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Islamic Education as the Foundation for the Development of Children's Moral Character in the Digitalization Era

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ABSTRACT

The rapid development of digital technology has greatly influenced children's lives, especially in communication, education, and social interaction. The internet, social media, and digital devices provide many benefits, such as easier access to information and more interactive learning. However, digitalization also brings challenges, including moral decline, gadget addiction, cyberbullying, and exposure to inappropriate content that may affect children's character development. In this situation, Islamic education plays an important role in shaping children's moral character in the digital era. This study aims to examine the role of Islamic education in developing children's morality and the efforts needed to strengthen Islamic education amid digitalization. This research uses a qualitative method through literature review and textual analysis. The findings show that Islamic education helps develop children's moral values by instilling faith, discipline, responsibility, and ethical behavior in using technology. In addition, the roles of parents, teachers, and society are very important in guiding children's moral development. Therefore, strengthening Islamic education and positive guidance is necessary to create a faithful, responsible, and morally upright generation in the digital era.

Keywords: *Islamic Education, Moral Character, Digitalization Era*

A. Introduction

The development of digital technology has brought significant changes to human life. The presence of the internet, social media, and various digital devices has made it easier for people to learn, communicate, work, and access information.

Children living in the modern era are also closely connected to technology, as they have become familiar with gadgets, the internet, and social media from an early age. Technology provides numerous benefits, such as making the learning process easier, more engaging, and interactive, while also supporting children's creativity in various fields [Imun, 2023: 21].

However, the advancement of technology also has negative impacts on children's character development. Easy access to the internet allows children to encounter content that is inconsistent with moral and religious values, such as violence, hate speech, and promiscuity. Excessive use of gadgets may also cause children to become less disciplined, reluctant to study, addicted to online games, and less concerned about their surrounding environment. Furthermore, many children have begun to experience a decline in communication ethics and are more likely to imitate negative behaviors they observe on social media [Suhartono, 2022: 369].

In facing these challenges, Islamic education plays an important role as the foundation for children's moral development. Islamic education teaches values such as faith, honesty, discipline, responsibility, politeness, and self-control, enabling children to use technology wisely. The development of children's morality is not only the responsibility of schools, but also of families and society. Through strong cooperation among parents, teachers, and the surrounding community, children are expected to grow into an intelligent, faithful, and morally upright generation in the era of digitalization [Tentiasih, 2024: 270].

B. Literature Review

Islamic education is regarded as a comprehensive educational system that aims to develop individuals spiritually, intellectually, emotionally, and socially based on the teachings of the Qur'an and Hadith. According to many Muslim scholars, Islamic education not only focuses on academic achievement but also emphasizes the development of morality and noble character (akhlaq al-karimah). Moral education is considered one of the central objectives of Islamic education because morality reflects the quality of a person's faith and behavior in daily life. Therefore, Islamic education seeks to create individuals who possess faith, piety, responsibility, honesty, discipline, and social awareness.

Several studies have explained that children's morality is greatly influenced by their educational environment, especially the family, school, and society. Parents are recognized as the first educators who introduce religious values, habits, and behavior patterns to children from an early age. Meanwhile, teachers continue the educational process by integrating moral and religious values into school activities and learning processes. Research also shows that children who grow up in religious and supportive environments tend to have stronger moral character and better self-control.

In the era of digitalization, the role of Islamic education becomes increasingly important because children are highly exposed to digital media and online information. Technological advancement has created both positive and negative impacts on children's development. On the positive side, technology provides broader access to knowledge, interactive learning media, and opportunities for creativity. However, several scholars argue that uncontrolled use of digital technology may lead to moral decline, addiction to gadgets, cyberbullying, reduced social interaction, and exposure to inappropriate content such as violence and pornography.

Previous research also emphasizes that Islamic education can function as a moral safeguard in the digital era. Through the cultivation of faith, worship habits, moral values, and digital ethics, children can develop the ability to filter information and use technology responsibly. Islamic teachings encourage balance in life, self-

control, and ethical behavior, including in digital communication and social media usage.

In addition, studies regarding character education highlight the importance of collaboration between parents, teachers, and society in shaping children's morality. Effective moral education requires not only theoretical instruction but also role modeling, habituation, supervision, and positive environmental support. Therefore, strengthening Islamic education through family guidance, school-based character education, Islamic digital literacy, and positive social environments is considered an effective strategy for developing morally upright children in the digitalization era.

Based on the literature above, it can be understood that Islamic education has a strategic role in forming children's moral character amid the challenges of digitalization. The integration of religious values, moral education, parental supervision, and wise technology use is essential in preparing children to become faithful, responsible, and ethical individuals in modern society.

C. Research Method

The methodology of this study is designed to provide a systematic framework for examining and analyzing the *tafsir maudhu'i* method. This research employs a qualitative approach, with a primary focus on literature review and textual analysis. The study begins with the collection and critical examination of relevant literature on *tafsir maudhu'i*. The sources utilized include academic journal articles and scholarly works by Muslim intellectuals who have discussed this method. Through this approach, the study is expected to offer a comprehensive overview of the *tafsir maudhu'i* method, as well as its contribution to the understanding and application of Qur'anic teachings in the modern era.

D. Results and Discussion

1. Definition of Islamic Education

Islamic education is a process of nurturing, teaching, and developing all human potential based on Islamic teachings derived from the Qur'an and Hadith. It aims to shape individuals who possess faith (*iman*), piety (*taqwa*), knowledge, noble character, and the ability to live in accordance with Islamic principles. In the Islamic perspective, education holds a highly important position because it serves as a means of forming a complete human being in spiritual, intellectual, emotional, and social aspects.

