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## The Role of TPQ in Forming the Religious Character of Children in Society

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### ABSTRACT

*This research seeks to elucidate the execution of Al-Qur'an educational activities at TPQ Abu Keumala Al-Aziziyah situated in Paya Geli Village and its influence on the development of children's religious character. TPQ, as a non-formal Islamic educational institution, primarily aims to impart a foundational comprehension of Islam by instructing in Qur'anic reading, prayer memorization, and religious practice. This research employs a descriptive qualitative methodology, utilizing data collection methods such as observation and interviews. The findings of the study suggest that educational activities are executed in alignment with predetermined schedules and methodologies, including reading and writing techniques, direct practice, and traditional approaches. This TPQ significantly contributes to the formation of children's religious identity through the influence of educators, the support provided by family and community environments, the implementation of diverse methodologies, and the employment of existing facilities and infrastructure. Notwithstanding the challenges posed by insufficient teaching personnel and infrastructure, TPQ Abu Keumala Al-'Aziziyah is dedicated to cultivating a generation of Qur'anic students who embody high moral standards and robust Islamic principles.*

### ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui pelaksanaan kegiatan pendidikan Al-Qur'an di TPQ Abu Keumala Al-Aziziyah yang terletak di Desa Paya Geli dan pengaruhnya terhadap pengembangan karakter keagamaan anak-anak. TPQ, sebagai lembaga pendidikan Islam nonformal, terutama bertujuan untuk memberikan pemahaman dasar tentang Islam melalui pengajaran membaca Al-Qur'an, menghafal doa, dan praktik keagamaan. Penelitian ini menggunakan metodologi kualitatif deskriptif, dengan memanfaatkan metode pengumpulan data seperti observasi dan wawancara. Temuan penelitian menunjukkan bahwa kegiatan pendidikan dilaksanakan sesuai dengan jadwal dan metodologi yang telah ditentukan, termasuk teknik membaca dan menulis, praktik langsung, dan pendekatan tradisional. TPQ ini memberikan kontribusi yang signifikan terhadap pembentukan identitas keagamaan anak-anak melalui pengaruh pendidik, dukungan yang diberikan oleh lingkungan keluarga dan masyarakat, penerapan metodologi yang beragam, dan penggunaan sarana dan prasarana yang ada. Kendatipun menghadapi berbagai tantangan seperti keterbatasan tenaga pengajar dan sarana prasarana, TPQ Abu Keumala Al-'Aziziyah tetap bertekad untuk mencetak generasi penerus santri yang bertaqwa, berakhlak mulia, dan berakhlak mulia.

## **PRELIMINARY**

Character education involves deliberate and structured initiatives aimed at guiding individuals toward a holistic understanding of life values. Within the framework of 21st century learning in Indonesia, enhancing character education is essential to developing a generation that excels not only in intellectual capacity but also in moral and spiritual resilience (Mubin & Furqon, 2023; Hadisi & Muna, 2015).

Character development is carried out optimally in a systematic, uniform, and holistic manner, covering aspects of knowledge, emotion, empathy, and practical behavior. This process can be likened to physical development, which requires continuous training to achieve strength and endurance. Character is developed through a combination of life experiences, educational activities, hardships, sacrifices, and environmental impacts, which are woven with the individual's intrinsic values. Character is not a trait that is present from birth, cannot be inherited through inheritance, or acquired instantly. Instead, character must be cultivated and formed consciously through an extensive process carried out every day, one aspect of which is education.

Al-Qur'an Education Park (TPQ) plays an important role in facilitating the holistic development of human personality that lasts throughout the life span. The educational process includes not only classroom activities but also experiences that occur outside the boundaries of the school environment. In other words, educational opportunities can be accessed from any source, by anyone, at any time. Therefore, formal and non-formal education are recognized. In essence, humans are creatures who always seek knowledge and skills throughout their lives. Therefore, it is the responsibility of every individual to always improve their intellectual abilities and develop a complete personality, including the development of a noble character (Assingily & Putri, 2022; Putra & Sa'di, 2023).

