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Ilmu Keislaman dan Sosial

Building Children's Morals Through the Role of Parents Towards a Bright Future

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Abstract

The formation of children's morality (akhlaq) is a fundamental issue in Islamic education that has become increasingly relevant amid moral and social challenges in the modern era. In Islam, parents are regarded as the first and primary educators who bear significant responsibility for instilling moral values from an early age. This study aims to analyze the strategic role of parents in shaping children's morality as a foundation for their future lives. The research employs a qualitative method with a library research approach, analyzing literature on Islamic education, the Qur'an, Hadith, and relevant scholarly works. The data are analyzed descriptively and analytically to identify forms and strategies of moral development within the family. The findings indicate that parents' roles in forming children's morality are manifested through role modeling, habituation of positive behavior, providing advice, consistent supervision, and the creation of an Islamic family environment. Continuous moral education from an early age contributes to the development of a generation with noble character, responsibility, and moral readiness to face future challenges. Future research is recommended to examine the empirical implementation of family-based moral education across diverse social and cultural contexts.

Keywords: Morality; Parental Role; Islamic Education; Children; Future.

Abstrak

Pembentukan akhlak anak merupakan persoalan mendasar dalam pendidikan Islam yang semakin relevan di tengah tantangan moral dan sosial pada era modern. Dalam Islam, orang tua dipandang sebagai pendidik pertama dan utama yang memiliki tanggung jawab besar dalam menanamkan nilai-nilai akhlak sejak usia dini. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis peran strategis orang tua dalam pembentukan akhlak anak sebagai bekal menghadapi masa depan. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif dengan pendekatan studi pustaka melalui analisis literatur pendidikan Islam, Al-Qur'an, Hadis, serta kajian ilmiah yang relevan. Data dianalisis secara deskriptif-analitis untuk mengidentifikasi bentuk dan strategi pembinaan akhlak dalam keluarga. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa peran orang tua dalam pembentukan akhlak anak diwujudkan melalui keteladanan, pembiasaan perilaku positif, pemberian nasihat, pengawasan yang konsisten, serta penciptaan lingkungan keluarga yang Islami. Pembinaan akhlak yang dilakukan secara berkelanjutan sejak dini berkontribusi terhadap terbentuknya generasi yang berkarakter mulia, bertanggung jawab, dan memiliki kesiapan moral menghadapi tantangan masa depan. Penelitian selanjutnya disarankan untuk mengkaji implementasi pembinaan akhlak keluarga secara empiris pada berbagai konteks sosial dan budaya.

Kata kunci: Akhlak; Peran Orang Tua; Pendidikan Islam; Anak; Masa Depan.



Introduction

Moral education is the core of Islamic education, aiming to shape individuals with noble character, individuals who exhibit commendable behavior in their relationships with Allah SWT, fellow human beings, and their surroundings. Morality is not only understood as a set of norms or rules of conduct, but also as a reflection of deeply rooted faith. Therefore, moral education occupies a central position in the entire process of Islamic education.(Hidayati & Pritasari, 2025).

In the family context, parents play a fundamental role as the first and primary educators of their children. From the moment a child is born, parents interact most frequently and influence their personality development. Parenting styles, speech, and attitudes in daily life serve as concrete examples that children imitate, both consciously and unconsciously.

The Quran firmly emphasizes the responsibility of parents in educating their families, as stated by Allah SWT: "O you who believe, protect yourselves and your families from the fire of hell" (QS. At-Tahrim: 6). This verse implies that efforts to save families are not only carried out through fulfilling material needs, but also through ongoing education in faith and morals. Parents are required to be spiritual and moral guides for their children.

Moral education in the family should begin at an early age, as childhood is the golden age for character formation. Values such as honesty, responsibility, courtesy, and compassion need to be instilled gradually and consistently. Instilling moral values from an early age will provide a strong foundation for children to face the various dynamics of life in the future.(Alluparante, 2022).

In the modern era, rife with moral and social challenges, the formation of children's morals has become increasingly crucial. Globalization and technological advances have both positive and negative impacts on child development. Easy access to information without adequate filtering can influence children's thought patterns and behavior if not accompanied by appropriate parental guidance.