Islamic education is not merely oriented toward the mastery of knowledge, but also emphasizes the development of character and morality. Therefore, Islamic education differs from systems of education that focus solely on academic achievement. In Islamic education, a person's success is measured not only by intellectual intelligence but also by the quality of faith, morality, and daily behavior. It seeks to create a balance between worldly needs and preparation for the Hereafter, enabling individuals to live harmoniously. According to scholars, Islamic education is a conscious and planned effort to guide, direct, and develop human potential so that individuals become persons who embody Islamic values. Islamic education teaches that human beings do not live solely for worldly interests, but also carry responsibilities as servants of Allah SWT who must prepare for the life of the Hereafter.

Therefore, Islamic education aims to produce individuals who are capable of fulfilling their role as *khalifah* (vicegerents) on earth with responsibility and good character. In Islam, education is closely connected with knowledge. Islam highly

values knowledgeable people because knowledge is regarded as the path to understanding the greatness of Allah SWT and living life correctly. The importance of education in Islam can be seen in the first revelation given to the Prophet Muhammad SAW, namely Surah Al-'Alaq verses 1–5, which contain the command to read. These verses demonstrate that Islam strongly emphasizes the importance of knowledge and the learning process in human life. Reading in this context does not only mean reading written texts, but also understanding, analyzing, and studying everything beneficial for human life [Farida, 2023: 365].

Furthermore, Islamic education also aims to shape individuals with noble character (*akhlaq al-karimah*). Morality is an essential aspect of Islamic teachings because it reflects the quality of a person's faith. The Prophet Muhammad SAW himself was sent to perfect human morality. Therefore, Islamic education does not merely teach religious theories, but also instills moral values such as honesty, responsibility, discipline, trustworthiness, politeness, compassion, and respect for others. These values must be practiced in daily life in order to form individuals who are beneficial to society.

Islamic education also develops human intellectual potential. Islam encourages its followers to think critically, conduct research, and advance knowledge for the welfare of humanity. Therefore, Islamic education does not reject the development of science and technology; rather, it directs their use in accordance with Islamic values. In Islamic education, science and religion should go hand in hand so that people not only progress technologically but also possess strong moral and spiritual foundations [Fujiati, 2024: 114].

The primary goal of Islamic education is to develop individuals who believe in and are devoted to Allah SWT. Faith serves as the main foundation in a Muslim's life because it influences the way people think, behave, and act. Individuals with strong faith are more likely to obey religious commands and avoid prohibited actions. In addition, Islamic education seeks to instill awareness that human beings have responsibilities toward themselves, their families, society, the nation, and their religion.

Moreover, Islamic education aims to develop human skills and abilities so that individuals are capable of facing life's challenges. It seeks not only to produce spiritually righteous individuals but also people who are productive, creative, and beneficial to their surroundings. Through Islamic education, individuals are expected to use their knowledge and skills for the common good and to become useful members of religion, society, and the nation.

In practice, Islamic education can be implemented through various environments, namely the family, school, and society. The family is the first and most important educational environment for children. Within the family, children begin to learn religious values, morality, manners, and daily habits. Parents carry a major responsibility in instilling the foundations of Islamic education from an early age. Their attitudes, behavior, and habits become examples that strongly influence children's character development.

Furthermore, schools play an important role in continuing the process of Islamic education. At school, children gain broader and more structured religious knowledge through the learning process. Teachers have a significant responsibility

in guiding, educating, and serving as role models for students. Teachers are not only responsible for delivering academic material, but also for shaping students' character and morality in accordance with Islamic values. Therefore, the success of Islamic education is greatly influenced by the quality of teachers and the educational methods applied [Ali, 2024: 86].

In addition to the family and school, society also plays an important role in Islamic education. The social environment can strongly influence children's behavioral development. A religious and positive environment helps children grow into good individuals, while a negative environment may affect their morality and behavior. Therefore, cooperation among families, schools, and society is essential in creating an educational environment that supports the formation of Islamic character and morality.

In conclusion, Islamic education can be understood as a comprehensive process of human development based on Islamic teachings to form individuals who possess faith, piety, knowledge, and noble character. Islamic education does not focus solely on intellectual intelligence, but also emphasizes the balance between spiritual, moral, emotional, and social aspects. Through Islamic education, it is expected that future generations will emerge who are not only intellectually capable but also possess strong character and morality, enabling them to contribute positively to society, the nation, and religion.

2. The Concept of Children's Morality (Akhlak)

The term *akhlak* is derived from the Arabic word *khuluq*, which means character, behavior, temperament, or habits embedded within a person. In Islam, *akhlak* refers to qualities deeply rooted in the human soul that encourage a person to perform actions spontaneously without requiring lengthy consideration. Morality is considered one of the most essential aspects of a Muslim's life because it reflects the quality of one's faith and personality. The better a person's morality, the stronger their faith and relationship with Allah SWT as well as with fellow human beings.

In Islamic teachings, morality occupies a very noble position. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) was sent not only to convey religious teachings but also to perfect human morality. Therefore, moral education is a central component of Islamic education. Morality is not only related to the relationship between humans and Allah SWT, but also to relationships with fellow human beings, the environment, and all living creatures. Islam teaches that individuals with noble character are able to create harmonious, peaceful, and compassionate lives within society [Rina, 2021: 77].

Children's morality can be understood as the behavior, attitudes, speech, and habits demonstrated by children in their daily lives that reflect moral values, ethics, and religious teachings. A child's morality is visible in the way they speak, behave toward their parents, respect teachers, treat friends, and perform religious obligations in everyday life. Children with good morality usually display politeness, honesty, discipline, responsibility, and respect for others.

