

# Designing the Future of Islamic Education: Opportunities, Challenges, and Characteristics of Effective Planning

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### ABSTRACT

The digital era has brought great changes in the world of Islamic religious education, increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of educational activities with the presence of digital devices. However, another significant challenge is the threat of radicalism that can influence students' thinking and attitudes. Therefore, Islamic education must be able to equip students with a moderate and tolerant understanding of religion to prevent the spread of extreme views. This research aims to provide a clear picture of the challenges and opportunities facing Islamic education in the modern era, as well as present the characteristics of effective planning in facing the future. Thus, this research is expected to be a reference for stakeholders in designing Islamic education strategies that are adaptive and responsive to changing times, so as to produce a generation that is characterized, knowledgeable, and ready to face various global challenges. This research uses library research method to collect and analyze information from various written sources relevant to the topic discussed. The results show that Islamic education must be set on fundamental values such as tawhid, imitating the Prophet, and making the Qur'an and Sunnah the main sources of learning. In order to advance Islamic education, all parties-including educators, parents, communities and governments-are expected to play an active role. Active participation and collaboration between various stakeholders will ensure that Islamic education is not only relevant but also able to withstand future challenges. Based on the findings of this study, several policy recommendations can be proposed. By following these recommendations, it is hoped that Islamic education can continue to grow and make a positive contribution to society and the nation.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Islamic education plays an important role in shaping the character of the younger generation in the modern era, Islamic education provides a strong moral foundation for children of the next generation. Through the teaching of Islamic values, such as honesty, justice, compassion, and hard work, children learn to be responsible individuals and have a good attitude towards others. (Astuti, Febriani, & Oktarina, 2023). In the midst of changing global dynamics, Islamic education must be able to answer various challenges and take advantage of existing opportunities to remain relevant and effective.

Islamic education has significant relevance in the modern era, where spiritual and moral values are important components in shaping the character of individuals and society. In the midst

of increasingly rapid globalization, Islamic education plays a role in maintaining cultural identity and religious values that are often threatened by foreign cultural influences. Globalization not only brings positive impacts in the form of wider access to information and technology, but also challenges in the form of the spread of values that may conflict with Islamic principles. Globalization causes the world's population to mingle and merge in cross-border and crosscultural relationships. Fields of life are made interconnected with each other. Globalization gives birth to interdependence, while presenting competition in all lines of life. (Mawardi Pewangi, n.d.).

One of the main challenges facing Islamic education today is the integration of technology in the learning process. Technology offers great opportunities to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of education, but it also demands adjustments to the curriculum and teaching methods to remain relevant and attractive to the digital generation. The digital era has brought major changes in the world of Islamic education. Educational activities are becoming more effective and efficient with the presence of digital devices. (Wulan Sari, Sari Putri, & Nurlaili, 2023). In addition, another significant challenge is the threat of radicalism that can affect students' thinking and attitudes. Islamic education must be able to equip students with a moderate and tolerant understanding of religion to prevent the spread of extreme views.

In the face of these challenges, effective planning is an urgent need. Islamic education planning should be able to accommodate changes in the external and internal environment, as well as capitalize on existing opportunities to improve the quality of education. This includes developing an adaptive curriculum, increasing the capacity of educators, and utilizing technology wisely. With careful planning, Islamic education can play a vital role in shaping a generation that is characterized, knowledgeable and ready to face future challenges. For this reason, Islamic education must be able to create a concept of Islamic education goals in accordance with the times such as modernization because it is with the power of human interpretation that progress in the world of education can be achieved but does not eliminate the value of Islamic education. (Rahmawati, Naza, Zakaria, & Mushofihin, 2020).

Effective planning should also involve various stakeholders, including the government, educational institutions, parents and the wider community. Good collaboration between all parties will ensure that Islamic education is not only able to respond to current challenges, but is also ready to face future challenges. Thus, Islamic education can continue to be relevant and make a positive contribution to the development of society and the nation. This research aims to provide a clear picture of the challenges and opportunities faced by Islamic education in the modern era, as well as presenting the characteristics of effective planning in facing the future. Thus, this research is expected to be a reference for stakeholders in designing Islamic education strategies that are adaptive and responsive to changing times, so as to produce a generation that is characterized, knowledgeable, and ready to face various global challenges.

## 2. METODE

This research uses the library research method, which aims to collect and analyze information from various written sources that are relevant to the topic discussed. This method was chosen because it allows researchers to explore and understand in depth the concepts, theories and previous findings related to Islamic education, the challenges and opportunities it faces, and the characteristics of effective planning.

