

The Role of Islamic Religious Education in Developing Student Character in the Digital Era

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Abstract: *Islamic religious education has an important role in developing student character in today's digital era. With targeted religious education, students are expected to behave more ethically and morally according to religious teachings, and not deviate in their daily activities. This study aims to examine the role of Islamic religious education in higher education, especially at the Surabaya State Electronics Polytechnic, in shaping the character of students with noble ethics. The main focus of the research is the challenges faced by students in facing technological developments in the digital era 4.0 to 5.0, as well as how religious education can help them internalize societal norms sourced from Islamic law. The type of research used is qualitative with a case study approach, involving in-depth interviews and field observations. The validity of the data uses triangulation techniques and their analysis uses Miles, Huberman, & Saldana interactive analysis. The results of the study show that religious education fostered and guided by lecturers and the academic community in the era of digitalization progress in the campus environment, especially at the Surabaya State Electronics Polytechnic, is very important and influential in developing the character, ethics, and morals of students in the era of digitalization 4.0 to 5.0. So that Islamic religious education plays an important role as a controller and self-direction so as not to deviate from the norms that exist in society or from Islamic law.*

Keywords: *Developing, Character, Students, Digital*

Abstrak: Pendidikan agama Islam memiliki peran penting dalam mengembangkan karakter mahasiswa di era digital saat ini. Dengan pendidikan agama yang terarah, mahasiswa diharapkan dapat berperilaku lebih etis dan bermoral sesuai ajaran agama, serta tidak menyimpang dalam aktivitas sehari-hari. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengkaji peran pendidikan agama Islam di perguruan tinggi, khususnya di Politeknik Elektronika Negeri Surabaya, dalam membentuk karakter mahasiswa yang berbudi pekerti luhur. Fokus utama penelitian adalah tantangan yang dihadapi mahasiswa dalam menghadapi perkembangan teknologi di era digital 4.0 menuju 5.0, serta bagaimana pendidikan agama dapat membantu mereka menginternalisasi norma-norma masyarakat yang bersumber dari syariat Islam. Jenis penelitian yang digunakan adalah kualitatif dengan pendekatan studi kasus,

melibatkan wawancara mendalam dan observasi lapangan. Keabsahan data menggunakan triangulasi Teknik dan analisisnya menggunakan analisis interaktif Miles, Huberman, & Saldana. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan pendidikan agama yang dibina dan dibimbing oleh dosen mau pun civitas akademika di era kemajuan digitalisasi dalam lingkungan kampus terutama di Politeknik Elektronika Negeri Surabaya merupakan hal yang sangat penting dan berpengaruh dalam mengembangkan karakter, etika, moral mahasiswa di era digitalisasi 4.0 menuju 5.0. Sehingga pendidikan agama Islam ini berperan penting sebagai pengontrol dan pengarah diri agar tidak menyimpang dari norma yang ada di masyarakat mau pun dari syariat Islam.

Kata Kunci: Mengembangkan, Karakter, Mahasiswa, Digital

Introduction

Islamic religious education has a very important role in shaping the character of students, especially in universities¹. In the era of globalization where the development of technology and information is developing all the time, maintaining moral and ethical values becomes a tough ordeal². Students, as the successors of the nation and state, face various challenges that threaten the code of ethics and noble values that have been inherited by previous generations. Therefore, a strong personality foundation is needed so that they are able to face the crises that will arise, both from within themselves and from the surrounding environment³.

In higher education, especially at the Surabaya State Electronics Polytechnic, Islamic Religious Education (PAI) functions more than just providing an understanding of Islamic teachings. PAI also has the responsibility to build the personality of students who are noble, honest, and responsible⁴. In addition, this education must be able to instill a high sense of empathy and tolerance towards others with the diversity of cultures and

¹ Mubarak, Gilang Ardela, and Eneng Muslihah. "The Role of Islamic Religious Education Teachers in Shaping Attitudes of Diversity and Religious Moderation." *Genealogy of PAI: Journal of Islamic Religious Education* 9.1 (2022): 115-130.

² Judrah, Muh, et al. "The Role of Islamic Religious Education Teachers in Building the Character of Students in Moral Strengthening Efforts." *Journal of Instructional and Development Researches* 4.1 (2024): 25-37.

