THE ROLE OF ISLAMIC BOARDING SCHOOL TRADITIONS IN STUDENT DEVELOPMENT IN FUTURE LIFE

Abuddar[1], Ahmad Zubaidi[2], Zaki Maulana[3]
[1,2,3]Universitas Nurul Jadid, East Java, Indonesia
Email: abuddar83@gmail.com[1], edi@unuja.ac.id[2], zakimaulana@gmail.com[3]

Abstract:

Islamic boarding schools, known as pesantren, play a crucial role as Islamic educational institutions in shaping students' character, knowledge, and skills to face future challenges. These institutions have a long-standing tradition rich in Islamic values, discipline, and independence, which are deeply embedded in their daily practices. Pesantren not only focuses on providing religious education but also emphasizes moral, social, and life skills relevant to contemporary needs. The holistic approach of pesantren nurtures students' spiritual, intellectual, and social development, fostering a balance between academic knowledge and moral integrity. Furthermore, the pesantren environment encourages strong discipline and self-reliance, shaping students to become resilient and adaptable individuals. This article explores the unique traditions of Islamic boarding schools and their influence on students' development, analyzing the implications for their future roles in society as leaders, professionals, and morally responsible citizens who contribute positively to their communities and beyond.

Keywords: *Pesantren Traditions, Student Development, Moral and Social Values.*

INTRODUCTION

Islamic boarding schools are the oldest Islamic educational institutions in Indonesia which have played an important role in forming a generation of faith, knowledge and noble character(Rahmatillah, 2024). The typical Islamic boarding school traditions, such as reciting the yellow book, sorogan, and bandongan, are the main differentiators compared to other educational institutions(Mubarok et al., 2024; Munif et al., 2021; Tambak et al., 2023). In the midst of modernization, Islamic boarding schools remain relevant in responding to the challenges of globalization by adhering to the noble values that are the basis for forming students' personalities(Mundiri et al., 2022; Pratomo et al., 2024). Islamic boarding schools also strive to prepare their students to face increasingly rapid developments in technology and information, so that students not only have spiritual excellence, but also balanced intellectual excellence.

History records that Islamic boarding schools are Islamic educational institutions that have existed since the 13th century in Indonesia (Huda, 2016). Islamic boarding schools were initially founded by ulama to spread Islamic teachings through teaching methods based on the recitation of the yellow book or classical books(Dakir et al., 2022). This tradition develops along with local culture, so that Islamic boarding schools are not only centers of religious learning, but also guardians of unique local wisdom(Fauzi & Muali, 2018). This combination of Islamic teachings and local wisdom makes Islamic

boarding schools a unique institution with strong roots in Indonesian society.

In the course of its history, Islamic boarding schools have produced generations of ulama, educators and community leaders who have contributed significantly to society (Gazali, 2018). Apart from religious knowledge, Islamic boarding schools also teach life values, such as hard work, simplicity and tolerance. Modern Islamic boarding schools have even adopted a general curriculum that includes science, mathematics and technology to meet the needs of the times (Priyanto, 2020). This step shows that Islamic boarding schools continue to innovate without losing their identity as educational institutions based on Islamic values.

However, criticism of Islamic boarding schools cannot be ignored either. Some issues that often arise include low critical thinking skills, lack of balance between religious knowledge and general knowledge, minimal interpersonal skills, and dependence on other people in leadership development (Mundiri et al., 2022; Rozi & Aminullah, 2021). All these challenges if not addressed can hinder the development of individuals and society as a whole. Therefore, it is important for Islamic boarding schools to continue to evaluate and improve their educational approaches to answer the needs of the times. This article aims to explain how Islamic boarding school traditions contribute to student development in various aspects of life. Apart from that, this article also discusses the role of Islamic boarding school traditions in preparing the younger generation to face a dynamic future, including the challenges of globalization and technological developments(Baharun et al., 2020). By understanding the strategic role of Islamic boarding schools, it is hoped that solutions can be found to strengthen their contribution in producing individuals who are intellectually intelligent, have noble character, and are able to contribute positively to society.

RESEARCH METHODS

This research adopts a qualitative approach employing the literature study method. Data collection is sourced from a wide range of materials, including scholarly journals, academic books, and findings from prior research on Islamic boarding schools and Islamic education(Abdurrahman & Rahmatillah, 2023). By integrating diverse perspectives, this study seeks to conduct an in-depth exploration of the traditions and cultural practices inherent in Islamic boarding schools (pesantren). The research aims to examine how these traditions contribute to shaping the character, ethical values, and multidimensional capabilities of students. This includes analyzing the influence of pesantren's unique educational framework on personal discipline, moral development, and social adaptability(Pratomo et al., 2024). Additionally, the study delves into how the pesantren system equips students with essential skills to navigate various challenges in life, both within local contexts and the broader global environment. The findings are expected to enrich understanding and highlight the enduring relevance of pesantren in modern education.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Islamic Boarding School Traditions

Spiritual aspect, Islamic boarding school traditions instill a deep understanding of religion in students through learning the Koran, Hadith, and classical books (*kitab kuning*) (Maulidatus, 2019). Students are not only taught theory, but also practiced through routine worship, such as congregational prayers, sunnah fasting, and wire. This habit forms a strong spirituality, which is the main foundation in facing moral challenges in the future. For example, in the spiritual aspect, Islamic boarding schools teach students to apply religious values practically through daily worship such as congregational prayers and sunnah fasting. This helps students to strengthen their spirituality and provides a strong moral foundation in facing various life challenges.

