



# STRENGTHENING STUDENTS' CHARACTER THROUGH ISLAMIC RELIGIOUS EDUCATION BASED ON THE PROFILE OF PANCASILA STUDENTS IN THE INDEPENDENT CURRICULUM

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## Abstract:

This research explores and analyzes the role of Islamic Religious Education learning in forming student character at the Siti Chodijah Islamic Elementary School, Probolinggo. Islamic religious education is vital in shaping student character, especially at the elementary level in Islamic schools. This research uses a qualitative approach with a case study method to explore students' experiences and perceptions of Islamic Religious Education learning at Siti Chodijah Islamic Elementary School. Data was collected through observation, interviews, and document analysis. The research results show that learning Islamic Religious Education at Siti Chodijah Islamic Elementary School significantly shapes student character. A learning process that integrates Islamic values, ethics, and morality can positively impact students' character development. The Islamic Religious Education teacher at this elementary school plays the leading role as a facilitator of character formation by teaching the values of faith, noble morals, and Islamic social attitudes. Apart from that, a school environment based on Islamic values also shapes student character. Collaboration between schools, teachers, and parents is the key to creating an educational environment supporting character formation. These findings can be a reference for Islamic schools and related parties to continue improving the quality of Islamic Religious Education learning to shape students' character with integrity and competitiveness in society.

**Keywords:** Strengthening, *Student*, *Character*, Pancasila, Curriculum

## INTRODUCTION

Islamic Religious Education plays a very strategic role in shaping students' character, especially at Islamic Elementary School (SD) Islam Siti Chodijah Kebonagung Kraksaan Probolinggo. Islamic Religious Education is not just about teaching religious norms but also serves as a means for shaping attitudes, values, and fundamental morality for the students. A strong character based on Islamic values becomes the primary foundation in facing the increasingly complex dynamics of modern life (Wahid, A., Naemuddin, R., Suhermanto, S., & Wafa 2022a).

SD Islam Siti Chodijah Kebonagung Kraksaan Probolinggo, as an Islamic educational institution, has a significant responsibility in fulfilling the mission of shaping students' character. In this context, the role of Islamic Religious Education becomes the main focus because this learning process not only covers religious knowledge but also integrates moral values and ethics into daily life (Abidin 2020). Through this learning process, it is hoped that students can understand, internalize, and practice Islamic teachings as a guide in their behavior and interaction with the surrounding environment.

The importance of the role of Islamic Religious Education in SD Islam Siti Chodijah Kebonagung Kraksaan Probolinggo in shaping students' character is the basis for conducting in-depth research on the concrete impact of this learning process on character formation. Through a deeper understanding of this role, effective teaching

strategies and methods are expected to be found to create students who are not only academically competent but also have Islamic character (Armada, Mubarak, and Tengah 2023). Therefore, this research will explore further the role of Islamic Religious Education in the context of shaping students' character at SD Islam Siti Chodijah Kebonagung Kraksaan Probolinggo.

The role of Islamic Religious Education in shaping students' character, especially at SD Islam Siti Chodijah Kebonagung Kraksaan Probolinggo, is of great significance. Islamic Religious Education not only presents religious norms but also serves as a means to shape fundamental attitudes, values, and morality for the students (Suasthi, I. G. A., & Suadnyana 2020). A strong character, based on Islamic values, becomes the main foundation for facing the challenges of modern life that are increasingly complex.

As an Islamic educational institution, SD Islam Siti Chodijah Kebonagung Kraksaan Probolinggo has a significant responsibility in achieving the mission of shaping students' character. In this context, the role of Islamic Religious Education becomes the center of attention because it not only covers the scholarly aspects of religion but also integrates moral values and ethics into the daily lives of students. Through this learning process, it is expected that students can understand, internalize, and practice Islamic teachings as a guide in their behavior and interaction with the surrounding environment (Lutfi, M., Maula, R., Zainab, I., & Jazilurrahman 2021).