³ Pridayanti, Enok Anggi, Ani Nurani Andrasari, and Yeni Dwi Kurino. "Urgensi penguatan nilai-nilai religius terhadap karakter anak sd." *Journal of Innovation in Primary Education* 1.1 (2022): 40-47.

⁴ HS, H. Romli Ardie. *Bunga Potpourri Hacks the Campus of the Glorious Future*. Desanta Publisher, 2020.

different views of life in society. A strong and positive character is needed to prevent students from deviant behaviour and to maintain student integrity⁵.

Character education based on Islamic values is very relevant in creating students who are not only academically intelligent, but also sensitive to social and moral issues faced by society⁶. Thus, through Islamic religious education, students are expected to develop their potential as a whole, so that they become individuals who have a balance between spiritual and intellectual aspects.

This journal aims to examine in depth the role of Islamic religious education in the development of student character at the Surabaya State Electronics Polytechnic⁷. In addition, this research will also identify the challenges and opportunities faced in the implementation of Islamic religious education in the university. By conducting this study, it is hoped that solutions can be found to increase the effectiveness of Islamic religious education, in order to make a greater contribution to the formation of good and quality student character⁸.

Method

This type of research is qualitative with a case study approach to explore how the role of Islamic Religious Education can shape the character of students in the midst of the development of the digital era. The case study approach was chosen because it was able to investigate in depth complex phenomena, such as the use of digital technology in daily life for students and its impact on character building⁹.

Data will be collected through in-depth research by collecting various journals and investigating problems that arise in the news on social media. In

⁵ Muslich, Masnur. Character education: answering the challenges of multidimensional crises. Bumi Aksara, 2022

⁶ Irawan, Dodi. "Islamic Religious Education in Creating Good Personality in the Family and Society." *Journal of Intellectuals: Islam, Social and Science* 11.2 (2022): 222-231

⁷ Prasetya, Benny, and Yus Mochamad Cholily. The Religious Character Education Method is most effective in schools. Academia Publication, 2021

⁸ Labibah, Arida Arifatul. Nilai-Nilai Pendidikan Akhlak dalam Kitab Washaya Al Abaa Li Al Abna dan Relevansinya dengan Materi Akidah Akhlak Kelas VIII Madrasah Tsanawiyah. Diss. IAIN Ponorogo, 2024

Zainuri, Ahmad. "Merajut Keharmonisan dalam Bingkai Kemajemukan Agama di Indonesia." Surabaya: Kakanan Media (2020).

⁹ Fatah, Yusuf Abdul. THE STORY OF PROPHET IBRAHIM AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION IN ISLAMIC EDUCATION IN THE FAMILY (Study of the Qur'an Surah As-Shaffat verses 102-107 in Tafsir al-Maragi). Diss. UIN FATMAWATI SUKARNO BENGKULU, (2023).

addition, data collection will be carried out through participatory observation in the classroom and analysis of documents related to the influence of digital technology on each student. Interviews with peers will focus on their experiences, views, and opinions in utilizing digital technology to support character development. Meanwhile, participatory observation will provide an overview of the influence of digital technology on the formation of student character and the application of technology in daily life¹⁰.

In addition, the validity of the data from interviews, observations, and document analysis uses triangulation techniques. This study uses thematic analysis to identify the main patterns and themes of the collected data. This method serves to understand how digital technology can contribute or even become a barrier in character development in students

The results of the analysis are expected to provide a comprehensive overview of best practices and obstacles faced in the importance of the role of religion in the digital era. This research also aims to develop practical recommendations that can be adopted by higher education institutions in maximizing the use of digital technology in developing character in students, so as to be able to form strong student character and integrity in accordance with Islamic principles.

Result and Discussion

Education has an important role in shaping the mindset of students and society. Along with the development of the mindset, the resulting impact on the surrounding environment is also increasing, forming a strong individual character. A good character in each individual contributes to the formation of a distinctive national character, which ultimately increases the dignity and respect of other nations¹¹.