The formation of morality should begin at an early age because childhood is a crucial period in character development. At this stage, children easily absorb and imitate behaviors they observe from their surroundings. What children are taught

and exposed to from an early age greatly influences their personalities in adulthood. Therefore, moral education for children must be continuously carried out through habituation, advice, supervision, and exemplary conduct from parents and teachers.

Islam teaches various forms of noble morality that should be instilled in children from an early age. One of the most important forms is morality toward Allah SWT. This includes faith, piety, diligence in worship, gratitude for Allah's blessings, praying, obeying His commands, and avoiding His prohibitions. Children need to be introduced to Allah SWT from an early age so that they develop love and awareness in worshipping sincerely. Moral education related to Allah is fundamental because it serves as the basis for shaping children's behavior and personality in everyday life.

In addition to morality toward Allah SWT, children must also be taught morality toward their parents. Islam strongly emphasizes the importance of respecting and honoring parents because they nurture, educate, and raise their children with love and care. Good morality toward parents can be demonstrated through polite speech, obedience to beneficial advice, helping with household tasks, and avoiding actions that may hurt their feelings. Children who are accustomed to respecting their parents from an early age are more likely to grow into polite individuals who respect others [Wahid, 2023: 45].

Morality toward teachers is also an important aspect of Islamic education. Teachers are individuals who provide knowledge and guide children toward goodness. Therefore, children should be taught to respect teachers, listen to their advice, speak politely, and obey school regulations. Respecting teachers reflects appreciation for knowledge and education. In the Islamic tradition, the blessings of knowledge are closely connected to the respect shown by students toward their teachers.

Furthermore, Islam also teaches morality toward friends and society. Children should be encouraged to be honest, helpful, respectful, avoid harsh language, and refrain from hurting others. Positive social attitudes help children build harmonious relationships within their communities. Children who demonstrate good morality toward friends are more easily accepted socially and are able to create positive social interactions.

Morality toward the environment should also be instilled from an early age. Islam teaches that humans have a responsibility to maintain cleanliness and preserve the environment. Children should be taught to dispose of garbage properly, maintain cleanliness at home and school, care for plants, and avoid damaging nature. Environmental moral education is important in developing awareness that protecting nature is part of humanity's responsibility as Allah's vicegerent (*khalifah*) on earth.

The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) serves as the best example of noble morality. He was known as an honest, trustworthy, patient, compassionate, humble, and caring individual. Even before becoming a prophet, he was given the title *Al-Amin*, meaning "the trustworthy one." The exemplary character of the Prophet Muhammad serves as the primary model in children's moral education. Therefore, Islamic moral education should take the Prophet as the ultimate role model in behavior and conduct. Children should be introduced to stories about the

Prophet's exemplary character so that they may imitate his noble qualities in their daily lives.

The development of children's morality is influenced by various factors, both internal and external. The most influential factor is the family. The family is the first environment where children learn to speak, behave, and interact. Parents who provide religious education, attention, affection, and good examples significantly contribute to the development of positive morality in children. Conversely, a lack of parental attention and supervision may cause children to be more easily influenced by negative behavior.

In addition to the family, the social environment also has a major influence on children's moral development. Children who grow up in a religious and positive environment tend to develop good behavior, whereas a negative environment may shape their thinking and actions in harmful ways. Peer groups are also important because children often imitate the behavior of their friends in daily life.

Educational institutions likewise play a significant role in shaping children's morality. Teachers are not only responsible for delivering knowledge but also for serving as role models in attitudes and behavior. Schools that effectively integrate character education and religious values contribute greatly to the development of polite, disciplined, and responsible individuals.

Moreover, social media and digital technology have become major influences on children's morality in the modern era. Children who are frequently exposed to negative content such as violence, hate speech, and inappropriate behavior may imitate these actions in real life. Therefore, the use of digital media must be accompanied by supervision and guidance so that children are able to use technology wisely and responsibly.

In conclusion, children's morality refers to behaviors and habits that reflect moral values and Islamic teachings in everyday life. Moral development should begin at an early age through education, habituation, and exemplary guidance provided by families, schools, and society. Good morality will help children grow into faithful, polite, responsible individuals who contribute positively to their communities and society as a whole [Handayani, 2024: 98].

3. Digitalization Era and Its Influence on Children

The era of digitalization refers to a period in which digital technology develops rapidly and influences almost every aspect of human life. In this era, the use of the internet, social media, smartphones, computers, and various other digital devices has become an inseparable part of daily activities. These changes occur in many fields, including education, economics, communication, entertainment, as well as social and religious life. The presence of digital technology has made human activities faster, more practical, and more efficient than before. The development of digitalization has brought significant changes in the way people obtain information and interact with one another. In the past, communication could only be conducted face-to-face or through letters, whereas today people can communicate easily through social media and instant messaging applications. Information can also be accessed anytime and anywhere through the internet. This condition demonstrates that digital technology has become an essential necessity in modern life.

Children today belong to a digital generation that has been closely connected to technological development since an early age. Many children are already capable of using smartphones, tablets, computers, and the internet even at a very young age. They are accustomed to watching videos on YouTube, playing online games, using social media, and learning through digital applications. In fact, some children understand the use of technology more quickly than adults. Therefore, children today are often referred to as digital natives because they grow up alongside modern technological developments [Dian, 2022: 41].

