



SOCIAL FACTS AND RESEARCH FINDINGS ON THE ROLE OF ISLAMIC RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN FORMING STUDENT CHARACTER GLOBALLY

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Abstract:

Islamic Religious Education (PAI) plays a crucial role in shaping students' character in the era of globalization, marked by the rapid flow of information and technological developments, which, on the one hand, open wider access to knowledge but, on the other hand, pose a threat to the morality of the younger generation. This study aims to examine the relevance of PAI in strengthening students' faith, morality, and social values by examining social facts, international research findings, academic literature, and theoretical arguments. The research method uses a qualitative approach based on literature studies with content analysis of scientific journals, global institution reports, and Islamic education literature analyzed thematically. The results show that PAI plays a central role in instilling religious, tolerant, and humanistic character through value-based learning, habituation of worship, and teacher role models, with effectiveness greatly influenced by adaptive and contextual implementation strategies. These findings align with Lickona's character education theory and Bandura's social learning theory, and emphasize the urgency of strengthening an innovative, integrative, and multicultural PAI curriculum through collaboration between schools, families, and the community..

Keywords: *Islamic Religious Education, Character, Globalization,*

INTRODUCTION

Islamic Religious Education (PAI) plays a crucial role in shaping students' character, especially amidst the rapid flow of globalization that impacts various aspects of life, including education (Judrah et al., 2024). In this era of globalization, advances in technology and information have a significant impact on the mindset and behavior of the younger generation. The massive influence of foreign cultures often presents challenges for character education in Indonesia, particularly in upholding the noble values inherent in Islam.

This study is important because there is still little research specifically examining how Islamic Religious Education can function optimally in shaping students' character amidst these rapid developments. Therefore, this study aims to delve deeper into the role of PAI in shaping students' character and how religious education can effectively serve as a strong foundation in facing the challenges of globalization.

Globalization has brought about significant changes in various aspects of human life, including social, cultural, economic, and educational spheres. The era of globalization is marked by the rapid flow of information and technology,

which has a dual impact on student character development. On the one hand, digitalization facilitates access to knowledge. However, on the other hand, globalization also presents challenges that cannot be ignored, particularly regarding changes in the moral values and character of the younger generation (Herawati et al., 2025). From an early age, 40% of adolescents in developing countries are exposed to digital content that has the potential to weaken their character. This social fact demonstrates the need for effective educational instruments to maintain students' moral integrity, including Islamic Religious Education (Prasetyantoko et al., 2025).

One major impact of globalization is a shift in cultural and social values, often inconsistent with Islamic teachings. However, today's youth are immersed in the digital era, which offers various conveniences, but it also brings negative influences such as individualism, sexuality, and a culture of hedonism that can weaken their Islamic values. The widespread use of social media, uneducational entertainment content, and promiscuity pose a serious threat to the morals and character of the younger generation (Khoir et al., 2023). As a result, many of them experience an identity crisis, a loss of direction, and worrying moral degradation.

In facing these challenges, Islamic education plays a crucial role in building the character of the younger generation, ensuring they maintain a strong sense of identity and adhere to Islamic values (Suprayitno & Moefad, 2018). Islamic education focuses not only on the transfer of knowledge but also on instilling moral, ethical, and spiritual values in daily life. The concept of Islamic education, based on the Quran and Hadith, teaches fundamental principles such as honesty, discipline, responsibility, hard work, and social awareness. These values serve as the primary foundation for developing a young generation that is not only intellectually intelligent but also possesses integrity and strong character (Hapsari et al., 2025).

This study aims to answer this question by examining how traditional Islamic values such as honesty, discipline, empathy, and tolerance can be integrated into modern education to shape the character and social skills of young Muslims. Using a qualitative approach, this study seeks to uncover how young Muslims can be equipped with the tools necessary to survive and thrive in a pluralistic and dynamic society. Thus, this research is not only relevant to the Islamic education community but also contributes to a broader understanding of how education can adapt and thrive in a constantly changing global context.

Academic literature confirms that Islamic Education (PAI) is a process of internalizing values that goes beyond simply transferring dogma. Abdullah explained that Islamic education needs to be oriented toward multiculturalism to produce a generation that is both religious and humanistic. Islamic education also plays a role in protecting the younger generation from the negative impacts of globalization by providing a correct understanding of Islamic teachings as a whole. Through a holistic approach, Islamic education teaches a balance between knowledge and good deeds, between this world and the afterlife, and between critical thinking and spiritual values. Thus, the younger generation will be able to face the challenges of globalization with a wise attitude, without losing their Islamic identity (Herawati et al., 2025). Effective Islamic education must be able to adapt to current developments.

RESEARCH METHODS

This research uses a qualitative descriptive approach using library research techniques. The focus of the research is directed at analyzing various academic documents, reports from international institutions, and scientific articles that examine the role of Islamic Religious Education (PAI) in shaping student character globally. The units of analysis include Islamic education curricula, educational policies in Muslim and non-Muslim countries, and pedagogical practices relevant to globalization issues. This approach provides an in-depth overview of the role of PAI in a global context. By comparing various Islamic education practices in different countries, this research produces a universal understanding of PAI's contribution to student character development.