According to the Ministry of Education and Culture (2011:6), character education is an effort to in still good habits so that students can behave and act in accordance with the values that are part of their personality. Lickona (1991) stated that character education is all efforts made to influence the character of students. Gardner (1983) in "Frames of Mind" added that character education includes the development of intellectual, emotional, and social aspects in order to form balanced and responsible individuals. Thus, character education aims to in still positive values and good habits, so that

¹⁰ Salik, Mohammad. *Nahdlatul Ulama dan gagasan moderasi Islam*. Literindo Berkah Jaya Malang, 2020

¹¹ Mappanyompa, Mappanyompa, et al. *Pendidikan Agama Islam*. Yayasan Tri Edukasi Ilmiah, 2024

Sanger, Alan Hubert Frederik, and Juwinner Dedy Kasingku. "Pengaruh Pendidikan Karakter terhadap Moralitas Remaja di Era Digital." *Pendas: Jurnal Ilmiah Pendidikan Dasar* 8, no. 2 (2023)

students are able to act in accordance with the values that are part of their personality¹².

For students, character development has an important role in supporting daily life. Students who have good character can play an active role in helping the community and voice their aspirations constructively. A well-developed character also has a positive impact on the progress of the nation. Tanis (2013) emphasized that the main goal of character development in higher education is to prepare students to become effective and ethical future leaders. With a strong character, students are expected to be able to make responsible decisions and face the challenges of the world of work¹³.

Additionally, character development increases students' independence and responsibility, helping them understand the consequences of any decisions taken. Good character also allows students to establish healthy interpersonal relationships with classmates, lecturers, and the community. Khalilah (2017) highlighted that students with positive character tend to be more sensitive to social issues and are encouraged to contribute to society. Nastiti (2023) added that the mental resilience gained through character education is very important in facing academic pressure, thus helping students maintain mental health during their studies¹⁴.

Character development also affects the formation of students' self-identity and provides a foundation in the maturation process. By strengthening ethics and morals, students can make wiser decisions in their daily lives. Studies on social literacy and humanity show that students who have a disciplined character tend to have better academic performance. The discipline and focus they have supports lifelong learning, encouraging them to continue to grow and learn throughout life. Therefore, character education not only aims for self-improvement, but also to create a positive impact on the surrounding environment¹⁵.

The Role of Islamic Religious Education in Developing Student Character

Islamic Religious Education (PAI) is a systematic process that aims to teach, guide, and shape individual character and morals in accordance with

¹² Bakhtiar, Nurhasanah H. *Islamic Religious Education in Public Universities*. Riau: Aswaja Pressindo, 2013

¹³ Aisyah, Nagita Histimuna. "Smart Students Counter Hoax News in the Era of Disruption Through Digital Literacy."

¹⁴ Judge, Lukman. "The Benefits of Digital Technology on Students' Learning Motivation." PPG Ministry of Education and Culture, November 20, 2022

¹⁵ Afrina, Farda, Ainul Yaqin, and Saifuddin. "Hubungan Pemahaman Pendidikan Agama Islam Dengan Perilaku Penyebaran Hoaks Di Media Sosial Siswa." *STAINU Purworejo: Jurnal Al Ghazali*, vol. 5, no. 2, 2022.

Islamic teachings. This education is not only oriented to the cognitive aspect of understanding religious teachings, but also plays a role in the formation of attitudes and behaviours that reflect Islamic values in daily life¹⁶.

According to Mubarak, Gilang Ardela, and Eneng Muslihah (2022), Islamic religious education plays an important role in shaping attitudes toward diversity and religious moderation. With the existence of PAI, students are expected to have a strong personality, and be able to practice religious knowledge in daily life. More than that, Islamic religious education aims to create a generation of intellectuals who are *Rahmatan lil 'Alamin*, who are able to contribute to building a more harmonious, peaceful, and dignified religious life in various aspects of life. This is in line with the idea of Ismail H. Faisal (2019) who emphasized the importance of constitutionalism and pluralism in religious life in Indonesia¹⁷.

PAI also aims to equip students with a deep understanding of Islamic teachings so that they can live an Islamic life, both in the academic environment and in the community. With Islamic religious education, it is hoped that students will not only understand religious teachings textually, but also be able to apply them in their social and professional lives¹⁸.

Islamic Religious Education has a wide role in shaping the character and morals of students. This role is not only limited to religious aspects, but also includes the social and cultural aspects that develop in society. As stated by Judrah, Muh, et al. (2024), Islamic religious education plays a role in building the character of students through strengthening moral and ethical values in accordance with Islamic teachings¹⁹.

