



THE IMPORTANCE OF INSTILLING AQIDAH EDUCATION FROM AN EARLY AGE

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to analyze the inculcation of aqidah education in children. It is very important to instill aqidah education from an early age, so that children can understand the Oneness of Allah SWT so that when the child grows up he will grow up with a strong faith. The research method in this research is library research by analyzing various references such as journals, books and various other reading sources related to the discussion in this study. The research results obtained from this study are that aqidah education must be applied from an early age because this period is a determining period for the future. Planting aqidah education can be done in various ways, while the method recommended by Rasulullah SAW is to teach the word Allah in the early days when children start learning to speak, then continue with the sentence of monotheism, instilling a sense of love for Allah and Rasulullah SAW, in the early days of awareness, knowledge, and the ability to distinguish between good and bad, teaching the Qur'an to children, starting with short letters, then long letters, also accompanied by the habit of reading and listening to the recitation, and getting children to pray at the age of seven years.

KEY WORDS

Education, Aqidah, Children.

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INTRODUCTION

The condition of Muslims today is really very apprehensive, the crisis of the figure of a religious Muslim is increasingly being felt, errors in practice are increasingly being displayed, be it verbally, in deeds, and in beliefs, what is more concerning is

the feeling of not realizing that make a mistake. Making fun of religious matters or religious teachings is common among children, adolescents, and even adults. Belief in things other than Allah such as psychics, shamans and so on still occurs a lot along with the increasing values of competing



in all things, for example in getting a job. Damage to aqidah is also done in the name of religion, such as the suicide bombing with the reason of martyrdom. Even the destruction of aqidah has also occurred among underage children, as happened in 2015, namely sexual harassment by elementary school children against kindergarten children that occurred in Semanan, Kalideres, West Jakarta (Panduwinata, 2015).

Cases of sexual harassment or violence have occurred very often, even based on data taken from the detiknews web it states that the number of sexual harassment/violence since 2016-2019 has increased significantly based on the number of applicants for the Witness and Victim Protection Agency (LPSK). Day by day more and more deviations occur among the people, this is caused by a person's belief and faith is not strong and because of the damage to the Islamic faith in a person, so that people act according to their intellect and desires, without remembering that we have the Al-Qur'an and Al-Hadith which should be the guidelines and become the limits for action so that you don't do anything at will. In this case, religion acts as an effective therapy and as a solution to the problems that occur. Religion as a foundation for character improvement and child morals (Salpina, 2023).

Therefore, the cultivation of aqidah education is very important and must be given from an early age. Aqidah education functions to instill faith values in children so they can live a good life in the future. With aqidah education, children will have noble morals and worship in an orderly manner. Aqidah can also improve the attitude and behavior of children and can make the soul peaceful, distance itself from polytheism and misguidance. In instilling true aqidah education in children, the most important media is conveying monotheistic beliefs such as believing in Allah and His angels, believing in destiny, and the importance of loving

Allah and His Messenger, in a simple format that children can understand (Al-'Akk, 2006). There is not a single parent who does not want their child to have a strong faith, because when the faith is firmly entrenched in the child's heart, he will become a person who has a strong personality in his faith, both his attitude and his actions always feel supervised by Allah, and reduce the child's actions. bad, such as saying dirty, lying and others. Parents will reap misery if they ignore faith education for their children, but parents will benefit greatly from the presence of righteous children. Therefore, the discussion about the cultivation of aqidah is very interesting to study and apply, as it is known that aqidah is the key to receiving religious worship, so the foundation for planting aqidah should be applied from an early age.

Apart from parents, an educator is also required to teach guidelines in the form of faith education to children during their growth and development. So that children will be bound by the Islamic religion in aqidah, and believe that Allah is their God, Islam as their religion, the Qur'an as their guide, and Rasulullah as their role model. In addition, by instilling aqidah in children can also make children become individuals who have good attitudes and behavior. This is consistent with the results of Khaidir's research which concluded that the ability of students after participating in a faith-based education program can change children's attitudes in terms of affective and psychomotor in a better direction, this is indicated by the development of all students who are in the developing category according to expectations, even though the application of the values of faith outside of school, especially at home, still do not meet the standard criteria, namely only the criteria for very good development. In the affective domain, the score obtained by students based on the teacher's assessment reached 85.22%, while



from the assessment of parents it was only 75.52%. As for the psychomotor domain, the scores obtained by students based on the assessment of teachers and parents reached 82.04% (Khaidir, 2015).

Instilling aqidah education in early childhood is expected to be able to make children become good people who love Allah, so that children do not want to do bad things because they feel that Allah always sees everything they do. Instilling aqidah education in early childhood can be done in several ways including by accustoming children to do good, through storytelling methods, and can also be done by introducing hadiths related to Aqidah.