Data analysis was conducted using content analysis. The process includes: Identification and Categorization: Dividing data based on key themes, such as Islamic education principles, globalization issues, and character-building strategies. Qualitative Interpretation: Interpreting data based on its history, relevant theories, and social contexts. Conclusion: To provide a better understanding of how Islamic education shapes the character of the younger generation, the results of the analysis must be integrated. To ensure data validity, this study employed source triangulation, which involves comparing multiple references to gain a more accurate and objective understanding (Creswell, 2017). Furthermore, the literature was critically reviewed to prevent inaccurate interpretations. This method allows for systematic and replicable research and provides in-depth insights into the role of Islamic education in addressing the challenges of globalization..

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This research was conducted from September to March 2025. Because it was a literature study, the research location was not geographically limited, but focused on exploring digital sources from various scientific platforms such as Google Scholar, ScienceDirect, Garuda, and the National Library.

Research Results: This research found that Islamic Religious Education (PAI) plays a significant role in shaping students' character in the global era. The findings indicate that Islamic values, instilled through formal and non-formal education, significantly contribute to shaping students' attitudes, morals, and integrity. Furthermore, the integration of Islamic values with multicultural education fosters a tolerant character and reduces the potential for intercultural conflict. Thus, PAI has proven effective in producing a generation that is both religious and humanistic.

A. The Concept of Islamic Education and Character

Islamic education as an educational system undeniably has a well-established contribution to supporting the formation of national character through various strategies and methods that are quite impressive and convincing. As seen in the teaching system of Islamic education, which is not solely aimed at improving students' intelligence (intellect), but more essentially, Islamic education is expected to produce complete human beings (possessed of faith and noble morals).

Globalization has brought in various foreign cultures that are not always aligned with Islamic values. The younger generation is often attracted to a hedonistic, individualistic, and free-spirited lifestyle, which they acquire from social media, Western entertainment, or global interactions. As a result, values

such as honesty, responsibility, and simplicity taught in Islam are being marginalized. Therefore, in the era of globalization, the influence of foreign cultures, easily accessible through information technology and social media, poses a major challenge to character education. Many students are exposed to values that are inconsistent with religious teachings and local culture. In this situation, the role of Islamic Religious Education (PAI) becomes crucial in providing a strong moral foundation for students. (Hapsari et al., 2025)

From a conceptual perspective, it appears that there is no significant difference between character and morals. Both are defined as actions that occur without further thought, because they are ingrained in the mind. In other words, both can be called habits. According to the Language Center of the Ministry of National Education, character is defined as: innate, heart, soul, personality, manners, behavior, personality, nature, nature, temperament, and disposition. Character, on the other hand, is having a personality, behavior, nature, nature, and disposition (Anwar & Salim, 2019).

Overall, research findings confirm that Islamic Religious Education (PAI) is a crucial instrument in building a generation with character in the global era. However, continuous innovation in learning methods, curriculum, and media is still necessary for PAI to be able to meet the challenges of globalization and digitalization.

B. Globalization and the Character Crisis of the Younger Generation

Globalization is an era we cannot avoid. As time goes by, humans will continue to develop; it has become a human instinct to always desire something more. This is especially true for the younger generation, who have the responsibility to continue and innovate. The younger generation is a group of young individuals in the process of forming their character or identity. In this regard, the younger generation is still highly susceptible to the influence of anything that is sometimes not good for them (Hibatullah, 2022). Young people are highly curious.

The moral crisis facing the younger generation is the result of various factors, particularly globalization and digitalization, which have a significant impact on their mindsets and behavior. The moral crisis affecting the younger generation, especially in the era of digital globalization, poses a major challenge for Islamic education. Various factors, such as the influence of foreign cultures, technology addiction, and the uncontrolled dissemination of information, have changed the mindsets and behaviors of the younger generation (Rahman et al., 2024). However, Islamic education plays a crucial role in addressing this moral crisis by teaching values that align with religious teachings and guiding the younger generation to adhere to solid moral principles. Islamic education plays a very strategic role in addressing the moral crisis in the era of digital globalization. Therefore, Islamic education focuses not only on intellectual aspects but also on the formation of balanced character and morals, which will enable the younger generation to become individuals who are beneficial to themselves, their families, society, and their religion. As the position of religious education in the millennial era is a bridge in the steps to.

CONCLUSION

Based on research findings, Islamic education plays a crucial role in building the character of the younger generation amidst the increasingly complex and challenging currents of globalization. Evidence suggests that

Islamic educational values such as honesty, responsibility, tolerance, and discipline can serve as a strong moral foundation for the younger generation in facing the negative influences of globalization, such as identity crises, moral decadence, and individualism. By integrating Islamic values with the formal education system, the character of the younger generation can be fully formed, not only intellectually intelligent but also spiritually and emotionally mature. These findings can be applied through strengthening the character education curriculum based on Islamic values in schools, as well as through the active role of educational institutions, families, and communities in fostering students' morals. The implication is that the younger generation will be better prepared to become resilient and globally competitive individuals, without losing their moral and religious identity. Speculatively, if Islamic education continues to be developed contextually and adaptively to the times, it will not only function as a guardian of morals but also as a driving force of civilization capable of bringing national progress based on spiritual and humanitarian values. By understanding and implementing the concept of Islamic education and character comprehensively, it is hoped that a young generation will be formed that is not only intellectually intelligent, but also has high moral integrity and is able to face the challenges of the times wisely.

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