Social and cultural norms that develop in society have a great influence on students' behaviour and morals in daily life. Therefore, Islamic religious education must be able to provide a contextual understanding of religious values so that students can apply them in social life. Research

¹⁶ Salisah, Siti Khopipatu, Astuti Darmiyanti, and Yadi Fahmi Arifudin. "The Role of Islamic Religious Education in Shaping the Character of Students in the Digital Era: A Literature Review." *Al-Fikr: Journal of Islamic Education*, vol. 10, no. 1, June 2024, pp. 36-42

¹⁷ Shubhie, H. Muhiyi. *Pendidikan Agama Islam-Akidah Akhlak*. Uwais Inspirasi Indonesia, 2023

Pamungkas, Mohamad Singgih. "Argumentasi Rasional Eksistensi Tuhan." *El-Mujtama: Jurnal Pengabdian Masyarakat* 4.5 (2024): 2602-2620

¹⁸ Salsabila, Unik Hanifah, et al. "Implementation of Islamic Religious Education Learning in Shaping Moral Character Karimah." (2020)

¹⁹ Gunadi, Gugun. "Tolerance in Islam." *Djuanda University*, November 2, 2023.

Sukino. "The Concept of Patience in the Qur'an and Its Contextualization in the Purpose of Human Life Through Education." *RUHAMA Journal*, vol. 1, no. 1, May 2018.

conducted by Pridayanti, Enok Anggi, Ani Nurani Andrasari, and Yeni Dwi Kurino (2022) shows that the strengthening of religious values has an important role in the formation of children's character from an early age, so it is also relevant to be applied at the higher education level²⁰.

In addition, Islamic religious education in the academic environment must be able to adapt to the times. In the increasingly advanced digital era, PAI teaching methods need to be updated to be more relevant to the needs of today's students. According to HS H. Romli Ardie (2020), a glorious future campus must be able to hack learning methods that are in accordance with technological developments. Thus, lecturers and the academic community must be able to adjust the way of teaching and guiding students to be more effective in forming a modern character without leaving Islamic values.

Furthermore, Muslich (2022) in his book *Character Education: Answering the Challenges of the Multidimensional Crisis* emphasized that Islamic religious education must be the main pillar in shaping the character of students so that they have strong moral values and are able to face the challenges of the times without losing their Islamic identity.

Islamic religious education cannot be separated from the faith, which is the main foundation in living life as a Muslim. Faith is a guideline that regulates all aspects of human life based on the teachings of the Qur'an and Sunnah. Therefore, Islamic religious education must be able to instill a strong faith in students so that they have a solid grip on life.

According to Irawan, Dodi (2022), Islamic religious education plays a role in creating a good personality in the family and society. This education not only teaches aspects of ritual worship, but also shapes the mindset and actions of students to always adhere to Islamic values in various aspects of life²¹.

Prasetya and Yus Mochamad Cholily (2021) in their research stated that an effective method of religious character education must begin with a strong understanding of the Islamic faith. By having a solid faith, students will be more easily directed to the right path that Allah SWT is pleased with. In addition, they will also have high moral resilience so that they are not easily influenced by the increasingly complex changes of the times²².

²⁰ Sukino. "Konsep Akhlak dalam Islam dan Implikasinya terhadap Kehidupan Sehari-hari." *Jurnal PENDIDIKAN*, vol. 2, no. 3, Juli 2020.

²¹ Mubarak, Gilang Ardela, and Eneng Muslihah. "The Role of Islamic Religious Education Teachers in Shaping Attitudes of Diversity and Religious Moderation." *Genealogy of PAI: Journal of Islamic Religious Education* 9.1 (2022): 115-130.

²² Judrah, Muh, et al. "Peran Guru Pendidikan Agama Islam Dalam Membangun Karakter Peserta Didik Upaya Penguatan Moral." *Journal of Instructional and Development Researches* 4.1 (2024): 25-37.

Arida Arifatul Labibah (2024) in her dissertation emphasized that the values of moral education taught in the classic book have high relevance to the material of moral beliefs in madrasahs. Therefore, the teaching of faith in higher education must also be developed with a more modern approach so that it can still be accepted by students²³.

When faith is not well embedded in students, various negative consequences can occur. Students who do not have a strong grip on the faith are at risk of experiencing confusion in living life, being easily influenced by negative culture, and losing their way in facing the challenges of the times. Ahmad Zainuri (2020) in his book *Knitting Harmony in the Frame of Religious Pluralism in Indonesia* explained that losing faith can cause a person to get lost and lose their Islamic identity²⁴.

