



## Integrating Islamic Leadership Values into Elementary School Religious Education: Strengthening Integrity and Quality in the Era of Modern Innovation

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### ABSTRACT

Islamic Religious Education (PAI) in schools plays a vital role in shaping students' character and moral values. Effective leadership in this context holds a key role in ensuring meaningful and high-quality learning experiences for students. This article discusses a leadership model grounded in Islamic values to enhance the quality of Islamic Religious Education in elementary schools. Using a qualitative approach and literature study, this article explores how leadership rooted in Islamic principles can enrich students' learning experiences and improve teachers' effectiveness in delivering PAI. The findings highlight the importance of integrating Islamic values into school leadership practices—such as honesty, fairness, simplicity, and empathy—to foster an inclusive and empowering learning environment. The practical implication of this study is that elementary school leaders must strengthen their understanding and implementation of Islamic values in their leadership strategies to improve the quality of PAI and cultivate strong character in the younger Muslim generation.



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## INTRODUCTION

Leadership is the ability within an individual to influence others or to unite different parties in order to achieve predetermined goals (N/A, 2014). Leadership also involves interpersonal relationships, particularly the reciprocal influence between leaders and subordinates, shaped by the leader's authority. Subordinates are influenced by the leader's power and often develop spontaneous obedience. With their reasoning capacity, humans constantly seek to organize society and direct collective cooperation, as part of their efforts to maintain order in an increasingly modern world (Meithas & Sasmito, 2016).

Today, humanity lives amid the confusion of modern civilization in its quest for identity and authenticity. This is evidenced by the emergence of various educational problems, including issues related to orientation, objectives, and processes, which contribute to inequalities and a decline in moral values, particularly honesty. These issues have even begun to infiltrate religious values, leading to a deterioration in truths that should be upheld and preserved.

Leadership is the capacity to inspire others through service, guiding them toward the achievement of shared goals. Josep C. Rost (2015) defines leadership as a mutual influence relationship between leaders and followers who seek real change based on shared objectives (Zulfikar, 2021). In this context, Islamic Religious Education (PAI) at the elementary school level plays a critical role in shaping the morality, ethics, and Islamic identity of the younger generation. Amidst

globalization and rapid technological development, Islamic educational institutions face increasingly complex challenges (Khobir, 2009). To address these challenges, an effective leadership approach rooted in Islamic values is essential to guide educational institutions toward achieving holistic and sustainable objectives of Islamic religious education.

From the Islamic perspective, a leader is regarded as a 'caliph' or God's representative on Earth, bearing immense moral and social responsibilities toward their community. Therefore, leadership within the context of Islamic religious education involves not only administrative and managerial aspects, but also profound moral, ethical, and spiritual dimensions (Rahmat Ilyas, 2016).

This article explores the concept of Islamic value-based leadership and its impact on improving the quality of Islamic Religious Education in elementary schools. By examining the connection between leadership and Islamic values more deeply, this study aims to provide valuable insights for enhancing the relevance and quality of Islamic education in response to the demands of the modern era.

The role of leadership in Islamic education during this era of innovation is highly significant. A leader with integrity and a clear vision for Islamic education can uphold its quality and ensure that Islamic values remain well internalized in students' lives. Through wise and innovative leadership, Islamic education can evolve alongside modern advancements without compromising the foundational values of the religion. The primary goal is to cultivate a generation that is not only intellectually capable but also morally upright, in accordance with Islamic teachings. Thus, strengthening the integrity of Islamic values and improving the quality of Islamic education in the modern era aims to produce individuals who are both intellectually competent and morally grounded.

## **RESEARCH METHODS**

The research approach employed in this study is qualitative in nature. The selected method is library research, which involves systematic examination and interpretation of various academic sources to extract relevant insights. This approach is appropriate for exploring the concept of leadership based on Islamic values, as it allows for an in-depth understanding of abstract ideas, contextual meanings, and normative foundations.

Data in this study were sourced from a variety of credible academic materials, including peer-reviewed journal articles, books, theses, conference proceedings, and official documents related to Islamic leadership and religious education. The selection of sources was guided by relevance to the research objectives, publication quality, and recency.

