

Strategy for Improving Qur'an Literation Culture in Digital Era

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Abstract : *In modernization, students' interest in reading the Qur'an is very alarming. At present, they spend more time playing gadgets or games than reading the Qur'an. Though reading the Qur'an is one of the keys to be a good Muslim. The ability to read and understand the Qur'an can increase insight and knowledge. This study aims to determine the school's efforts to improve the culture of literacy and Qur'an reading at Karangasari State Elementary School through extracurricular activities in collaboration with the Coordinating Board for the Qur'an Learning Center. Supporting factors in improving reading culture include support and motivation from parents and schools, while the inhibiting factor is the development of the teaching ability of educators.*

Keywords: *Strategy, Literacy Culture, Qur'an, Digital Era.*

Research methods

This is a descriptive qualitative study. Qualitative research aims to understand the phenomena experienced by research subjects and describe them in words and languages.¹ According to Best descriptive research seeks to describe and interpret objects according to available facts.²

¹ Lexy J. Moleong. *Metodologi Penelitian Kualitatif (Edisi Revisi)*. (Bandung: Remaja Rosdakarya, 2014) hlm. 6

² Sukardi, *Metodologi Penelitian Pendidikan Kompetensi dan Praktiknya*, Jakarta: PT. Bumi Aksara, 2008) hlm. 64

This research was conducted at Karangsari State Elementary School in Kotagede, Yogyakarta City. It aims to find out the process of increasing the literacy culture of the Qur'an in the digital age. In this study, the steps of data analysis include the collection, reduction, presentation of data, and concluding.

Introduction

Education is a process to explore the human potential to be able to face future life. Education must be given from an early age because it is the most important stage in the formation of children's potential. Early education can enhance the development of physical, spiritual, intellectual, and skill potential.³

Emotional development is expected to increase the ability, competence, and student learning outcomes. Students are expected to be able to develop self-concepts, positive attitudes towards learning, have good self-control, and have empathy for others. A positive attitude towards learning in early childhood is related to students' interest in the learning process. The development of learning interest can be carried out by creating a pleasant learning environment or environment, varied learning processes, and the use of attractive learning media.

One of the things that can be done to increase interest in literacy (reading and writing) of the Qur'an is to learn the basic letters (Iqro'). Iqro' learning must be routinely carried out so that students can read the Qur'an properly and correctly. Students' literacy interest in the Qur'an can also be carried out through exposure to Arabic writing on objects around students, such as lockers, attendance, and picket schedules.⁴

Qur'an literacy skills affect the lives of students in this world and the hereafter. Good Qur'an literacy skills will help students to understand the Qur'an. Literacy mastery is very important in supporting the competencies students have in life. Competence and literacy allow students to find out and sort out information that can support the success of their lives. Reading skills are needed to

³ Helmawati, *Mengenal dan Memahami Paud* (Bandung: Remaja Rosdakarya, 2015) hlm. 41

⁴ Tadkiroatun Musfiroh, *Menumbuhkan Baca Tulis Anak Usia Dini*, (Jakarta: Grasindo, 2009) hlm. 115

understand all types of written information. Like listening, reading relies on receptive language skills.⁵

Making reading the Qur'an as a necessity (reading society) requires the process and awareness of each individual that reading has great benefits and can improve the quality of students.

Data from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) in 2012 showed that 91.68% of the population aged 10 years and over were television viewers while newspaper or magazine readers were only 17.66%. The data shows that Indonesian people prefer to watch television compared to reading. Therefore, families are needed to introduce reading to children before they go to elementary school.⁶

Kompas (August 2016) states "UNESCO reports that European children in a year can complete an average of 25 books, while Indonesian children only reach 0.001%". It means that only 1 in 1000 Indonesian children can read one book a year (Ana, 2017: xxi).⁷

In the era of globalization, everyone is required to be able to follow technological developments. However, the Muslim generation has very little knowledge about the Qur'an. Many Indonesians can read the Qur'an fluently, but do not pay attention to the recitation and meaning of the letters. On the other hand, there are still many who have not been able to read the Qur'an because they were not introduced to the Qur'an by their parents.

The culture of reading the Qur'an is not an easy thing to do because it requires a long process so that the interest in reading can be embedded in each student. Therefore, the need for good support and cooperation between various parties to create programs or activities that lead to an increase in students' fondness in reading. It aims to make reading as a necessity in daily life.

Al-Quran is a guide for Muslims who were sent down by Allah SWT through the Angel Gabriel to the Prophet Muhammad. Besides containing matters of faith (aqidah), worship, and history; The Koran also contains moral teachings which are very useful for human life in the world and the hereafter. That moral teaching can then shape a person's character.