In addition, Yusuf Abdul Fatah (2023) in his study of the story of Prophet Ibrahim emphasized the importance of adhering to Islamic teachings as part of family education. By improving the quality and quantity of piety to Allah SWT, students can be more awake from various negative influences that can damage their morals²⁵.

The Islamic faith also teaches to always be kind to others, respect differences, and foster an attitude of helping each other. Therefore, Islamic religious education must be able to form students who are not only intellectually intelligent, but also have good morals and ethics in interacting with others. Sirajuddin (2020) in his book *Religious Moderation Literacy in Indonesia* emphasized that religious moderation must be an integral part of religious education in order to create a harmonious and mutually respectful society²⁶.

If every student has a strong understanding of the faith and is able to apply Islamic values in their lives, then the educational environment will be better, harmonious, and harmonious. Mohammad Salik (2020) in his book *Nahdlatul Ulama and the Idea of Islamic Moderation* emphasized that Islamic

²³ Pridayanti, Enok Anggi, Ani Nurani Andrasari, and Yeni Dwi Kurino. "The urgency of strengthening religious values for the character of elementary school children." *Journal of Innovation in Primary Education* 1.1 (2022): 40-47.

²⁴ HS, H. Romli Ardie. *Bunga Potpourri Hacks the Campus of the Glorious Future*. Desanta Publisher, 2020.

²⁵ Irawan, Dodi. "Pendidikan Agama Islam dalam Menciptakan Kepribadian yang Baik di Keluarga dan Masyarakat." *Jurnal Intelektualita: Keislaman, Sosial dan Sains* 11.2 (2022): 222-231

²⁶ Prasetya, Benny, and Yus Mochamad Cholily. *The Religious Character Education Method is most effective in schools*. Academia Publication, 2021

education must be the main pillar in creating a peaceful and prosperous society²⁷.

Thus, the teaching of Islamic religious education that is closely related to this faith is expected to shape students, especially at the Surabaya State Electronics Polytechnic, to have character and morals in accordance with the teachings of the Qur'an and hadith. As stated by Mappanyompa et al. (2024), Islamic religious education must be able to become a moral fortress for students so that they can face various challenges of the times while still adhering to Islamic values.

The Role of Digital Technology in Developing Student Character

Digital technology has become an inseparable part of student life in this modern era. The ease of access to information provided by the internet allows students to acquire knowledge from various sources quickly and efficiently. Digital technology also supports various aspects of academic life, such as online learning, research, and scientific discussions that can be carried out without geographical restrictions. However, this convenience also brings challenges in shaping student character, especially in the aspects of integrity, discipline, and responsibility²⁸.

Social media, as one of the dominant forms of digital technology, has an ambivalent impact on the character of students. On the one hand, cross-cultural interactions that occur through social media can increase empathy, broaden horizons, and strengthen communication skills. On the other hand, uncontrolled use can lead to negative impacts, such as addiction, increased consumptive behaviour, and degradation of communication ethics. Research by Sanger, Alan Hubert Frederik, and Juwinner Dedy Kasingku (2023) shows that excessive use of digital technology can reduce social interaction in the real world, which can ultimately weaken students' interpersonal skills. Therefore, awareness and wisdom are needed in utilizing digital technology so that its benefits can be optimized without sacrificing character values²⁹.

²⁷ Labibah, Arida Arifatul. Nilai-Nilai Pendidikan Akhlak dalam Kitab Washaya Al Abaa Li Al Abna dan Relevansinya dengan Materi Akidah Akhlak Kelas VIII Madrasah Tsanawiyah. Diss. IAIN Ponorogo, 2024

Zainuri, Ahmad. "Merajut Keharmonisan dalam Bingkai Kemajemukan Agama di Indonesia." Surabaya: Kakan Media (2020).

²⁸ Fatah, Yusuf Abdul. THE STORY OF PROPHET IBRAHIM AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION IN ISLAMIC EDUCATION IN THE FAMILY (Study of the Qur'an Surah As-Shaffat verses 102-107 in Tafsir al-Maragi). Diss. UIN FATMAWATI SUKARNO BENGKULU, 2023).

²⁹ Mappanyompa, Mappanyompa, et al. Pendidikan Agama Islam. Yayasan Tri Edukasi Ilmiah, 2024

The information era, which is characterized by an abundance of data and instant access to information, requires students to have the ability to think critically in consuming media. Not all information available on the internet has high credibility, and there are often hoaxes and disinformation that can mislead students about an issue. In this context, religious education has a crucial role in forming a strong moral foundation for students to critically evaluate information and distinguish between truth and falsehood³⁰.

