

Efforts to Overcome the Moral Crisis of the Young Generation Through Islamic Education

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Keyword

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Abstract

The moral crisis affecting today's young generation is a serious challenge that requires special attention from various parties, especially educational institutions. Islamic education plays a strategic role in shaping the character and morals of students through the instilling of values of faith, morality, and spirituality. This study aims to examine effective strategies for optimizing the role of Islamic education in addressing the moral crisis of the younger generation. The method used is a literature study by analyzing various relevant literature, including books, scientific journals, and other supporting sources. The results of the study indicate several key strategies that can be implemented, namely the integration of Islamic values into the curriculum, strengthening teacher role models, fostering religious activities, collaboration between schools, families, and the community, utilizing Islamic-based digital technology, and developing Islamic-based character education programs. These strategies have been proven to balance the cognitive, affective, and spiritual aspects of students. Thus, Islamic education functions not only as a transfer of knowledge but also as a means of sustainable character development. Therefore, the implementation of appropriate and consistent strategies is essential to creating a young generation with noble character and competitiveness in the modern era.

INTRODUCTION

The moral crisis among the younger generation is one of the serious issues facing modern society today (Harmadi et al., 2022). The development of the era, marked by technological advances and globalization, has had a significant impact on changes in the behavior and mindset of the younger generation. While this progress facilitates easier access to information and broadens horizons, it also opens up opportunities for deviant values and behavior (Popescu et al., 2025). Phenomena such as declining manners, increasing consumerism, and weak ethical behavior in interactions are indicators of a moral crisis that requires serious attention. The younger generation, as the nation's future leaders, should possess strong character and be grounded in sound moral values.

However, the reality shows a gap between expectations and reality. Therefore, systematic and targeted efforts are needed to address this problem. One approach is through Islamic education.

Islamic education plays a crucial role in shaping the character and morals of the younger generation, grounded in the values of faith and piety (Maidugu & Isah, 2024). Conceptually, Islamic education focuses not only on cognitive aspects but also encompasses affective and psychomotor aspects (Bahari, 2023; Pranajaya et al., 2023). This makes Islamic education an effective means of instilling moral values and noble character. Values such as honesty, responsibility, discipline, and empathy are integral parts of Islamic teachings that should be instilled from an early age (Ismet et al., 2025; Jalaldeen & Al-Hidabi, 2025). Furthermore, Islamic education also teaches a balance between worldly life and the afterlife. Thus, students not only possess intellectual intelligence but also a strong spiritual awareness. Islamic education also emphasizes the importance of role models in the learning process. Therefore, Islamic education is a strategic solution to address the moral crisis facing the younger generation.

The implementation of Islamic education in practice still faces various challenges. One of the main challenges is the lack of integration between Islamic values and the existing education system. Many educational institutions still emphasize academic achievement alone without balancing it with adequate character development. Furthermore, the influence of the social environment and digital media also influences the behavior of the younger generation. Content that is inconsistent with moral values is often easily accessible and influences their mindset and behavior. The lack of supervision and guidance from parents and teachers also exacerbates this situation. As a result, moral education, which should be a priority, receives less attention. This demonstrates that efforts to address the moral crisis cannot be carried out in isolation but require a comprehensive approach. Therefore, an appropriate strategy is needed to optimize the role of Islamic education.

Research conducted by Azka ME et al. shows that the revitalization of character education based on Islamic values in the pesantren environment is effective in addressing the moral crisis of students in the digital era through the strengthening of habituation, exemplary behavior, and wise use of technology (Azka et al., 2025). Research conducted by Putri HJ et al. shows that character education based on Al-Ghazali's spirituality is

effective as a solution to the moral crisis in the digital era through the strengthening of the aspects of tazkiyatun nafs, self-control, and the formation of noble character (Putri et al., 2025). Research conducted by Bilkis ED et al. shows that character education has high urgency in facing the moral crisis of the younger generation through strengthening ethical values, personality development, and the habituation of positive behavior in a sustainable manner (Bilkis et al., 2025).

