OPTIMIZING AQIDAH AKHLAK EDUCATION AS A FOUNDATION FOR CHARACTER BUILDING AT THE PRIMARY SCHOOL LEVEL

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A b s t r a c t s

Aqidah akhlak education is basic education or religious foundation that must be instilled in children from an early age, one of the practical forms is through Islamic religious education subjects in elementary schools. Aqidah refers to faith, belief, and practice in Allah SWT. While Akhlak includes behaviours and habits that come from self-awareness in relationships with God, fellow humans, and the natural environment. Aqidah Akhlak learning focuses on aspects of intellectual intelligence and character building that must be applied seriously to form a person's character or characteristics. This study aims to assess the extent to which aqidah akhlak education affects the formation of diverse student characters in elementary schools. The method used in this study is the literature study method by analysing journals and previous research. The results showed that aqidah akhlak education plays an important role in shaping the character of elementary school students, accompanied by the role of teachers in learning, the role of the family as the first educational institution, and the community environment which has a major impact on student development at school.

Introduction

Education in Arabic, known as "Tarbiyah," contains the root "Abba Sya'i," "Yarbu," or "Rabba'an," which means to grow and increase. More specifically, education refers to a process that aims to acquire knowledge. At the primary school level, there is a subject known as aqidah akhlak education, which is well designed. The aim is to prepare students to recognise, understand, explore, practice, and believe in Allah SWT through activities such as teaching, practice, guidance, example, and experience. Moral aqidah education in primary schools plays an important role in introducing, understanding, and exploring these concepts to students. During the learning process, there is an interaction between aqidah and morals that allows learners to explore the material and character building. Aqidah refers to beliefs that are strong, clear, and without doubt, while morals refer to the nature, character, or behaviour that exists within each individual. However, today we often witness a decline in moral values, ethics, and morals in children, such as choosing the wrong friends or being disrespectful to parents and teachers. Character building through aqidah akhlak education is influenced by various factors, including support from the government, parents, and good cooperation between schools and families. However, the lack of cooperation between teachers and parents is also one of the inhibiting factors in this process.

Methods

This research uses the literature study method. As explained by Nazir, literature study implies searching for information related to the research topic from various literature sources, such as books (e-books), online journals, previous research, the internet, and other relevant sources. The data collection process in the literature study method consists of three stages. The first stage is editing, where the data obtained is rechecked to ensure completeness, clarity, and consistency. The second stage is organising, which involves compiling and organising the data according to the research framework. The third stage is finding, which includes finding results and conclusions related to research problems by analysing the data that has been collected. To analyse the data, it can be obtained using the content analysis method, which includes selecting, filtering, examining, comparing, and combining data to produce valid and relevant analytical answers in accordance with the research context. The results of analysis and compilation of previous research are used to conclude the role of moral aqidah education in shaping student character in elementary schools.

Results and Discussion

A. Akidah Akhlak Education

Akidah Akhlak education is a systematic effort in shaping the character of students by considering moral values and strong beliefs as a basis for guidance in life. The goal of this education, in line with the goals of national and Islamic education, is to develop individuals with good character, health, knowledge, and responsibility. Aqidah, as the core belief, is binding and basic in Islamic teachings, while akhlak refers to the inherent character and behaviour. The basis of aqidah akhlak comes from the Qur'an and Hadith, which teach the criteria for good and bad actions that every Muslim must believe and live by, making it a binding life guide.

B. Characteristics of Primary School Students

Primary school students have innate characteristics that are influenced by the environment, such as a tendency to like to move, a preference for hands-on activities, and a penchant for play. Therefore, teachers should design lessons that facilitate movement, active participation, and play in the learning process. In addition to understanding students' characteristics, teachers also need to consider students' needs based on physical and cultural developmental tasks. The main goal is to prevent learning disruptions that can affect students' development. This understanding is important in education, along with learning approaches that engage students in hands-on experiences and play as an effective learning method at the primary school level.

C. Learning Aqidah Akhlak towards the Social Behaviour of Primary School Children

Aqidah Akhlak learning in elementary schools has an important role in shaping children's social behaviour. This character education is not only a pedagogical task, but also a strong foundation for student character development. Students learn to apply moral beliefs and values in daily life, including values such as unity, priority, love for the country, hard work, democracy, tolerance, and human values. The religious approach in character education provides a strong foundation and humanises individuals and understands the vertical relationship with God. The integration of religious and character education is in accordance with Pancasila and the Indonesian national education system, with the aim of strengthening faith and piety and educating the nation's life, so character education cannot be separated from faith and piety education. Schools need to build trust, confidence and commitment to love the country and work together for the nation through character training.

D. Learning Aqidah Akhlak on Social Behaviour of Elementary School Children

Aqidah Akhlak learning in elementary schools has several strategies that aim to improve children's social behaviour. Teachers play an important role in providing good role models, integrating learning concept themes into students' daily lives, and mastering the material

optimally. In addition, the approach of going out of the classroom with good moral examples in the surrounding environment is also an important part of learning. Learning methods include various methods such as explanation, question and answer, group assessment, and individual assessment that are adjusted to the material being taught. Learning in elementary schools runs well, with careful planning, determining relevant learning methods, digestible materials, and teacher interactions that motivate and encourage students to learn enthusiastically. Students also show a sense of responsibility in this learning process through activities such as listening carefully, taking notes, and participating in interactions with the teacher.

E. Supporting and Hindering Factors of Aqidah Akhlak Education in Character Building
Supporting factors in aqidah akhlak education and character building include the presence of professional teachers, support from the school, positive interaction with peers, good response from the government, and parental support. The existence of these factors allows character building through moral aqidah to run smoothly. On the other hand, inhibiting factors consist of a lack of co-operation between teachers and parents. Lack of cooperation and communication between these two parties can hinder the process of character building through aqidah akhlak.

F. The Impact of Aqidah Akhlak Education for Children and Adolescents in the Era of Globalisation
Aqidah Akhlak education has a significant impact on children and adolescents in the era of globalisation. Rapid changes in various aspects of life, while bringing positive dynamics, also bring negative impacts such as moral decay, violence, and a culture that justifies all means. Aqidah Akhlak education helps shape good character, teaches an understanding of what is good and bad, and encourages noble spirituality. The important role of aqidah moral education is key to guiding children and adolescents in the face of ever-changing globalisation that affects social, moral and religious values. Through this education, it is hoped that the behaviour of children and adolescents can be positively influenced and make them a person who is balanced between physical and spiritual development, and has a harmonious relationship with the social environment, the natural environment, and God.

Conclusion

Aqidah Akhlak is a planned effort to understand and believe in Allah SWT and apply Islamic religious teachings in noble behaviour in everyday life based on the Qur'an and Hadith. This teaching is based on the principles of aqidah sourced from the Qur'an and Hadith, which are the guidelines for life for Muslims. It is important for teachers to understand the characteristics of elementary school students in order to design teaching methods that suit their needs. In addition, in learning aqidah akhlak, teachers play an important role in providing good role models and integrating learning with daily life. Supporting factors in moral aqidah education include the role of teachers, school authorities, peers, government support and parents, while inhibiting factors may result from a lack of co-operation between teachers and parents.

Moral aqidah education has a significant impact in shaping children's behaviour, especially in the era of globalisation that brings rapid change and complex dynamics. Through this education, children and adolescents can understand good moral values, build high spiritual awareness, and achieve a balance between physical and spiritual aspects. The importance of aqidah morals education helps maintain stability and harmony in relationships between humans, the social environment, nature, and with God. Thus, aqidah akhlak education makes a real contribution to forming a generation that has good character and is able to face changing times.

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