Bakhtiar and Nurhasanah H. (2013) emphasized that religious education not only functions as a means of transferring knowledge about spiritual values, but also as a tool to form a strong character in facing the dynamics of digital technology. With good religious education, students can develop a selective attitude towards the information they consume and understand the importance of ethics in interacting in the digital world. In addition, religious education also teaches values such as honesty, patience, and simplicity, which are very important in building self-integrity in the midst of the rapid flow of digital information³¹.

Digital literacy is an essential skill that must be possessed by students in the digital era. These skills include an understanding of assessing the credibility of information sources, managing privacy in cyberspace, and participating in digital spaces ethically and responsibly. Students who have good digital literacy will be able to avoid the negative impact of technology, such as the spread of hoaxes, cyberbullying, and misuse of personal data.

According to Aisyah and Nagita Histimuna, the integration of religious education and digital literacy can be a solution in forming individuals who are intellectually intelligent and have strong character. Students who have a good understanding of religion and adequate digital literacy skills will be better able to use technology wisely. They can distinguish between true and false information, as well as understand the ethical consequences of any action they take in the digital world. In addition, digital literacy also helps students understand the concept of data privacy and

Sanger, Alan Hubert Frederik, and Juwinner Dedy Kasingku. "Pengaruh Pendidikan Karakter terhadap Moralitas Remaja di Era Digital." *Pendas: Jurnal Ilmiah Pendidikan Dasar* 8, no. 2 (2023)

³⁰ Afrina, Farda, Ainul Yaqin, and Saifuddin. "The Relationship between Understanding Islamic Religious Education and Behavior of Spreading Hoaxes on Student Social Media." *STAINU Purworejo: Al Ghazali Journal*, vol. 5, no. 2, 2022.

³¹ Salisah, Siti Khopipatu, Astuti Darmiyanti, and Yadi Fahmi Arifudin. "The Role of Islamic Religious Education in Shaping the Character of Students in the Digital Era: A Literature Review." *Al-Fikr: Journal of Islamic Education*, vol. 10, no. 1, June 2024, pp. 36-42

security, which is very important in maintaining their integrity in the digital era³².

Digital technology has changed the way students receive, process, and share information. With the internet and social media, information can spread very quickly to various parts of the world. This provides a great opportunity for students to enrich their insights with a variety of perspectives from different cultures and backgrounds. However, on the other hand, digital technology also brings challenges in maintaining positive character values³³.

Hakim, Lukman (2022) revealed that if managed properly, digital technology can be a means to foster tolerance, mutual respect, and respect for differences. Access to various cultures and global thinking can open students' horizons and form an inclusive attitude in interacting with others. However, if not used wisely, digital technology can also be a tool that damages character, for example by accelerating the spread of hoaxes, exacerbating social polarization, and weakening academic ethics through acts of plagiarism and academic cheating³⁴.

Therefore, educational policies and programs are needed that can guide students in using technology responsibly. The higher education curriculum needs to accommodate digital literacy education combined with moral and ethical values to ensure that students are not only academically intelligent, but also have a strong character in facing the challenges of the digital era.

Islamic religious education has a very important role in guiding students in using digital technology wisely. In Islam, the concepts of morals and ethics are highly emphasized as the basis in every aspect of life, including in the use of technology. By understanding Islamic values such as honesty, sincerity, and discipline, students will be better able to avoid the misuse of technology and understand moral boundaries in the digital world.

Afrina, Farda, Ainul Yaqin, and Saifuddin (2022) highlight that Islamic religious education can be a guideline for students in facing various challenges in the digital era. With a strong religious education, students will more easily understand the consequences of every action they take in the digital world. For example, in Islam, spreading fake news or hoaxes is considered an act that goes against the values of honesty and trust. Therefore,

³² Salsabila, Unik Hanifah, et al. "Implementation of Islamic Religious Education Learning in Shaping Moral Character Karimah." (2020)

³³ Judrah, Muh, et al. "The Role of Islamic Religious Education Teachers in Building the Character of Students in Moral Strengthening Efforts." *Journal of Instructional and Development Researches* 4.1 (2024): 25-37.

