The Challenges Faced by Islamic Religious Education Teachers Amidst the Flow of Digital Technology Development

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Abstract
This research discusses the challenges faced by Islamic education in response to the rapid advancement of digital technology. In the era of globalization, Islamic education must be able to adapt to the changes taking place, including in the dissemination of information that involves various relevant factors. This study identifies several key issues, including difficulties in utilizing technology, barriers in the educational process for students, and challenges in ensuring the quality of education amidst a flow of unfiltered information. Furthermore, the research also emphasizes the importance of integrating technology into the Islamic education curriculum to enhance learning effectiveness and inspire students. Given the significance of this issue, cooperation from all stakeholders is needed to address these challenges and harness technology as a tool to advance Islamic education in the digital era. The method used in this study is library research with a qualitative approach, along with a phenomenological approach to delve into the existing phenomena. The results indicate that the development of the times, marked by the emergence of information technology, has both positive and negative impacts on various aspects of life, including in the field of Islamic religious education, which continues to undergo changes, particularly in teaching approaches.
Keywords: Islamic Education, Digital Technology, Challenges.

INTRODUCTION

Islamic education plays a crucial role in character and moral development, instilling values such as honesty, patience, respect, and responsibility that guide students' behavior and interactions within society (Kasaman et al., 2024). Students are expected to internalize and practice good manners through the application of proper speaking etiquette, reflecting noble character traits in their daily interactions at school (Latifah et al., 2024). This journal emphasizes that instilling honesty in young children through traditional games fosters good habits, while spiritual education enhances children's understanding of values, promoting inner peace and piety (Selly et al., 2023). Islamic education nurtures positive character traits, prevents negative behaviors, promotes social responsibility, and strengthens students' religious identity, boosting their self-confidence and emotional stability amid modern challenges. The advancement of technology in education, such as challenging learning platforms and

electronic learning, has made learning more flexible and rapid, which was particularly helpful during the COVID-19 pandemic (Ilham et al., 2024).

In terms of access to information, the internet provides easier access to educational resources, making it simpler for students and teachers to acquire supplementary materials. Digital tools and resources in education, such as educational platforms like Khan Academy, Google Classroom, and others, help provide interactive, personalized, and meaningful learning experiences. In terms of technology, augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR) offer more contextual and engaging learning experiences, particularly in science and education. These social and technological advancements not only improve teaching methods and access but also enable systemic adaptation (Maraisa et al., 2024). This evolution in the education system makes it more relevant and effective in providing high-quality instruction. The method of library research, involving the collection and analysis of data from various sources related to the research topic, includes several types of data: 1) Primary sources such as books, academic journal articles, dissertations, and scholarly works discussing contemporary Islamic education; 2) Online articles, conference proceedings, and sources with academic credibility (Aderonke & Adeshina, 2024).

In current developments, the world has entered a revolution marked by rapid advancements in computerization, digitalization, and the internet, making it easier for anyone to quickly search for information and knowledge without leaving home, using just an internet connection and hardware devices. This has allowed people to access information freely, without boundaries of time and space, making life easier in various aspects. Moreover, technological advancements have penetrated every aspect of societal life, including the education sector. As is known, people today, especially those born in the digital era, tend to search for information online. They prefer to use smartphones or other technological devices to explore the internet, whether for information, needs, or just entertainment (Hidayat, 2016).

This rapid development poses a challenge for the world of education. Islamic education and the digital era must be in balance, meaning Islamic education must be able to keep up with technological advancements to avoid falling behind other fields of education (Khasanah et al., 2022). Islamic education is expected to adjust to these developments to excel in various other scientific fields. This is essential for producing competent and quality religious knowledge seekers. With the increasing use of technology in this digital era, Islamic education should not ignore this trend, as it might be perceived as a trivial matter. On the contrary, educators must prepare to face increasingly complex challenges. Educators should take advantage of the technology available to acquire and share religious knowledge, allowing Islamic education methods to evolve in line with technological progress. In fact, the involvement

of information and communication technology in education today is no longer an option but a necessity that must be utilized as effectively as possible, especially at the higher education level (Choli, 2020).

Currently, when studying Islamic education at the basic, secondary, and even higher education levels, the learning methods are generally dominated by lecture-based, one-way teaching. This approach requires renewal and the integration of other methods to prevent students from feeling constrained in their development. Moreover, the weakness of human resource quality remains a major issue, with a lack of knowledge in information and communication technology limiting access to various information. Therefore, steps or strategies need to be taken to address these issues in order to enhance Islamic education in the modern era and solve the problems that exist (Yasmansyah & Zakir, 2022).