The first stage in this method is the identification and selection of credible and relevant literature sources. These sources include books, journal articles, research reports and other publications that discuss Islamic education, globalization, technology and other related issues. The researcher then conducted a critical review of the collected literature to identify key themes and gaps in previous research.

Furthermore, analysis was conducted by organizing the information obtained into categories that are in line with the focus of the research, namely challenges, opportunities and characteristics of Islamic education planning. This process involves synthesizing the information to produce a comprehensive understanding of the topic.

The results of this desk research are expected to provide a strong theoretical foundation and deep insight for stakeholders in formulating an effective and adaptive Islamic education planning strategy to changes in the global environment. Thus, this research not only contributes to the development of science, but also to the practice of Islamic education in the field.

## 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 3.1 Understanding the Current Landscape of Islamic Education

The current Islamic education system has several significant strengths. One of them is the emphasis on developing the character and morals of learners based on Islamic values, which aims to form individuals who are noble and have high integrity. Islamic education in the digital era can prepare a quality generation that must have various skills in 21st century Islamic education by planning, preparing, implementing and finding solutions to every problem. Islamic education acts as a facilitator which teaches the current generation how to embrace to answer the challenges of modernity by utilizing digitalization as much as possible. However, there are also weaknesses that need to be considered, such as the lack of integration between cognitive and affective aspects in the curriculum, as well as limitations in the use of technology and multicultural approaches. The existing curriculum is often too dense and less flexible to adapt to the needs of the times. Azyumardi Azra said that Islamic education in Indonesia is currently facing various problems and focuses on various aspects, namely in the form of educational dichotomy issues, curriculum, goals, resources, and management of Islamic education which are often fragmented or not comprehensive and comprehensive as well as most Islamic education systems and institutions that have not been managed professionally. (Risda Lestari, 2023).

Global trends such as digitalization, globalization and pluralism have a major impact on Islamic education. Digitalization opens up opportunities to integrate technology in learning, which can increase the effectiveness and attractiveness of Islamic education for the younger generation. Globalization is the process of social, economic, political, cultural and environmental integration between countries in the world driven by advances in technology, communication and transportation. Digitalization is the process of transforming data, information and human activities into digital forms that can be accessed, processed and stored by electronic devices. These two phenomena have a significant influence on various aspects of human life, including education. (Adelia Putri, 2023). Globalization requires Islamic education to be more inclusive and adaptive to various cultures and worldviews, while pluralism emphasizes the importance of multicultural education to promote tolerance and intercultural understanding. However, the main challenge is to ensure that Islamic values are maintained amidst the swift and diverse flow of information.

Islamic education today faces many contemporary challenges, including radicalism and secularism. Radicalism is an ideology or sect that wants social and political change, by using violence as a stepping stone to justify their beliefs that are considered true. (Saifuddin, 2014). Radicalism is a serious threat that can damage the image of Islam and disrupt social harmony. Islamic education must be able to equip students with a moderate and tolerant understanding of religion to ward off extremism. On the other hand, secularism challenges Islamic education to remain relevant and attractive to young people who are increasingly exposed to a secular worldview. Education in the contemporary era faces challenges from secularism to apply the noble values of religious teachings in the social life of Muslims who are very pragmatic, even tending to be opportunistic. Secularism in contemporary life is packaged through globalization and modernization, which is in line with the development of Western civilization. Secularism is an ideology that tries to eliminate religious values sourced from revelation in the life of the world, or separates religious life and the world. (Dalmeri, Parhan, Hilmiyah, Dwi, & Bastiar, 2022). To face this challenge, education Islam needs to reform its curriculum and teaching methods to better suit the needs and demands of the times.

By understanding its strengths, weaknesses, global trends and contemporary challenges, Islamic education can formulate effective strategies to face the future. This includes developing an adaptive curriculum, increasing the capacity of educators, and utilizing technology wisely to ensure that Islamic education remains relevant and contributes positively to society.

### **3.2 Golden Opportunities for Islamic Education**

Public interest in spiritual values is currently increasing, especially in the midst of global uncertainty and moral crises that have hit various parts of the world. This revival of spirituality is a golden opportunity for Islamic education to play a greater role in shaping individual character based on Islamic values. The emergence of character education provides its own color to the world of education, especially in Indonesia, although in reality character education has existed along with the

birth of the Islamic education system because character education is the spirit of Islamic education itself. (Sagala et al., 2019). Islamic education can take advantage of this trend by integrating the spiritual dimension into the curriculum, which not only emphasizes on cognitive aspects but also on the moral and ethical development of learners. Thus, Islamic education can make a significant contribution in building a more civilized and cultured society.

