

THE ROLE OF ISLAMIC RELIGIOUS EDUCATION TEACHERS IN INCREASING STUDENTS' RELIGIOUS AWARENESS

(Case Study of SMP Al Wathoniyah Pengarengan Islamic Education Foundation)

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Abstract: *Religious awareness is an attitude, experience, feeling and religious behavior that occurs within a person which is organized in the mental system of the personality of each individual. Religion involves all the functions of the human body and soul, so religious awareness also includes affective, conative, cognitive and motor aspects. The involvement of the affective and conative aspects appears in the experience of God, religious feelings and longing for God. The cognitive aspect is seen in the attitude of faith and belief, while the involvement of motor functions can be seen from the actions and movements of religious behavior. The research methodology used in this study is a qualitative research method with observation-based data collection techniques. The aim of this study was to determine the teacher's role in building religious awareness in students. The results of his research are that teachers familiarize students with religious practices and habits, create affection and harmonious relationships between teachers and students, motivate students to memorize selected verses of the Al-Qur'an, provide understanding and awareness to students of the importance of Islamic Religious Education, accustom students to always apply commendable traits and good morals.*

Keywords: *Role, PAI Teachers, Religious Awareness, Students*



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A. Introduction

Education is the main capital to live a good life. Through education, people are able to become better individuals. Education is a benchmark for the country's development. Education is also interpreted as a process with certain methods to gain knowledge, understanding and how to behave properly. Another term from the notion of education is the various efforts made by educators towards students, in order to achieve maximum positive development.

Islamic education is an ideal education with the aim of forming people who are knowledgeable and noble in character. The concept of Islamic education in shaping the personality of students refers to the basic abilities that are already owned by the students themselves, which are directed at increasing the faith, understanding, appreciation and practice of students about Islam, so that the religious attitudes of students are always in accordance with the teachings. Islam. The existence of the teacher in the learning process plays an important role. The role of the teacher in the learning process cannot be replaced with even sophisticated electronic devices, such as television or computers and so on. Because there are still many human elements such as attitudes, value systems, feelings, motivations, and habits that are expected to be the result of the learning process which cannot be represented by electronic media. Because the teacher is not only as a teacher but also as an educator.

The Science of Islamic Religious Education is a Science that is based on the Islamic Religion. Islam is the name of the religion brought by the Prophet Muhammad SAW. Islam contains a set of teachings about human life that teachings are formulated based on and sourced from the Al-Qur'an and hadith and reason, if so, Islamic education is science based on the Al-Qur'an and Hadith and reason, this use must be sequential, the Qur'an first, if there is none or it is not clear to see in the hadith, if there is none, then use reason (thoughts) but the findings of reason must not conflict with the Qur'an and or hadith.

Islamic Religious Education teachers are responsible for the process of understanding and guiding cognitive, affective, religious and psychomotor students based on Islamic values. However, apart from school, the family is no less important in instilling religious values in children. Therefore parents are the first and foremost education where children begin to receive education. Therefore, religious functions must be carried out both in the family and at

school, through education that is guided by religion, this is very important because a good religious life can provide a balance of life for humans and nature in general. teach a variety of knowledge and skills that are always evolving with the times.

Students at the junior high school level are early stage adolescents who still tend to be confused in understanding their own identity. Because they experience the transition from childhood to a more mature person. They know what is their responsibility. However, they are not too capable to carry out this responsibility. This is what sometimes makes it difficult for teenagers to make the right decisions and choices and can lead them to make wise decisions. Education is an area that is constantly undergoing changes based on a clash with the environment that determines how the direction of change can be implemented.¹

Learning process activities in schools are the core of the whole series of activities that take place in schools. This learning process activity is an activity in which there is a process of interaction between the teacher and students. Teachers and students are elements that cannot be separated, especially in the learning process.

Al Wathoniyah Pengarengan Islamic Education Foundation Middle School as an Islamic school is at least able to overcome students with problems with Islamic values, both Islamic Religious Education teachers and teachers as a whole who need to pay attention to the positive attitude of their students for the sake of effective and affective learning. To prevent depression from problems that can come at any time, it is necessary to carry out optimal curative measures, one of which is to increase students' religious awareness.

