

# Strengthening Islamic Literacy in Education: A Literature Review for Cultivating Intelligent Muslims in the Modern Era

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## ABSTRACT

Strengthening Islamic literacy in education is crucial in today's digital age, given the role of technology in influencing religious understanding. This research aims to explore how Islamic literacy can be applied in education to shape a generation of intelligent and virtuous Muslims. This research employs a literature review method, analyzing various literature sources related to Islamic literacy in the context of education. The results of the study indicate that Islamic literacy is not only about religious understanding but also includes the development of critical and ethical thinking skills, which are highly relevant to the challenges of the times. Strengthening Islamic literacy is expected to improve the quality of education and help students be better prepared to face social and technological challenges. The implication of this research is the importance of developing an Islamic literacy-based curriculum and using technology wisely in education, while maintaining religious values. This research also opens opportunities for further research on the practical impact of implementing Islamic literacy in education.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Islamic education plays an important role in shaping the character and morals of the Muslim generation (Al-Hawary et al., 2023). From the beginning, the goal of Islamic education is not only to develop knowledge but also to instill religious values in daily life (Mahmud et al., 2023). However, amidst the rapid technological development and global changes, Islamic education faces many challenges that require more attention. The digital era opens up great opportunities, but it also brings challenges to the traditional values taught in Islamic education. In this regard, Islamic literacy, which is a deep understanding of religious teachings and the ability to apply them in daily life, becomes very important (Wahyuni et al., 2022). Strong Islamic literacy will help the Muslim generation to think critically, adapt to technological advancements, and maintain their Islamic identity in an increasingly developing world (Mohd Yusoff et al., 2022). Therefore, it is important to strengthen

Islamic literacy in education so that the Muslim generation can face the challenges of the times with intelligence and remain relevant in the modern era.

Although Islamic literacy is considered very important in shaping the character and intelligence of the Muslim generation, its implementation in education still faces many challenges (Tambak & Sukenti, 2020). One of the main questions that needs to be answered is, how can we strengthen Islamic literacy in the education system in the continuously evolving digital era? It is important to find the right way to integrate Islamic literacy into a more modern education curriculum without diminishing the fundamental values of Islamic teachings. In addition, there are other questions that need to be answered, namely what challenges educators face in teaching Islamic literacy amidst the rapid development of technology and globalization? Equally important, how can strengthening Islamic literacy help shape a smart Muslim generation ready to play a role in the global community? Answering these questions is very important to find a more effective approach in improving the quality of Islamic education in the modern era.

The main objective of this research is to understand how to strengthen Islamic literacy in education in order to produce intelligent Muslim generations ready to face the challenges of the modern era (Tambak & Sukenti, 2020). This research will explore various ways to incorporate Islamic literacy into the education curriculum, as well as examine how it can aid in the intellectual and spiritual development of students. In addition, this research also aims to examine how strengthening Islamic literacy can shape the character of the Muslim generation in the digital and globalization era (Subhan, 2023). With a literature study approach, this research hopes to provide a new understanding of the importance of Islamic literacy in improving the quality of Islamic education in various educational institutions, from schools to Islamic boarding schools. The results of this research are expected to provide useful suggestions for developing a more relevant and effective curriculum in preparing a Muslim generation that is not only intelligent but also strong in religious and moral values.

Although many studies discuss the importance of Islamic literacy in education, there is still a lack of understanding of how Islamic literacy can be effectively applied in modern educational curricula, especially in the digital era (Mukarom et al., 2024). Most existing research focuses more on the theory of Islamic literacy, without addressing the real challenges in its application in the ever-evolving world of education (Mashudi & Hilman, 2024). Furthermore, there are still few studies that link the strengthening of Islamic literacy with students' ability to adapt to technology, as well as the role of this literacy in shaping the character of the Muslim generation in an increasingly interconnected world (Mursidin, 2023). This research aims to fill that gap by thoroughly reviewing the existing literature, seeking models of Islamic literacy application that can be implemented in

education, and examining its impact on shaping a smart Muslim generation ready to face global challenges.

