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**Islamic Creed Education in Facing the Modern Century**

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**ABSTRACT**

*Islamic faith education is crucial for students due to the negative impacts of globalization that can affect their character. This study aims to discuss the role of Islamic faith education in facing the challenges of the modern era. This research is descriptive qualitative and supported by literature review. The research was conducted directly in the field using a descriptive qualitative approach that integrates hands-on practice, collaboration, and art methods. The results show that Islamic faith education plays a crucial role in forming a strong foundation of faith and piety for students. Furthermore, this education not only helps understand Islamic values but also serves as a bulwark against negative influences that threaten moral values. Awareness of the importance of Islamic faith education demonstrates that its role is not only vital in facing the challenges of the times but also in shaping a generation strong in spirituality and morality, capable of facing ever-changing dynamics.*

**ABSTRAK**

Pendidikan akidah Islam sangat penting bagi peserta didik karena adanya dampak negatif globalisasi yang dapat memengaruhi karakter mereka. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk membahas peran pendidikan akidah Islam dalam menghadapi tantangan zaman. Penelitian ini bersifat deskriptif kualitatif dan didukung oleh tinjauan pustaka. Penelitian ini dilakukan secara langsung di lapangan dengan pendekatan kualitatif deskriptif yang memadukan praktik langsung, kolaborasi, dan metode artistik. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa pendidikan akidah Islam berperan penting dalam membentuk fondasi iman dan taqwa yang kuat bagi peserta didik. Lebih jauh, pendidikan ini tidak hanya membantu memahami nilai-nilai Islam tetapi juga berfungsi sebagai benteng terhadap pengaruh negatif yang mengancam nilai-nilai moral. Kesadaran akan pentingnya pendidikan akidah Islam menunjukkan bahwa perannya tidak hanya vital dalam menghadapi tantangan zaman tetapi juga dalam membentuk generasi yang kuat dalam spiritualitas dan moralitas, yang mampu menghadapi dinamika yang terus berubah.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Education is one of the most important aspects of human life, as it is a primary factor in developing human potential, both physical and spiritual. It is crucial to link education to a person's sense of responsibility to God as a servant appointed as Allah's caliph on earth (Maili, 2021). The goal of education is to realize humans as servants of Allah. Therefore, education must encompass various aspects of humanity, so that humans can become people who always involve Allah SWT in all their activities (Prastiwi, 2021).

Over time, changes in education, mindsets, social attitudes, and culture in Indonesian society have been greatly influenced by advances in science and technology, influenced by several Western influences. The advancement of civilization in the Western world has been rapid, particularly in the fields of technology and culture. This progress has made human life more efficient, requiring people to keep up with the times by adopting a more open attitude. This has had many positive impacts, as the advancement of technology and information has made it easier for people in general to access various types of current information more easily and quickly, as well as new foreign cultures that are easy to imitate.

While the influence of modern developments has provided many positive impacts, it has also had a significant negative impact due to the influx of foreign cultures that contradict the norms of social life, especially in Indonesia. Furthermore, many foreign cultures also clash with the beliefs held by Muslims. This influence poses a significant challenge to Islamic preaching and Islamic education. Western influence and understanding often encourage people to live a life based on knowledge and reason for the benefit of all, without any connection to religion (Sidiq & Nurfitri, 2023).

In facing the challenges of the modern era, filled with diverse flows of information, culture, and thought, the role of Islamic education is crucial as it equips people for daily life. Islamic creed, a crucial foundation of the Muslim faith, requires a careful and planned strategy from religious teachers to ensure a solid and steadfast understanding among students.

As time progresses, technology advances, and globalization becomes increasingly limitless, nearly every young person now possesses a gadget that allows them to easily absorb information, ideas, and cultures from outside the world. Young people tend to be exposed to various ideologies and views that can shake the stability of their faith, even to the point of clashing with their faith. Many young people today prioritize prestige and the ostensible trends of this worldly life over determining whether they align with religious teachings.

Therefore, religious teachers need to confront this reality by designing adaptive and innovative strategies to strengthen Islamic faith in this dynamic era. The importance of religious teachers' strategies in building the strength of Islamic faith not only impacts religious aspects but also has the potential to shape students' character and morality.