Religious awareness is an attitude, experience, feeling and religious behavior that occurs within a person which is organized in the mental system of the personality of each individual. Religion involves all the functions of the human body and soul, so religious awareness also includes affective, conative, cognitive and motor aspects. The involvement of the affective and conative aspects appears in the experience of God, religious feelings and longing for God. The cognitive aspect is seen in the attitude of faith and belief, while the involvement of motor functions can be seen from the actions and movements of religious behavior. However, in everyday life it seems very difficult to separate these four aspects, because all of these aspects constitute a complete system of religious consciousness in one's personality.²

¹ Mohd Syaubari Bin Othman, Relation Of Implementation Of Learning Composites Improving High Learning Skill (Hots) With Students Achievement In Islamic Rducation Lessen, Ar-Risalah, Vol.14 No.1 2023, h.3

² Imam Malik, *Pengantar Psikologi Umum* (Yogyakarta: Sukses Offset, 2011), 49.

The description of religious awareness is inseparable from the criteria of personality maturity, strong religious awareness is found in someone who has a mature personality. However, a mature personality is not necessarily accompanied by a solid religious awareness. For example, an atheist may have a mature personality, even though he has no religious awareness. However, on the other hand, it is difficult to understand when there is someone who has a strong religious awareness in an immature personality. So the stability of religious awareness is a dynamist, color and style and enriches one's personality.³

B. Research Method

This research is a field research using a qualitative approach. Qualitative research is research that aims to understand social reality, namely seeing the world as it is, not the world it should be, so a qualitative researcher must be someone who has an open minded nature. Qualitative research methods are often referred to as naturalistic research methods because the research is carried out in natural conditions (natural settings). the analysis is more qualitative in nature.⁴

Qualitative research is widely used in research in the social field. Qualitative research is a study whose research results are not obtained through statistical procedures or other quantification methods. Researchers usually use a naturalistic approach to understand a particular phenomenon. Qualitative research does not use statistics, but through data collection, analysis, then interpretation. Usually associated with social and human problems.⁵

Qualitative research is aimed at understanding social phenomena from the perspective of the participants. Participants are people who were interviewed, observed, asked to provide data, opinions, thoughts, perceptions. Qualitative research has two main objectives, namely to describe and reveal (to describe and explore) and the second objective is to describe and explain (to describe and explain).⁶

C. Result and Discussion

1. Students' Religious Awareness at SMP Al Wathoniyah Islamic Foundation

Students at the junior high school level are early stage adolescents who still tend to be confused in understanding their own identity. Because they experience the transition from

³ Samsul Munir Amin, *Bimbingan Dan konseling Islam* (Jakarta: Amzah, 2015), 173.

⁴ Mamik, *Metodologi Kualitatif* (Sidoarjo: Zifatama Publisher, 2015). Hl. 3

⁵ Anggito Albi, *Metodologi Penelitian Kualitatif* (Sukabumi: CV Jejak, 2018). Hl. 8-9

⁶ Ali Sodik, *Dasar Metodologi Penelitian* (Sleman: Literasi Media Publishung, 2015). Hl. 11-12

childhood to a more mature person. They know what is their responsibility. However, they are not too capable to carry out this responsibility. This is what sometimes makes it difficult for teenagers to make the right decisions and choices and can lead them to make wise decisions.

Learning process activities in schools are the core of the whole series of activities that take place in schools. This learning process activity is an activity in which there is a process of interaction between the teacher and students. Teachers and students are elements that cannot be separated, especially in the learning process.

Other factors that support the development of religion in individuals in the school environment are:

"Concern of school principals, teachers and other school staff for the implementation of religious education (understanding of religious values) in schools, both through giving examples in speech, behavior and dress in accordance with religious teachings, Availability of adequate facilities for worship and functioning them optimally Organizing extra-curricular spirituality for students and regular religious lectures or discussions”.

Thus the school environment is a potential factor in the context of educating and developing religious teachings for students, especially through the field of study of Islamic religious education and getting used to a religious atmosphere through various religious activities and daily behavior so as to increase their religious awareness.