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Moral degradation, the rise of hedonistic culture, and the influence of promiscuity pose real threats to the younger generation. In such circumstances, the family is the primary bulwark in upholding Islamic values. Parents need a strong awareness and commitment to assist their children in discerning and responding to environmental influences.

The role of parents in moral education cannot be completely replaced by formal educational institutions. Schools and other educational institutions play a crucial role in transmitting knowledge and values, but children spend far more time interacting with their parents. Therefore, synergy between home and school education is crucial for developing individuals with noble character.(Anggraini, 2022).

Role modelling is the most effective method of moral education within the family. Children tend to learn through observing and imitating their parents' behavior. If parents demonstrate good morals in their daily lives, these values will be more easily instilled in their children than mere verbal advice.

In addition to role models, warm and dialogical communication between parents and children is also a crucial factor in moral education. Through open communication, parents can understand their children's needs, problems, and psychological development. This allows them to provide moral guidance appropriate to their child's condition and developmental stage.(Rita Satria et al., 2025).

Thus, moral education within the family is a significant responsibility that must be carried out consciously, in a planned, and continuous manner. Parents, as primary educators, are required to not only teach moral values but also to live them out in their daily lives. Through strong moral education within the family environment, it is hoped that a generation will emerge that is not only intellectually intelligent but also morally and spiritually strong.

Research Methods

This study employed a qualitative method with a library research approach, aiming to gain a deep and comprehensive understanding of concepts related to

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moral education from an Islamic perspective, particularly in the context of the role of parents in the family. Qualitative methods were chosen because this study focused not on numerical or statistical measurements, but rather on exploring the meanings, values, and conceptual thinking contained in various relevant literature sources.

A literature review approach was used because the object of this research is normative and conceptual, thus requiring a search of authoritative written sources. Research data was collected through an in-depth review of primary and secondary literature. Primary sources include the Qur'an and Hadith, the primary foundations of Islamic teachings, as well as classical works by Islamic scholars discussing education, morals, and parenting patterns in Islam. These books were selected because of their scientific authority and strong relevance to the research theme.

In addition to primary sources, this study also utilizes secondary sources in the form of scientific journals, academic books, and previous research related to Islamic education, family education, and child developmental psychology. Literature from the field of developmental psychology is used to enrich the analysis, particularly in understanding the stages of child development and their implications for moral education strategies implemented by parents. Thus, this study is interdisciplinary, integrating Islamic and social science perspectives.

Data collection techniques were conducted through an inventory, classification, and selection of literature relevant to the research focus. Each source used was critically analyzed to ensure its validity, credibility, and suitability for the research objectives. The collected data was then analyzed using descriptive-analytical techniques, namely by systematically describing the concepts found in the literature and analyzing the relationships between these concepts.

Data analysis was conducted by interpreting religious and academic texts to identify patterns, principles, and values of moral education that can be applied in a family context. The results of this analysis were then structured logically and argumentatively to answer the research problem formulation. Through this

method, it is hoped that the research will yield a comprehensive and in-depth understanding of the concept of moral education in the family and its relevance to the challenges of child education in the contemporary era.

Results and Discussion

The Role of Parents in the Formation of Children's Morals

The role of parents as role models or role models is a fundamental aspect of Islamic education. Modeling is considered the most effective method because children tend to imitate what they see and experience in their daily lives, especially from their parents. Allah SWT says, "Indeed, in the Messenger of Allah you have a good example to follow" (QS. Al-Ahzab: 21), which emphasizes that role modeling is the primary means of conveying Islamic values. Therefore, parents are required to be concrete examples in practicing Islamic teachings, both in aspects of worship, mu'amalah, and daily morals. When parents display honesty, discipline, patience, and compassion, these values will be naturally absorbed by their children. Zakiah Daradjat emphasizes that parental example is far more influential than thousands of pieces of advice that are not translated into concrete behavior.(Yoga Pangestu et al., 2024).