This condition certainly brings both positive and negative impacts on children's development. Digital technology can serve as a medium for learning and creativity development when used properly. However, without proper supervision and education, technology may also negatively affect children's behavior, morality, and social development.

1. The Positive Impacts of Digitalization

   The era of digitalization provides many benefits for children's development, especially in the fields of education and communication. One of its positive impacts is the ease of access to information and knowledge. Through the internet, children can obtain various learning resources quickly and conveniently. They are able to search for educational materials, read digital books, watch educational videos, and gain new knowledge simply through smartphones or computers. This helps children broaden their knowledge and improve their learning abilities. In addition, digital technology also makes the learning process more interesting and interactive. Today, there are numerous educational applications, learning videos, educational games, and online learning platforms available for children. Learning is no longer limited to books and blackboards, but can also be conducted through more engaging visual and audio media. This condition can increase children's interest in learning because the educational process becomes more enjoyable and less monotonous.

   Technological development is also capable of enhancing children's creativity and skills. Children can learn digital drawing, video creation, writing, designing, and even other technological skills through the internet. Various digital applications provide opportunities for children to explore their talents and creativity in different fields. Technological abilities acquired from an early age can also become an important asset in facing the increasingly modern world. Furthermore, digital technology facilitates communication and social interaction. Children can communicate with friends, teachers, and family members without limitations of distance and time. Technology also helps children become familiar with various cultures, languages, and information from different countries, thereby expanding their global perspective. Thus, the era of digitalization actually offers many advantages when used appropriately and wisely [Rifqi, 2023: 88].

2. The Negative Impacts of Digitalization

   Although digitalization provides many benefits, it also brings negative effects on children's development. One of the most common problems is addiction to gadgets and online games. Many children spend hours playing games or using social media, causing them to neglect their responsibilities such

as studying, worshipping, and interacting with family members. Excessive gadget use may also make children less disciplined and unable to manage their time effectively.

In addition, excessive use of technology may reduce direct social interaction. Children often prefer playing with gadgets rather than spending time with friends or talking with family members. As a result, children's social communication skills may decline, and they may become more individualistic. Children also tend to feel more comfortable interacting in the virtual world than communicating directly in real-life situations.

Another negative impact is the ease with which children are exposed to harmful and inappropriate content. The internet provides unlimited access to information, including violent content, pornography, hate speech, and other deviant behaviors. Children who are not yet capable of filtering information properly can easily imitate the behaviors they observe in digital media. This may negatively influence children's moral and character development if there is no supervision from parents and teachers.

The development of social media has also contributed to the emergence of individualistic behavior and the decline of politeness in communication. Many children have become accustomed to using harsh language, insulting others, and showing less respect toward parents and teachers. The phenomenon of cyberbullying has also become increasingly common among children and adolescents. Cyberbullying may cause psychological disorders, fear, low self-esteem, and even depression among victims.

Moreover, excessive gadget use may reduce children's interest in learning and worship. Children often focus more on games and social media than on reading books and studying. Their worship activities may also be neglected because they are too occupied with digital technology. This condition can negatively affect children's spiritual and academic development if it continues unchecked.

Children who frequently use gadgets without supervision may also experience emotional and social disturbances. They may become more easily angered, have difficulty concentrating, lack discipline, and show less concern for their surroundings. Some children even experience health problems such as lack of sleep, eye strain, and reduced physical activity due to prolonged use of digital devices.

Therefore, education is needed to guide children in using technology wisely. In this regard, Islamic education plays an important role in shaping children's morality and character amid the rapid development of digitalization. Islamic education teaches moral values, self-control, responsibility, and ethics in the use of technology. Children who possess a strong religious educational foundation will be better able to filter information, maintain good behavior, and use technology in accordance with Islamic values.

Islamic education also teaches that technology should be utilized for beneficial purposes and should not contradict religious teachings. Children are taught to maintain proper speech on social media, respect others, avoid slander and hate speech, and use their time wisely. Therefore, Islamic education can

serve as a moral safeguard in preserving children's character amidst the rapid flow of digital technological development [Rahmat, 2024: 56].

4. Islamic Education as the Foundation for the Formation of Children's Morality

Islamic education plays a very important role in shaping children's morality, especially in the era of digitalization, which is full of moral and social challenges. The rapid development of technology provides many conveniences in human life; however, it also brings various negative influences on children's behavior. Therefore, Islamic education serves as the main foundation that instills moral, spiritual, and religious values so that children have strong guidance in facing the changes of the modern era.

Islamic education not only teaches knowledge but also shapes human personality and morality. In Islam, education aims to produce individuals who are faithful, pious, knowledgeable, and possess noble character. Children who receive proper Islamic education will be able to distinguish between good and bad actions and control themselves from negative environmental influences. Thus, Islamic education becomes a moral safeguard in maintaining children's character amid the strong currents of digitalization [Iqbal, 2022: 112].

1. Instilling Faith Values

   One of the main roles of Islamic education is to instill faith (*iman*) in children from an early age. Islamic education teaches children to recognize Allah SWT, understand religious teachings, love the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), and perform acts of worship properly. Faith is the foundation of moral development because a person's behavior is strongly influenced by the quality of their belief. Children with strong faith are more capable of self-control and avoiding actions that contradict religious teachings. In the digital era, children are easily exposed to various types of information from the internet and social media. Not all of this information has a positive impact on their development.

   Many online contents contain violence, hate speech, pornography, and deviant behavior that can damage children's morals. Therefore, strong faith is needed so that children can filter information and avoid negative influences. Children with strong faith will be more careful in using social media, selecting content, and interacting with others. They will understand that every action will be accounted for before Allah SWT. This awareness encourages them to use technology positively and in accordance with Islamic values.