This research provides a new contribution to the field of Islamic education by directly linking Islamic literacy with the challenges and opportunities in the digital and globalization era (Mukarom et al., 2024). Many previous studies focused on the theory or limited application of Islamic literacy in education, without considering its impact on the intelligence and character of the Muslim generation in an increasingly interconnected world (Abubakari & Kalinaki, 2024). By using a comprehensive literature review approach, this research not only discusses how to strengthen Islamic literacy in the education curriculum but also explores practical ways to shape a generation of Muslims ready to face the challenges of the modern era. This research is important because it provides a new understanding of how Islamic literacy can serve as a foundation for shaping individuals who are intelligent and strong in religious values (Pranoto & Haryanto, 2024). Therefore, this research is highly relevant for the development of Islamic education curricula and educational policies aimed at producing a generation that is not only intelligent but also possesses strong character in accordance with the demands of the times.

## 2. METHODS

This research uses a qualitative approach with a literature review method to explore and analyze various literature related to Islamic literacy in education (Fadhillah, 2022). This approach was chosen because the research aims to gain a deeper understanding of how Islamic literacy can be strengthened and applied in education in the modern era (Zulfaqor, 2022). This research will focus on various sources such as scientific articles, books, research reports, and policy documents published by Islamic educational institutions and related organizations.

The research process begins with selecting relevant sources, which include literature on Islamic literacy, Islamic education in the digital era, and the challenges faced in Islamic education in a globalized world (Husni & Atoillah, 2022). These sources are selected based on the credibility, relevance, and timeliness of the available information (Syukri et al., 2024). After that, the researchers will analyze the data by identifying the main themes and patterns that emerge in the existing literature, related to the strengthening of Islamic literacy in education.

In addition, the grouping of information is carried out to identify various approaches and strategies that can be applied in Islamic education. The researchers will also compare various existing views to understand the strengths and weaknesses of these different approaches. The results of this analysis are expected to provide a better understanding of the role of Islamic literacy in shaping intelligent and character-driven Muslim generations in the modern era.

This research does not collect data directly from the field, but focuses on processing and compiling existing information. With this approach, the research is expected to provide a broader picture of Islamic literacy in education and offer useful recommendations for the development of Islamic education curricula in the future.

### 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of the analysis show that strengthening Islamic literacy in education is very important in shaping a smart and character-driven Muslim generation in the modern era (Yusri et al., 2023). Based on various analyzed literature, the strengthening of Islamic literacy is not limited to the understanding of religious texts, but also includes the development of critical and ethical thinking skills, which are essential amidst the rapid advancement of technology (Siregar et al., 2023). Many studies agree that integrating Islamic literacy into the education curriculum can help students be better prepared to face the challenges of globalization, despite obstacles such as limited teaching materials and the readiness of educators to implement it (Khasanah, 2024).

However, the analysis results also reveal that although digital technology has great potential to strengthen Islamic literacy, there are challenges related to the misuse of information that can lead to understandings that are not always in line with the true teachings of Islam (Rachmawati et al., 2024). In this context, Islamic literacy is expected not only to focus on religious knowledge but also on the formation of a strong character, capable of wisely filtering information amidst the increasingly rapid flow of global information. Thus, the strengthening of Islamic literacy must be carried out in a way that combines knowledge and religious values so that future Muslim generations can face the challenges of the world without losing their identity.