⁵ Rosyidi, *Media Pembelajaran Bahasa Arab*, (Malang: UIN Malang Press, 2009) hlm 68

⁶ Milani Amri Listia. *Peningkatan Budaya Membaca Student di Sekolah Dasar Negeri Giripen*, (Jurnal Kebijakan Pendidikan Edisi 1 Vol.VI, 2017) hlm, 86

⁷ Ana Widyastuti, *Kiat Jitu Anak Gemar Baca Tulis*, (Jakarta: PT Elex Media Komputindo, 2017) hlm. xxi

In Islam, reading the Koran is an obligation. Reading the Koran can give you peace of mind. Allah says "Remember, only by remembering Allah the heart becomes calm" (Surah Ar-Ra'd: 13: 28). This verse explains that calm can be achieved by reading the Koran, because all the contents of the Koran is a source of peace. Furthermore, "I give you lessons and healers for the diseases of the heart, guidance, and mercy for those who believe" (Qur'an, 10: 57).

Difficulties in teaching the Qur'an are common. Children often have difficulty reading long verses. It caused by the lack of knowledge about recitation and memorization methods. It requires teaching strategies / methods that are appropriate, accurate, and effective to achieve the goal. The learning method is a way to apply and implement a list of learning plans that will be transferred to students

Parents or instructors must adapt teaching methods to the general character of students. For example, parents or instructors can use digital teaching media to replace print media. People now prefer to read digital content. The digital age means the conversion of meaning from manual to digital. Literacy is not just an elementary ability to read, write and count, but it also means pictures, computer literacy, and various efforts to gain knowledge. It means that activities (watching television, reading news online, or watching videos on Youtube) and getting knowledge are forms of literacy. However, the high internet users in Indonesia are not comparable to the quality of literacy.

The urgency of Qur'an literacy culture for students

The importance of literacy awareness determines one's success in dealing with problems. Literacy not only provides knowledge but also experience that becomes a reference in the future. Besides, literacy is a strategic capability needed to become an advanced nation.

According to Wells in Heryati, there are four levels of literacy, namely performative, functional, informational, and epistemic.⁸ The first level of literacy leads to the ability to read and write. The second level of literacy is the ability to use language in life (skills for survival) such as reading manuals, filling out forms, etc. The third level of literacy is the ability to access knowledge, and the fourth shows the ability to transform knowledge.

⁸ Heryati, Y., dkk, *Model Inovatif Pembelajaran Bahasa Indonesia*. (Jakarta: Multi Kreasi Satudelapan, 2010) hlm. 46

Literacy becomes a life skill that enables students to socialize optimally. Life skills stem from the ability to solve problems through critical thinking activities. Besides, literacy is also a reflection of cultural mastery and appreciation. Cultured society is a society that instills positive values as an effort to actualize itself. Self-actualization is formed through interpretation, which is the activity of finding and building meaning in life that can be achieved through literacy mastery.

Student is a generation that has character. Character is interpreted as a way of thinking and behaving that is unique to each individual to live and work together in the scope of the family, community, nation, and country.⁹ Noble character is needed in building a nation. However, negative influences and character degradation cause character degradation which affects cultural degradation. Learning to become an individual with noble character can be found in the Qur'an.

A simple way to increase Qur'an literacy in students is to instill reading habits. Reading will add insight and knowledge. According to Sumardi, the basis for building mastery of all knowledge is pleasure and reading habits. Reading is a positive activity that will increase student intelligence.¹⁰

Al-Qur'an teaching can be carried out in homes, mosques, madrassas or Islamic boarding schools. However, teaching the Qur'an in schools is something that is not mandatory or inherited. Learning the Qur'an is generally mandatory for Islamic schools such as Muhammadiyah schools. However, public schools also have the possibility to have a Qur'an literacy program.

Learning the Qur'an allows one to know and get instructions, guidelines and lessons. Reading the Qur'an will bring multiple rewards from God that are calculated from each letter that is read.

At present, many schools are increasing their hours of study to improve quality quantitatively or qualitatively. The school hopes that they will be able to produce students who have faith and moral values. For example, Karangsari State Elementary School has religious extracurricular (Self-Development) activities such as *Qiro'at*, *Tartil*, Calligraphy, *Hadrah*, etc. The activity aims to improve the religious

⁹ Samani, Muchlas & Hariyanto. *Konsep dan Model Pendidikan Karakter*. (Bandung: PT Remaja Rosdakarya, 2016) hlm. 55

¹⁰ Sumardi, *Rahasia menjadi Siswa Unggul*. (Jakarta: Erlangga, 2011) hlm. 84

and general skills of their students. The school brought the *ustad* (Islamic teacher) to provide the best Koran teaching for his students.

Studying the Qur'an is *fardhu kifayah*, but reading it properly and correctly is *fardhu 'Ain*. *Fardhu 'Ain* means one's obligation to do things well and rightly because there is sin for every mistake. To avoid mistakes in reading the Qur'an, students should learn from experts. On the other hand, reading the Qur'an can be considered illegitimate without a clear base of history and knowledge.¹¹

Besides, literacy development requires students to have information literacy. The American Library Association (ALA) defines information literacy as a set of abilities requiring individuals to recognize when information is needed and can locate, evaluate, and use effective information. It means that information literacy acts as a tool to sort out useful information. Information filtering is carried out to improve efficiency in information retrieval. So, it can be concluded that the ability to titrate makes students competent in choosing the flexibility of information.