RESEARCH METHOD

The research method used in this study is a non-interactive qualitative method, or it can also be called library research, because this research analyzes the concept of planting aqidah in the hadiths of the Prophet Muhammad SAW. from the results of descriptions and analyzes in books, journals, and so on. This research does not take data from the field, it only requires theoretical study data either from the results of previous research or from books that have continuity with the discussion in this study.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Fundamentals of Aqidah Education in Children

Aqidah is a belief that must be firmly believed. The cultivation of aqidah is carried out by all messengers of Allah and taught by all prophets and apostles. Islam as a religion that is rahmatal lil alamin comes in addition to improving morals as well as improving the faith that used to worship idols to worship Allah SWT, the Almighty. One of them is Rasulullah SAW, with his struggle he was

able to change the people who were originally worshipers of idols and statues called shirk, to become people who believe in monotheism, and unite Allah, the Lord of all the worlds. The Prophet's struggle succeeded in filling the hearts of the people with confidence and faith in Allah the Almighty.

The word aqidah comes from the Arabic word aqada (عقد) which means a decision and belief in one's conscience and a truth that is trusted and believed by humans (al-A'lam, 1986). Aqidah that is true and good and has been attached to one's heart can change one's behavior to be good too. This is proven from various experiences and experiments that the soundness of a person's thoughts and beliefs affects the improvement of human behavior, and the damage to a person's behavior goes hand in hand with the weakness of the beliefs that dominate one's thinking. Every firm belief in the soul will surely guide and drive all our actions even though the senses cannot be felt and reached. This is what is called Aqidah (Habanaqah, 2004).

An understanding of aqidah is not only a belief in the six pillars of faith, namely faith in Allah, angels, books, Prophets, the Day of Judgment, and qadla-qadar. An understanding of aqidah is more than all of that, because we have to believe in all the values contained in aqidah, namely carrying out all of Allah's commands and leaving everything that Allah has forbidden, thus aqidah will always lead us to obey Allah and believe in the truth of all things. God's rules.

Aqidah is a guide for everyone, just like the spirit for everyone if you leave it then the human spiritual spirit will die (Sabiq, 1978). Aqidah is also a place for embedding beautiful and commendable feelings, a place for the growth of akhlakul karimah (good morals). According to Sayid Sabiq, there is no virtue or goodness except that it comes from the Al-Qur'an al-karim, and it is



aqidah that is the pioneer or driving force of every good deed. Therefore aqidah can be interpreted as the main foundation and from there the emergence of several branches, as well as the foundation upon which buildings are built. The basis of aqeedah education in children starts with instilling a sense of faith in Allah, accustoming children to love and glorify Rasulullah SAW, believing in angels, believing in destiny (Al-'Akk, 2006).

The Urgency of Embedding Aqidah Education for Children From an Early Age

In early childhood there is a very rapid development of the child's brain, 50% for intellectual development at the age of 4 years, then reaches 80% at the age of 8 years, and reaches 100% at around the age of 18 (DePeNas, 2005). Therefore, in the educational process, correct aqidah education must be applied, so that it can produce intellectual generations who are civilized and have good morals, and all of this must be built as early as possible, from an early age because it is at this time that the foundation for a child's success is built. This is in accordance with the hadith of Rasulullah SAW, namely "seek knowledge from the cradle to the grave". This hadith emphasizes the importance of education from an early age, because educating children at an early age is like carving on stone, whatever is taught and instilled will always stick until the child grows up and even forever. Early childhood education lays the foundation for children's readiness for the next level of education. The success of children in the future is strongly influenced by the education given at an early age.

Aqidah education in Islam gets the most basic place, which is positioned at the first pillar of Islam which is the key to Muslims and as a differentiator from non-Muslims. The Prophet's struggle for so long in inviting the people to be willing to believe in monotheism of Allah shows

that education in aqidah is very important. Especially in the life of children, the basics of faith must be instilled in children continuously so that every growth and development is always based on true faith (Mansur, 2011).

In the manhaj tarbiyah Islam, there is no doubt that the inculcation of the basic values of clean aqeedah since childhood is a very important issue. This is because God has bestowed two advantages on humans as a source of happiness. First, based on the hadith narrated by Bukhari and Muslim, the Prophet SAW said "every child is born in a fitrah/holy state, then both parents will make their child a Jew, Christian or Zoroastrian". Second, Allah SWT has given guidance to all mankind with what Allah created for them with firtah, in the form of knowledge. This is based on the word of God, namely "Read, in the name of your Lord who created" (QS. Al-Alaq: 1).

Because the two reasons above are the reasons for Islam to pay attention to children's education on the basis of aqidah education from childhood. So that there is a Shari'a to call azan to the baby in the right ear and iqamah in the left ear, this is so that children from infancy have listened to monotheism and takbir sentences and calls to worship only Allah SWT (Al-'Akk, 2006)

Parents and educators have a great responsibility in growing children based on the faith and basic principles of Islam, so they should know the limits of responsibilities and obligations that are borne by their parents and educators. So that people who get the task of providing education and direction know how the duties that must be carried out in growing children on a perfect faith education and are blessed by Allah SWT. The following are the limitations of responsibilities and obligations as follows:

1. Fostering children to always have faith in Allah

This can be done by contemplating



(ta'ammul) and thinking (takfir) on the creation of the heavens and the earth. This guidance can be given when they enter the age of tamyiz (able to distinguish between good and bad). This learning will be better if it is given in stages starting from things that can be sensed to things that are rational, from things that are simple to complex. So that educators can finally lead children to matters of faith with satisfactory evidence and arguments.