Based on this description, there is a research gap that requires further study. This is the lack of an integrative approach that connects the concept of Islamic education with the reality of the moral crisis facing today's young generation. Furthermore, there is limited research that examines the role of Islamic education holistically in various aspects of students' lives, including at school, at home, and in society. Yet, these three environments have a significant influence on character formation. Therefore, research is needed that can integrate these various aspects into a coherent framework. This study seeks to comprehensively examine how Islamic education can provide a solution to address the moral crisis facing the younger generation. With this broader approach, it is hoped that the results will provide a clearer picture. This also represents a novelty in the research conducted.

This study aims to analyze efforts to address the moral crisis facing the younger generation through Islamic education and identify strategies that can be effectively implemented in educational settings. Furthermore, this study aims to provide recommendations for educational institutions, teachers, and parents in optimizing the role of Islamic education. This research is expected to contribute to the development of education that is not only oriented towards academic aspects but also towards character formation. This research is also expected to serve as a reference for future researchers studying similar topics. Furthermore, the results of this study are expected to provide solutions to the moral problems facing the younger generation. Thus, the younger generation can grow into individuals with noble character and responsibility. Therefore, Islamic education needs to be continuously developed and optimized to face the challenges of the times.

METHOD

This study uses a literature review approach as the primary method in examining efforts to address the moral crisis of the younger generation through Islamic

education (Ritterbusch & Teichmann, 2023). Literature review is a research method conducted by collecting and analyzing various literature sources relevant to the research topic. Data sources in this study include scientific books, national and international journals, research articles, and other documents related to Islamic education, character education, and the moral crisis of the younger generation. Furthermore, this study also utilizes normative sources such as the Qur'an and hadith as a theoretical basis in understanding the concept of Islamic education. Data collection techniques are carried out through documentation studies by tracing various credible references that have a direct relationship to the problem being studied. The data obtained are then classified based on certain themes to facilitate the analysis process.

The data analysis technique in this study uses a descriptive-qualitative approach, namely by describing, interpreting, and synthesizing various findings from the collected literature (Nurfajriani et al., 2024). The analysis process is carried out through several stages, namely data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusions. The researcher first selected data relevant to the research focus, then systematically organized it for further analysis. Furthermore, a comparative analysis of various expert opinions was conducted to identify similarities, differences, and the contribution of each perspective to the topic under study. Data validity was maintained by using reliable sources that have undergone a peer review process. Through this approach, the research is expected to provide in-depth understanding and theoretical contributions to the development of Islamic education as a solution to address the moral crisis of the younger generation.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Concept of Islamic education shape the morals and character of the younger generation

The concept of Islamic education in shaping the morals and character of the younger generation is based on the foundation of monotheism, the core teaching of Islam. Monotheism is the primary foundation that guides all human activities, including the educational process. From this perspective, education aims not only to cultivate intellectual intelligence but also to instill an awareness of humanity's relationship with God. This awareness serves as the foundation for developing strong and consistent morals. Young people who understand the concept of monotheism will have a clear and

directed orientation in life. They will not only pursue worldly success but also consider the values of the hereafter in every action. Thus, Islamic education plays a role in shaping individuals with high moral integrity. Therefore, the concept of monotheism is the primary foundation for character education in Islam.

وَأَذَقْنَا لُقْمَانَ إِبْنَهُ وَهُوَ يَعِظُهُ يَا بُنَيَّ لَا تُشْرِكْ بِاللَّهِ إِنَّ الشِّرْكَ لَظُلْمٌ عَظِيمٌ

means: (Remember) when Luqman said to his son, while he was advising him, "O my son, do not associate anything with Allah! Indeed, associating (partners with Allah) is truly a great injustice (Q.S Lukman:13)

Islamic education emphasizes the importance of moral development as the primary goal of education. Morality in Islam encompasses good behavior that reflects the values of faith, such as honesty, trustworthiness, patience, and humility. Moral development is not only achieved through material delivery, but also through habituation and role modeling. This process requires time and consistency for these values to be deeply ingrained in students. Islamic education views good morals as a reflection of one's faith. Therefore, the moral aspect cannot be separated from the spiritual aspect. Young people with noble morals will be able to interact positively in social life. Thus, Islamic education serves as a means of sustainable character development.

