

Analysis of the Understanding and Application of Islamic Religious Values among Islamic Religious Education Students

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<p>Abstract: This research aims to analyze the understanding and application of religious teaching values in Islamic religious education among students. Qualitative research methods were used by conducting interviews and observations of PAI students at Muhammadiyah University, North Sumatra. The results of the questionnaire show that the majority of students have a good understanding of Islamic values, but there is still room for further improvement in understanding. The majority of students consider it important to apply Islamic values in everyday life and feel significant benefits from implementing these values. Challenges in implementing Islamic values include internal and external challenges, but students actively seek solutions and support to overcome these challenges. It is hoped that the results of this research will provide additional insights and relevant solutions to increase the application of Islamic values among students, with the aim of providing benefits to individuals, educational institutions and society as a whole.</p>	<p>Keywords: Education; Student; Islamic Values.</p>
<p>Abstrak: Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis pemahaman dan penerapan nilai-nilai ajaran agama dalam pendidikan agama Islam di kalangan mahasiswa. Metode penelitian kualitatif digunakan dengan melakukan wawancara dan observasi terhadap mahasiswa PAI Universitas Muhammadiyah Sumatera Utara. Hasil kuesioner menunjukkan bahwa sebagian besar mahasiswa memiliki pemahaman yang baik tentang nilai-nilai Islam, namun masih ada ruang untuk peningkatan pemahaman lebih lanjut. Mayoritas mahasiswa menganggap penting untuk menerapkan nilai-nilai Islam dalam kehidupan sehari-hari dan merasakan manfaat yang signifikan dari penerapan nilai-nilai tersebut. Tantangan dalam menerapkan nilai-nilai Islam meliputi tantangan internal dan eksternal, namun mahasiswa aktif mencari solusi dan dukungan untuk mengatasi tantangan tersebut. Hasil penelitian ini diharapkan dapat memberikan wawasan tambahan dan solusi yang relevan untuk meningkatkan penerapan nilai-nilai Islam di kalangan mahasiswa, dengan tujuan memberikan manfaat bagi individu, lembaga pendidikan, dan masyarakat secara keseluruhan.</p>	<p>Kata Kunci: Pendidikan; Mahasiswa; Nilai-Nilai Islam.</p>

A. Introduction

Islamic religious education is an integral part of the curriculum which aims to develop belief and devotion to God Almighty, as well as fostering noble character and respect for other religions. Zakiah Daradjat explained that the true aim of Islamic religious education is to form a perfect personality, known as *Insan Kamil*, who is full of piety. In this process, it is important for Islamic religious education to be based on the teachings of the Koran and Hadith.

In short, values refer to a person's standards of behavior that are based on the beliefs they hold. Islamic values are values originating from the *Al-Qur'an* and *As-Sunnah* which regulate all aspects of human life which include *aqidah*, *sharia* and morals, becoming guidelines for human life. These values are a guide and guidance for Muslims in living life in this world and the afterlife, reaching the level of wisdom (*insan kamil*), and are absolute truth and universal.

Education in Islam is considered a noble activity that brings goodness and virtue to humans. Therefore, human activities can shape humans into beings who have high morals. Morals or morals are guidelines for a group of people in regulating their behavior. Morals discuss human behavior in the categories of good or bad, right or wrong, appropriate or inappropriate, especially in social interactions.

Mahmud Yunus said that the aim of religious education is to educate children, young people and adults so that they become true Muslims, have firm faith, do good deeds and have noble morals, so that they become members of society who are able to live on their own feet, serving the God and serve his nation and homeland, even fellow human beings. From the opinion above, it can be concluded that the aim of Islamic religious education is to guide and shape humans into pious servants of Allah, steadfast in their faith, devout in worship and with commendable morals. So, the aim of Islamic religious education is to revolve around the development of the Muslim personality which is integrated in spiritual, physical, emotional, intellectual and social

development. Or more clearly, it revolves around cultivating good citizens, Muslims, who believe in God and their religion, adhere to the teachings of their religion, have noble character, are physically and spiritually healthy.

For students, understanding and applying the values of Islamic teachings, especially in Islamic religious education, is very important because it helps in forming character and religious identity, as well as providing moral and practical guidance in living daily life. Islamic values also support mental and emotional well-being, while advocating peace, tolerance and justice in a diverse society. By understanding and applying these values, teenagers can shape themselves into responsible individuals and contribute positively to society. However, students also face challenges in implementing Islamic values, both from themselves and the environment.