When children have solid faith and are instilled with the arguments of monotheism since their childhood, the destroyers will not be able to influence them. Humans will not be able to tear apart his personal faith. This is because the child has a strong personal faith, a strong belief, and a perfect qana'ah (receiving God's gifts).

2. Instill piety, and worship to Allah, Lord of the Worlds

This can be done by opening the child's vision to God's miraculous power. A heart that is filled with these things will certainly be solemn and submit to the majesty of Allah SWT. Among the means of strengthening solemnity and stability of piety in the child's soul, one of them is by training children to be able to pray solemnly at the age of tamyisz, and educating them to be sad or cry when they hear the recitation of Al-Qur'an Al-Karim.

Giving this solemnity lesson at first feels difficult, but by always reminding, being diligent in guiding and setting an example, then being solemn will become the basic character of a child and will become a noble habit for him.

3. Educating in children the spirit of muraqabatullah (feeling being watched by Allah)

This can be done by training a child to feel that he is being watched by Allah by saying that Allah is always watching and knowing his actions

and behavior. Allah knows what is seen and what is hidden in the human heart. Instilling a sense of being watched over by God is a very important thing and must be the greatest goal of educators. This can be done by accustoming children to understand that in every action, thought and feeling, there is God who is always watching.

One effective way to train children to feel supervised by Allah is to teach sincerity to Allah, the Lord of the worlds, in every work, deed and all behavior. All actions that have been preceded by good intentions are definitely aimed at expecting the pleasure of Allah. Educators should also teach children to like to introspect themselves against negative things and distorted thoughts (Ulwan, 2012).

Methods of Instilling Aqidah Education in Children

One of the goals of early childhood education in the Islamic view is to help the growth and development of the human nature that children have. Nature to believe in God is one of the nature that children have. Therefore, the provision of aqidah education from an early age aims to develop the nature of God that is owned by children and has been innate from birth. For parents, inculcating aqidah education in children can be done starting from selecting a potential mate/mate, even many hadiths of the Prophet state that the main thing to look at in choosing a life partner is their religion, in order to create a family that always adheres to his aqidah.

There are several methods that can be carried out in instilling aqidah education in children, including the following (Susuba, 2018):

1. Being a good role model for children, because one of the characteristics of children is imitating, so with a good example children will imitate teachers/parents.
2. Establish a good communication relationship.



3. Make it a habit to say Thayyibah sentences, such as starting activities with basmalah and ending with reading hamdalah.
4. Teach and accustom children to praying, reciting and fasting.
5. Teaches the attributes of God, for example, God is merciful, forgiving and so on.

The way the Prophet Muhammad interacted or taught aqidah to children, including (Al-'Akk, 2006):

1. Teach the word Allah in the early stages when children start learning to speak, then continue with monotheistic sentences.
2. Instill a sense of love for Allah and Rasulullah SAW, in the early days of awareness, knowledge, and the ability to distinguish between good and bad.
3. Teaching the Qur'an to children, starting with short letters, then long letters, also accompanied by the habit of reading and listening to the readings.
4. Familiarize children to pray at the age of seven

Galuh Nasrullah states that there are four methods that can be used in instilling aqidah education, namely the imitation/exemplary method, the habituation method, the wisdom method and mau'idzhah hasanah (Nashrullah, 2017). In the book *Ihya 'Ulumuddin* in Syekh Khalid it is explained, learning aqidah can also be done by starting with memorization, understanding, belief, and stabilization and justification, then reading the Qur'an and its interpretation, reading hadith and its understanding, and teaching the three duties of worship, until his belief is getting stronger with the arguments of the Qur'an.

Meanwhile, in the book *Tarbiyatul Awlad fil Islam* written by Abdullah Nashih Ulwan, several ways are explained in providing aqidah education

to children, including (Ulwan, 2017):

1. Opening a child's life with monotheistic sentences
2. Teach children halal and haram issues after they are wise
3. Ordered to worship when the child is seven years old
4. Educate children to love the Prophet and his family and love reading the Al-Qur'an.

CONCLUSION

Instilling aqidah education in children from an early age is a very important thing, this is because early childhood is a period of forming the child's character for the future, therefore providing learning about true Islamic aqeedah can make a child a pious and pious child, having good morals, and in the future as the technology-filled era develops, children will not be enslaved by technology and still remember their obligations to the Khaliq.

The application of aqidah education from an early age can be done in various ways, while the way that Rasulullah SAW recommends is teaching the word Allah at an early age when children start learning to speak, then continuing with the sentence of monotheism, instilling a sense of love for Allah and Rasulullah SAW, in the early stages of awareness, knowledge, and the ability to distinguish between good and bad, teaching the Qur'an to children, starting with short letters, then long letters, also accompanied by the habit of reading and listening to the recitation, and getting children to pray at the age of seven years.

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