The data analysis technique utilized was document analysis, following the procedures outlined by William (2007), which include the systematic compilation, organization, and interpretation of textual data. The analysis also incorporated elements of content analysis to identify recurring themes, patterns, and relationships related to Islamic leadership principles in the context of elementary school religious education. The process involved coding, categorizing, and synthesizing information across multiple sources to construct a coherent theoretical understanding.

This qualitative and literature-based methodological approach was chosen because it enables the researcher to comprehensively examine the conceptual framework of leadership grounded in Islamic values. By combining qualitative reasoning with in-depth literature review, this study aims to generate a nuanced and holistic understanding of how Islamic leadership can contribute to the enhancement of educational quality and value integration in Islamic Religious Education at the elementary level.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **1. Draft Leadership in Islam**

Leadership in Islam is rooted in the principles and teachings of the Qur'an and Hadith. Leadership in Islam emphasizes moral integrity, justice, honesty, responsibility, and

exemplary behavior . Leader in Islam must act as waiter for the people they lead , emphasize the concept of " caliphate " or responsible leadership responsible and purposeful For welfare people (Ahmad, 2004). Good leader is those who are able inspire and motivate follower they through good example , and ensure that decisions and actions they always in accordance with Islamic values .

Leadership when linked to specific Islamic concepts question exemplary then , no can released from shape or the leadership model described Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). QS Al- Ahzab (33): 21 Allah has said

لَقَدْ كَانَ لَكُمْ فِي رَسُولِ اللَّهِ أُسْوَةٌ حَسَنَةٌ لِّمَن كَانَ يَرْجُوا اللَّهَ وَالْيَوْمَ الْآخِرَ وَذَكَرَ اللَّهَ كَثِيرًا ۚ ٢١

Translation :

Really has there is have it in yourself Prophet Muhammad queen good example for you ( that is ) for those who hope ( mercy ) of God and ( arrival ) of the day The end of time and Him many mentions Allah (Quran and Translation ). The Messenger of Allah

### **Islamic Values In Leadership**

#### a. Justice

Justice is principle main in leadership Islamic . A leader must fair in all aspect his leadership , good in distribution tasks , awards , and in taking decision (Al-Qur'an, An- Nisa : 58). Justice create harmonious and encouraging environment trust between leaders and followers .

#### b. Honesty

Honesty is foundation from integrity a leader . A an honest leader will build trust and credibility in the eyes of his followers ( Al-Quran , At- Taubah : 119). Honesty in leadership covers transparency in communication and decision making decision .

#### c. Responsibility Answer

Leader Islamic must show not quite enough answer in all actions and decisions they . They must responsible answer No only to the people they are lead but also to Allah (Al-Qur'an, Al- Ahzab : 72). Not quite enough answer This covers concern to welfare and moral and spiritual development of followers .

#### d. Exemplary behavior

Exemplary is the most effective way For inspire and motivate follower . Leaders who become example in actions , morals and ethics they will more easy respected and followed (Hadith of the Prophet, " Indeed I sent For to perfect "noble morals " ). Application of Islamic Values in Educational Leadership Research This to reveal a number of findings main about implementation leadership based on values Islam in school basis and its impact to quality Islamic education :

##### a. Implementation of Islamic Values in Leadership School

- 1) Head schools in the schools studied show commitment tall to implementation values Islamic like justice , honesty , responsibility responsibility , and exemplary behavior .
- 2) Justice applied in taking decision , distribution source power , and treatment to student and teachers without discrimination .
- 3) Honesty become base in communication between head schools , teachers, students , and parents , creating a transparent and full environment trust .
- 4) Responsibility answer reflected in effort head school For ensure all educational programs walk in accordance plan and achieve the goals that have been

set .

5) Exemplary behavior head school in operate worship and behavior daily give example real for students and teachers.

**b. Quality Islamic Religious Education Learning**

1) The teacher feels more motivated and supported in carry out his job Because values - oriented leadership Islamic .

2) Students show improvement in understanding and practice Islamic religious teachings , as well as development more characters Good .

Extracurricular programs like memorizing the Qur'an, activities prayer congregation , and regular Islamic studies help student internalize religious values in life daily .

**c . Parent and Community Participation**

1) Parents more involved in activity school and feel more believe to management transparent and fair school .