The concept of Islamic education also emphasizes a balance between cognitive, affective, and psychomotor aspects of learning. Education focuses not only on mastering knowledge but also on developing attitudes and skills. This demonstrates the holistic and comprehensive nature of Islamic education. The younger generation is required not only to be intellectually intelligent but also to possess emotional sensitivity and social skills. In practice, learning must be designed to develop these three aspects in a balanced manner. Teachers play a crucial role in creating a learning environment that supports this process. Thus, Islamic education can produce individuals who are balanced in various aspects of life. Therefore, a holistic approach is a hallmark of Islamic education.

Islamic education also emphasizes the concept of role models (*uswah hasanah*) in the learning process. Teachers and parents play a crucial role as role models for the younger generation. Their behavior and attitudes serve as concrete examples for students to follow. This role model is more effective than simply imparting theory. Young people tend to imitate what they see rather than what they hear. Therefore, educators must be able to demonstrate behavior consistent with Islamic values. This will help students

understand and internalize those values. Thus, role models are an important method of character formation in Islamic education.

Islamic education also emphasizes the importance of habituation in shaping the character of the younger generation. Habituation is a repetitive process that forms good habits. In an educational context, habituation can be achieved through routine activities such as prayer, reading the Quran, and performing religious duties. These activities will help students develop spiritual awareness. Furthermore, habituation can also be applied to daily behaviors such as discipline, responsibility, and courtesy. This process will shape a strong and consistent character. Thus, habituation is an effective method for internalizing moral values. Therefore, Islamic education strongly emphasizes the importance of habituation in the educational process.

The concept of Islamic education also emphasizes the role of the environment in shaping the morals and character of the younger generation. Family, school, and community environments significantly influence student development. Islamic education believes that these three environments must synergize in instilling moral values. A conducive environment will support the process of internalizing values more effectively. Conversely, a negative environment can hinder the moral development of the younger generation. Therefore, it is crucial to create an environment that supports Islamic values. Schools can serve as centers for the formation of a positive culture. Thus, Islamic education takes place not only in the classroom but also in everyday life. This demonstrates that education is a shared responsibility.

The concept of Islamic education in shaping the morals and character of the younger generation aims to create individuals who are faithful, knowledgeable, and virtuous. Education is not only directed at academic achievement but also at developing a holistic personality. The younger generation is expected to be able to face the challenges of the times while adhering to Islamic values. This is crucial amidst the currents of globalization that bring various negative influences. With values-based education, the younger generation will have a filter to filter various external information and influences. Furthermore, they will also have a strong sense of social responsibility. Thus, Islamic education is a strategic solution to address the moral crisis facing the younger generation. Therefore, strengthening the concept of Islamic education needs to be carried out continuously.

Strategies in optimizing the role of Islamic education to overcome the moral crisis of the younger

In the face of the increasingly complex moral crisis among the younger generation, Islamic education is required to be not only normative, but also applicable and strategic in its implementation. Rapid social change due to globalization and technological developments demands a more adaptive approach to instilling moral values. Islamic education needs to be systematically designed to meet the challenges of the times without losing the essence of its teachings. This indicates the need for appropriate and effective strategies to optimize the role of Islamic education in shaping the character of the younger generation. These strategies must be able to integrate cognitive, affective, and spiritual aspects in a balanced manner. Furthermore, the approach used must be contextual for easy understanding and application by students. Thus, Islamic education can function optimally in overcoming the moral crisis. Therefore, the following are several strategies that can be implemented to optimize the role of Islamic education:

1. Integration of Islamic Values in the Curriculum

Integrating Islamic values into the curriculum is a key strategy for shaping the morals of the younger generation. Values such as honesty, responsibility, discipline, and social awareness need to be integrated into all subjects, not just Islamic Religious Education. This way, students can understand that Islamic values are universal and relevant to all aspects of life. An integrated curriculum will help students connect knowledge with spiritual values. This is crucial to ensure that learning is not secular and divorced from religious values. Furthermore, this integration can also strengthen the awareness that every learning activity is part of worship. With this approach, education becomes more meaningful and contextual. Therefore, integrating Islamic values into the curriculum is a strategic step in character formation.

