



Development of Religious Character in the Learning of Moral Creed in Madrasah Ibtidaiyah

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Abstract

Religious character includes high moral integrity, in which the individual acts by the religious values he adheres to, both in relationship with God and with fellow human beings. The purpose of this study is to analyze the development of religious character in learning Akidah Akhlak in MI. The research method used is library research with a qualitative research approach. The results of the study showed, through learning Akidah Akhlak, MI students were introduced to the basic teachings of Islam, such as tawhid, treatises, and the afterlife. This helps strengthen students' religious awareness and strengthen their Islamic identity. These subjects help students to internalize Islamic religious values in their daily lives. They are taught to be individuals who obey God, have noble morals, and are responsible in their behavior. Learning Akidah Akhlak helps students understand and practice the moral and ethical values taught in Islam, such as honesty, justice, and compassion.

Keywords: Character, Religious, Creed, Morals

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INTRODUCTION

Religious character refers to the traits and values reflected in a person's life that are based on certain religious teachings and beliefs. Religious character involves the practice of religious teachings in various aspects of life, both personally and in social relationships. Religious character is characterized by observance and devotion to religious teachings. Individuals who have a religious character will strive to practice worship consistently and earnestly.

Religious character includes high moral integrity, in which the individual acts in accordance with the religious values he adheres to, both in relationship with God and with fellow human beings (Firdaus & Fauzian, 2020). A person with a religious character has piety and an active spiritual life (Anam & Achadi, 2023). They seek to explore religious teachings, reflect on the meaning of life, and deepen their relationship with God. Religious character also includes values of compassion and empathy for others. The individual encourages to help others, share with the needy, and provide moral and spiritual support.

Individuals with religious character are able to lead a harmonious life with people from different religious backgrounds (Fauzian dkk., 2021). They have a



tolerant attitude and are open to differences in beliefs (Anam & Achadi, 2023; Fauzian dkk., 2021). Religious character is often reflected in simplicity of life and humility. The individual is not too fixated on material things and has a humble attitude before God and others. The religious character also includes a balance between world affairs and afterlife affairs. The individual lives the world responsibly but also has a strong awareness of the afterlife.

Religious character is an integral part of a person's identity that influences their behavior, attitudes, and outlook on life. They strive to live their lives according to the teachings of their religion, with the aim of achieving spiritual happiness and salvation. Problems of religious character in children can arise due to a variety of factors, including social environment, cultural influences, and personal experiences (Hermansyah dkk., 2021; Mulyani dkk., 2021). Children may face problems of religious character due to lack of understanding of the teachings of the religion they profess. Inadequate religious education curriculum or lack of support from the family environment in providing religious education can be contributing factors (Purwaningsih & Syamsudin, 2022) (Khotimah, 2022).

In addressing religious character issues in children, it is important to provide comprehensive and supportive religious education, create an environment that supports religious practice, and provide emotional support and good role models for children in building their religious character. The application of moral creed learning (religious and moral learning) in Madrasah Ibtidaiyah (MI) has a number of significant advantages (Nadziroh, 2020). The study of moral creed helps strengthen students' religious identity. They learn about the beliefs and principles of the Islamic religion and are given a deep understanding of the moral values contained in the teachings of Islam. This helps them understand and internalize religious teachings more deeply.

Learning moral creed helps form good character and morals in students. They are taught to apply values such as honesty, patience, tolerance, and compassion in their daily lives. This helps them become responsible, empathetic, and noble individuals (Suryawati, 2016). The learning of moral creed not only involves cognitive (knowledge) aspects, but also affective (emotional) and psychomotor (behavioral) (Nurjanah dkk., 2020). Students not only learn about religious teachings theoretically, but are also invited to reflect on the meaning of these teachings in daily life and put them into action.

Learning moral creed helps improve the quality of students' social relationships with others. They are taught to respect, cherish, and care for others, thus building a harmonious and peaceful school environment. The learning of moral creed encourages students to become critical and reflective individuals of their values (Suryawati, 2016). They are taught to question, reflect, and consider the moral implications of every action they take. Through the study of moral creeds, students are equipped with a strong religious and moral foundation to face

challenges and tests in their religious life in the future. They become better equipped to take decisions that are in accordance with Islamic religious values in every aspect of their lives.

Thus, the learning of moral creed in MI has advantages in shaping students' character, morals, and religious identity, as well as helping them become responsible, empathetic, and noble individuals in society. Research on the development of religious character through the learning of moral creed in Madrasah Ibtidaiyah (MI) has significant importance. This research can help measure how effective moral creed learning is in developing students' religious character in MI. This can be done through analysis of changes in student behavior, attitudes, and understanding after participating in learning programs. Thus, research on the development of religious character through the learning of moral creed in MI has an important role in improving the effectiveness and quality of religious education at the elementary level, as well as strengthening the religious and moral foundations of students from an early age.