## **METHOD**

This research is a qualitative study using direct field interviews and a literature review. This research was conducted directly in the field using a qualitative descriptive approach. This qualitative descriptive research method aims to provide a detailed and in-depth description of what happened based on what happened in the field. Furthermore, the literature review is a study of literature drawn from various references relevant to the topic of discussion regarding the urgency of Islamic religious education amidst the challenges of modernity. The research materials used in this paper have two types of data sources: primary data and secondary data (Assingkily, 2021). Primary data was obtained through direct interviews with a religion teacher at MAS Darul Istiqomah, asking several questions. Secondary data was obtained from several reliable references, such as research reports, books, and other sources relevant to this paper.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Islamic creed is something that is tauqifi, meaning a teaching which can only be determined by evidence from Allah and His Messenger. Therefore, the sources of Islamic faith are the Quran and Sunnah. Because no one knows more about God than God Himself, and no one knows more about God than the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) (Rofam, 2017). Islamic faith education plays a crucial role in daily life. As Muslims, we should seek out and learn about appropriate education that aligns with Islamic teachings. The younger generation is always a primary target for those with vested interests.

The results and discussion obtained by the author from the interview with one of the teachers of MAS Darul Istiqomah, namely Mr. Syaipul Bahri on Tuesday, December 26, 2023, can be concluded that Islamic Aqidah education plays a crucial role in helping students face modernity. In this increasingly advanced modern era, it is very difficult for students to distinguish between what is good and what is bad, because the current erosion of Islamic education, bad deeds are often normalized by some social media users.

Examples include entering places of worship and celebrating religious holidays of other religions, which are now normalized by some communities and often promoted on social media. If students study Islamic faith, they will understand that such actions are excessive and prohibited in Islam. Furthermore, if social media contains content that is not properly filtered, students can access content that violates Islamic faith, which can influence them. Therefore, teachers always encourage students to be selective in evaluating content on social media. They are also open to students asking questions outside of class about anything they encounter on social media or the internet.

### ***Basic Principles of Aqidah Education***

The foundation and main foundation in aqidah education is the Al-Qur'an and As-Sunnah. This means that whatever is conveyed by Allah in the Qur'an and what His Messenger conveyed and did through As-Sunnah, every Muslim is obliged to believe or believe and practice it (Ahmad, 2019). If humans adhere to the Al-Qur'an and AS-Sunnah, then the life they live will not be misguided or lost. Al-Qur'an: From a legal perspective, the Quran holds the highest and most important position. As a legal basis, this implies that the Quran itself is the source of all Islamic teachings. Specifically, the original functions of the Al-Qur'an include (Syukran, 2019):

1. As a Guidance (Al-Huda)
2. As a Differentiator (Al-Furqan)
3. As the Truth (Al-Burhan)
4. As a Reminder (Al-Dzikr)
5. As a Healer (As-Syifa)
6. As Advice (Al-Mau'idah)
7. As a Grace

### ***As-Sunnah/Al-Hadith***

Hadith scholars define sunnah as viewing the Prophet SAW as the most perfect *uswatun hasanah* or *qudwah* (example or example), not as a source of law. His capacity as a priest who gives instructions and a guide who provides advice preached by Allah SAW and as an example and figure for us (Rofiah, 2018). As-Sunnah or Al-Hadith is the second source of law after the Al-Qur'an in Islamic law. Includes all words, actions and *taqrir* (i.e. either by silence or agreement) from the Prophet Muhammad. According to the *fuqaha* or *fiqh* experts, the sunnah is a legal characteristic of an action which, if done, is rewarded, while if it is abandoned, it is not sinful (Farida, 2015). The function of the sunnah leads to three functions, namely: (1) the sunnah as a reinforcement (*ta'kid*) of the laws in the Qur'an, (2) the sunnah as an explanation or explanation of what is brought by the Qur'an, (3) the sunnah as a determination of laws that have not been regulated by the Qur'an.