Besides being role models, parents also serve as primary educators and guides for their children. This responsibility includes teaching Islamic values from an early age, from aspects of faith, worship, and morals. Ideally, monotheism education should be introduced as soon as children can speak, for example by familiarizing them with positive phrases such as "La ilaha illallah" (There is no god but Allah) and introducing Allah SWT as the Creator. Imam Al-Ghazali emphasized the importance of instilling noble moral values, such as honesty, trustworthiness, respect for others, and avoiding despicable traits. This education must be carried out gradually, consistently, and adapted to the child's age and psychological development.

The role of parents is also evident in the process of habituation, which is carried out repeatedly to shape a child's habits and character. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) exemplified a method of habituation, such as the

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command to pray from the age of seven and the imposition of educational sanctions at the age of ten if a child fails to do so. In daily life, parents can accustom their children to saying greetings, praying before and after activities, reading the Quran, performing congregational prayers, speaking politely, apologizing when they make mistakes, and expressing gratitude. Habits that are carried out consistently will stick firmly and become part of the child's personality.(Arif Sugitanata & Fatia Rahmanita, 2024).

Parents also have an important role in providing mau'izhah or advice to children. Good advice, delivered in a wise and loving manner, can penetrate a child's heart. The Qur'an tells a lot about advice from parents to children, one of which is Luqman Al-Hakim's advice to his son (QS. Luqman: 13–19). Advice should be given in gentle language, at the right time, and not in front of other people or when the child is in an unstable emotional condition. Muhammad Qutb stated that effective advice is advice that can touch the heart, not just be heard by the ears.

Furthermore, parental supervision (mulahazhah) is a crucial role for parents in maintaining their children's development. Supervision encompasses the child's social interactions, activities, and environment, while maintaining a balance that prevents them from becoming overbearing. In the digital age, supervision is increasingly urgent because children are easily exposed to various content from social media, television, and the internet. Abdullah Nashih Ulwan emphasized that parents must know who their children are interacting with, where they are going, and what activities they are engaging in.

All of these roles must be grounded in genuine love. Love is a fundamental need for children and significantly influences their emotional stability and self-confidence. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) set the best example in this regard, demonstrating tenderness, kissing children, and playing with them. A hadith mentions that when a Bedouin, astonished to see the Prophet Muhammad kissing his grandson, said, "Whoever does not love will not be loved." (Narrated by Bukhari and Muslim). Parental love creates a conducive educational

environment and strengthens the successful instilling of moral values in children.

Effective Strategies in Forming Children's Morals

Creating an Islamic environment at home is a strategic step in shaping a child's morals and personality. An environment imbued with Islamic values will have an indirect, positive influence on a child's mindset and behavior in daily life. A religious atmosphere can be created by making it a habit to read the Quran at home, playing murottal recitations, and decorating the house with calligraphy of Quranic verses or Islamic moral messages. These habits will instill in children a love of the Quran and Islamic values from an early age, while also making the home a place of peace and blessing. With an Islamic environment, children will become accustomed to seeing and experiencing religious practices as a natural part of life, not as a compulsion.(Endarwati, 2023).

In addition to the physical and spiritual environment, effective communication between parents and children plays a crucial role in moral education. Good communication will make children feel valued, cared for, and accepted for who they are, allowing them to feel safe expressing their feelings, opinions, and problems. Parents should be good listeners, avoid quick judgment, and respond with empathy and wisdom. Showing appreciation for a child's achievements, no matter how small, can boost their self-confidence and motivate them to do better. Conversely, criticism delivered constructively and compassionately will help children understand their mistakes without feeling belittled.

Consistency in education is also a determining factor in the success of developing a child's morals. Harmony between parents in implementing values, rules, and educational methods is essential to ensure that children receive clear and unambiguous messages. Contradictory attitudes or approaches, such as one parent prohibiting something while the other permits it, can create confusion and diminish the authority of parental education. Therefore, parents need to establish communication and a shared understanding regarding the educational principles

to be implemented within the family, so that children experience both firmness and fairness.