Strategies to improve the literacy culture of the Koran in Karangsari State Elementary School

The school realizes that the ability to read the Qur'an is important for students in improving student understanding and quality. Reading habits also need to be instilled in students from the beginning because reading is the main key for students to be smart. When students read the Qur'an happily, it will be easier to understand reading and learning material. However, observations indicate that Karangsari State Elementary School students have a low reading interest. It can be seen from the lack of students' ability to read the Qur'an.

In the process of implementing operational and non-operational activities must be accompanied by good planning and right on target. Meanwhile, the role of strategy in the process of learning the Qur'an is very necessary because of the difficulty of applying the concepts and learning strategies. Therefore, the delivery, teaching, or development must be implemented with a good strategy and right on target. Besides, the determination of strategy is the most important part of learning.

¹¹ Otong Surasman, *Metode Insani Kunci Praktis Membaca Qur'an Baik dan Benar*, (Jakarta: Gema Insani, 2002) hlm. 19

Karangsari State Elementary School created a strategy to respond to the low ability of students to read and write the Qur'an, as specified in the curriculum and vision and mission. The strategy includes:

- 1) Application of the classroom Qur'an learning method in the classroom

One of the strategies used by Islamic Religious Education teachers to improve the reading skills of the Qur'an in Karangsari State Elementary School students is to optimize the use of learning methods. The method used includes habituation, exemplary, appreciation, lecture, deliberation, discussion, drill, demonstration, and assignment.

The method is oriented to mastering *hijaiyyah/arabic* letters (28 letters) following the *makaharijul* letters. 90% of the ability to read the Qur'an is determined by the mastery of *hijaiyyah/arabic* letters and the remaining 10% is punctuation, law, etc. However, the method of memorizing *hijaiyyah/arabic* letters can be implemented faster using the method of word enticement, form marking, and so on

- 2) Accompaniment

Each student has a different ability so the teacher must take wise steps to be able to understand and respond to these differences. It includes giving special attention to students whose reading skills are still low. The teacher takes an individual approach to find out the cause of the difficulty.

- 3) Islamic Education teacher cooperation with other teachers

Good cooperation between Islamic teachers and class teachers is shown by the coordination meeting at the beginning and end of each semester. The teacher discusses learning material and student development. The teacher also determines the indicators of assessing the Qur'an's reading skills.

- 4) Collaboration between school and parents

This cooperation is demonstrated by telephone communication. Parents can contact the teacher's telephone number or homeroom teacher to monitor their child's progress.

- 5) Collaboration between school and community

Society is a place where children interact and develop. Through Islamic learning, the teacher asks students to take advantage of non-formal educational institutions such as TPQ, and informal institutions such as madrasas and Islamic study societies to improve the ability to read the Qur'an's students. As part of the community, parents are also asked to model various positive activities including reading the Qur'an.

6) Facilities and infrastructure

To improve the ability of students in reading the Qur'an, the school has sufficient learning equipment and equipment. Islamic teachers utilize the learning media to create a pleasant learning atmosphere. Besides, the Islamic teacher also gives the books of *Iqro'* or *Qiro'ati* needed by students who cannot read the Qur'an. A very conducive school environment also provides comfort in learning.

The factors supporting the strategy to increase the literacy culture of the Qur'an are:

- 1) The student has been able to read the Qur'an. For example, students who have previously studied at TPQ, attend Islamic studies, and can learn well.
- 2) The family acts as a role model and teaches children to read the Qur'an. For example, after *Maghrib* prayer parents always read the Qur'an so students do the same.
- 3) Islamic teachers who are competent and committed to improving their students' Qur'an reading skills.
- 4) Adequate facilities and infrastructure in schools. The school has provided very adequate learning facilities and a very conducive learning environment. The school has LCD projectors in several classes and has *iqra*, *qiro'ati*, *yanbu'a*, and digital Qur'an.

The inhibiting factors of the strategy in increasing the Qur'an literacy culture are:

- 1) Lack of awareness and attention of parents towards their child's development. One reason for the low ability to read the Qur'an is the lack of attention and examples from parents.
- 2) Lack of motivation and interest from students. Although teachers always provide motivation to their students, but some students do not have the will to learn

Conclusion

Strategies used in improving the Qur'an reading skills include the application of learning methods in the classroom, mentoring, teacher cooperation with peers, school collaboration with parents, school cooperation with the community, and provision of facilities and infrastructure. Factors that support the strategy of Islamic teachers in improving their Qur'an reading skills include the ability to read the Qur'an, family support, Islamic teachers who are competent and committed to improving their Quran reading skills in their students, the Islamic environment, and availability learning facilities and infrastructure in schools.

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