Islamic education has great potential to contribute to the development of a civilized nation. By teaching the values of justice, tolerance and cooperation, Islamic education can shape individuals who are not only knowledgeable but also have high social awareness. Islamic education can be a pillar in building a harmonious and inclusive society, where every individual is valued and empowered to contribute to the common progress. Inclusive Islamic education aims to develop a thorough understanding of Islam, including the values of tolerance, justice and moderatism. This approach involves learner-centered learning, taking into account cultural, social and intellectual differences within the classroom. In inclusive Islamic education, it is important to establish a safe and inclusive learning environment that promotes dialogue, understanding and respect for differences. (Amie Primarni, 2023).

Technology offers great opportunities to create more interactive and engaging learning in Islamic education. By utilizing information and communication technology, Islamic education can develop learning methods that are more dynamic and in line with the needs of the digital generation. The use of multimedia, e-learning and internet-based applications can increase learner engagement and simplify the learning process.

The use of educational technology in teaching is an innovation to achieve educational goals in the industrial era 4.0. In addition, efforts to implement Islamic education require a workforce that is proficient in utilizing technology so that existing resources can be used effectively. (Oga Sugianto, Lailatul Munawaroh, Indah Supriani, Heri Nur Cahyono, 2023). This innovation not only improves the quality of education but also ensures that Islamic education remains relevant and adaptive to the times. By utilizing the revival of spirituality, role in development, and learning innovation, Islamic education can face future challenges more optimistically. The right strategy in integrating spiritual, social and technological values will ensure that Islamic education continues to act as an agent of positive change in society

### **3.3 Characteristics of Effective Islamic Education Planning**

Effective Islamic education planning must be rooted in fundamental Islamic values. Tawhid emphasizes the importance of instilling belief in Allah as the only God, being the main foundation in shaping the character of students. (Rivki, Bachtiar, Informatics, Engineering, & Indonesia, 2020). The Apostle teaches the importance of emulating the life of the Prophet Muhammad SAW as an example in everyday life. The Qur'an and Sunnah are used as the main sources of learning, ensuring that educational materials are always in line with Islamic teachings. In addition, Islamic education

must balance the development of creed, sharia, and morals, so that students not only understand the legal and theological aspects, but also have good morals.

To remain relevant and adaptive, Islamic education must have a dynamic curriculum that is constantly updated in accordance with the times and the needs of society. The utilization of technology in the learning process is key to increasing the effectiveness and attractiveness of education, especially for the younger generation who are familiar with digital technology. In addition, Islamic education must demonstrate openness to change, with a willingness to accept innovations that can improve the quality of education. (Mazrur, 2011).

Effective Islamic education planning should be participatory and collaborative, involving all parties such as teachers, students, parents, community and government in the planning process. This collaboration ensures that different perspectives and needs are accommodated. Interinstitutional cooperation is also important to build synergies with other educational institutions, so that they can support and strengthen each other. (Ilham, 2019).

A focus on quality is another important characteristic, with high quality standards set for all aspects of education. Continuous evaluation needs to be conducted regularly to ensure that the education program is effective and achieving the desired goals. This evaluation process also allows for continuous quality improvement and enhancement.

Finally, effective Islamic education planning must be research-based. Curriculum development should be based on research results that ensure its relevance and effectiveness. Program evaluation should also use research methods to measure the success and impact of the programs implemented. With this research-based approach, Islamic education can constantly evolve and adapt to the needs of the times, ensuring that it remains relevant and beneficial to society. By applying these characteristics, Islamic education can design programs that are not only effective but also sustainable, making a significant contribution in shaping a generation that is faithful, knowledgeable and noble. (Husni, efni fahyuni & Akhtim, 2021).

### **3.4 Ideal Islamic Education Planning Model**

Developing a clear vision of the ideal Islamic education is the first step in effective planning. This vision should reflect the ideals and long-term goals of Islamic education, such as forming individuals with faith, knowledge and noble character. A strong vision will guide the entire process of planning and implementing education, ensuring that all activities are aligned with the desired end goal.