   Faith education also helps children develop inner peace, gratitude, and patience in facing life's challenges. The cultivation of faith values can be done through daily prayers, Qur'an reading, learning stories of the prophets, practicing worship, and providing good role models. Such habituation is essential because childhood is the most important stage in forming character and positive habits [Azizah, 2023: 67].

2. Building Character and Moral Values

   Islamic education also plays a major role in shaping children's character and morals. Islam teaches noble values such as honesty, discipline, responsibility, trustworthiness, patience, humility, respect for others, and mutual help. These values are essential for developing children into good and

beneficial members of society. In the digital era, many children are easily influenced by external cultures that are not in line with Islamic values.

Social media often displays a lifestyle of freedom, consumerism, and inappropriate language and behavior. Children who do not have a strong moral foundation may easily imitate such behavior in their daily lives. Therefore, Islamic education functions as a filter that helps children distinguish between good and bad behavior. Islamic education teaches that good character is part of faith.

Children are taught to guard their speech, respect parents and teachers, behave politely toward friends, and be responsible for themselves. Character formation is not only done through theory but also through example and daily practice. Parents and teachers play a very important role in shaping children's character. Children tend to imitate the behavior they observe in their environment. Therefore, both parents and teachers must serve as good role models in attitude, speech, and behavior. Example has a stronger impact than mere advice or instruction.

3. Teaching Wise Use of Technology

Islamic education does not reject technological development because technology is the result of scientific progress that benefits humanity. However, Islamic education teaches that technology must be used wisely and in accordance with religious values. Children need to understand that technology can be a means of both good and harm depending on how it is used. In the digital era, children must be taught ethics in using social media and the internet.

They need to understand the importance of maintaining proper speech, respecting others, avoiding false information, preventing cyberbullying, and using digital media for beneficial purposes. In Islam, guarding one's speech is an important part of morality, and this principle also applies in digital communication. Islamic education teaches that every human activity, including social media usage, will be accounted for before Allah SWT.

This awareness encourages children to be more cautious in using technology. They should also be directed to use the internet for positive activities such as learning, seeking knowledge, reading digital Qur'an, watching educational content, and participating in online religious activities. In addition, children must be taught the importance of time management and avoiding excessive behavior. They should not become overly dependent on gadgets and must still fulfill their responsibilities in studying, worship, and social interaction. Supervision from parents is essential to ensure that technology use remains healthy and beneficial.

4. Developing Worship Habits and Positive Activities

The habituation of worship and positive activities is an essential part of Islamic education in shaping children's morality. Acts of worship such as prayer, Qur'an recitation, supplication, remembrance of Allah (*dhikr*), and participation in religious activities help build discipline, calmness, and responsibility in children. Children who consistently perform worship develop a strong spiritual connection with Allah SWT, making it easier for them to resist negative influences. In the digital era, worship habits are especially important

because children often spend excessive time on gadgets and social media. By encouraging religious activities, children can develop positive routines that reduce dependency on digital technology. Worship also instills patience, discipline, and a sense of responsibility. Islamic education emphasizes the importance of using time productively. Children should be guided to engage in beneficial activities such as studying, reading books, helping parents, participating in social activities, exercising, and attending religious programs.

These habits help children grow into active, creative, and productive individuals. Parents and teachers have a major responsibility in fostering positive habits in children. The family and school environments must create a religious atmosphere that supports Islamic character development. Children who grow up in an environment filled with love, good examples, and religious values are more likely to develop strong moral character.

In conclusion, Islamic education plays a very crucial role as the foundation for the formation of children's morality in the digital era. It helps instill faith, build character and morals, teach wise use of technology, and encourage worship and positive activities. Through Islamic education, children are expected to face technological development while maintaining Islamic moral values in their daily lives [Syarifah, 2024: 91].

5. The Role of Parents and Teachers in Shaping Children's Moral Character in the Digital Era

The development of digital technology in the modern era has brought significant changes to children's lives. The presence of the internet, social media, online games, and various digital devices provides many benefits in education and communication. However, on the other hand, these developments also present major challenges to the formation of children's character and moral values. Children can easily be influenced by negative content that does not align with moral and religious values if they do not receive proper guidance and supervision.

In this context, the roles of parents and teachers are highly important in shaping children's moral character. Parents and teachers are not only responsible for transferring knowledge but also for guiding, educating, and instilling moral and religious values. Moral education that is carried out collaboratively between family and school helps children grow into individuals who are faithful, disciplined, responsible, and able to use technology wisely [Hikmah, 2022: 83].

1. The Role of Parents

Parents are the first and most important educators for children. From birth, children learn from the family environment through the attitudes, speech, and behavior demonstrated by their parents. Therefore, the family is the primary place for shaping children's character and moral values. Early education from parents significantly influences a child's personality development in the future. One of the main roles of parents is to provide early religious education.

Children need to be introduced to Allah SWT, taught to recite prayers, perform worship, read the Qur'an, and understand Islamic moral values in daily life. Religious education from an early age becomes a strong foundation for moral development in facing the challenges of modern times. Children with strong religious foundations are better able to distinguish between right and

wrong behavior. In addition to religious education, parents also have the responsibility to supervise children's use of gadgets and the internet.

In the digital era, children can easily access various types of information through social media and the internet. Not all of this information has positive educational value. Many negative contents such as violence, pornography, hate speech, and deviant behavior may affect children's mental and moral development.

