



THE URGENCY OF LEARNING THE ISLAMIC FAITH IN SHAPING STUDENTS' RELIGIOUS CHARACTER

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Abstract

Studying the Islamic faith (*aqedah*) in today's era is very important. The flow of globalization is full of freedom in our daily life and can bring us positive or negative effects without realizing it. The thing that is most feared is if the impact of globalization has a bad influence on us, especially on students who are still looking for their own identity. The weakness of faith can cause this negative influence as the foundation of one's faith. If a student's faith is weak, he will be easily influenced or provoked by the circumstances around him, easily swayed by what he previously believed. In this article, we will examine three interrelated questions. *First*, what is the meaning of the Islamic creed, and what is its position in our lives? *Second*, what is the meaning of religious character? *Third*, how is the urgency of learning creed in shaping the religious character of students? This article uses a library research approach to review the three points above. The result is that strengthening faith through learning the Islamic faith will be very much needed as an effort to prevent negative things from entering students. In addition, the Islamic faith can also be said to reflect their character.

Keywords: *Learning, Islamic Faith, Religious Character, Student.*



Introduction

The development of information technology today facilitates access to information from various parts of the world. It is like a coin with two sides. On the one hand, the ease of accessing various information was minimal. In contrast, the second side is the excess or impact of the absence of a filter in accessing religious information so that it affects a person's creed level. The assumption is that the lower one's creed, the lower the level of goodness of one's religious character and social character towards others. This problem, in turn, will shift one's religious character.

Therefore, the younger generation must be wise in dealing with this problem. Religion provides guidance and life values to its adherents so that they will not get lost and be guided in achieving their life goals so that they always do good and care for their fellow creatures of God.¹ However, this is not an effortless thing to do. The phenomenon today shows the occurrence of moral descents such as harassment, bullying, Aqedah deviations, and others. Many of these cases were carried out by students.² Someone who lacks

¹ M Hidayat Ginanjar & Nia Kurniawati, "Pembelajaran Akidah Akhlak dan Korelasinya dengan Peningkatan Akhlak al-Karimah Peserta Didik," *Edukasi Islami* 6, no. 12 (2017): 101–24.

² Naelul Fina Muna & Moh. Farhan, "Efektifitas Pembelajaran Akidah Akhlak dalam

Aqedah, is susceptible to being influenced by various things, and is doubtful about his stance, indicates a person's poor moral character and religiosity. To create a religious character, students must have piety and understand that all their actions will be accounted for in the world and the hereafter to Allah SWT.³ Thus, learning the Islamic faith will be needed to solve the problems mentioned above. In this learning, students are also taught how to liven up the values of the teachings in the Qur'an and as-Sunnah. Therefore, learning the Islamic faith is closely related to a commendable character.⁴ In addition, learning the Islamic faith is expected to encourage solving problems regarding the religious character of students.

The previous research which has been carried out related to the object of this study includes, Danang Dwi Basuki and Hari Febriansyah's research entitled "*Pembentukan Karakter Islami melalui Pengembangan Mata Pelajaran Akidah Akhlak di Madrasah Aliyah an-Najah Bekasi* (Formation of Islamic Character

Pembentukan Karakter Religius pada Siswa Madrasah Aliyah Hidayatul Mubtadi'in Bulusari Sayung Demak," *Konferensi Ilmiah Mahasiswa Unissula* 4, 2020, 583–594.

³ Muna & Farhan.

⁴ Husni Thamrin & Yatimin Yatimin, "Strategi Pembelajaran Akidah Akhlak melalui Pendekatan Sufistik Untuk Madrasah Tsanawiyah Provinsi Riau," *Al-Fikra: Jurnal Ilmiah Keislaman* 16, no. 1 (2017): 152–175. DOI: 10.24014/af.v16i1.3666.

through the Development of Islamic Morals and Faith Subjects at Madrasah Aliyah an-Najah Bekasi)." The result of this research is that there is a significant positive effect between learning the Islamic faith and morals on students' formation of Islamic character at Madrasah Aliyah an-Najah Bekasi.⁵