The effort to study the Qur'an is designed to educate students; as a result, the existing situation is a learning event, which is specifically focused on changes in the educational skills of students. The message of Allah SWT, as conveyed by the angel Gabriel using the direct language of Allah SWT, to the Prophet Muhammad SAW, has been conveyed by Muslims across generations without change. TPQ refers to institutions or community organizations that facilitate non-formal Islamic religious education, with the aim of providing Qur'anic literacy from a young age and fostering basic Islamic knowledge for children in kindergarten, elementary school, or madrasah ibtidaiyah, or even at a higher level.

The aim of studying the Koran is to grow the "Qur'an generation", especially a generation with pious, creative, innovative, and responsible character, which aims to build a promising future for the nation and state of the Republic of Indonesia. On the other hand, the aim of teaching the Koran is to increase people's proficiency in the field of Al-Qur'an education.

Educational resources at the Al-Qur'an Education Park (TPQ) are designed to provide basic knowledge, foster positive attitudes, and develop religious competencies, especially for students who may not be ready for formal schooling. For example, engaging in reading and writing the Qur'an, performing prayers, memorizing verses of the Qur'an, carrying out daily practices, cultivating moral values and basic beliefs, and gaining Islamic knowledge are among the many activities involved (Nurochmah et al., 2022).

Some of the teaching materials at TPQ Abu Keumala Al-Aziziyah include: (1) Ability to Study the Qur'an Using the Iqro Book. For example, the Iqro book consists of six chapters that start at a simple level and end at a perfect level. It can be concluded that students of TPQ Abu Keumala Al-'Aziziyah can follow more comprehensive learning if students have successfully completed the six Iqro, and continued to the Al-Qur'an stage clearly and in accordance with the science of tajwid rules. (2) At every Isha, practice ablution and obligatory prayers within a certain period in a good and wise manner. (3) Practice and memorize the reading of the 5 daily prayers. (4) Memorize short surahs. (5) Understand the memorization of daily prayers and their manners. (6) Short surah reading competitions.

Al-Quran Education Park is an institution or community organization that organizes non-formal Islamic education for both children and adults, which provides basic Islamic knowledge to individuals in kindergarten, elementary school, or madrasah ibtidaiyah (SD/MI), and perhaps at a higher level. Al-Quran Education Park emphasizes that improving the quality of Islamic education for the general public is very important. Thus, a new generation can be created that has a pious character, noble morals, and has a deep Islamic awareness. The Islamic education in question will foster religious traits in individuals from birth (Sangadah & Basiran, 2023).

A widely known approach to teaching the Qur'an is TPQ, an environment where children can gain and improve their understanding while engaging in the study of the Qur'an. TPQ is a teaching

approach to teaching Islam, specifically designed for children who want to master the Qur'an quickly. Furthermore, TPQ provides knowledge about etiquette, routine prayers, methods of purification, and acts of prayer. Many approaches are often used in teaching the Qur'an. The yanbu'a method serves as a tool to facilitate the memorization of the verses of the Qur'an by children, allowing them to learn to write, read, and memorize the verses in a clear and concise manner. Furthermore, TPQ has contributed values centered on maintaining ethical principles and promoting adherence to Islamic doctrines (Aprila, 2023).

Recent research shows that a character education approach that combines religious teachings, cultural values, and knowledge of customs has proven effective in developing children with good character. Research conducted in Indonesia shows that religious-based educational institutions play an important role in developing moral and ethical values among students. However, the study underlines the need to revitalize religious and moral education to combat moral decline and the challenges of globalization among young people (Masnawati & Fitria, 2024).