Therefore, parents must control screen time, monitor children's online activities, and provide guidance on the healthy and beneficial use of technology [Fauzan, 2023: 61]. Parents must also serve as role models in behavior. Children tend to imitate what they observe from their parents. If parents speak politely, perform worship regularly, are honest, disciplined, and responsible, children will more easily adopt these behaviors.

Conversely, negative parental behavior can also be imitated by children. Therefore, role modeling is one of the most effective methods of moral education in Islam. Furthermore, parents should habituate children to perform worship and engage in positive activities in daily life. Practices such as congregational prayer, reading the Qur'an, supplication before activities, and participation in religious events help build a strong religious character.

These positive habits also reduce children's dependence on gadgets and online games. Another important role is maintaining good communication with children. In the digital era, many children prefer spending time on social media rather than interacting with their families. Therefore, parents must create a warm and open relationship so that children feel comfortable sharing their thoughts and problems.

Effective communication helps parents understand children's psychological conditions and provide better guidance. Parents should also guide children to use technology positively. They can be directed to use the internet for learning, watching educational videos, accessing study materials, and developing creativity. With proper supervision, digital technology can become a beneficial tool for children's intellectual and skill development.

In addition, parents must create a religious, harmonious, and loving family environment. A positive family atmosphere helps children develop noble character and emotional security. Moral education that begins in the family becomes the foundation of children's personality in the digital era.

2. The Role of Teachers

Besides parents, teachers also play a crucial role in shaping children's character and moral values in schools. Teachers are not only responsible for delivering academic knowledge but also for guiding and serving as role models for students. In Islam, teachers hold a noble position because they are responsible for educating future generations with knowledge and good character. One of the teacher's roles is to provide character-based education. In the learning process, teachers must instill moral values such as honesty, discipline, responsibility, cooperation, and respect for others.

Character education is not only taught theoretically but also applied through daily habits and school practices. Teachers must also serve as role

models for students. Their attitudes, speech, appearance, and behavior are observed and imitated by students. Therefore, teachers must demonstrate good, polite, and responsible behavior to serve as positive examples. Role modeling has a strong influence on character formation because children tend to imitate what they directly observe.

In addition, teachers need to integrate Islamic values into the learning process. Moral and religious values should not only be taught in Islamic Religious Education classes but can also be embedded in all subjects. Teachers can relate lesson content to moral values so that students understand the importance of applying Islamic teachings in daily life. In the digital era, teachers also have the responsibility to teach digital ethics.

Students need to be guided to use social media wisely, maintain respectful communication, avoid spreading false information, and prevent cyberbullying. Education on digital ethics is essential so that students can use technology positively and responsibly. Teachers can also guide students through religious activities such as congregational prayers, Qur'an recitation, religious lectures, and Islamic social activities. These activities help strengthen students' spiritual values and build a positive school environment that supports moral development.

Cooperation between teachers and parents is essential to ensure effective education. Both must communicate and work together in monitoring children's behavior. When problems arise in behavior or digital usage, parents and teachers should find solutions together to provide proper guidance.

Thus, the roles of parents and teachers are highly essential in shaping children's moral character in the digital era. Parents act as the primary educators within the family, while teachers serve as guides and role models in schools. Through strong cooperation between family and school, children can grow into individuals who are faithful, morally upright, disciplined, and capable of using technology wisely in accordance with Islamic values [Ridwan, 2024: 92].

6. Challenges of Islamic Education in the Digital Era

The development of digital technology in the modern era has brought significant changes to various aspects of human life, including the field of education. The presence of the internet, social media, smartphones, and various digital platforms has made it easier for people to access information and communicate. In education, technology helps the learning process become faster, more flexible, and more accessible. However, behind these conveniences, the era of digitalization also presents considerable challenges for Islamic education, particularly in shaping the character and morality of the younger generation.

Islamic education primarily aims to develop individuals who are faithful, pious, knowledgeable, and possess noble character. Nevertheless, the rapid flow of technological and informational development often introduces influences that are not aligned with Islamic values. Children and adolescents are among the groups most vulnerable to the negative impacts of digitalization because they are still in the stage of character development and are easily influenced by their surroundings. Therefore, Islamic education is required to adapt to modern developments without abandoning the fundamental values of Islamic teachings [Karim, 2022: 102].

1. The Influence of Foreign Cultures

   One of the greatest challenges faced by Islamic education in the digital era is the influence of foreign cultures through digital media. The internet and social media allow children to easily access cultures from various countries. They can watch videos, follow trends, imitate styles of clothing, speech patterns, and lifestyles that may not necessarily align with Islamic values and Indonesian cultural norms.

   Foreign cultures presented through social media often promote lifestyles that are liberal, individualistic, consumeristic, and less concerned with religious values. Children who do not possess a strong religious foundation tend to imitate what they see without being able to distinguish between what is beneficial and harmful. This condition may lead to a decline in Islamic moral and cultural values among children.

   Furthermore, foreign cultural influences can shape children's ways of thinking and behaving in daily life. Many children begin to admire foreign cultures more than preserving their own religious and cultural values. Therefore, Islamic education faces a major challenge in instilling Islamic identity and religious character so that children do not lose their sense of identity amid the current of digital globalization [Fadli, 2023: 55].

2. Declining Social Interaction

   Another challenge is the decline in direct social interaction due to excessive use of gadgets. In the digital era, many children spend more time with smartphones, social media, and online games than interacting with family members or their surrounding environment. Children become more comfortable living in the virtual world than communicating directly with others. This condition can negatively affect children's social and emotional development.