³⁴ Prasetya, Benny, and Yus Mochamad Cholily. *Metode Pendidikan karakter Religius paling efektif di sekolah*. Academia Publication, 2021

students who have a good understanding of religion will be more careful in receiving and disseminating information.

In addition, Islamic religious education can also help students in managing time and discipline in the use of technology. Islam teaches the importance of balance in life, including in terms of the use of technology. With this awareness, students can avoid social media addiction or excessive use of technology, so that they can still maintain their academic productivity and social life³⁵.

Effective education of religious values can be a solution in strengthening the character of students in the digital era. By having a strong moral foundation, students will be better able to face various challenges that arise due to technological developments. They are not only smart individuals in utilizing technology, but also able to uphold moral values in every aspect of their lives.

Salisah, Siti Khopipatu, Astuti Darmiyanti, and Yadi Fahmi Arifudin (2024) emphasized that education in religious values must be carried out in a sustainable manner and integrated with various aspects of student life. This can be done through various educational programs, such as seminars, group discussions, and religion-based character development. Thus, students can understand the importance of responsible use of technology and have the awareness to always uphold ethics and morality in their digital lives³⁶.

The development of digital technology brings various benefits as well as challenges in shaping student character. Therefore, the right strategy is needed in integrating technology with religious values education and digital literacy so that students can make optimal use of technology without sacrificing their character and morality. Religious education, digital literacy, and appropriate policies can be a solution in shaping smart, integrity, and responsible students in this digital era³⁷.

³⁵ Labibah, Arida Arifatul. *The Values of Moral Education in the Book of Washaya Al Abaa Li Al Abna and Its Relevance to the Moral Beliefs Material Class VIII Madrasah Tsanawiyah*. Diss. IAIN Ponorogo, 2024

³⁶ Mappanyompa, Mappanyompa, et al. *Pendidikan Agama Islam*. Yayasan Tri Edukasi Ilmiah, 2024

Sanger, Alan Hubert Frederik, and Juwinner Dedy Kasingku. "Pengaruh Pendidikan Karakter terhadap Moralitas Remaja di Era Digital." *Pendas: Jurnal Ilmiah Pendidikan Dasar* 8, no. 2 (2023)

³⁷ Afrina, Farda, Ainul Yaqin, and Saifuddin. "Hubungan Pemahaman Pendidikan Agama Islam Dengan Perilaku Penyebaran Hoaks Di Media Sosial Siswa." *STAINU Purworejo: Jurnal Al Ghazali*, vol. 5, no. 2, 2022.

Student Character Development in Accordance with Islamic Religious Teachings

Islam has various legal sources that are guidelines in regulating the lives of Muslims, including the Qur'an and the hadith of the Prophet PBUH. In this context, faith and gratitude are two important characters taught in Islam and are the foundation of daily life³⁸.

Faith is the main foundation for every Muslim, which must be inherent in him from birth. Faith is defined as a deep belief in Allah SWT, and without faith, a person cannot be called a Muslim. The life of a person who does not have faith will feel empty and full of frustration. On the contrary, with strong faith, a person will be able to face various trials of life with peace and tawakal. The Qur'an mentions a lot about faith, such as in Surah Ar-Rahman verse 27 which states that Allah SWT has created the earth for His creatures as proof of His power. In addition, in Surah Luqman verse 22, it is explained that those who surrender themselves to Allah and do good will hold on to a strong rope, which shows that sincere faith is a source of strength in life³⁹.

In addition to faith, gratitude is also a very important character in the life of a Muslim. Gratitude is a form of recognition and gratitude for all the blessings given by Allah SWT. Gratitude can be expressed verbally through dhikr and prayer, as well as through the body by maintaining health and doing good to others. The Qur'an teaches the importance of being grateful, as stated in Surah Ibrahim verse 7 which states that if we are grateful, Allah will increase His favor, but if we deny His favor, His punishment is very harsh. In addition, Surah Luqman verse 12 reminds us that whoever is grateful, he is actually doing for his own good⁴⁰.

