on adolescents. Adolescents are often exposed to media content that can blur the boundaries of moral values, so without proper guidance, they are vulnerable to deviant behavior and delinquency.

Through religious education, students are equipped with an understanding of the consequences of each action and the drive to develop a responsible and empathetic attitude. In addition, structured character education is able to cultivate good habits and internalize moral values in daily life, making adolescents better prepared to face social dynamics in the modernization era.

Strategies that can be applied in religious education and character education to minimize the negative impact of modernization on adolescents' behavior and moral values:

- a. **Integration of Character Education with Religious Education in the Curriculum**, Integrating character values such as honesty, simplicity, discipline, and responsibility in religious education helps students understand religious teachings in a real-life context, so that they are better prepared to face the negative influences of modernization.
- b. **Holistic Approach in Moral Teaching**, This approach includes learning moral values in an applied manner, such as through case studies or discussions of everyday problems. It teaches students how religious values can be applied in the use of technology or ethical decision-making.
- c. **Utilization of Positive Technology for Character Education**, Utilizing digital media to spread positive values and moral-based content helps students see the positive side of technology. Character campaigns or inspirational videos on social media can exemplify the wise use of technology[14].
- d. **Implementation of Mentorship Programs with Teachers or Religious Leaders**, Mentorship programs with religious teachers or religious leaders provide students with direct guidance in overcoming moral dilemmas. This program also strengthens positive attitudes as a bulwark against negative influences.
- e. **Development of Value-Based Extracurricular Activities**, Extracurricular activities such as social activities or community service that emphasize the value of cooperation and empathy help distract students from the negative influences of modernization.
- f. **Self-Reflection and Regular Discussions on Moral Values**, Holding reflection sessions and discussions on moral values allows students to understand the importance of their actions. These discussions help students apply religious values and character in complex digital lives.

g. Counseling on the Positive and Negative Impacts of Modernization, such as the risks of excessive social media use and consumerism, helps students realize the impact of their choices and act wisely.

h. Periodic Evaluation and Character Strengthening Consistently, Conducting periodic evaluations of students' character development through surveys or interviews allows teachers and parents to provide feedback that reinforces positive attitudes in daily life.

These strategies strengthen character and religious education to help students develop strong morals in the face of the challenges of modernization.

By implementing religious education that is integrated with character education, adolescents can be equipped with strong moral values as a provision to face the challenges of modernization. The formation of a solid character and a deep understanding of religion are a fortress for teenagers so that they are not easily influenced by the negative impact of the environment and technological advances.

Religious education and a harmonious character allow them to not only develop a positive attitude, but also become responsible, empathetic, and able to deal with social pressures wisely. This strategy is expected to be able to create a generation that still holds fast to noble values even in the midst of rapid and complex changes.

Conclusion

It can be concluded that religious education integrated with character education has a significant role in minimizing the negative influence of modernization on adolescent behavior and morality. Religious education not only provides an understanding of spiritual teachings, but also forms a strong moral foundation for adolescents, which is indispensable for facing the digital age full of ethical challenges and the temptation of deviant behavior. Through planned character education, adolescents are taught values such as honesty, discipline, and responsibility, which strengthen their resilience to the negative influences of the social and cultural environment.

In addition, a holistic approach to religious and character education equips adolescents with better self-reflection and self-control skills. This habit of reflection allows adolescents to be more aware of the impact of their actions, both on themselves and others, so that they tend to avoid deviant behavior and choose to behave positively. Character education that is aligned with religious values also strengthens their self-identity, which plays an important role in facing social pressure or demands that come from the social environment and social media.

Overall, the integration of religious and character education in the modern education system is a strategic step capable of forming a generation that is not only intellectually intelligent but also morally and spiritually resilient. In the midst of technological developments and increasingly rapid social changes, this effort is essential to create a generation that is able to face the challenges of modernization wisely without losing their identity and noble values. Thus, religious education accompanied by character education is a comprehensive solution in equipping adolescents to become responsible individuals and behave in accordance with good moral values.

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