   Children who spend excessive time using gadgets tend to become more individualistic, less concerned about their environment, and weaker in social communication skills. They become less accustomed to speaking face-to-face, cooperating with others, and showing respect in real-life interactions. In Islam, people are taught to maintain good relationships through friendship, mutual assistance, and respect for others.

   Therefore, the decline in social interaction caused by technological dependence becomes a serious challenge for Islamic education in forming a generation that possesses social awareness and noble character. Moreover, the lack of direct interaction within families may reduce emotional closeness between children and parents. Many families live in the same house while remaining occupied with their own gadgets, resulting in limited communication. In fact, healthy family communication plays an essential role in character formation and moral education.

3. Lack of Supervision

   Another challenge is the lack of supervision over children's digital activities. Not all parents have sufficient knowledge, skills, or time to monitor their children's use of gadgets and the internet. Some parents also lack understanding of digital technology, making it difficult for them to control their children's activities on social media and online platforms. Insufficient

supervision allows children to be more easily exposed to negative content such as violence, pornography, hate speech, online gambling, and other deviant behaviors.

Children who have not yet developed the ability to filter information properly are highly vulnerable to imitating what they observe online. This situation may significantly affect children's moral, emotional, and behavioral development. In addition, the absence of proper supervision often causes children to spend unlimited time using gadgets.

Many children become addicted to online games and social media, neglecting their responsibilities in studying, worship, and social interaction. Consequently, Islamic education faces the challenge of increasing parents' awareness regarding the importance of supervising and guiding children in the use of digital technology.

4. Moral and Ethical Crisis

The development of social media has also created challenges in the form of moral and ethical crises among the younger generation. Today, many children and teenagers are beginning to lose politeness and respect in communication, especially on social media. They easily use harsh language, insult others, spread hate speech, and even engage in cyberbullying.

This phenomenon indicates a decline in ethical values within social life. In Islam, maintaining good speech and respecting others are important aspects of noble character. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) taught Muslims to speak kindly or remain silent and to preserve harmonious relationships with others. Moral decline can also be seen in the decreasing respect shown toward parents and teachers. Some children become more disobedient, undisciplined, and irresponsible.

This condition is influenced by various digital contents that promote unrestricted behavior without considering moral and religious values. Therefore, Islamic education faces a significant challenge in restoring ethical and moral values amid rapid technological advancement. Education should not only focus on transferring knowledge but also on instilling morality, courtesy, and social responsibility among students.

5. Dependence on Technology

Another serious challenge is children's dependence on digital technology. Many children are unable to separate themselves from gadgets in their daily lives. They spend hours playing games, watching videos, or using social media, which reduces time for studying, outdoor activities, and interaction with their surroundings. Dependence on technology may cause children to become lazy in studying, less active, unable to concentrate, and undisciplined in managing time.

Excessive gadget use can also negatively affect children's physical and mental health, including sleep disorders, eye fatigue, irritability, and emotional disturbances. From the perspective of Islamic education, human beings are taught to live in balance and avoid excessiveness in all matters. Therefore, Islamic education faces the challenge of guiding children to use technology wisely and avoid excessive dependence on digital devices. At the same time, Islamic education must also be able to utilize technological development as a

positive medium for da‘wah and learning. Technology should be used to improve educational quality, expand knowledge, and strengthen Islamic values among the younger generation.

In conclusion, the era of digitalization presents major challenges for Islamic education, including the influence of foreign cultures, declining social interaction, lack of supervision, moral and ethical crises, and dependence on technology. These challenges demonstrate that Islamic education must continue to adapt to the changing times while maintaining the core values of Islamic teachings. Through strong Islamic education, it is hoped that the younger generation will be able to face the digital era while preserving their faith, moral values, and Islamic identity [Rahmawati, 2024: 88].

7. Solutions and Efforts to Strengthen Islamic Education in the Digital Era

The development of digital technology in the modern era has brought significant impacts on human life, including the fields of education and children’s character formation. Technological advancement provides many benefits in accessing information, facilitating communication, and supporting the learning process. However, on the other hand, digitalization also presents various moral, social, and spiritual challenges that may influence the behavior of the younger generation. Therefore, various solutions and efforts are needed to strengthen Islamic education so that it can serve as a moral foundation in protecting children’s character in the digital era.

Islamic education plays an essential role in shaping individuals who are faithful, pious, knowledgeable, and possess noble character. In the digital age, Islamic education cannot rely solely on traditional methods but must also adapt to technological developments without abandoning the fundamental values of Islamic teachings. Strengthening Islamic education is an important step in enabling children to use technology positively while protecting them from the negative influences of the digital world [Syafii, 2022: 73].

1. Strengthening Religious Education from an Early Age.

   One of the primary efforts in addressing the challenges of the digital era is strengthening religious education from early childhood. Childhood is a crucial period for character and personality formation. At this stage, children are more receptive to and easily influenced by the values taught by their environment. Therefore, religious education must be introduced from an early age so that children develop strong faith and moral foundations.

   Early religious education can be implemented through introducing children to Allah SWT, encouraging regular worship, teaching Qur’anic recitation, memorizing daily prayers, and instilling Islamic moral values in daily life. Children with strong religious foundations are better able to distinguish between good and bad behavior and are less likely to be negatively influenced by digital media content. Furthermore, religious education helps develop spiritual awareness in children. They learn that every action, including activities on social media, will be accountable before Allah SWT. This awareness becomes an important moral shield in facing the challenges of modern technological development.

2. Utilizing Technology for Da‘wah and Education.

   Digital technology can actually be utilized as a positive medium for strengthening Islamic education. The internet and social media are not only sources of entertainment but can also serve as platforms for da‘wah and Islamic learning. Today, there are many digital Qur’an applications, religious lectures, Islamic learning platforms, and online da‘wah media that are easily accessible to the public.