RESEARCH METHODS

This study uses a literature review approach. Library research is a data collection method conducted by examining various written sources such as books, articles, journals, newspapers, the internet, and other electronic materials related to Islamic education institutions in the digital era. The purpose of this study is to explore and explain various practices and issues related to the topic, while highlighting key aspects in the development of Islamic education in the context of digital technology. In addition, the author adopts a phenomenological approach, which allows the researcher to describe the experiences and challenges encountered in the study by analyzing relevant phenomena or events. This approach enables the author to develop concepts that explain how Islamic educational institutions can adapt to the advancements in digital technology today, as well as how students can utilize this technology in their learning processes. With this approach, it is expected that the research will provide a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities faced by Islamic education in the digital era.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION
The Issues of Islamic Education

Islam, which is solely based on its theological system, including its perfect civilization, is not intended to be solely the foundation for the educational process. Therefore, Islam aligns with all forms of modernization and societal progress, which inevitably leads to ideal shocks emphasizing flexibility and comfort in relation to development and progress that are carried out effectively, while ensuring that its values remain consistent with Islamic principles. Due to the spread of ideas—particularly those driven by the need for modern technology—educational institutions are not immune to criticism and challenges. These modern ideas, driven by technological needs, create a

pressure on educational institutions, which remain bound by religious values discussed in various articles.

Although Islamic education is based on the teachings of the Qur'an and Hadith, as well as the inspirational words of philosophers, intellectuals, and mujtahids, there are still several issues that hinder its practice. This is closely related to the quality of the Muslim community, which is determined by the quality of Islamic educational institutions. At the same time, it also highlights the importance of Islam in politics and international competition. The issues raised by Islamic education cannot be justified or considered partial. These issues are interrelated, the main problem in national education, including Islamic education, is the low quality of education, which impacts the quality of human resources (HR). The quality of HR is reflected in the nation's character.

The issues addressed by Islamic education include ideology, the dualistic nature of the Islamic education system, language, and teaching methodology. It is crucial to emphasize the principles and commitment of Islam in relating the study of science to progress. As a result, the enthusiasm for seeking knowledge, especially in the sciences, has not yet developed into a culture within the majority of the Muslim community. A reductive and partial understanding of Islam serves to explain why the primary goal of knowledge acquisition has not been fully achieved. The ideological issues stem from an apathetic attitude that does not reflect the quality of the Muslim generation. The dualistic nature of the Islamic education system does not align with Islamic principles, and information regarding Islamic education is developed and disseminated by both related and external institutions.

Solutions to Address Problems in Islamic Education

There are many solutions that can offer resolutions to the various problems faced in Islamic education. The following strategies are important in addressing the issues in the field of education: improving human resource (HR) standards, developing digital infrastructure, and utilizing digital-based learning media. First and foremost, improving HR quality is essential for Islamic scholars navigating the digital era. It is imperative for them to adapt to the evolving demands of the digital world. The goal is to improve the quality of Islamic education, ensuring that it aligns with contemporary needs. It is expected that HR, with the skills, professionalism, and expertise they possess, will be able to enhance Islamic education to become more ideal and effective, utilizing all available resources.

The quality of HR is closely related to both technical and non-technical competencies. Technical competencies include skills and professionalism required to achieve the highest levels of performance in the modern world. On the other hand, non-technical competencies involve modern ideas, practices,

and creative expressions that significantly impact productivity. In this context, HR includes students, staff, educators, and leaders. The desired HR quality is one that is capable and willing to carry out tasks and overcome obstacles effectively. Professionalism and expertise in carrying out responsibilities are paramount and must be a given. If Islamic educational institutions lack strong and practical HR that do not support technological advancements, it becomes evident in the emergence of graduates who fail to fully explain their fields of expertise and struggle to compete in the educational sector. The lack of competitiveness in education is closely linked to these HR deficiencies.

CONCLUSION

This study reveals that the challenges faced by Islamic education in the digital era are highly complex and require significant adjustments. Islamic education must be able to keep pace with the development of digital technology to remain relevant and effective in delivering quality education. Several key challenges identified in this research include difficulties in utilizing technology, barriers in the educational process, and the effort to maintain educational quality amidst an influx of unfiltered information. The study also highlights that integrating technology into the Islamic education curriculum can enhance the effectiveness of learning and inspire students. Therefore, collaboration among various parties, including the government, educational institutions, and society, is crucial in addressing these challenges. Additionally, it is important to improve the quality of human resources (HR) in the field of Islamic education, both from technical and non-technical perspectives, so that they can effectively harness technological advancements. Islamic education can evolve according to the demands of the times, and produce a generation that is not only competent in religious knowledge but also prepared to face global challenges.

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