2 ) Good relationship between school and community around help in development of more educational programs relevant and supportive need student .

**d. Improvement Teacher Motivation and Performance**

1) The teacher feels more appreciated and supported , which increases motivation they For Work more Good .

2) Teacher performance in teach Islamic religious education has increased , which has an impact positive on results Study student .

**e. Strengthening Character Student**

1) Values Islam applied in leadership school help to form character more students good , like honesty , discipline and responsibility answer .

2) Students show a more positive attitude positive to learning and interaction social at school .

**f. Innovation in Learning**

Leadership Islamic push innovation in method learning , such as integration technology in Islamic religious teaching and use a more approach interactive and participatory .

**3. Implementation of Islamic Values in Leadership**

Implementation values Islamic in leadership school base proven effective in create environment conducive and improving learning quality Islamic religious education . Head schools that implement justice , honesty , responsibility responsibility , and role model succeed build trust and motivation between teachers and students . This is in line with the findings Ramayulis (2008) and Soebagyo (2012) stated that that values Islamic can increase effectiveness leadership ( Pulungan , 2019).

**a. Impact To Quality Learning**

Improvement teacher motivation and understanding student to the teachings of Islam are indicator success implementation leadership based on values Islamic . Teachers who feel appreciated and supported tend give performance his best , which in turn increase results Study students . Findings This support study previously by the Journal of Islamic Education (2015) and the Journal Educational Management (2017) which shows that leadership Islamic contribute positive to teacher performance and quality learning ( Sumawati et al., 2023).

**b . Parent and Community Participation**

Participation active parents and community in activity school increase support social and moral for students . This is show that leadership based on values Islamic No only impact in school but also strengthens connection between school with its community . The ICIE Conference (2019) also emphasized importance involvement community in education For create supportive ecosystem development students (A. Sa'dullah , 2023).

#### c. Challenges and Recommendations

Although Lots benefits found , implementation leadership Islam in school the basics also face challenge like resistance to change from some teachers and parents as well as limitations source power (Sari, nd). Therefore that , it is recommended For :

1) To hold training leadership Islamic for head schools and teachers in general periodically .

2) Develop more curriculum integrative with values Islamic .

3) Improve communication and collaboration between schools , parents , and communities For support school programs .

#### d. Integration Technology in Islamic Education

Implementation technology in Islamic religious teachings can increase effectiveness and power pull learning . Head school can push use digital tools such as application Quran memorization , learning videos , and online platforms for Islamic studies ( Wuladari et al., 2022).

#### e. Evaluation and Development Sustainable

Evaluation periodic to implementation values Islamic in leadership school important For ensure sustainability and improvement continuously . Head school must involving all stakeholders interest in the process of evaluating and developing educational programs ( Kholis , 2022).

## CONCLUSION

In the article This has discussed draft leadership based on Islamic values and their impact in improvement quality Islamic religious education in schools basic . With use approach qualitative and review library , revealed How grounded leadership Islamic values can enrich experience Study students and improve teacher effectiveness in PAI teaching . Integrate Islamic values to in practice leadership in schools basic , such as honesty , fairness , simplicity and empathy , are recognized as step important in create environment inclusive learning .

Review library that is done show that grounded leadership Islamic values are not only become guidelines in organization education but also become source inspiration for teachers and students in digging and absorbing Islamic teachings in life everyday . Concept Islamic leadership based on the teachings of the Qur'an and Sunnah and emphasize universal moral and ethical principles . implications practical from study This is leader school need increase understanding and application Islamic values in strategy his leadership For increase quality Islamic religious education and formation strong character among generation young Muslims . Steps special like development character student based on Islamic values , improvement participation public in Islamic religious education , and development of development programs leadership based on Islamic values for staff school , can is step effective start in increase quality Islamic education .

In general overall , important For Keep going guard commitment to Islamic principles in context education , so that teaching Islam in schools base No only just means For to obtain religious knowledge but also a means formation morality , ethics and morals , strong foundations , and Islamic identity .

## CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Writer state that No There is conflict related interests with study This . All data, analysis , and conclusions presented in article This is results from objective and unbiased

research influenced by interests personal , financial , or professional from writer or other parties involved . Research This done with comply principles integrity scientific and ethical high research .

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