



The Contribution of Islamic Religious Education in Shaping Student Character: A Theoretical Review of Islamic Education Literature

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Abstract

Islamic Religious Education plays a significant role in shaping the character of students, which is an integral part of the higher education process. This study aims to analyze the contribution of Islamic Religious Education in building student character through a theoretical review based on Islamic education literature. The character development referred to includes moral and ethical values contained in Islamic teachings, such as honesty, discipline, responsibility, and empathy. This study uses descriptive and analytical methods and is conducted through a review of relevant literature. This study examines the contribution of Islamic Religious Education to the development of student character and analyzes the contribution of Islamic Religious Education in character development through a review of relevant literature. By studying various theories of Islamic education, this research identifies how theoretical principles are applied in the context of higher education to cultivate students of noble character. In addition, this study also highlights the development of the campus environment between lecturers and students as a supporter of the implementation of faith education, which serves as a vehicle for the development of student character. It is hoped that the results of this study can provide a deeper understanding of the importance of integrating faith education into character building, and provide recommendations for strengthening the Islamic Education curriculum in higher education.

INTRODUCTION

Islamic Religious Education is one of the main pillars in shaping the character of students in Indonesia (Murniyetti et al., 2023; Rahawarin et al., 2023; Romlah & Rusdi, 2023; Yusri et al., 2023). In the structure of higher education, religious learning is not merely about instilling one's belief in their religion. It also plays a role in shaping the ethical character and personality of students. The figures depicted exhibit characteristics rooted in Islamic doctrine, which include elements of devotion, respect, and commendable moral

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values. The impact of Islamic religious education on the formation of young people's behavior is highly significant and should not be overlooked (Damri et al., 2017; Elkhaira et al., 2020; Huda et al., 2024; Rahman et al., 2018; Wangi et al., 2022).

Islamic Religious Education is one of the main pillars in shaping the character of students in Indonesia (Murniyetti et al., 2023; Romlah & Rusdi, 2023; Yusri et al., 2023). In the structure of higher education, religious learning is not merely about instilling one's belief in their religion. It also plays a role in shaping the ethical character and personality of students. The figures depicted exhibit characteristics rooted in Islamic doctrine, which include elements of devotion, respect, and commendable moral values. The impact of Islamic religious education on the formation of young people's behavior is highly significant and should not be overlooked (Huda et al., 2024; Mutathahirin et al., 2022).

Students who have responsibilities in their duties need strong resilience to overcome the current difficult situation. In this context, spiritual education plays an important role in shaping students who excel in cognitive and ethical dimensions (Haiqal & Amiruddin, 2024; Susanti, 2024). In line with the objectives of Islamic education, these objectives not only encompass the acquisition of wisdom but also the cultivation of good habits that guide daily behavior.

In some parts of Indonesia, Islamic religious education in higher education is not considered particularly important and is viewed as just another ordinary course. Islamic religious education has a significant impact on students' character development, influencing their thought processes, behavior, and social engagement (Alfi et al., 2023; Cahyawati et al., 2021; Oktavia et al., 2020). Therefore, it is important to explore in depth how religious schools shape students' temperaments through an analysis of Islamic religious education texts.

One important part of Islamic teaching is learning about good and bad behavior. In Islam, good behavior includes being honest, reliable, patient, and trusting others (Panghegar et al., 2024; Prayitno & Ashari, 2023). These characteristics are crucial in shaping children who are intelligent, have strong values, and are honest. Examples in real life include teaching children good moral values so they can become good people who help others.

In addition, the Islamic religious curriculum provides insight into the relationship between humans and God and their peers or fellow humans (Saputri et al., 2024; Susilowati, 2022). These two aspects are interrelated in shaping students' character. A good understanding of the bond with the Almighty will motivate students to always respect their Creator, while understanding the dynamics with peers will encourage them to foster equality, compassion, and self-respect among one another. This helps create a friendly and peaceful atmosphere on campus.

Islamic studies helps teach important right-thinking qualities (values, justice, goodness) as well as shaping students' behavior (Siregar, 2024). In an increasingly multicultural and diverse society, it is imperative for scholars to have a broad understanding and patient attitude towards differences. Islamic teachings on teamwork, brotherhood, and kindness can guide students to coexist peacefully despite differences.

A study of Islamic texts shows that a person's personality grows from continuous education. Regular and thorough teaching of Islam can help shape students' characters in the long run (Ningsih, 2024). The study of Islam is available as a regular academic program, as well as informal activities that involve listening to religious readings, clubs founded on the principles of faith, and others.

Islamic studies help students live better every day by teaching them how to be good people with many good actions and beliefs. Excellent Islamic spiritual training prepares learners to be knowledgeable people with a sense of responsibility, social awareness, and adaptability to an evolving world. These individuals are essential in the

professional world, where scholars must possess collaboration skills, proficiency in problem solving, and wisdom when facing diverse obstacles (Adila et al., 2025; Yuliharti, 2019; Zainal et al., 2022).

However, to achieve this goal of Islamic Religious Education, the involvement of educators and administrators in the teaching of Islam in academia is necessary to create curricula and strategies tailored to meet the needs of students (Hazriyanti et al., 2020; Irawati et al., 2022; Sodikin, 2024). In this case, acquiring knowledge in Islamic religion is essential to overcome the current obstacles without compromising the core principles of its doctrine. Therefore, the study of Islam must continue to evolve in order to remain relevant and significantly shape students' personalities.

So, this research aims to deepen the study of the contribution of Islamic religious education in the formation of student character, with a theoretical review approach from Islamic education literature. This research is expected to have an impact on two things, namely how the role of Islamic religious education can be realized Islamic Religious Education well and clearly in creating a student who is not only knowledgeable, but also has a good character and is ready to face every challenge of life.