### ***Scope of Aqidah Islamic Education***

The scope of aqidah education is a breakdown of the six pillars of faith, namely (Ahmad, 2019):

#### ***Believe in God***

Believing in Allah is the highest and noblest belief. belief and trust in God is the foundation or principle that underlies all spiritual life. The way to build this foundation is by using the mind to feel and observe all of Allah's creation and recognize His names and attributes. Faith in Allah reflects the noblest relationship between humans and their Creator. This is because humans, as the most noble creatures on earth, have hearts as the most noble creatures on the face of the earth, and the most noble thing in humans is their heart, and the most valuable thing in a person's day is faith.

#### ***Believe in Allah's Books***

There are four books that are recorded, and we can know about them, including the Torah which was revealed to the Prophet Musa (AS), the Gospel to the Prophet Isa (AS), the Zabur to the Prophet Daud (AS), and the Qur'an to the Prophet Muhammad SAW. These four books contain guidance and light as illumination for mankind. The Koran, which was revealed to the last prophet, namely the Prophet Muhammad SAW, has special features. The Qur'an is the final book that perfects the previous books, and its teachings will remain valid throughout time, and their authenticity is maintained by Allah SWT.

#### ***Believe in the prophets and messengers of Allah SWT***

Allah SWT stipulates an obligation for every believer to believe in His messengers without distinguishing between one another. If someone is reluctant to believe in the prophets and apostles, then he is clearly called an infidel. Every people have a messenger sent by Allah SWT. At all times, all people received apostles sent by Allah SWT, whose task was to guide them to serve Allah and live their lives according to the correct instructions. Apostles are people from among these people, whom Allah chooses to receive revelations and convey them to fellow people. The main task of the apostle is to invite his people to worship Allah SWT and uphold His religion.

#### ***Believe in the Last Day***

Belief in Allah SWT and the Day of Judgment plays a vital role in a person's steadfastness in worship. A person who is aware of the accountability for their actions and the punishment for those who break the rules will be more inclined to avoid sin. This awareness drives them to avoid sin, and if they do make a mistake, they will immediately seek forgiveness, regret their actions, and pray for forgiveness. Furthermore, the deeds they perform during their life in this world will determine their condition upon resurrection. Each person will be resurrected in a condition that reflects their deeds in this world, whether perfect, imperfect, or in various other conditions depending on the degree of good or bad they have done.

#### ***Believe in qadar (destiny)***

Believing in the destiny of Allah SWT teaches humans that everything that happens in this universe has been determined by Him and will follow the wisdom determined by the Almighty. Therefore, when someone faces trials, he will not regret the incident. Likewise, when he gets help or benefits, he will not be so happy that he forgets his God.

From the explanation above, it can be concluded that the scope of Islamic aqidah education is in the sixth pillar of faith. Where all Muslims are obliged to believe or believe in these six pillars of faith, if they deny one of them then their faith will not be perfect.

### ***Challenges of Modernity for Muslims***

The phenomenon of science, particularly scientism, in the Western world illustrates that science has become a new ideology, even creating a new religion known as "pre-religion." This change has been ongoing since the 17th century AD, when Western society firmly rejected and ignored all religious beliefs considered sacred. In this process, they rejected all forms of religious belief and chose to believe solely in science. This development reached its peak in the 18th and 19th centuries AD, when science became a kind of "idol" worshipped by modern humans. Equating it with God, science was seen as possessing absolute certainty, free from doubt and falsehood. In other words, science was considered to have the same authority as faith (Munajah, 2021).

Beyond beliefs, Muslims also face several other challenges involving social change, cultural change, and technology. In the increasingly advanced and evolving world of social change, modernity often brings rapid and profound social change. Religious values are beginning to erode, even to the point of conflict with modern values. Technology and mass media also have an influence that can create quite serious challenges. These technological advances have negative impacts, one of which is the spread of lies or hoaxes. Furthermore, the spread of culture and other things that contradict Islamic beliefs easily infiltrates every individual, requiring Muslims to be more vigilant in using technology and mass media in this modern era. The rapid circulation of information can also lead to the emergence of views that contradict Islamic teachings. Some aspects of modernity are often identified with Western values. Muslims face the challenge of balancing adopting innovation with maintaining the integrity of the Islamic religion.