METHOD

The research method used in developing religious character in the subjects of moral creed in Madrasah Ibtidaiyah (MI) is *library research*. Literature studies are conducted to collect comprehensive information and understanding of theories, concepts, and practices related to religious character development in the context of Islamic religious education (Creswell, 2009; Sugiono, 2015). It involves a review of scientific literature, books, articles, and other relevant sources. Document analysis was conducted to evaluate curriculum, learning materials, and school policies related to religious character development in MI. This involves the analysis of official documents, such as lesson plans, textbooks, and other learning materials.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Concept of Religious Character

The concept of religious character includes a set of traits and values that are reflected in a person's life based on the teachings and religious beliefs he adheres to. Religious character becomes the basis for individuals in interacting with God, fellow humans, and the surrounding environment (Putra, 2018). Obedience and devotion to God are at the core of religious character. Individuals with religious character show obedience in carrying out religious orders, performing worship regularly, and deepening spiritual connection with God.

Religious character includes high moral integrity. The individual adheres to the moral principles taught by his religion, such as honesty, loyalty, and fairness in all matters (Anam & Achadi, 2023). A person with a religious character has piety and an active spiritual life. They develop an intimate relationship with God

through worship, prayer, and spiritual reflection. Religious character includes the values of compassion and empathy for fellow human beings. The individual helps others, shares with the needy, and shows concern and concern for the suffering of others.

Individuals with religious character accept a diversity of beliefs and views on life. They treat others with respect and tolerance, regardless of differences in religion or belief. Religious character is often reflected in simplicity of life and humility (Muhammad dkk., 2022). Such individuals are not too fixated on material wealth and are not arrogant in their behavior. Religious character includes a balance between world affairs and afterlife affairs (Mulia, 2020). The individual respects the interests of the world, but does not forget the preparation for the eternal afterlife. Religious character encourages individuals to play an active role in doing social good. They participate in charitable programs, community service, and other efforts to improve the quality of life of others. Religious character includes not only spiritual aspects, but also includes moral, social, and practical aspects in everyday life. This forms a strong foundation for individuals to live meaningful, meaningful, and responsible lives in accordance with the teachings of their religion.

The Value of Religious Character in the Subjects of Akidah Akhlak MI

The subject of Akidah Akhlak in Madrasah Ibtidaiyah (MI) has a very important role in shaping and strengthening religious character values in students. Students are taught to be individuals who obey the teachings of Allah SWT (Putra, 2018). They learn the concepts of tawhid (belief in the oneness of God), worship, and good morals as part of their obedience to Allah (Bariah & Assya'bani, 2019). Learning Akidah Akhlak teaches students to develop piety and a solid spiritual life. They are invited to understand the importance of practicing worship consistently and deepening their relationship with Allah SWT.

Students are prepared to become individuals who have high morality and behave in accordance with the teachings of the Islamic religion. They learn moral values, such as honesty, fairness, patience, and compassion, and are given an understanding of how to apply these values in everyday life. Students are taught to be compassionate and empathetic individuals towards their fellow human beings. They understand the importance of helping others, sharing with the needy, and showing concern for the suffering of others. Akidah Akhlak learning also emphasizes the importance of tolerance and openness to diversity of beliefs and views on life (I. Hasanah dkk., 2018). Students learn to respect differences, treat others with respect, and maintain peace in interacting with others (Bariah & Assya'bani, 2019).

Students are taught to have an attitude of humility and simplicity in their lives. They understand the importance of not being arrogant, not being too fixated

on material wealth, and being grateful for all the blessings given by Allah SWT. Learning Akidah Akhlak teaches students to appreciate science and education as part of worship to Allah SWT. They are prepared to be knowledgeable, intelligent, and responsible individuals in pursuing knowledge and educating themselves.

The importance of religious character values in Akidah Akhlak subjects at MI is to form a solid foundation for the personal, moral, and spiritual development of students in accordance with Islamic religious teachings (Mulia, 2020). By understanding and practicing these values, it is hoped that students can become individuals who are noble, responsible, and beneficial to themselves, their families, communities, and religion.