In line with the research conducted, junior high school students who are already teenagers are very vulnerable to changes in behavior. These changes can lead to positive or negative things. Therefore it needs more supervision so that negative changes can be minimized. Religion that is present in society is a religion that guides and guides humans through harmonizing the life of the word and the hereafter for those who believe in an afterlife.⁷

Preventive action is important in conditions like this, by applying the rules that apply in schools also if someone violates them they must be dealt with with discipline and indiscriminately. In addition, the applicable rules can be communicated properly to students or student guardians, so that they can understand and apply them, student guardians can also supervise student actions.

⁷ Ifham Choli, A Correctness Behavior in the Context of Multicultural Society, Ar-Risalah, Vol.12 No.1, 2021, h.61

Indeed, the teenage years or the transitional age to adulthood is very crucial, according to Munawar, adolescence is characterized by primary and secondary maturity, besides that it is also marked by tertiary maturity, namely the emergence of negative feelings, wanting to escape from parental power, resisting the environment, anxiety. and pessimistic. This happens because as an actual form of equating status with adults. Because adolescence is also called a period of searching for identity, therefore it is necessary to supervise so that they find positive values which they will then use as benchmarks in carrying out their daily activities.

Thus, indeed, religious awareness occurs at the Al Wathoniyah Islamic Education Foundation Middle School, which is in the form of a lack of care and interest in religious awareness from various backgrounds for their respective reasons. From the psychological theory that has been explained, it shows that in junior high and high school with adolescence is a period of searching for identity followed by changes in behavior. At this time it can also be said to be an unstable period in acting or behaving. Therefore it is necessary to have clear rules for schools and good implementation and discipline. Supervision is also important for student guardians, teachers or even support from the relevant government in order to increase religious awareness that occurs.

2. Efforts of PAI Teachers in Increasing Students' Religious Awareness

The responsibility for an Islamic Religious Education teacher cannot be equated with teachers in other subjects. Because in Islamic religious education lessons not only teach existing material according to the syllabus, but also implement what is obtained in the material from PAI itself. It should be true that success in PAI subjects is when an PAI teacher can educate, foster and direct his students according to Islamic teachings and can also instill these Islamic teachings deep into the hearts of his students so that students from SMP Al Wathoniyah Islamic Education Foundation can become a student with character and good morals. Therefore, in their daily lives at school, PAI teachers must participate in educating the students of the Al Wathoniyah Islamic Education Foundation Middle School students.

Below, we will mention the efforts that have been carried out by educators at the Al Wathoniyah Islamic Education Foundation Middle school, especially by Islamic Religious Education teachers, including:

- a. familiarize students with religious practices and habits
- b. realizing affection and harmonious relationships between teachers and students
- c. motivating students to memorize verses of Al-Qur'an selected letters

- d. provide understanding and awareness to students of the importance of Islamic Religious Education
- e. accustom students to always apply commendable traits and good morals, with the hope that these commendable traits are applied to fellow friends inside and outside school
- f. get used to students to always respect their elders, especially to Mr. and Mrs. Teachers at school
- g. holding tadarus activities every morning, the habit of praying dhuha at the first break
- h. tahfizul quran guidance program
- i. involve students in Islamic quiz competition activities
- j. social service programs
- k. involve students in PHBI activities (Celebrations of Islamic Holidays)

From this study also said that in an effort to increase religious awareness for students, in this case Islamic religious education teachers can work together with schools, parents and the community environment. Anyone who preaches Islam must have the principle of prioritizing peace not the other way around.⁸

As a form of cooperation that can be done with parents, namely by calling the student's parents or approaching the student's family. This was done with the intention of establishing friendship as well as establishing cooperation in guiding students and jointly supervising students and encouraging the household atmosphere to continue in a conducive manner by always applying Islamic values. So that a good family atmosphere will form a good personality for students.

Thus, in an effort to increase religious awareness that occurs at the Al Wathoniyah Islamic Education Foundation Middle School, it is not only carried out by Islamic education teachers, but requires support from the school, parents and the surrounding community. the existence of support from various parties will certainly facilitate the supervision of students so as not to take actions that violate norms. In addition, the collaboration that was carried out also facilitated preventive actions for students and coaching actions for students who crossed the line so that they returned to religious values. With this collaboration, it is hoped that they will always spread

⁸ Ahmad Faqihuddin, Islamic Moderate In Indonesia, Ar-Risalah, Vol.12 No 1, 2021, h. 107

goodness and instill Islamic teachings well in students so that religious awareness can be suppressed and students can carry out Islamic values in everyday life.