Next, filial piety to parents is an obligation that should not be ignored by a Muslim, both students and students. In Islamic teachings, filial piety to parents is not just an obligation, but also a charity that brings us closer to Allah. Respecting and loving parents is a form of love taught by Islam, and devotion to parents is a way to gain Allah's pleasure. The Qur'an reminds us of the importance of filial piety to parents, as mentioned in Surah Luqman

³⁸ Salisah, Siti Khopipatu, Astuti Darmiyanti, and Yadi Fahmi Arifudin. "The Role of Islamic Religious Education in Shaping the Character of Students in the Digital Era: A Literature Review." *Al-Fikr: Journal of Islamic Education*, vol. 10, no. 1, June 2024, pp. 36-42

³⁹ Salsabila, Unik Hanifah, et al. "Implementasi Pembelajaran Pendidikan Agama Islam Dalam Membentuk Pribadi Akhlakul Karimah." (2020)

⁴⁰ Fate, Mohammad. *Gratitude psychology: the perspective of Quranic psychology and positive psychology to achieve true happiness*. Elex Media Komputindo, 2019.

verse 14 and Surah Al-Isra verses 23-24 which teach not to hurt the hearts of parents and always pray for them to receive Allah's love⁴¹.

In addition to being filial to parents, Islam also teaches various noble characters that every Muslim must have. One of them is an attitude of tolerance. Tolerance in Islam is not just accepting differences, but also respecting and respecting others even if they have different views or beliefs. The hadith of the Prophet PBUH states that a person's goodness is not determined by the colour of his skin, but by his piety to Allah. Therefore, Islam emphasizes the importance of maintaining a common life with others, including those of different religions, and gives them the freedom to practice their beliefs as long as they adhere to mutual agreement⁴².

Another noble character is patience. Patience in facing all the trials of life is a highly valued attitude in Islam. The Prophet PBUH stated that there is no proper reward for a patient servant other than heaven. Patience also includes the ability to exercise self-restraint in carrying out God's commandments and staying away from His prohibitions. A patient Muslim will receive great help and reward from Allah, as it is mentioned in the hadith that the amount of reward is proportional to the magnitude of the test⁴³ faced.

In addition, Islam teaches the importance of noble morals. Noble morals are a reflection of strong faith and are reflected in daily behaviour. The Prophet PBUH was sent to perfect noble morals, and Islam teaches to love and respect each other. As the Prophet PBUH said, "Indeed, among the believers who are the most perfect, their faith is the best moral." This noble character will create harmony in the relationship between individuals and society, and become a good example for others. Thus, faith, gratitude, filial piety to parents, tolerance, patience, and noble character are the main characters taught in Islam and must be applied in daily life to achieve true peace and happiness⁴⁴.

⁴¹ Sukino. "Konsep Sabar dalam Al-Qur'an dan Kontekstualisasinya dalam Tujuan Hidup Manusia Melalui Pendidikan." *Jurnal RUHAMA*, vol. 1, no. 1, Mei 2018.

⁴² Irawan, Dodi. "Islamic Religious Education in Creating Good Personality in the Family and Society." *Journal of Intellectuals: Islam, Social and Science* 11.2 (2022): 222-231

⁴³ Sirajuddin, Sirajuddin. *Religious Moderation Literacy Book in Indonesia*. Publisher. Zigie Utama, 2020

Salik, Mohammad. *Nahdlatul Ulama and the idea of Islamic moderation*. Literindo Berkah Jaya Malang, 2020

⁴⁴ Mappanyompa, Mappanyompa, et al. *Pendidikan Agama Islam*. Yayasan Tri Edukasi Ilmiah, 2024

Sanger, Alan Hubert Frederik, and Juwinner Dedy Kasingku. "Pengaruh Pendidikan Karakter terhadap Moralitas Remaja di Era Digital." *Pendas: Jurnal Ilmiah Pendidikan Dasar* 8, no. 2 (2023)

Conclusion

The digital era is an era of rapid technological development, all sophisticated, which is closely adjacent to human life and can make everything easier and more practical. With the development of technology, of course, it has a positive to negative impact on humans. And with this change in the era of digitalization, the wave of information will be received faster and more prone to the creation of disinformation that can have a negative impact on all groups, especially for students or students.

So from the results of the research and observations that have been carried out, it can be concluded that religious education fostered and guided by lecturers and the academic community in the era of digitalization progress in the campus environment, especially at the Surabaya State Electronics Polytechnic, is very important and influential in developing the character, ethics, and morals of students in the era of digitalization 4.0 to 5.0. Because if it is not based on a strong religious education, the behavior and morals of a student are prone to be affected by the negative impact of increasingly advanced technological developments. So that Islamic religious education plays an important role as a controller and self-direction so as not to deviate from the norms that exist in society or from Islamic law.

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