Education does not only include formal education but also non-formal education methods. Human responsibility is not only limited to increasing intelligence, but also includes the comprehensive development of all aspects of the human individual. Among the non-formal educational institutions is the Al-Quran Education Park (TPQ), an agency dedicated to various religious activities. TPQ Abu Keumala Al-Aziziyah serves as an institution that promotes religious education among children in Paya Geli Village. The main objective of TPQ Abu Keumala Al-Aziziyah is to educate students in studying the Qur'an, with significant emphasis on Islamic ethics and character development (Arum Amalia et al., 2021).

To foster a sincere and capable next generation, the development of morals and character (akhlakul karimah) in children is very important. Non-formal religious educational institutions, such as the Al-Qur'an Education Park (TPQ), are increasingly playing an important role in the development of morals and moral values in children in Indonesia, most of whom are Muslim, from an early age. As evidenced by the progress of moral and character education today, interventions that are implemented quickly and consistently will greatly influence the development of children's morals and ethics.

## **METHOD**

This research falls into the realm of empirical research, which indicates that researchers are directly involved in fieldwork to collect data relevant to their research topic (Assingkily, 2021). In addition, this research falls into the classification of descriptive research. Descriptive methodology includes identifying relevant facts through the application of appropriate theories, which involves examining the subject matter and observing how people engage in religious practices.

This study uses a qualitative methodology, which systematically describes the main problem to arrive at conclusions about the behavior of children in the community being studied. In research, the existence of data is very important because of the entire process. To obtain reliable data, researchers use various data collection techniques, especially through observation, interviews, and documentation. All these methods are supplemented using instruments as a guideline for their implementation. At the same time, to ensure the reliability of the data obtained, researchers use methodologies such as continuous observation, triangulation of data sources, and audits or strict examination of the information collected. These data sources include textbooks, scientific journal articles, theses, dissertations, research reports, policy documents, and various official publications.

This research was conducted at TPQ Abu Keumala Al-'Aziziyah with the aim of obtaining important information in a reliable and easily accessible format. Participants in this study included religious educators, TPQ foster children (Training Program for Quest), and the surrounding community. This research was conducted for about three days, using data collection methods that included direct observation at TPQ Abu Keumala Al-'Aziziyah and interviews with participants.

## **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

The learning activities of reciting the Quran at TPQ Abu Keumala Al-'Aziziyah located in Paya Geli Village are carried out through TPQ Abu Keumala Al-'Aziziyah. Taman Pendidikan Al-Qur'an (TPQ) is one of the non-formal educational institutions that stands alone without a formal school, with the focus on education in reading the Quran and fostering Islamic morals and ethics. This institution is a forum for the community to facilitate religious education, with the aim of instilling Islamic religious knowledge, including the skills of reading and writing the Quran, performing prayers, memorizing daily prayers, short letters, and understanding the science of tajwid (Nasution et al., 2025).

In contemporary society, it is essential to cultivate the attitudes, behaviors, and traits of individuals. Through the study of religion, we can cultivate positive attitudes, behaviors, character traits, and thought processes. Religion serves as a primary protection for individuals, preventing them from engaging in detrimental activities. Religious education can significantly help in the character development of children, which is especially important during their formative years, as this is the period when their character is formed and refined, influencing their behavior into adulthood. This character education seeks to cultivate positive values in children, with the aim that these values will develop into good habits in their adulthood.

Character, which includes an individual's attitude, thoughts, and behavior, is a trait that contributes to the formation of their personality. Children will not only acquire general knowledge as provided in educational institutions, but also instruction related to religious subjects. Character education and religious education are closely related. In practice, Quranic education fosters the character of young children through continuous instruction, training, and guidance. This forms a religious, autonomous, and communicative character. The Quranic Education Park (TPQ), which serves as a place for teaching the Quran from reading to memorizing short hadiths, is an example of its practical application. At TPQ Abu Keumala Al-'Aziziyah, located in Paya Geli village, individuals under the age of 18 are given the opportunity to learn and read the Quran. Students who engage in their studies at this institution will also experience progressive character development, thereby reducing any stress associated with its formation.