### ***The Urgency of Islamic Creed Education in Overcoming the Challenges of Modernity***

Islamic creed education is highly urgent in facing modernity. Modernity brings significant changes in various aspects of life, including culture, technology, politics, and society. In this context, Islamic creed education is crucial because it plays a role in forming a foundation of values and morals for Muslims in facing the challenges and changes of the times. The following are some of the urgent needs of Islamic creed education in the modern era:

#### ***Defense of Islamic Identity***

Modernity often brings with it currents of secularism, pluralism, and secular thought, which can threaten one's Islamic identity. Islamic faith education helps Muslims understand the basic principles of faith and strengthens their convictions. This is crucial for maintaining the integrity of Islamic identity amidst changing values and cultures.

#### ***Addressing Ethical and Moral Challenges***

Modernity often faces ethical and moral challenges, particularly with the rise of individualistic and consumerist values. Islamic faith education provides a strong moral foundation based on religious teachings, guiding individuals to make ethical and moral decisions in various life contexts.

#### ***Adaptation of Technology and Science***

Islamic aqidah education can help Muslims understand and adapt technological and scientific developments without losing spiritual and moral values. By understanding the principles of aqidah, Muslims can use science to get closer to Allah and provide benefits to humanity.

#### ***Overcoming the Challenges of Thinking***

Modernity often raises questions and challenges to religious teachings. Islamic faith education provides a solid foundation for addressing critical questions and skepticism, enabling Muslims to better understand and defend their religious teachings. With an understanding of Islamic faith, it is hoped that Muslims will not be easily influenced by misleading ideas.

### *Building Social and Humanitarian Awareness*

Islamic faith education not only focuses on the individual's relationship with God but also emphasizes the importance of contributing positively to society. Instilling this faith can foster social and humanitarian awareness aligned with Islamic values, enabling people to help one another and work together, fostering peace.

In Islamic education, the instillation of Islamic faith is crucial, as it serves as the foundation and primary provision for students navigating this world and ensuring their safety in the afterlife. By understanding and applying Islamic faith in the context of modernity, Muslims are expected to face the challenges of the times with strong faith, morality, and awareness. Islamic faith education is a crucial foundation for developing a generation of Muslims who can adapt to changing times without losing their Islamic roots.

### ***The Relevance of Islamic Aqidah Education to Changing Times***

Given the urgency of Islamic faith education, the need for serious guidance must emphasize parenting and education patterns, as both are the starting point for a quality Islamic education. The process of developing excellent children within the framework of Islamic education is a challenging and time-consuming process, requiring sincerity, patience, and honesty, as exemplified by the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him).

It's a significant challenge for Islamic faith education in this era to prepare children and youth for this, given the many drastic and significant changes since the time of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). One of the most visible changes is the digitalization pattern in every aspect of life, which undoubtedly has the greatest impact on everyone. The increasingly advanced and free development of digitalization without adequate guidance and supervision has led children to become increasingly immersed in the virtual world, especially in activities that are not beneficial and even endanger individual parenting and education, especially in religious matters (Amaliati, 2020).

Therefore, Islamic faith education is currently at the forefront of addressing these challenges. Children are equipped with faith and obedience to Allah SWT within themselves and their souls, enabling them to choose between the good and bad things to embrace and pursue in this modern era.

### **CONCLUSION**

Islamic faith education plays a crucial role in facing the challenges of modernity in forming a foundation of faith and piety amidst the increasingly changing times. Islamic faith education also serves as a strong pillar in guiding Muslim individuals to understand Islamic values, ethics, and morality relevant to the demands of the times. Amidst the ever-evolving flow of information and culture, a solid understanding of Islamic faith education can act as a buffer against negative influences that could undermine Islamic values. Facing modernity, the influence of digitalization and social change is also very strong, making Islamic faith education a strong foundation for upholding Islamic values. With this Islamic faith education, it is hoped that a generation will be formed with a strong understanding of Islamic teachings, enabling them to face the challenges of modernity and remain steadfast in upholding their Islamic identity. Awareness of the urgency of Islamic faith education confirms that it is not only relevant but also crucial in shaping the character and spirituality of Muslims in facing this modern era.

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