The results of this study show that strengthening Islamic literacy in education plays an important role in shaping the character and intellectual intelligence of the Muslim generation in modern times. These findings are consistent with existing theories, which emphasize the importance of religious literacy in building a strong knowledge base (Alfani et al., 2024). Based on the literature review, Islamic literacy is not just about understanding religious texts, but also about developing critical, reflective, and ethical thinking skills, which are very important in an increasingly digital world. Islamic literacy can help students connect religious knowledge with the ability to adapt to rapid global changes (Yusri et al., 2023). This also supports the view that education should provide academic knowledge while also shaping individuals who can overcome life's challenges in a diverse society and with ever-evolving technology. Therefore, strengthening Islamic literacy not only preserves the authenticity of religious teachings but also serves as a strategic step to create a generation that is sensitive to social issues and possesses strong moral values.

The findings of this research indicate that strengthening Islamic literacy not only deepens religious understanding but also contributes to the development of Islamic education theory (Irfan & Larsari, 2024). The results of this study support the view that Islamic literacy should be an integral part of the educational curriculum that is more relevant to the challenges of the times (Siregar, 2024). The integration of Islamic literacy in education can help students not only to understand religious texts in depth but also to develop the skills necessary to live in an increasingly complex society. Thus, strengthening Islamic literacy can create a balance between religious knowledge and practical skills that are important in a diverse global society. These findings also have a direct impact on educational practices, particularly in renewing teaching approaches that are more inclusive, based on Islamic values, and capable of shaping students who are not only academically intelligent but also possess high moral and ethical awareness.

This research has several limitations that need to be considered when interpreting the results. One of them is the limitation in the literature used, which only includes sources in Indonesian and English. This means that several global perspectives that may be relevant to Islamic literacy in education are not fully covered, especially from countries with different Islamic education traditions (Gusmuliana, 2022). Furthermore, this research does not include empirical data that directly tests the application of Islamic literacy in education in the field (Apriliana et al., 2023). Therefore, although the findings of this research provide valuable insights, the results should be viewed as a preliminary step for further research, and not as a complete picture of how Islamic literacy is applied in various global educational contexts.

Based on the results and limitations of this study, there are several suggestions for future research. First, future research should expand the scope of the literature used, including involving empirical studies conducted in various countries with different Islamic education traditions (Arar et al., 2022). This will help provide a more comprehensive picture of the application of Islamic literacy in various educational contexts. Second, more in-depth research is needed to test the direct impact of strengthening Islamic literacy on students' academic and character development, through a more experimental or quantitative approach. This will help us better understand how Islamic literacy can practically improve the quality of education (Rohman & Muhid, 2022). Moreover, research focused on the development and evaluation of Islam-based literacy curricula will also be very useful in creating an education system that is more relevant to the demands of the times (Islahi, 2008). With these steps, we can better optimize the understanding and application of Islamic literacy in education across various contexts.

The findings of this research also have social and ethical implications that need to be considered, especially regarding the use of digital technology in strengthening Islamic literacy

(Mazrur et al., 2023). On one hand, technology provides a great opportunity to expand access to Islamic educational materials, allowing information to spread more quickly and widely. However, on the other hand, if not managed carefully, technology can spread inaccurate or misinterpreted information, which can damage religious understanding (et al., 2023). Therefore, strengthening Islamic literacy through technology must be done carefully, ensuring that the information disseminated remains in accordance with true and accountable Islamic values. From a social perspective, there is a challenge in finding a balance between technological advancement and the preservation of religious values in education. Educators and policymakers need to work together to create an educational environment that positively supports Islamic literacy, while still upholding ethical and moral values in the use of technology. It is important for education to remain of high quality and for religion to be preserved in the face of changing times.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

This research shows that strengthening Islamic literacy in education is very important for shaping a smart Muslim generation with strong character in the modern era. The results of this research show that Islamic literacy is not only about understanding religious texts, but also about developing critical, reflective, and ethical thinking skills, which are greatly needed in an increasingly digital age. Islamic literacy can serve as a bridge between religious knowledge and the ability to adapt to a diverse global society. Thus, strengthening Islamic literacy is not only to keep religious teachings authentic but also to create a generation that is sensitive to social, moral, and technological issues. However, the limitations in literature sources and the lack of empirical data are issues that need to be addressed in future research.

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