TPQ is a non-formal Islamic education and learning program designed to cultivate a young generation capable of fulfilling leadership roles in the country, as envisioned. The goal of TPQ is to cultivate a generation of Quran enthusiasts, especially those who recognize the commitment or duty to the Quran as a fundamental aspect of life, a basis for behavior, and a resource for overcoming various challenges. The Quran covers all aspects of human existence, including the spiritual, familial, social, communal, emotional, and cognitive dimensions. Therefore, it is very important to adhere to the guidance of the Quranic education garden.

Based on the results of the researcher's interview with educators at TPQ Abu Keumala Al-'Aziziyah, the implementation of educational activities at the TPQ has complied with the rules and plans that have been previously determined. The allocation of study time is also adjusted to the existing study groups. Educational activities take place from 7.30 to 9.00 P.M.

The implementation of the learning program at TPQ Abu Keumala Al-'Aziziyah is carried out through the method of reading and writing the Qur'an and practical activities. Based on the results of interviews with teachers of TPQ Abu Keumala Al-'Aziziyah, it is known that in addition to using the reading and writing and practical methods, learning is also equipped with a classical approach, such as storytelling, singing, and guessing about Islam.

However, every TPQ certainly has obstacles in its implementation. In a case study conducted by researchers at TPQ Abu Keumala Al-'Aziziyah, one of the obstacles faced was the lack of teaching staff, because at the TPQ there was only one teacher teaching. In addition, there were several obstacles. First, the lack of teaching and learning locations. Second, the lack of teaching and learning facilities and infrastructure and the variety of approaches used by teachers. The existence of these obstacles also has an impact on the consistency of TPQ activities. The impact of the lack of teaching and learning resources at TPQ is the difficulty of supervising students, especially when they have finished paying the deposit for studying. As a result, conflicts often occur between students. In addition, the learning place is not spacious enough to make children less comfortable in participating in TPQ learning.

Based on the results of research conducted by the author at TPQ Abu Keumala Al-'Aziziyah in Paya Geli village, the role of the Al-Quran Education Park in forming the religious character of children in the community can be described as follows:

### ***Educator***

Through the results of interviews with the female teachers, researchers can conclude that educators at TPQ Abu Keumala Al-'Aziziyah have high competence, as evidenced by their efforts in cultivating various Al-Qur'an learning activities aimed at achieving the expected results.

Based on the objectives of the educators, it is seen that the educators at TPQ Abu Keumala Al - 'Aziziyah have commendable skills, as evidenced by their expertise in achieving their professional goals. Through the implementation of clear and targeted strategies, the goal of TPQ Abu Keumala Al - 'Aziziyah is to foster a generation that is expert in the Qur'an and has strong ethical values, which unfortunately are greatly influenced by educators (Ritonga et al., 2022).

### ***Family and community environment***

The impact of the environment on the development of a child's personality, along with the role of the family and society, significantly shapes the formation of students' identities as Muslims. Every child comes from a different family background and social context, resulting in a diversity of values and characters that develop within them. Especially in the context of the family, children who receive full attention and support from their parents will show different personality developments, unlike those who do not receive such attention and support. Unfortunately, not all parents prioritize their children's education.

The environment greatly influences children's behavior, because their daily routines and cognitive processes are largely shaped by interactions with their surroundings. Nowadays, technological advances are developing very rapidly. All information, including verbal expressions and clothing, can be easily accessed on the internet. This clearly has positive and negative impacts. It is hoped that this faith-oriented education, through the provision of TPQ in mosques for early childhood, will contribute to overcoming the challenges faced in developing students' Muslim identity (Sari et al., 2022).

### ***Method***

The success of learning is greatly influenced by the selection of the right learning methodology. Furthermore, the accuracy of the application of guidance methods is influenced by many factors, such as the nature of the objectives to be achieved, the condition of the students, the learning materials, and the classroom environment.

