

Strengthening Ecological Awareness in Young Generations through Integration of Islamic Values in Education

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Abstract

Ecological awareness among the younger generation has become a crucial focus in education, particularly within the Islamic context that emphasizes the role of humans as guardians and stewards of the earth. This study aims to explore the integration of Islamic values in education to enhance the ecological awareness of the youth. The research method employed is a literature review, which involves collecting and analyzing data from various relevant sources, such as books, journal articles, conference papers, and official documents. These sources were accessed through both physical and digital libraries, including academic platforms like Google Scholar, JSTOR, and ScienceDirect. The main focus of the study is on Islamic educational concepts, ecological awareness, and the integration of Islamic values into education. The research findings reveal three key outcomes. First, Islamic values, such as the human responsibility as stewards (khalifah) of the earth, can be integrated into the curriculum to cultivate environmental awareness and concern. Second, Islamic educational approaches have proven effective in fostering sustainable behavior and a sense of environmental responsibility among young people through teachings that emphasize the importance of maintaining natural balance and avoiding destruction. Third, challenges in implementing this approach include the limited availability of educational resources and materials integrated with Islamic values. However, there are significant opportunities through the development of community-based educational programs and collaboration with religious institutions to support increased ecological awareness. In conclusion, integrating Islamic values in education has the potential to strengthen the ecological awareness of the younger generation, which should be supported by the development of more comprehensive curricula and educational programs aligned with Islamic principles. The study recommends expanding the application of Islamic values in various aspects of environmental education to create a generation more committed to the earth's sustainability.

Keywords: Ecology, Generation, Integration, Islam, Education

A. INTRODUCTION

In recent decades, environmental issues have become a serious concern in many parts of the world. The ecological crisis, which includes climate change, deforestation and environmental pollution, is a real threat to the sustainability of human life on earth. International organizations, governments, and environmental activists continue to educate the public on the importance of maintaining a balanced ecosystem. One important factor that supports the improvement of environmental conditions is the cultivation of ecological awareness from an early age, especially in the younger generation. This generation is expected to become agents of change who are able to encourage sustainable and environmentally friendly living practices (Al-Qarni 2020).

opportunities to shape the mindset and behavior of children and adolescents. Embedding ecological values through the education curriculum is considered an effective step to foster such awareness. In a related literature review, previous studies highlighted that environmental education combined with an understanding of cultural and religious values tends to be more effective in fostering ecological awareness (Mustafa 2019) For example, a study by (Khan, 2021) showed that a spiritual values-based approach can strengthen environmental awareness and encourage positive actions towards nature conservation.

In the Islamic context, Islam as a perfect religion provides clear guidelines on the importance of protecting nature. Teachings such as the prohibition of doing damage on earth (Q.S. Al-A'raf: 56) and the invitation to maintain environmental balance (Q.S. Ar-Rahman: 7-8) show that Islam pays great attention to nature conservation (Rahman, R. A., Ashari, M. A., Kusuma, A. R., & Alfiansyah 2016) Some Muslim scholars and intellectuals have also examined the importance of integrating Islamic values in environmental education. For example, (Yusuf, 2017) emphasizes that the concept of “khalifah” or humans as guardians of the earth has great potential to be used as a moral foundation in ecological education. In line with that, research by (Hasanah 2022) found that a religious values-based education approach was able to increase environmental awareness among students.

However, while the integration of environmental education and Islamic values has great potential, there are still a number of challenges and shortcomings in its implementation in Indonesia. One of the main problems identified is the lack of a curriculum that systematically combines Islamic aspects with environmental education materials. In addition, limited teacher training in delivering spiritual values-based materials is often a significant obstacle. A study by (S. Arifin, 2020) showed that only a minority of teachers feel confident to teach these concepts effectively. In such a situation, it is important to further explore how Islamic values can be properly integrated into environmental education to make it more relevant and impactful for the younger generation.

Against this background, this study aims to explore and analyze how the integration of Islamic values in education can strengthen ecological awareness in the younger generation. This article will also discuss the existing challenges and potential solutions that can be applied to create a generation that is more concerned about environmental sustainability, based on the results of empirical studies and relevant theories.

B. RESEARCH METHOD

This research uses a library research method (John W. Cresswell 2002) which aims to collect and analyze data from various sources of literature relevant to the topic “Strengthening Ecological Awareness in the Young Generation through the Integration of Islamic Values in Education.” This method was chosen because it allows researchers to gain an in-depth understanding of the concepts, theories, and results of previous research related to the topic studied. This method was chosen because it allows researchers to gain an in-depth understanding of the concepts, theories, and results of previous research related to the topic under study. In its implementation, this research began with the process of collecting literature sources from books, journal articles, conference papers, and relevant official documents, both from physical and digital libraries, such as Google Scholar, JSTOR, and ScienceDirect. Each piece of literature obtained was critically evaluated to assess its relevance, credibility, and contribution to the research, selecting only sources that met these criteria for analysis. The collected data were analyzed and synthesized to

build a coherent argument and develop a conceptual model that integrates Islamic values in environmental education. Conclusions were drawn by considering the theoretical and empirical contexts, resulting in a holistic insight into the importance of Islamic values-based education in building ecological awareness in the younger generation.

C. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

In this modern era, various ecological problems such as climate change, environmental degradation, and clean water crisis are real threats that threaten the survival of future generations. Ecological awareness becomes very important to be instilled early in the younger generation, and education has a central role in this process. One approach that is starting to gain attention is the integration of Islamic values in ecological education. In Islam, the concept of protecting the universe is an integral part of the teaching of tawhid, which views humans as khalifah (leaders) on earth with a great responsibility to preserve the environment. Therefore, education based on Islamic values can provide a strong moral and spiritual foundation in strengthening the ecological awareness of the younger generation. However, implementation challenges and appropriate solutions for the application of this education in Indonesia need to be reviewed in depth to ensure its effectiveness.

1. Integration of Islamic Values in Education to Strengthen the Ecological Awareness of the Young Generation

The integration of Islamic values in education not only instills ecological knowledge but also strengthens the spiritual and ethical awareness of the younger generation in protecting the environment. According to research from (Rahmawati, 2021) in the *Journal of Islamic Education*, Islamic values such as the concept of *khalifah* and *trust* provide a strong moral foundation for protecting nature. The study shows that Islamic-based education can strengthen a sense of environmental responsibility through understanding the spiritual consequences of damaging the environment. For example, students who are taught that keeping the environment clean is part of worship have higher motivation to engage in environmentally friendly actions (Rahmawati, 2021). International research by (Khalid, 2020) also emphasizes that religious value-based curricula are effective in internalizing environmental awareness, where principles such as *tasbih* (glorifying Allah's creation) can encourage respect for nature.

Integrasi nilai Islam dalam pendidikan tidak hanya menanamkan pengetahuan ekologis tetapi juga memperkuat kesadaran spiritual dan etis generasi muda dalam menjaga lingkungan. Menurut penelitian dari (Rahmawati 2021) dalam *Jurnal Pendidikan Islam*, nilai-nilai Islam seperti konsep *khalifah* dan *amanah* memberikan landasan moral yang kuat untuk menjaga alam. Studi tersebut menunjukkan bahwa pendidikan berbasis Islam dapat memperkuat rasa tanggung jawab lingkungan melalui pemahaman akan adanya konsekuensi

spiritual dari perbuatan merusak lingkungan. Sebagai contoh, siswa yang diajarkan bahwa perbuatan menjaga kebersihan lingkungan adalah bagian dari ibadah memiliki motivasi yang lebih tinggi untuk terlibat dalam aksi-aksi ramah lingkungan (Rahmawati 2021). Penelitian internasional oleh (Khalid 2020) juga menekankan bahwa kurikulum berbasis nilai agama efektif dalam menginternalisasi kesadaran lingkungan, di mana prinsip seperti *tasbih* (memuliakan ciptaan Allah) dapat mendorong penghormatan terhadap alam.

2. The Main Challenges in Implementing Ecology Education Based on Islamic Values in Indonesia

The implementation of Islamic value-based education in an ecological context in Indonesia faces a number of challenges. One of the main challenges is the difference in views between education stakeholders, who sometimes prioritize conventional science-based curriculum over spiritual-based curriculum (Rofiq, S., & Amalia 2022). Another challenge identified in the Journal of Education and Character Development is the lack of educational resources, such as teachers trained in comprehensively integrating Islamic values with ecological issues. This factor is exacerbated by the lack of policy support that encourages such integration at the national level. As a result, Islamic-based ecological education efforts are often fragmented and not effectively coordinated, reducing the potential impact of this approach.

3. Effective Solutions to Overcome Challenges in Implementing Islamic Value-Based Ecological Education

To overcome these challenges, several solutions can be implemented. First, strengthening the capacity of teachers through in-depth training and workshops on the integration of Islamic and ecological values. According to (Hasan 2021), in his book *Religion-based Character and Environmental Education*, collaboration between Islamic educational institutions and environmental organizations can enrich curriculum content and create a more holistic educational ecosystem. In addition, the government and religious institutions need to work together in developing policies that encourage schools to adopt this educational approach. Another solution mentioned in the Journal of Islamic Environmental Studies is the development of interactive learning modules and resources that combine Islamic teachings with modern ecological practices. This solution can make it easier for students to understand the importance of protecting the environment from a balanced spiritual and scientific perspective.

D. CONCLUSION

The integration of Islamic values into education holds significant potential to strengthen the ecological awareness of the younger generation by emphasizing teachings such as *khalifah* (stewardship), *amanah* (trust), and the reverence for Allah's creation. These teachings provide a moral and spiritual foundation that fosters a sense of responsibility toward the environment, motivating students to care for nature as an act of worship and obedience to Allah. However, its implementation faces considerable challenges, such as differing curriculum priorities, a lack of trained teachers, and insufficient supportive policies, often resulting in fragmented efforts. Proposed solutions include teacher training, collaboration between Islamic educational institutions and environmental organizations, and

robust policy support. Additionally, developing interactive learning materials can enrich students' understanding, making this approach more effective and transformative, while cultivating a generation that is ecologically responsible in accordance with Islamic principles.

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