METHODS

This research is descriptive and analytical, and through a review of relevant literature. This research examines the contribution of Islamic Religious Education to the development of student character, and analyzes the contribution of Islamic Religious Education in the formation of student character through a review of relevant literature. Sources are taken from various books, magazine articles, related documents, and others that discuss Islamic Religious Education and character education, including the Quran and Hadith as basic educational references. Data were collected from academic documents and previous research papers that discuss methods and research results in the field of Islamic education (Asril et al., 2023; Engkizar et al., 2023; Kaputra et al., 2021; Murniyetti et al., 2016; Rahawarin et al., 2023; Ummah et al., 2025; Sari et al., 2025; Htay et al., 2025; Okenova et al., 2025).

Collecting data by reading, recording, and analyzing existing literature. The data collected was analyzed descriptively to understand the contribution of Islamic Religious Education to the development of students' personalities. This analysis includes; arranging the main themes of the analyzed literature, combining the concept of Islamic education with character education, and drawing conclusions based on evidence from the literature.

The research findings are presented systematically with an emphasis on the relationship between Islamic education theory and practice in the context of student character development. The study also discusses the implications of the findings for the development of the Islamic Religious Education curriculum in higher education. By following the steps above, this study is expected to provide deeper insights into the role of Islamic Religious Education in the development of student personality and the contribution of Islamic Religious Education to higher education in Indonesia.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Islamic religious education is one of the education that plays a major role in the formation of student character. This is because from an early age, Islamic religious education is not limited to providing knowledge about the teachings of Islam, but also providing individual humans who are responsible, religiously good, and spiritually have good character and in accordance with the Qur'an and Hadith of the Prophet. In this case what is meant in Islamic religious education is the education of spirituality morality, and sociality that can guide students to become responsible, fair and high integrity personas. This is where the character of students is formed through the

teaching of Islamic values that will teach patience, honesty, and care for others.

One of the main products in the development of character from Islamic religious education, namely character itself, is morals that are far from prohibitions (Maulidah, 2022). Literature should pay great attention to the aspect of moral morality that must be built from an early age. Islamic religious education teaches students about the model of behavior of the prophets with the Prophet Muhammad SAW who did goodness and honesty. In addition, an Islamic education also emphasizes that we must maintain a relationship with God so as not to be separated from the morals of other humans and even the semi-around nature (Rambe et al., 2023). This value in morals is very relevant to the character building needs of students away from the world of morals on campus and society.

Then, Islamic religious education in the formation of awareness becomes the social responsibility of students. Islam presents that social responsibility must have a pro-active towards society, whether it is social action, or thanks to the father for the welfare of the people. Islamic religious education also talks about self-control that gives the formation of academic character aspects of students because, in Islamic religious education, self-control is very emphasized. Not only in the form of faith prayer and fasting but also control of breath and faith in the world. This sense gives order to the student's life, forms self-care, and must be calm in order to face his test that accompanies the will of each person.

Islamic religious education itself follows applying the approach that science is also very important in everyday life. Because Islam has an obligation to seek knowledge regardless of gender. Therefore, Islamic religious education should not only be limited to learning about religious teachings, but also to the process of forming intelligent, critical and logical thinking characters.

In addition, Islamic religious education also provides "time" for students to think about the purpose of their lives. Life in this world according to Islamic teachings should not only be about material achievement and worldly pleasures, but how humans can find happiness in their afterlife. Students who are educated in Islam certainly have a broader perspective on life and are oriented towards higher goals, namely by getting the pleasure of Allah. Of course this will affect their way of life, both on campus and in the social world.

According to Islamic education, strong character is formed by habituation and good examples. The more activities that are applied in terms of religion, for example recitation and praying in congregation or regular Islamic social programs for students, the easier it is for students to experience and carry out these habits, then the process of character formation will be realized automatically because it is practical instead of theoretical, so that they students are more syndicative, responsible and already have empathy for each other.

In addition, Islamic religious education also emphasizes the importance of clear life goals in the perspective of character education. In Islam, the main purpose of life is to worship Allah SWT, and all activities are carried out with the aim of obtaining Allah's pleasure. Islamic religious education provides a clear framework on how students can incorporate religious values into their life goals in both academic and social contexts. A student who has a clear life purpose can have a strong motivation to succeed not only in this life but also in the hereafter.

From a theoretical point of view, Islamic religious education in developing the character of students is also in line with the concept of character education applied in various world education systems (Yusri et al., 2023). Character education not only focuses on instilling moral values, but also developing attitudes and behaviors that reflect these values in everyday life. In this case, Islamic religious education provides a solid foundation for developing positive attitudes such as honesty, responsibility, discipline, and hard work.

In terms of the contribution of Islamic religious education to the development of students' character, it is too great to be ignored. Through Islamic religious education, students are taught moral and spiritual values that are very important in the formation of a good and responsible personality. In the perspective of Islamic education, good character is balanced in spiritual, social, and moral aspects and always strives for a better life goal. Through Islamic religious education, it is hoped that students will not only succeed academically, but also develop into individuals with character and integrity so that they are useful for society.

CONCLUSION

Based on theoretical studies in the Islamic education literature, it can be concluded that Islamic religious education has a huge impact in building students' character. The main result of this study shows that Islamic religious education not only serves to convey religious knowledge, but also plays an important role in the formation of students' character through various dimensions, including moral, social, and spiritual aspects. Islamic religious education highlights the importance of good morals as a foundation in the formation of student character. The moral values taught, such as honesty, patience, and respect for others, support students to grow into individuals with high morality. In Islamic religious education, self-control is one of the important components taught. Students are trained to restrain their passions, manage their emotions, and be disciplined in carrying out worship and academic responsibilities. This contributes greatly to the formation of a strong and resilient character.

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