The significance of the role of Islamic Religious Education in SD Islam Siti Chodijah Kebonagung Kraksaan Probolinggo becomes the foundation for conducting in-depth research on the concrete impact of this learning process on character formation. With a deeper understanding of this role, effective teaching strategies and methods are expected to be found to create students who are not only academically superior but also have Islamic character (Muali, C., & Qodratillah 2018). Therefore, this research will further explore the role of Islamic Religious Education in the context of shaping students' character at SD Islam Siti Chodijah Kebonagung Kraksaan Probolinggo.

There have been several previous studies discussing this matter, including: (1) Moesthafa, 1018, in his research on the Planning of the Credit System Curriculum in SMA Negeri 1 Probolinggo, which includes: (a) preparing teaching tools related to the legal basis of the Credit System Semester, various media, facilities, and infrastructure that can support learning in schools; (b) preparing a mapping plan for the structure of subjects and/or basic competencies in each semester; (c) determining the allocation of time; (d) setting learning objectives and identifying learning materials for students; (e) designing learning activities; (f) determining strategies and types of assessment to be used; (g) assisting students in preparing their Study Plan Cards. 2) Implementation of the Credit System Curriculum in SMA Negeri 1 Probolinggo. Another study by Burhan Nudin, 2019, showed that the Montessori method in instilling Islamic education values in early childhood can be seen from changes in the attitudes and behaviors of early childhood into better and more focused behavior, as demonstrated by polite behavior, kindness to fellow friends, and going to school to shake hands with their teacher.

The novelty of this research lies in SD Islam Siti Chodijah Kebonagung Kraksaan Probolinggo, as an Islamic educational institution with its uniqueness and challenges, emphasizing a significant responsibility in shaping morally upright future generations. In this context, the role of Islamic Religious Education focuses not only on the scholarly aspects of religion but also integrates Islamic moral values and ethics into the daily lives of students. When observing the dynamics of education in the contemporary era, the role of Islamic Religious Education in shaping students' character at SD Islam Siti Chodijah Kebonagung Kraksaan Probolinggo becomes a deeper focus of attention. Islamic Religious Education is no longer seen as merely conveying religious norms but also as a primary pillar for shaping fundamental attitudes, values, and morality for the students.

The importance of the role of Islamic Religious Education at SD Islam Siti Chodijah Kebonagung Kraksaan Probolinggo becomes increasingly clear, given the complexity of challenges faced by the younger generation in the era of globalization (Azizah and Widjajanti 2019). Therefore, research and development of innovative

teaching methods in this field become a primary concern, with the hope of producing students who are not only academically intelligent but also have a strong Islamic character and can contribute positively to society (Suhermanto 2022). This is the novelty that is the focus of improving the effectiveness of the role of Islamic Religious Education in shaping students' character at SD Islam Siti Chodijah Kebonagung Kraksaan Probolinggo.

## **RESEARCH METHODS**

This study employs an action research design with a qualitative approach. This approach is chosen to allow sustained and in-depth interventions in the development of teachers' time management skills (Ahmad, A., & Muslimah 2021). The research subjects are teachers at SD Islam Siti Chodijah Kebonagung Kraksaan Probolinggo. The selection of teachers is done purposively, considering the level of teaching experience and the need for the development of time management skills (Harahap 2020). Data collection involves an initial questionnaire to identify the level of understanding and practice of teachers' time management skills before the training. Classroom observations are conducted to assess changes in time management and productivity after the training. Interviews with teachers are conducted after the training program to gain a deeper understanding of the experienced changes.

Designed to provide a profound understanding of Islamic educational institutions that have their own uniqueness and challenges, emphasizing a significant responsibility in shaping morally upright future generations. In this context, the role of Islamic Religious Education is not only focused on the scholarly aspects of religion but also integrates Islamic moral values and ethics into the daily lives of students. When observing the dynamics of education in the contemporary era, the role of Islamic Religious Education in shaping students' character at SD Islam Siti Chodijah Kebonagung Kraksaan Probolinggo becomes a deeper focus of attention. Data analysis also involves triangulating results from various data sources to ensure the validity of the findings (Rukajat 2018)

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The study on the role of Islamic religious education (PAI) in shaping the character of students at SD Islam Siti Chodijah Kebonagung Kraksaan Probolinggo highlights the crucial role of Islamic religious education in character formation. PAI learning is expected to optimize the formation of students' characters through the instillation of values, the development of religious attitudes, and the reinforcement of morals (Akhmad and Maryani 2020). Some sources emphasize that PAI plays a strategic role in instilling values and personal development, contributing to character formation. Additionally, Islamic religious education is considered an effort to enhance students' faith, understanding, and appreciation of Islam, making them individuals who believe in Allah and possess noble character (Suasthi, I. G. A., & Suadnyana 2020). PAI learning is also expected to create a conducive learning environment and learning process that supports students' holistic self-development.