Intellectual Aspect, Apart from religious education, many Islamic boarding schools integrate the formal curriculum with Islamic boarding school scientific traditions

(Maduningtias, 2022). Students are taught to think critically through methods arrogant and bandongan, which encourages in-depth discussion and study of classical texts. This combination creates individuals who are not only religious, but also intelligent and ready to compete in the academic and professional world. An example of integrating intellectual aspects in Islamic boarding schools is by providing formal education which includes learning general knowledge such as mathematics, science and languages. Apart from that, students are also taught religious knowledge through in-depth analysis and discussion methods so that they have a holistic and quality understanding (Aprella et al., 2024).

Social Aspects, living together in Islamic boarding school dormitories teaches students to live collectively, respect each other and work together (Mukri, 2013). Tradition mutual cooperation and other social activities help students develop interpersonal skills that are important in social life. These values are important provisions in building harmonious relationships in the future. For example, Islamic boarding school students are taught to work together in mutual cooperation activities to clean their dormitory environment every week. They learn to respect each other and work together for the common good, developing interpersonal skills that will help them in future social life.

Aspects of Independence and Leadership, tIslamic boarding school traditions train students to be independent, such as managing study time, managing daily needs, and making decisions. In addition, Islamic boarding schools often provide opportunities for students to become leaders in certain activities, such as being chairman of a santri organization. This forms a leadership spirit that will be useful in the world of work and society. A detailed example of the aspect of independence and leadership in Islamic boarding schools is when a student is taught to manage their own study time without the need for constant supervision from the teacher. Apart from that, they are also given the responsibility to lead activities such as recitations or other social activities at Islamic boarding schools, so that they can hone their leadership skills from an early age.

Islamic Boarding School Involvement In Life In The Future Student

Islamic boarding school graduates have a unique competitive advantage. They not only have a solid understanding of religion, but also life skills that are relevant in the modern era. Islamic boarding school traditions that emphasize morality, discipline and adaptability give them the ability to face changing times, both as professionals and leaders in society. Islamic boarding school traditions have a very significant role in shaping the character and mindset of students who are able to face future challenges. Several important points from the results of this discussion are: Formation of Religious Values Islamic boarding schools, as religious-based educational institutions, instill deep Islamic values in their students. Traditions such as recitation of the yellow book, congregational prayers, and collective dhikr create a strong moral foundation for students to become individuals with integrity and noble character in the future. Development of Independence The dormitory-based system of life in Islamic boarding schools encourages students to live independently from an early age. This independence includes the ability to manage time, complete personal tasks, and interact with various peer backgrounds. This prepares them to face a more complex life outside the Islamic boarding school environment.

Increasing Social Abilities, The traditions of mutual cooperation and social awareness taught in Islamic boarding schools form good interpersonal skills. Students are taught to help each other, work together in community, and respect differences. This ability is very relevant to face the challenges of the modern world which demands communication and collaboration skills. Implementation of Holistic Education Islamic boarding schools not only focus on religious education, but also on worldly skills that support student development. Several modern Islamic boarding schools have integrated general education, technical skills and entrepreneurship training, so that students are better prepared to compete in the world of work or create their own business opportunities. Leadership Formation, the tradition of deliberation and learning in

Islamic boarding schools provides opportunities for students to hone leadership skills. Students who are used to making decisions and leading small groups tend to be more confident and resilient in facing future challenges.

CONCLUSION

Islamic boarding school traditions play a vital role in shaping students' character, knowledge, and skills to prepare them for the future. These traditions nurture a holistic development process that integrates spiritual, intellectual, social, and independent aspects. Within the Islamic boarding school environment, students are guided to internalize strong ethical values, master religious and worldly knowledge, and develop critical life skills. This comprehensive approach equips them to achieve success across various domains of life. The spiritual teachings foster a deep connection with faith and moral integrity, while the intellectual training encourages analytical thinking and academic excellence. Social interactions within the boarding school strengthen communal ties, empathy, and leadership qualities, and the emphasis on independence prepares students to navigate challenges with resilience and confidence. However, to remain relevant in an ever-changing world, Islamic boarding schools must adapt to contemporary advancements without losing their traditional identity. Integrating modern educational methods, digital literacy, and global awareness into the curriculum can enhance their ability to produce competitive graduates who uphold noble morals. By balancing tradition and innovation, Islamic boarding schools can continue to serve as pillars of character development and academic excellence, contributing to the formation of a virtuous and forward-thinking generation.

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