Ustadzah Shifa, an educator at TPQ Abu Keumala Al-Aziziyah, noted that the practice, tartil, and iqro techniques were initially applied to children who were learning the Quran. We consider this method less effective and efficient because children are involved in various activities such as playing, making noise, or going in and out of the room while one of the children is reading the Quran or reciting the Koran. Therefore, we apply a demonstration and listening approach so that other children can pay attention to the child who is reading the Quran and correct inaccuracies in their reading.

Thus, researchers can see that teachers have tried to develop various methods of learning the Quran to achieve their goals. Therefore, based on the principles of learning procedures, the causes are: (1) Identifying the motivation, desire, and focus of students, (2) Identifying the learning objectives that have been set, (3) Identifying the steps of progress and change experienced by students, (4) Identifying the differences between students, (5) Identifying the relationship between understanding and integration of experience and its continuation, purity, innovation, and independence of thought, and (6) Making the educational process an interesting experience.

The principles of the Qur'anic training learning method at TPQ Abu Keumala Al-'Aziziyah are still relevant and related to the design and principles of learning methods. This includes how the various training methods used by teachers and efforts to develop efficient and useful training methods to achieve training goals.

### ***Facilities and infrastructure***

Ustadzah stated that facilities and infrastructure are very important in educational activities because these facilities and infrastructure facilitate the delivery of material by teachers and improve students' understanding of the lessons. However, due to limited funds, the use of existing facilities and infrastructure is limited to classrooms. We still utilize the place and hall of the mosque which functions as

an educational space for whiteboards, teaching materials, hijayah letter posters, ablution practices, and prayers and prayer readings.

## **CONCLUSION**

This study examines the function of the Abu Keumala Al-'Aziziyah Al-Qur'an Education Park (TPQ) in Paya Geli Village in developing children's religious character. TPQ is a non-formal Islamic educational institution that focuses on teaching basic Islamic concepts, such as reading the Qur'an, memorizing prayers, and religious practices. The main objective of TPQ is to produce a generation of devout, innovative, creative, and responsible Qur'an scholars, as well as to increase the community's capacity in teaching the Qur'an. The teaching materials at TPQ include reading and writing the Qur'an, praying, memorizing verses and short letters, daily worship, moral teachings, faith, and Islamic knowledge, and using the Iqro book as a basic method in studying the Qur'an. The research methodology used is descriptive qualitative with data collection techniques including observation, interviews, and documentation.

The research participants consisted of Qur'an educators, children registered in the Orphan Tahfiz Program (TPQ), and the wider community. This research was conducted for approximately three days at TPQ Abu Keumala Al-'Aziziyah. Despite experiencing obstacles in terms of teaching staff and facilities, TPQ Abu Keumala Al-'Aziziyah remains dedicated to fostering a generation of Qur'an with noble character and strong Islamic values.

The results of the study indicate that educational activities at TPQ Abu Keumala Al-'Aziziyah have been implemented according to the established schedule and methods, which include reading and writing techniques, direct practice, and traditional approaches, such as storytelling, singing, and Islamic-themed guessing games. This TPQ makes a significant contribution to the development of children's religious character through the involvement of qualified educators, the provision of support from the family and community context, and the implementation of various educational strategies. Character education at TPQ aims to foster positive values that develop into useful habits in adulthood, while also fostering religious, independent, and communicative individuals.

The challenges faced by TPQ Abu Keumala Al-'Aziziyah are the insufficient number of teaching staff (currently only one), limited physical learning space, and lack of educational facilities and resources. These limitations affect the uniformity of student activities and supervision, which often leads to disputes among students as a result of discomfort associated with the learning environment. Nevertheless, TPQ continues to strive to utilize existing facilities, including the mosque and hall environment, as educational spaces. Overall, TPQ Abu Keumala Al-'Aziziyah has shown a significant influence on the development of children's religious character through teaching the Qur'an and instilling Islamic principles. Despite the challenges related to resources, TPQ's dedication to cultivating a generation with noble moral character based on the Qur'an remains steadfast, underscoring the importance of this type of non-formal educational institution in society.

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