This integration can be implemented through the development of values-based learning materials. Teachers can incorporate Islamic values into learning objectives, materials, methods, and evaluations. Furthermore, the use of contextual examples relevant to everyday life can strengthen students' understanding. The learning process must be designed to develop cognitive, affective, and psychomotor aspects in a balanced manner. This way, students not only understand concepts but also are able to apply them. Learning evaluations should also encompass aspects of attitudes and

behavior, not just academic outcomes. This will encourage students to pay greater attention to character development. Thus, the curriculum becomes an effective means of internalizing moral values. Therefore, curriculum integration must be carried out systematically and sustainably.

2. Strengthening Teacher Exemplary Behavior (Uswah Hasanah)

Teachers' exemplary behavior is a highly effective strategy in shaping the morals of the younger generation. Teachers serve not only as transmitters of material but also as role models for students. Their attitudes, behavior, and speech serve as concrete examples for students to emulate. This exemplary behavior encompasses values such as honesty, discipline, responsibility, and modesty. When teachers demonstrate behavior consistent with Islamic values, students will more easily internalize those values. This is because learning through real-life examples is more effective than mere theory. Therefore, teachers must possess high integrity in carrying out their roles. Thus, exemplary behavior is key to character education.

Teachers' exemplary behavior must also be reflected in daily interactions within the school environment. Teachers need to demonstrate a friendly, fair, and empathetic attitude toward students. This will create a harmonious relationship between teacher and students. A good relationship will make the educational process more effective. Teachers must also be able to maintain consistency between words and actions to avoid causing confusion in students. Continuous exemplary behavior will shape positive habits in students. This way, moral values can be deeply ingrained. Therefore, strengthening the role of teachers as role models must be a priority in Islamic education.

3. Habituating Religious Activities in the School Environment

Inculcating religious activities is an effective strategy for shaping the character and morals of the younger generation. Activities such as congregational prayer, Quran reading, and communal prayer can help students develop spiritual awareness. These practices are carried out routinely so that they become part of students' daily lives. This way, religious values are not only understood theoretically but also put into practice. Furthermore, religious activities can also improve students' discipline and responsibility. They learn to carry out their obligations conscientiously. This will

foster strong and consistent character. Therefore, habituation is an effective method in Islamic education.

Habituating religious activities can also create a conducive environment. A religious environment will positively influence student behavior. They will feel more comfortable practicing religious values. Furthermore, these activities can strengthen social relationships between students. They learn to respect each other and cooperate. Consistently practicing these habits will have a long-term impact on character development. Thus, schools become places that educate not only intellectually but also spiritually. Therefore, religious activities need to be designed in a structured and sustainable manner.

4. Collaboration between Schools, Families, and Communities

Collaboration between schools, families, and communities is a crucial strategy for addressing the moral crisis facing the younger generation. These three environments play complementary roles in the educational process. Schools serve as formal institutions, families as the primary environment, and communities as the social environment. When these three environments work together effectively, the character-building process will be more effective. The values taught in schools will be reinforced within the family and community. This creates consistency in moral education. Thus, students will receive reinforcement from various sources. Therefore, collaboration is key to the success of character education.

This collaboration can be implemented through various programs, such as parent meetings, joint religious activities, and intensive communication between schools and families. Parents need to be involved in the educational process to provide optimal support. Furthermore, the community can play a role in creating an environment conducive to the moral development of the younger generation. Social and religious activities in the community can serve as learning tools for students. Thus, education takes place not only in the classroom but also in everyday life. Good collaboration will strengthen the internalization of moral values. Therefore, synergy between the three parties must be continuously improved.