Muliati and colleagues' research entitled "*Urgensi Pembelajaran Akidah Akhlak dalam Menumbuhkan Minat Berbusana Muslimah di luar Sekolah Siswi MTS al-Khairaat Palapi* (The Urgency of Learning Akhlak Akidah in Growing Interest in Muslim Dress Outside the MTS al-Khairaat Palapi School of Students." This study discusses the teacher's efforts to teach the importance of Muslim women's clothing through learning morals outside the MTS al-Khairaat at Palapi, Taopa District, Parigi Moutong Regency, Central Sulawesi.⁶

In addition, Marudin and Munawir Gozali's research entitled "*Internalisasi Nilai-nilai Islam dalam Membentuk Sikap Sosial Siswa melalui Pembelajaran Akidah Akhlak Kelas VA di MI Bustanul*

Ulum Pesanggrahan Batu (Internalization of Islamic Values in Shaping Students' Social Attitudes through Learning Akidah Akhlak Class VA at MI Bustanul Ulum Pesanggrahan Batu," discussed the design of internalization and the implementation of moral (aqedah) learning in shaping students' social attitudes.⁷

Therefore, this research is different from the previous studies that have been conducted above. This qualitative approach uses the literature study method to obtain data from journals, books, and other sources. The data is then selected and will be analyzed comprehensively in this study.

Islamic Faith, Religious Characters, and its Position in Islamic Education

Islam is the religion revealed by Allah to the Prophet Muhammad, which leads to faith and obedience. Faith (Arabic: *aqidah*, *aqdu*)⁸ is belief in Allah SWT without anxiety and doubt so that the soul and heart become calm. Aqedah is the basis or foundation of morality

⁵ Danang Dwi Basuki & Hari Febriansyah, "Pembentukan Karakter Islami Melalui Pengembangan Mata Pelajaran Akidah Akhlak di Madrasah Aliyah an-Najah Bekasi," *Intelektual* 10, no. 2 (2020).

⁶ Muliati, Muhammad Rizal Masdul & Adhriansyah A. Lasawali, "Urgensi Pembelajaran Akidah Akhlak dalam Menumbuhkan Minat Berbusana Muslimah di luar Sekolah Siswi MTS al-Khairaat Palapi," *Iqra* 15, no. 2 (2020): 70–78.

⁷ Marudin & Munawir Gozali, "Internalisasi Nilai-nilai Islam dalam Membentuk Sikap Sosial Siswa melalui Pembelajaran Akidah Akhlak Kelas VA di MI Bustanul Ulum Pesanggrahan Batu," *Bada'a: Jurnal Ilmiah Pendidikan Dasar* 1, no. 2 (2019): 97–107. DOI: 10.37216/badaa.v1i2.296.

⁸ Ginanjar & Kurniawati, "Pembelajaran Akidah Akhlak dan Korelasinya dengan Peningkatan Akhlak al-Karimah Peserta Didik."

in realizing self-awareness and a strong character of Islamic values prevailing in society and noble rules. In the teachings of Islam, there are recommendations for its people always to act following commendable and dignified morals.⁹ It follows the hadith of the Prophet Muhammad as follows:

I have left two things for you. If you hold on to them, you will not go astray, namely the Book of Allah and His Hadith.¹⁰

Furthermore, Islamic faith is understood as a guideline for Islamic teachings to a Muslim, which is obligatory and binding to be followed and believed wholeheartedly.¹¹ While learning is a method or procedure for activities of teachers and students who study in a particular setting¹² to build faith or

belief in students. It is beneficial as a provision in living life. Aqedah is the primary source for developing spiritual intelligence, reinforcing the quality of students' lives later.

Character or personality also means having qualities, which can be formed through one's milieu and habits.¹³ While the character is understood in the dimension of the relationship with God, thus a person's thinking, speech, and actions must be based on the principles of God and religious teachings.¹⁴ Therefore, it can be concluded that a religious character is a character whose source of teaching is Islam or a character who has an Islamic personality.