Challenges in implementing Islamic values among students can originate from oneself or the environment, such as a lack of consistency and negative influences. How to overcome challenges can be preventive (before challenges arise) or curative (after challenges arise), through consistent efforts, support from religious communities, and introspection or self-reflection. Understanding and applying Islamic values provides positive benefits for students, both individually and socially, in various aspects of life. Improving understanding and application of Islamic values can come from various sources, such as the Al-Qur'an, As-Sunnah, and religious communities, with the aim of improving, maintaining, or developing understanding and application of Islamic values.

Based on the explanation above, it is interesting to carry out an analysis of how students understand and apply the values of religious teachings in Islamic religious education in everyday life. This research will use a qualitative approach to several PAI students at Muhammadiyah University of North Sumatra to explore understanding, challenges, and provide suggestions to increase the application of Islamic values among students. Thus, this research aims to provide additional insight, identify the challenges faced, and produce relevant solutions in the application of Islamic values among students, which

are expected to bring benefits to individuals, educational institutions, and society as a whole.

B. Method

This research method refers to the definition of research methods by Arikunto (2019) which states that research methods are the methods used by researchers in collecting research data. Sugiyono (2017) also defines research methods as a scientific way to obtain data with specific purposes and uses. This research uses qualitative methods and a qualitative descriptive approach method, which is described as a research procedure to produce descriptive data in the form of written or spoken words from people and observable behavior (Moleong, 2007).

This research was conducted in April 2024 at the Muhammadiyah University of North Sumatra, with sources and respondents from Islamic students. Data sources consist of primary data obtained through interviews, observations of research subjects, as well as secondary data obtained from other sources related to research subjects such as books and articles or other research journals that are relevant to this research topic.

Data collection techniques include interviews, observation and documentation which are carried out using interview guides and observation sheets in the form of questionnaires that have been prepared previously. The observation sheet contains indicators related to the research objectives. The collected data was analyzed using qualitative data analysis techniques, which included data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusions to describe and explain the understanding and application of Islamic values among students.

C. Results and Discussion

Data Table on Understanding Islamic Religious Values among Students

No.	Question	Agree	Don't agree
1	Do you feel you understand Islamic	24 Respondents	5 Respondents

	values well?	(82.8 %)	(17,2 %)
2	Do you feel the need to improve your understanding of Islamic values?	27 Respondents (93,1 %)	2 Respondents (6,9 %)
3	Are you willing to continue learning and increasing your understanding of Islamic values?	27 Respondents (93,1 %)	2 Respondents (6,9 %)

Based on the results of the questionnaire, the majority of respondents (82.8%) stated that they felt they understood Islamic values well. This shows that the majority of students have a fairly good level of understanding regarding Islamic values. However, there was also a small portion of respondents (17.2%) who indicated that they still felt the need to improve their understanding of Islamic values. Furthermore, the majority of respondents (93.1%) stated that they felt the need to increase their understanding of Islamic values. This shows that the majority of students realize the importance of continuing to learn and develop their understanding of Islamic teachings. Apart from that, the majority of respondents (93.1%) also expressed their readiness to continue learning and increasing their understanding of Islamic values. This reflects high motivation among students to continue to develop their understanding of religion.

Students gain an understanding of Islamic values from various sources and media, such as the Al-Qur'an, As-Sunnah, ulama, parents, teachers, friends, books, the internet, and others. Students also continue to learn and improve their understanding of Islamic values by taking part in various academic and non-academic activities related to religion, such as lectures, seminars, discussions, recitations, religious assemblies, and others. Students realize that understanding Islamic values is very important for them, because Islamic values are a guide and reference in living life in this world and the afterlife.

Overall, the questionnaire results show that the majority of students have a fairly good understanding of Islamic values, but there is still room for further improvement in understanding. In general, students have a fairly good

understanding of Islamic values, such as aqidah, sharia, and morals. However, there are still some students who do not understand Islamic values deeply, completely and integrally. This can be caused by a lack of learning resources, lack of awareness, or negative influences from the environment.

Respondents in this study also expressed a high willingness and motivation to continue learning and increase their understanding of Islamic values. Therefore, it is important for educational institutions and religious organizations to continue to provide support and facilities to increase understanding of Islamic values among students. This can be done through providing inclusive and interactive religious education programs, group discussions, seminars and other religious activities that enable students to deepen their understanding of Islam.