The mission of Islamic education should be formulated to support the achievement of the vision that has been set. This mission includes concrete steps that will be taken to achieve educational goals, such as improving the quality of teaching, expanding access to education, and integrating Islamic values in the curriculum. (Setiawati, 2023). A clear mission helps in focusing efforts and resources to achieve the desired results.

Setting specific strategic objectives is an important step in planning. These objectives should include measurable and realistic goals, such as improving student learning outcomes, developing an Islamic values-based curriculum and increasing the capacity of teaching staff. Strategic objectives provide clear direction and serve as a benchmark for the success of educational planning.

Devising strategies to achieve objectives is an integral part of Islamic education planning. These strategies should include the approaches and methods that will be used to achieve the goals, such as the use of technology in learning, teacher training and the development of relevant teaching materials. An effective strategy should be flexible and adaptive to changes in the environment and the needs of society. (Nuryasin & Mitrohardjono, 2019).

Setting performance indicators is an important step in measuring the success of an education program. These indicators should include aspects such as academic achievement levels, learner satisfaction, and the effectiveness of the teaching program. (Phill Ikhsan Haris, 2016). With clear indicators, educational institutions can make necessary evaluations and adjustments to improve the quality of education.

Developing a detailed and realistic action plan is the final step in the ideal Islamic education planning model. This plan should include concrete steps the actions to be taken, the timetable for implementation and the allocation of necessary resources. A good action plan ensures that all parties involved understand their roles and responsibilities in the educational process. By applying this planning model, Islamic education can ensure that the entire educational process runs effectively and efficiently, and makes a positive contribution to the development of individuals and society as a whole.

### **3.5 Challenges and Solutions in Implementation**

In the process of implementing Islamic education planning, several internal barriers can arise and affect the effectiveness of implementation. One of the main barriers is limited human resources, especially in terms of the number and quality of competent educators. The lack of training and professional development for teachers may hinder their ability to apply innovative and relevant teaching methods. In addition, resistance to change among staff and educators can also be a barrier, especially if there is a concern that the change will disrupt the comfort or routine that has been in place. (Wahid & Hamami, 2021).

External barriers that may be encountered in the implementation of Islamic education planning include various environmental factors that are beyond the control of educational institutions. Inconsistent or less supportive government policies may hinder the implementation of planned programs. In addition, limited funds and other material resources may limit the institution's ability to provide adequate educational facilities. Social and cultural pressures that conflict with the values of Islamic education can also pose challenges, especially in more secular or pluralistic societies.

Overcoming these barriers requires a strategic and collaborative approach. One solution is to

increase the capacity and competence of educators through continuous training and professional development programs. This can help reduce resistance to change and improve teaching quality. In addition, building partnerships with various parties, including the government, nongovernmental organizations and the private sector, can help secure financial support and additional resources. (Putra, 2023). Adopting a more flexible and adaptive approach in program planning and implementation is also important to adjust to changing policies and other external conditions. Finally, increasing community and parental involvement in the education process through effective communication and active participation can create a more supportive environment for the implementation of Islamic education programs. By proactively identifying and addressing these barriers, Islamic education can be more effective in achieving its goals and have a positive impact on learners and society as a whole.

#### 4. CONCLUSIONS

This research has identified various important aspects of planning and implementing effective Islamic education. It was found that Islamic education should be rooted in fundamental values such as tawhid, emulating the Messenger, and making the Qur'an and Sunnah the main sources of learning. In addition, Islamic education should be relevant and adaptive with a dynamic curriculum, utilization of technology, and openness to change. Participation of all parties and cooperation between institutions are also important to ensure successful implementation. Internal and external challenges, such as limited resources and unfavorable policies, must be overcome with strategic and collaborative solutions. In order to advance Islamic education, all parties-including educators, parents, communities and governments-are expected to play an active role. Active participation and collaboration between various stakeholders will ensure that Islamic education is not only relevant but also able to face future challenges. With a joint commitment, we can form a generation of faith, knowledge and noble character. Based on the findings of this study, several policy recommendations can be proposed. Firstly, the government should support Islamic education with consistent policies and adequate funding allocations for infrastructure and human resource development. Secondly, Islamic education institutions should adopt a research-based approach in curriculum development and program evaluation to ensure its relevance and effectiveness. Third, there is a need for continuous training and professional development programs for educators to improve their competence and adaptability to change. Finally, building partnerships with the private sector and non-governmental organizations can help in providing additional resources and innovations in education. By following these recommendations, it is hoped that Islamic education can continue to grow and make a positive contribution to society and the nation.



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