The Islamic faith has a significant position in all aspects of life because of the essence of the purpose of human life. If someone has good faith, his life will always be calm and peaceful. On the other hand, if the faith is terrible, there is a lack of religious character in his life as a Muslim. It will be hazardous, especially for Muslim students. It is required to solve this problem and instill the values of the Islamic faith as the core of religious teachings that can manage relationships with Allah and fellow human

⁹ Muna & Farhan, "Efektivitas Pembelajaran Akidah Akhlak dalam Pembentukan Karakter Religius pada Siswa Madrasah Aliyah Hidayatul Mubtadi'in Bulusari Sayung Demak.

¹⁰ Ibnu Rusydi, "Pengaruh Pemahaman Siswa pada Mata Pelajaran Akidah Akhlak Hubungannya dengan Akhlak Siswa di Sekolah," *Risalah: Jurnal Pendidikan dan Studi Islam* 4, no. 1 (2018): 133–140. DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.1255354.

¹¹ Fawaz & Azra'i, "Implementasi Kurikulum 2013 Mata Pelajaran Akidah Akhlak dalam Membina Akhlak Siswa di MTsN Kediri Lombok Barat," *At-Tadbir* 5, no. 2 (2021): 16–41.

¹² Ginanjar & Kurniawati, "Pembelajaran Akidah Akhlak dan Korelasinya dengan Peningkatan Akhlak al-Karimah Peserta Didik."

¹³ Novitasari, Ajat Rukajat & Debibik Naitatul Fauziah, "Implementasi Pembelajaran Akidah Akhlak dalam Pembentukan Karakter Religius Peserta Didik Kelas VIII di SMP al-Mushlih Karawang," *Al-Vasini* 5, no. 2 (2020): 450–461.

¹⁴ Novitasari, Rukajat & Fauziah.

being.¹⁵

Urgency of Learning the Islamic Faith in Shaping Students' Religious Character

School institutions are essential institutions for educating and forming good quality human resources for the prosperity of the nation and state, such as the national education goals contained in the Education Law Number 20 of 2003 concerning the National Education System in Chapter II, Article 3, as follows:

National education functions to develop capabilities and shape the character and civilization of the nation. It aims to develop the potential of students to become human beings who believe and fear God Almighty, have a noble character, are healthy, knowledgeable, capable, creative, independent, and become citizens of the state democratic and responsible

While Islamic religious education aims to create humans who are obedient to Allah, have noble character, and to create humans who have honest, fair, and virtuous characters. Islamic reli-

gious education is one of the efforts to teach, explore, and apply the values of Islamic teachings to students. It mainly aims to guide students with the teachings of Islam, especially about Aqedah and morals.¹⁶

Islamic education has three main principles: faith, worship, and morality. This creed has an essential task as the basis or foundation of everything. Therefore, learning the Islamic faith needs to be studied and taught to students so that they have an established faith that they have commendable behavior and avoid doing things that deviate from Islamic teachings by realizing their existence as God's creatures.¹⁷ Learning the Islamic faith has fundamental aspects such as a sense of faith in Allah, the Prophet Muhammad, angels, the day of judgment, and qadh qadr.¹⁸

In addition, learning the Islamic faith also contains values and norms that regulate the relationship between humans and God. Thus, learning the

¹⁶ Ahmad Rifa'i & Rosita Hayati, "Peran Pembelajaran Akidah Akhlak dalam Pengembangan Nilai-Nilai Akhlak Siswa di MIN 13 Hulu Sungai Utara," *Bada'a: Jurnal Ilmiah Pendidikan Dasar* 1, no. 2 (2019): 86–96. DOI: 10.37216/badaa.v1i2.249.

¹⁷ Khaerudin, "Penanaman Pendidikan Aqidah pada Anak Usia Dini," *Madaniyah* 4, no. 1 (2014): 45–57.

¹⁸ Yanuar Falih Assidiq & Zakiyah, "Pengaruh Pembelajaran Akidah Akhlak terhadap Perilaku Keagamaan Siswa Kelas X di SMA Muhammadiyah Bumiayu Brebes," *Alhamra Jurnal Studi Islam* 2, no. 1 (2021): 98–110.

¹⁵ Muna & Farhan, "Efektivitas Pembelajaran Akidah Akhlak dalam Pembentukan Karakter Religius pada Siswa Madrasah Aliyah Hidayatul Muhtadi'in Bulusari Sayung Demak.