Tabel data Penerapan Nilai-nilai Agama Islam di Kalangan Mahasiswa

No.	Question	Very important	Quite important	Not too important
1	How important do you think it is to apply the values of Islamic teachings in everyday life?	23 Respondent (79,3%)	4 Respondent (13,8%)	2 Respondent (6,9%)
2	Do you feel helped in living your daily life because you apply the values of Islamic teachings?	21 Respondent (72,4%)	6 Respondent (20,7%)	2 Respondent (6,9%)
3	The values of Islamic teachings are very important to apply in everyday life.	27 Respondent (93,1%)	-	2 Respondent (6,9%)

Based on the results of the questionnaire above, it can be seen that the majority of respondents stated that they consider it important to apply the values of Islamic teachings in everyday life, with 23 respondents (79.3%) stating that this is very important. Apart from that, the majority of respondents also felt helped in living their daily lives because they applied the values of Islamic teachings, with 21 respondents (72.4%) stating that they were very helped. All

respondents (93.1%) also agreed that the values of Islamic teachings are very important to apply in everyday life.

Based on the results of this research, it can be seen that the application of Islamic values among students also varies, depending on the understanding, commitment and responsibility of each student. This shows that the majority of respondents feel real benefits from Islamic values in their daily lives, while a small number of respondents still need to experience greater benefits. In general, students try to apply Islamic values in everyday life, both in the aspects of worship, morals, science, social and aesthetic aspects. However, there are still some students who are less consistent, less contextual, or less exemplary in implementing Islamic values. This can be caused by a lack of motivation, lack of support, or challenges from oneself or the environment.

Students apply Islamic values in various places and situations, such as home, school, mosque, campus, organizations, society, and others. Students also apply Islamic values ranging from simple to complex, such as praying, reciting the Koran, speaking kind words, tolerance, helping each other, remembering good and bad things, behaving honestly, and so on. Students realize that the application of Islamic values is very important for them, because the application of Islamic values is an obligation and responsibility as a Muslim.

Challenges and How to Overcome Challenges in Applying Islamic Values among Students

Students are faced with various challenges in applying Islamic values in everyday life, both from within themselves and from the surrounding environment. Internal challenges include a lack of consistency, disorganization, and battles with passion. Meanwhile, external challenges include negative influences from the environment, temptations that come from various directions, and pressure to conform to norms that are not in line with Islamic teachings. These challenges can be a significant barrier to students living out their religious principles.

Students find various ways to overcome these challenges, both preventively and curatively. A preventive approach involves efforts to establish consistency in daily religious practices, seeking support from the religious community, and strengthening oneself through prayer and meditation. Meanwhile, the curative approach involves self-reflection, repenting, correcting mistakes, and making positive changes in behavior and habits. Students do not just give up in facing these challenges, but they actively seek solutions and support, realizing that they are not alone in their lives.

Benefits and Suggestions for Increasing Understanding and Application of Islamic Values among Students

Through research results, it was found that students provided various examples, benefits and suggestions to increase understanding and application of Islamic values among themselves. These examples are in the form of inspirational stories, experience stories, or real examples that show the application of Islamic values in everyday life. The benefits felt by students from implementing Islamic values include increased spiritual well-being, harmony in social relationships, and an increase in overall life satisfaction. Meanwhile, suggestions given by students include the need for a more inclusive approach in Islamic religious education, spreading Islamic values in campus life, and creating a supportive environment for students to practice their values more consistently.

Apart from questionnaire data, this research also involved interviews with direct sources, such as Muhammad Ihsan, an Islamic student. In this interview, Ihsan highlights the importance of Islamic teachings in forming ethics and providing clear guidelines in everyday life. He emphasized that the Qur'an and Hadith are the main sources of moral guidance for Muslims, with the Prophet considered a role model to be followed. The discussion also includes the importance of obligations in Islam, such as maintaining prayer, fasting, and good social interaction, which are considered important foundations for self-development and strengthening religious beliefs. Ihsan highlighted that in

facing challenges in life, he tries to make decisions based on the values of honor, honesty and morals, with guidance from the Al-Qur'an and Hadith. In conclusion, Islamic teachings play an integral role in guiding daily life, and implementing these values is the obligation of Muslims to have a solid moral foundation.

D. Conclusion

Based on the results of the discussion above, it can be concluded that the majority of students have a fairly good understanding of Islamic values, but there is still room for further improvement in understanding. However, students generally realize the importance of continuing to learn and develop their understanding of Islamic teachings. Apart from that, the majority of students also consider it important to apply Islamic teaching values in their daily lives, and they feel real benefits from implementing these Islamic values. However, they also face challenges both from within themselves and from the surrounding environment in implementing these values.

To increase understanding and application of Islamic values among students, a more inclusive approach to religious education and a supportive environment for students to practice their values consistently are needed. Thus, understanding and applying Islamic values among students has a significant positive impact, but still requires efforts to increase understanding and consistency in its application.

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