Model of Religious Character Development in Akidah Akhlak MI Subjects

The development of religious character in Akidah Akhlak subjects in Madrasah Ibtidaiyah (MI) can be done through various models or approaches that aim to form attitudes, values, and behaviors in accordance with Islamic religious teachings (Asroriah, 2022; Khoiruddin & Sholekah, 2019; Mulia, 2020). Here are some models of religious character development that can be applied in learning Akidah Akhlak MI:

1. Value-Based Learning Model. This model emphasizes learning Islamic religious values that are relevant to students' daily lives. Teachers use learning methods and strategies that enable students to understand, internalize, and practice these values in a variety of life contexts.
2. Case-Based Learning Model. This model uses case studies or real-life situations to teach students about how to apply the principles of the Islamic religion in the face of moral challenges or dilemmas. Students are invited to analyze the situation, formulate solutions based on religious teachings, and take appropriate action.
3. Project-Based Learning Model. This model involves students in practical projects or activities related to the development of religious character (Nurjanah dkk., 2020). For example, students can do charity projects, hold social events, or create learning materials based on Islamic religious values.
4. Experiential Learning Model. This model draws on students' direct experience in deepening their spiritual understanding and experience. Teachers organize visits to places of worship, hold spiritual retreats, or organize joint meditation or dhikr activities.
5. Character-Based Learning Model. This model focuses on developing religious character through the character strengths approach. Students are invited to identify their own strength of character, such as fortitude,

kindness, or honesty, and develop those strengths in the context of Islamic religious values (Afuadda & Rahman, 2022).

6. Behavior-Based Learning Model. This model emphasizes the formation of positive behavior in accordance with the teachings of Islam. Students are taught to recognize and change negative behavior into better behavior through the practice of Islamic religious values in everyday life (F. Hasanah dkk., 2019).
7. Leadership-Based Learning Model. This model facilitates the development of student leadership based on Islamic religious values. Students are given the opportunity to lead religious activities, such as congregational prayers, recitation of the Qur'an, or social activities related to kindness.

The application of the religious character development model in Akidah Akhlak subjects in MI can help students understand, internalize, and practice Islamic religious teachings in their daily lives. Thus, they can become responsible, noble individuals, and contribute positively to themselves, their families, and society.

The Contribution of Akidah Akhlak Subjects to Strengthening the Character of MI Students

The subject of Akidah Akhlak has a very important role in strengthening the character of students in Madrasah Ibtidaiyah (MI). The subject of Akidah Akhlak helps students to understand and internalize the basic teachings of Islam, such as the concept of tawhid (oneness of God), risalah (prophethood), and the afterlife. This forms a strong religious awareness in students, which becomes the basis for the development of religious character. Akidah Akhlak subjects also teach students about moral values espoused in Islam, such as honesty, justice, patience, and compassion. Students are given a deep understanding of the importance of practicing these values in everyday life.

Through learning Akidah Akhlak, students are taught to develop good attitudes and behaviors in accordance with the teachings of Islam. They are given examples and encouragement to become responsible, empathetic, and noble individuals in interacting with fellow humans (Arianti dkk., 2022; Chandra & Marhayati, 2020; F. Hasanah dkk., 2019). Akidah Akhlak subjects help strengthen students' religious identity. They have become more convinced of their Islamic beliefs and principles, thus having a strong foundation in facing various challenges and temptations in this modern world.

In addition to spiritual and moral values, Akidah Akhlak subjects also help students develop life skills that are useful in daily life, such as communication, leadership, and teamwork skills based on Islamic religious values. Learning Akidah Akhlak also helps students deepen their relationship with God. Through

worship, prayer, and spiritual reflection, students are invited to reflect on the meaning of life and raise awareness of God's presence in every aspect of their lives.

Thus, Akidah Akhlak subjects make a very important contribution in strengthening the character of MI students, both in terms of spiritual, moral, and social. Through this learning, students can become individuals who believe, have noble morals, and are ready to face future challenges with a firm belief in Islamic religious values.

CONCLUSION

Learning Akidah Akhlak has a very important role in shaping and strengthening the religious character of MI students. These subjects not only help students understand the teachings of Islam, but also teach them good moral and ethical values. Through learning Akidah Akhlak, MI students are introduced to the basic teachings of Islam, such as tawhid, treatise, and the afterlife. This helps strengthen students' religious awareness and strengthen their Islamic identity. These subjects help students to internalize Islamic religious values in their daily lives. They are taught to be individuals who obey God, have noble morals, and are responsible in their behavior. Learning Akidah Akhlak helps students understand and practice the moral and ethical values taught in Islam, such as honesty, justice, and compassion. It forms the basis for good and responsible behavior within society. Through worship, prayer, and spiritual reflection, MI students are invited to deepen their relationship with God. This helps them feel spiritual closeness and gain support in facing life's challenges. Thus, Akidah Akhlak learning in MI not only aims to transfer knowledge, but also shape the religious character of students and help them become individuals who believe, have noble morals, and benefit society.

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