Islamic faith is very important to shape the religious character of students¹⁹ and can increase faith and piety to Allah.²⁰ This learning can direct students to become ethical human beings (*insan kamil*) following Islamic teachings to increase their faith in Allah. There are many methods that teachers can use for learning this Islamic faith, such as the lecture method, question and answer, discussion, and soon.

Furthermore, the following are the functions of this learning to the Competency Standards of High School Subjects *Aqidah Akhlak Curriculum 2013*.²¹

1. Action; to increase faith and piety to Allah, as well as students' commendable behavior as much as possible, which had been previously educated in the student's family milieu;
2. Correction; to correct students' mistakes and weaknesses in their beliefs, then practice the teachings of Islam in daily life, such as main-

taining obligatory prayers, fasting, and others;

3. Prevention; to prevent students from all negative things, both from the surrounding environment and from other traditions that can threaten and hinder becoming human being (*insan kamil*) and nationalist Indonesian citizens, such as brawls among students, promiscuity that can undermine faith, and other despicable behavior;
4. Teaching; to teach insight into faith to believe in Allah's attributes and explore Islamic teachings such as honesty, responsibility, compassion, kindness, and soon.
5. Adaptation; can adapt to the surrounding social conditions by learning morals;
6. Embodiment; internalize and apply the values of Islamic teachings to achieve happiness in life in this world and the hereafter.

Meanwhile, the objectives of this learning are to achieve as follows:²²

1. Introducing students to the correct belief that will save them from His punishment, about the pillars of faith, obeying Allah, and doing

¹⁹ Muliati, Masdul & Lasawali, "Urgensi Pembelajaran Akidah Akhlak dalam Menumbuhkan Minat Berbusana Muslimah di luar Sekolah Siswi MTS al Khairaat Palapi."

²⁰ Muhammad Habibi Hamzah & Raadliyatush Shalihah, "Urgensi Penanaman Akidah Tauhid Kepada Siswa: Telaah Nasehat Luqman al-Hakim dalam Kitab Tafsir as-Sa'di 1," *Tsaqafah* 1, no. 1 (2021).

²¹ Assidiq & Zakiyah, "Pengaruh Pembelajaran Akidah Akhlak terhadap Perilaku Keagamaan Siswa Kelas X di SMA Muhammadiyah Bumiayu Brebes."

²² Mubasyaroh, "Pendidikan Penanaman Sistem Nilai dalam Pembelajaran Akidah Akhlaq," *Edukasia: Jurnal Penelitian Pendidikan Islam* 8, no. 2 (2013): 291–310. DOI: 10.21043/edukasia.v8i2.755.

- good deeds to perfect their faith;
2. Embedding faith in Allah, angels, the Books of Allah, His messengers, angels, the Day of Judgment, and qadh qadr in students;
 3. Directing students who have the right faith so that they are not neglecting Allah and always be grateful, and so on;
 4. Assisting students in understanding the concepts of nature, for example:
 - a. Allah is All-Powerful and All-Knowing of everything in this world. Then, believe that Allah is Most Just in this world and here-after.
 - b. Purifying the soul and mind of students from *shirk*.

Apart from learning the Islamic faith in the classroom by the teacher to shape the religious character of students, it can also be pursued through habituation in religious programs. For example, reading the Qur'an (*tadarus*) together in the morning before learning, carrying out the dhuha prayer in the morning, praying dhuhur in the congregation, *istighatha* (asking for help or calling for aid to Allah) together, and others.²³

It is required to be able to realize students to be patient and disciplined

²³ Marudin & Gozali, "Internalisasi Nilai-Nilai Islam dalam Membentuk Sikap Sosial Siswa melalui Pembelajaran Akidah Akhlak Kelas VA di MI Bustanul Ulum Pesanggrahan Batu."

in worship and increase piety to Allah alone. In addition, learning the Islamic faith is also expected to create and increase students' sense of faith, whose manifestation is in the form of having a religious and commendable character.

Conclusion

Thus, learning the Islamic faith becomes very urgent because students have Islamic insight, and practicing Islamic teachings can shape students' character. For this reason, the teacher has a strategic role in realizing the learning objectives. These efforts are not only when learning in the classroom but also through habituation through daily activities.

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