5. Utilization of Digital Technology Based on Islamic Values

Wise use of digital technology is a relevant strategy in facing the challenges of the times. Technology can be used as a medium to spread Islamic values to the younger

generation. Educational content such as Islamic preaching videos, online studies, and Islamic learning apps can be an attractive alternative. With this approach, young people can learn religious values through media they enjoy. This will increase their interest and engagement in learning. Furthermore, technology can also be a means to expand the reach of Islamic education. Therefore, the use of technology must be directed towards positive things.

Technology use also needs to be balanced with supervision and guidance. Young people must be educated about the ethics of using digital media. They need to be taught to filter information and avoid negative content. Teachers and parents play a crucial role in providing this guidance. Furthermore, digital literacy education needs to be improved. This way, technology becomes an effective educational tool rather than a threat. Appropriate use of technology will help address the moral crisis. Therefore, this strategy needs to be developed wisely and with focus.

6. Development of Islamic-Based Character Education Programs

Developing an Islamic-based character education program is a systematic strategy for shaping the morals of the younger generation. This program can be designed through structured activities, such as character training, mentoring, and moral development. Values such as honesty, responsibility, and social awareness are the primary focus of this program. With a well-planned program, the character-building process can be more focused. Furthermore, this program can be tailored to the needs and circumstances of the students, making the program more effective and relevant. Therefore, developing a character program is a strategic step in Islamic education.

The implementation of this program also requires ongoing evaluation to ensure its effectiveness. Schools need to monitor students' character development. Furthermore, the involvement of teachers and parents is crucial in supporting this program. Evaluation allows the program to be continuously improved and adapted to meet needs. This will enhance the quality of character education. A good program will have a positive long-term impact. This way, the younger generation can grow into individuals with noble character. Therefore, character education programs must be an integral part of the education system.

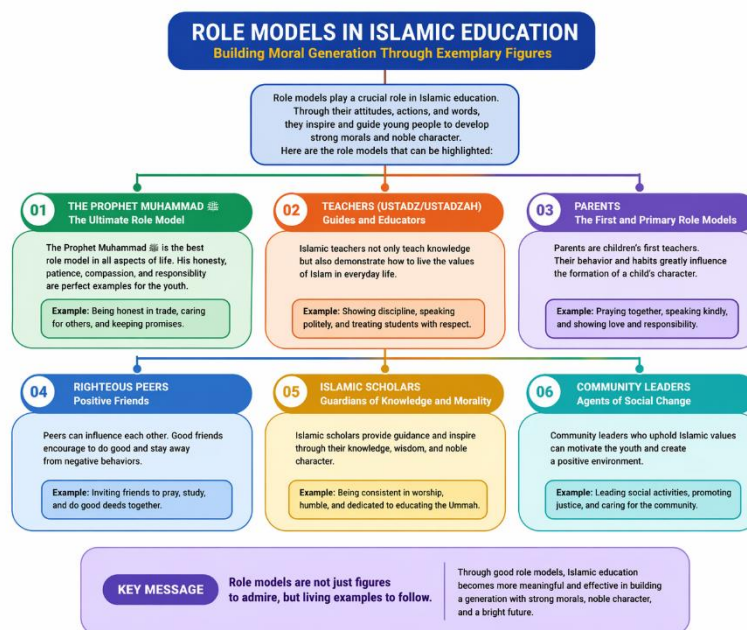


Figure 1 Islamic Education Building Moral Role Model

CONCLUSION

Islamic education plays a highly strategic role in shaping the morals and character of the younger generation through a foundation of monotheism, moral development, and a holistic and sustainable approach. The concept of Islamic education emphasizes not only cognitive aspects but also affective and spiritual aspects, integrated throughout the learning process. To optimize this role, various effective strategies are needed, such as integrating Islamic values into the curriculum, strengthening teacher role models, fostering religious practices, collaboration between schools, families, and the community, wise use of digital technology, and developing Islamic-based character education programs. All of these strategies must be implemented systematically and consistently to address the challenges of the moral crisis in the modern era. Thus, Islamic education can be a comprehensive solution in shaping a young generation that is not only intellectually intelligent but also devout, virtuous, and possesses a strong sense of social responsibility.

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