According to the interview with the headmaster of SD Islam Siti Chodijah Kebonagung Kraksaan Probolinggo, Islamic religious education plays a vital role in shaping students' characters in the institution. According to him, Islamic religious education in this school is not just a routine subject but serves as the primary foundation for shaping the attitudes, values, and morality of students. He emphasizes that the Islamic religious education at SD Islam Siti Chodijah focuses not only on the scholarly aspects of religion but also emphasizes the integration of moral values and Islamic ethics into every aspect of students' lives (Mardiyah, I., & Hardew 2023). In this interview, he expresses that the main goal of this education is to create students who are not only knowledgeable about religion but also capable of applying Islamic teachings in their daily lives.

Supported by interviews with several teachers at SD Islam Siti Chodijah, it is explained that the role of Islamic Religious Education teachers is crucial as the main

agents in guiding and shaping students' characters (Syafrudin, Sudadio, and Hidayat 2022). Teachers at SD Islam Siti Chodijah Kebonagung Kraksaan Probolinggo play a central role in providing examples, educating, and creating an Islamic learning environment. According to them, Islamic religious education at this school does not only take place inside the classroom but also involves extracurricular activities, community service, and various other activities that support the formation of Islamic character.

The role of Islamic religious education in shaping students' characters at SD Islam Siti Chodijah Kebonagung Kraksaan Probolinggo encompasses several important aspects that can form the basis for a deeper understanding of the contribution of this subject. Some of the aspects that researchers can elaborate on include:

**Integration of Islamic Values in Learning:** Islamic religious education at SD Islam Siti Chodijah Kebonagung Kraksaan Probolinggo is not purely theoretical but emphasizes the integration of Islamic values into students' daily lives (Dewi 2020). Islamic Religious Education teachers have the responsibility to connect religious teachings with the realities of life, ensuring that students can apply these values in their actions. The integration of Islamic values in learning at SD Islam Siti Chodijah Kebonagung Kraksaan Probolinggo is a key aspect of achieving the Islamic education goals in the school, demonstrating an awareness of the crucial role of religious values in shaping students' characters. This reflects the school's vision to educate a generation that is not only academically intelligent but also has strong morality in line with Islamic teachings.

**Implementation of Islamic Values in Various Subjects:** The application of Islamic values in various subjects at SD Islam Siti Chodijah Kebonagung Kraksaan Probolinggo is not limited to Islamic Religious Education but includes the entire school curriculum. In each subject, teachers at this school strive to connect learning materials with ethical and moral values consistent with Islamic teachings, creating comprehensive connections in shaping students' characters (Akhmad and Maryani 2020). Teachers at this school are not just educators but also role models and guides for students. Through positive behavior and attitudes reflected in daily life, teachers provide a strong example for students to internalize Islamic values.

**Design of Learning Materials:** The learning material design at this school is prepared by considering Islamic values relevant to students' development and needs. This involves selecting teaching materials, narratives, and learning activities aimed at strengthening students' understanding and appreciation of Islamic values (Mulianti, W. O., & Sulisworo 2023). The integration of Islamic values is directed towards shaping Islamic attitudes and ethics in students, with a special emphasis on the development of positive behavior in line with Islamic norms, such as honesty, mutual help, and tolerance. By reinforcing the integration of Islamic values in learning, SD Islam Siti Chodijah Kebonagung Kraksaan Probolinggo demonstrates its commitment to the educational mission of producing not only intellectually competent individuals but also those with strong Islamic character (Satrio and Wibawanta 2021).