3. Challenges of Islamic Religious Education Teachers in Overcoming Students' Religious Awareness at SMP Al Wathoniyah Islamic Education Foundation

After the author interviewed several informants at the Al Wathoniyah Islamic Education Foundation Middle School, there were several challenges faced by Islamic Religious Education teachers to increase students' religious awareness at the Al Wathoniyah Islamic Education Foundation Middle School. The challenges faced by Islamic Religious Education teachers when increasing students' religious awareness included:

- a. unsupportive environment
- b. lack of religious awareness in students
- c. the challenges of the end of time are getting here, children are difficult to educate and difficult to control

To answer some of the challenges in an effort to increase students' religious awareness at the Al Wathoniyah Islamic Education Foundation Middle School which have been mentioned above, the solutions or steps taken by Islamic Religious Education teachers will be presented in overcoming these challenges, including:

- a. Understand the character of students more deeply
- b. Become a teacher who is firm, not harsh so that he is wiser in facing the challenges that exist.
- c. Take a persuasive approach
- d. Able to put yourself in various circumstances
- e. Give lots of advice
- f. Give an analogy, comparison of examples
- g. establish good cooperation between Islamic Religious Education teachers, school principals, and other teachers as well as all employees and existing staff in carrying out teaching and learning activities so that they run smoothly
- h. we instill deeper Islamic teachings in students, this can be done by further improving the quality of teaching by emphasizing meaningful teaching

Instilling the moral values of devotion to parents to children at this age, the teacher gives intrusion.⁹ Thus it is not solely the task of the Islamic Religious Education teacher, but all parties must take part and play an active role in dealing with the moral decadence of the students at the Al Wathoniyah Islamic Education Foundation Middle School. Likewise the students' families are no less important in their role in providing direction and teaching to their children regarding good behavior and morals, so that the students of the Al Wathoniyah Islamic Education Foundation Middle School are always accustomed to noble behavior and good manners. in the school environment and in the community environment. So that students become the seeds of the nation's generation who are not only academically qualified but also have good religious awareness.

D. Conclusion

From the results of research on the role of Islamic Religious Education teachers in increasing students' religious awareness at Al Wathoniyah Islamic Education Foundation Middle School, the following conclusions can be drawn:

1. The role of the pai teacher, which has been carried out by educators at the Al Wathoniyah Islamic Education Foundation Middle school, especially by Islamic Religious Education teachers, includes: familiarizing students with religious practices and habits, creating love and harmonious relationships between teachers and students, motivating students to memorize selected verses of the Al-Qur'an letter, provide understanding and awareness to students of the importance of Islamic Religious Education, accustom students to always apply commendable qualities and good morals, with the hope that these commendable traits are applied to fellow friends in inside and outside of school, get used to students to always respect their elders, especially to Mr and Mrs Teachers at school, hold tadarus activities every morning, make the habit of Duha prayer at the first break, tahfizul quran guidance program, involve students in activities Islamic quiz contest, social service program, involving students in PHBI (Islamic Holiday Celebration) activities. there are Islamic Religious Education teachers who increase the portion of learning material related to student morals, namely awareness, obedience, faith and piety, so that when a student will commit an act that violates the rules then he will think that the act is not only detrimental to others, but also himself

⁹ Khulusinniyah, The Importance Of Teaching Moral Values In Early Childhood, Ar-Risalah Vol.14 No.1, 2023, h. 230

2. The challenges faced by Islamic Religious Education teachers in increasing students' religious awareness are some of the challenges faced by Islamic Religious Education teachers to increase students' religious awareness at Al Wathoniyah Islamic Education Foundation Middle School Challenges faced by Islamic Religious Education teachers when increasing students' religious awareness Among others : an unsupportive environment, lack of religious awareness in students, the challenges of the end of time are increasingly coming here, children are difficult to educate and difficult to control. Thus as a PAI teacher must pay more attention and always improve the quality of teaching in order to increase students' religious awareness as well as by applying religious values in daily habits of course little by little reducing bad morals in students..

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