In the educational process, Islam also teaches the importance of implementing educational rewards and punishments. The reward system (targhib) aims to motivate and reinforce positive behavior demonstrated by children, whether in the form of praise, attention, or educational gifts. Meanwhile, punishment (tarhib) is given as a corrective measure so that children recognize mistakes and do not repeat them. Punishment in Islam is not intended to hurt or vent emotions, but rather as a learning tool, delivered proportionally, compassionately, and tailored to the child's age and level of error. With the appropriate application of rewards and punishments, children will learn about responsibility, consequences, and the value of justice in their lives.(Adnan, 2018).

The Influence of Morals on Children's Future

Developing good morals from an early age has a significant long-term impact on a child's future. Moral values instilled from an early age will become the primary foundation for shaping a child's personality, way of thinking, and attitude in dealing with various life situations. Good morals serve not only as a moral guide but also as social and spiritual capital that will accompany a child throughout their life.(Zainudin, 2013).

In education, children with good morals tend to demonstrate greater success. Discipline, responsibility, and a strong motivation to learn are positive traits born from a strong moral education. Children who are accustomed to valuing time, obeying rules, and engaging in learning are more likely to achieve academic success. Furthermore, good morals also encourage children to respect their teachers and appreciate the learning process, thus creating a conducive learning environment.

Good morals also significantly influence the quality of a child's social relationships. Values such as honesty, empathy, tolerance, and courtesy enable children to interact harmoniously with others. Children with good morals are more

likely to be accepted in social settings, both at school and in the community. The ability to respect differences and maintain ethical behavior in interactions makes children well-liked and trusted individuals in their communities.

From a mental and emotional health perspective, Islamic values-based moral education makes a crucial contribution. Children raised with a foundation of faith and noble morals tend to have emotional stability, a sense of security, and resilience in the face of stress and challenges. The values of trust, patience, and gratitude help children manage their emotions positively and resist despair when faced with failure or life's difficulties.(Nopiyanti & Hartanto, 2024).

In professional life and the workplace, good morals are also a determining factor for success. Trustworthiness, responsibility, professionalism, and integrity are highly valued values in various fields of work. Individuals with good morals will be trusted to handle greater responsibilities and have greater opportunities for career development.

Ultimately, the ultimate goal of developing good morals is to achieve happiness in this world and the hereafter. Noble morals will lead a person to a life filled with blessings, inner peace, and harmonious relationships with others. Furthermore, good morals are a path to achieving Allah's approval and salvation in the afterlife. Therefore, early moral education is the most valuable investment in a child's future.

Conclusion

The formation of children's morals is a primary responsibility of parents, and cannot be entirely delegated to others, whether formal educational institutions or the social environment. The family is a child's first school, where moral and spiritual values are instilled from an early age. Therefore, the quality of a child's morals is largely determined by the extent to which parents understand and consciously and consistently fulfill their role in everyday life.

The role of parents in shaping children's morals encompasses various interrelated aspects. Parents are required to be good role models, as their behavior and attitudes will directly serve as examples for their children to imitate.

Furthermore, parents also act as educators and mentors, teaching Islamic values, including faith, worship, and morals. Through consistent practice, these values will be firmly embedded and shape the child's character slowly but sustainably.

Furthermore, providing wise and compassionate advice is an important tool in instilling moral awareness in children. Advice delivered appropriately will help children understand the meaning of good and bad behavior. Balanced supervision is also necessary to ensure children grow up in a safe and conducive environment, without eliminating the opportunity for them to learn independence and responsibility. The entire process must be grounded in genuine affection, as parental love and attention are the primary foundation for a child's emotional and spiritual development.

To support successful moral development, parents need to implement effective educational strategies. Creating an Islamic environment at home will help children become accustomed to religious values in their daily lives. Effective and open communication between parents and children will strengthen emotional bonds and facilitate the guidance process. Consistency in education, especially harmony between parents, is crucial to prevent children from experiencing value confusion. Furthermore, implementing an educational reward and punishment system will help children understand the consequences of each behavior in a fair and educational manner.

Good morals will ultimately become invaluable assets for children in facing the various challenges of life in the future. Children with noble morals not only have a greater chance of achieving success in this world but also possess a spiritual orientation that leads to happiness in the afterlife. Therefore, parents need to recognize their strategic role and carry it out with full responsibility, awareness, and consistency to produce a generation that excels morally, intellectually, and spiritually.

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