**Role of Teachers as Character Formation Facilitators:** The role of Islamic Religious Education teachers is key in guiding students towards Islamic character formation. Through leading by example, advice, and effective pedagogical approaches, teachers help students understand religious teachings and develop positive attitudes in line with Islamic values (Çobanoğlu, R., & KUMLU 2020). Teachers play a central role as spiritual guides, assisting students in understanding and experiencing the spiritual dimension of their lives. Through spiritual guidance, teachers help students develop their faith and piety (Wahid, A., Naemuddin, R., Suhermanto, S., & Wafa 2022b). Teachers at this school not only deliver Islamic Religious Education content but also actively facilitate a conducive learning environment for Islamic character formation.

**Parental Participation in Character Formation,** The success of student character formation depends not only on the school environment but also involves the role of parents. Collaboration between SD Islam Siti Chodijah Kebonagung Kraksaan Probolinggo and parents is a crucial factor in supporting the implementation of Islamic values beyond the formal educational environment. Parental participation in character

formation becomes more effective when there is a strong collaboration between teachers and parents (Hamdan et al. 2021). Open communication and mutual support form the foundation for creating an environment conducive to the development of students' characters.

Parents and teachers need to have a shared understanding of the Islamic values they want to instill in students. Consistency in conveying these values at home and at school will strengthen the formation of Islamic character. Parental participation can involve them in religious and social activities at school. Involvement in activities such as family discussions, religious events, or charitable activities helps reinforce Islamic values in daily life (Bustomi, Sanusi, and Herman 2020). Given the influence of social media and technology in modern life, parental participation in supervising the digital content accessed by their children is crucial. Together with teachers, they can guide students in using technology wisely in accordance with Islamic teachings.

Parental involvement in every school program will greatly support it. Parents play a crucial role in shaping family discipline and ethics in line with Islamic values. The implementation of daily routines, such as praying together, reading the Quran, and engaging in family activities, creates an environment that supports the formation of Islamic character. Schools can organize parental education programs focused on character formation. In such events, parents can gain a deeper understanding of the character formation strategies applied at school and how they can support them at home. Parental participation involves constant monitoring of children's behavior and development (Widyana 2021). Collaborating with teachers to discuss character development and findings at school allows parents to provide specific support at home. Parents can help integrate family values into formal education. The implementation of these values can enrich and strengthen the character education received by students at school.

Schools can design special programs to involve families in character formation, such as family counseling, Islamic-based parenting classes, or joint workshops focused on the application of Islamic values at home. Parental participation has a significant impact on shaping students' character. The close collaboration between parents and SD Islam Siti Chodijah Kebonagung Kraksaan Probolinggo school forms a strong foundation for creating a holistic environment where Islamic values can consistently grow and develop in the lives of children. Parental involvement in the character formation process at SD Islam Siti Chodijah Kebonagung Kraksaan Probolinggo holds a central role in assisting the development of Islamic values in students. Close cooperation between parents and the school is a crucial pillar in creating a holistic educational environment where religious values can permeate and become an integral part of children's lives.

## **CONCLUSION**

From the discussion regarding the role of Islamic Religious Education in shaping students' character at SD Islam Siti Chodijah Kebonagung Kraksaan Probolinggo, it can be concluded that religious education has a significant impact on forming the moral, ethical, and spiritual aspects of students. In the school, the implementation of Islamic religious education is not only about understanding religious concepts but also integrating Islamic values into the students' daily lives. This creates a strong connection between religious teachings and daily life practices. Teachers at SD Islam Siti Chodijah Kebonagung Kraksaan Probolinggo play a crucial role as facilitators in shaping students' characters. Besides being educators, they serve as role models, guides, and inspirators who assist students in understanding and applying Islamic values in their actions.

Furthermore, the involvement of parents in supporting the character formation process at this school holds a significant role. The collaboration between the school and parents provides consistent support in instilling Islamic values in various aspects of children's lives. Thus, SD Islam Siti Chodijah Kebonagung Kraksaan Probolinggo strives to create an Islamic school environment, both in terms of curriculum and learning atmosphere. This environment serves as a strong foundation for the formation of students' Islamic characters. Therefore, the role of Islamic Religious Education at SD

Islam Siti Chodijah Kebonagung Kraksaan Probolinggo has a tangible positive impact on shaping students' characters. A holistic approach involving teachers, parents, and the school environment creates a solid foundation for producing academically intelligent and morally upright generations.

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