   Teachers and parents should guide children to use technology for beneficial activities, such as attending online Islamic studies, watching educational videos, reading religious articles, and learning various fields of knowledge through the internet. In this way, technology can become a tool to enhance religious understanding while broadening children’s knowledge.

   In addition, the use of technology in Islamic education can make the learning process more engaging and interactive. Visual media, animations, and digital applications can increase children’s interest in religious subjects. This demonstrates that technological development should not always be viewed as a threat but can become an opportunity when used wisely and appropriately [Fadilah, 2023: 96].

3. Parental Supervision of Digital Media

   Parental supervision of children’s use of digital media is an important step in protecting children’s moral development. In the digital era, children can easily access various forms of information through the internet and social media. Without proper supervision, children may be exposed to negative content such as violence, pornography, hate speech, and other deviant behaviors.

   Parents need to regulate children’s gadget use by setting time limits for internet access and selecting content appropriate for their age. In addition, parents should be aware of their children’s activities on social media and provide guidance regarding safe and healthy technology use. Supervision should not only consist of restrictions but also involve guidance and open communication.

   Parents need to explain both the positive and negative impacts of technology so that children understand the importance of using digital media wisely. Through appropriate supervision, children can be better protected from the harmful influences of the digital world.

4. Instilling Islamic Digital Literacy

   In the digital era, children not only need technological skills but also the ability to filter information and maintain ethical behavior in digital environments. Therefore, Islamic education must instill Islamic digital literacy from an early age. Islamic digital literacy refers to the ability to use digital media wisely in accordance with Islamic values.

   Children need to be taught how to select accurate information, avoid misinformation and hoaxes, maintain politeness in communication, and refrain from spreading hate speech or slander on social media. Moreover, children should understand that activities in the digital world are also part of moral conduct and will be accountable before Allah SWT. Education regarding digital ethics is essential so that children can use social media for beneficial purposes and avoid harming others.Islamic digital literacy also helps children develop

critical thinking skills in responding to the vast amount of information available on the internet. Consequently, they are less likely to be influenced by negative content or foreign cultures that contradict Islamic values.

5. Strengthening Role Modeling

   Role modeling is one of the most effective educational methods in Islam. Children tend to imitate what they observe more easily than what they merely hear. Therefore, parents and teachers must become role models in behavior, speech, and the use of digital technology. Parents who demonstrate politeness, regular worship, honesty, discipline, and wisdom in using social media provide positive examples for their children.

   Likewise, teachers should become role models both in school environments and in their use of digital technology. Role modeling is highly important because children learn through observing their surroundings. When parents and teachers consistently display good behavior, children are more likely to develop noble character and moral values.

6. Building a Positive Environment

   Family, school, and community environments greatly influence children's character formation. Therefore, a positive and religious environment is necessary to help children develop good moral character. Families should create a harmonious, loving, and religious atmosphere. Schools should also support character formation through education based on moral and religious values.

   In addition, communities need to create safe social environments that support the moral development of the younger generation. A positive environment encourages children to engage in beneficial activities such as studying, worshiping, reading the Qur'an, and interacting politely with others. Conversely, a negative environment may influence children toward harmful behavior.

   Cooperation among families, schools, and communities is essential in strengthening Islamic education in the digital era. These three environments must support one another in guiding and supervising children's development so that they can face technological advancement while maintaining Islamic moral values.

In conclusion, various solutions and efforts are necessary to strengthen Islamic education in facing the challenges of the digital era. Strengthening religious education from an early age, utilizing technology for da'wah and education, increasing parental supervision, instilling Islamic digital literacy, strengthening role modeling, and building positive environments are important steps in preserving the moral character of the younger generation. Through cooperation between families, schools, and communities, Islamic education can become a strong foundation for shaping a generation that is faithful, intelligent, and morally upright in the era of digitalization [Khadijah, 2024: 58].

E. Conclusion

The era of digitalization has brought major changes to human life, especially for children who grow up closely connected to digital technology. The development of the internet, social media, and digital devices provides many benefits in education, communication, and creativity. However, digitalization also creates various challenges such as moral decline, gadget addiction, cyberbullying, reduced social interaction, and exposure to inappropriate content that may negatively influence children's character development. In facing these challenges, Islamic education plays a crucial role as the foundation for the development of children's moral character. Islamic education not only focuses on intellectual development but also emphasizes the cultivation of faith, morality, discipline, responsibility, honesty, and ethical behavior. Through Islamic education, children are taught to distinguish between right and wrong, control themselves, and use technology wisely in accordance with Islamic values. The study also shows that the roles of parents, teachers, and society are highly important in supporting children's moral development in the digital era. Parents act as the first educators who introduce religious values and supervise children's use of technology, while teachers serve as guides and role models in schools. In addition, society contributes by creating positive and religious environments that support children's character formation. Furthermore, strengthening Islamic education in the digital era requires several important efforts, including strengthening religious education from an early age, utilizing technology for Islamic learning and da'wah, increasing parental supervision, developing Islamic digital literacy, strengthening role modeling, and building supportive environments. These efforts are essential to ensure that children are able to benefit from technological advancement without losing their moral and spiritual values. In conclusion, Islamic education remains highly relevant and necessary in the digitalization era because it serves as a moral safeguard for children amid rapid technological development. Through strong Islamic education and cooperation between family, school, and society, children are expected to grow into generations who are faithful, knowledgeable, morally upright, responsible, and capable of facing modern challenges wisely and positively.

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