Research Article

Islamic Parenting as an Effort to Educate the Islamic Character of Alpha Generation

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Abstract. The development of the times brings various changes to every human being from various sides. The alpha generation is a generation full of challenges. The alpha generation needs to receive guidance, especially from parents, to develop good character and be able to avoid bad things. The aim of this research is to find out how to educate alpha generation children so that Islamic character is formed through Islamic parenting. This research is a type of qualitative research with a library research approach. The technique used in collecting data is documentation. Data sources are obtained from sharing sources such as books, journals, articles and other data. The data analysis used is content analysis and descriptive narrative. This research shows that educating alpha generation children for parents is a big challenge in this era. Islamic parenting itself views that the parenting process starts from choosing a partner. Parents must be able to educate their children, especially regarding the use of technological media. Parents are central figures in educating children. It is absolutely necessary for parents to understand their children's world, especially with regard to the digital world. Parents can use Islamic parenting to educate the alpha generation so that they have a stronghold and avoid things that are prohibited. Based on the results of this research, educating Islamic character through Islamic parenting must start early and must be adapted to the child's development stage.

Keywords: Alpha generation, Islamic character, Islamic parenting.

INTRODUCTION

The development of technology today has changed various aspects of human life, influencing the way of thinking and behaving in society, and driving the transformation of individuals from one technological era to another (Alia & Irwansyah, 2018). Technology is created to increase efficiency and productivity in human activities, which in turn changes attitudes, behaviors, and lifestyles to become more modern and efficient (Gazali, 2018). Generation Alpha is the group most connected to technology. They were born since 2010 and are the children of the millennial generation (McCrindle & Fell, 2019). The intelligence of Alpha generation children exceeds that of previous generations due to their ability to adapt to technology such as smartphones or similar technologies (Alfianto & Jayanti, 2020). Generation Alpha is a group that is always engaged with technology, social media, gadgets and the internet. Although technology provides convenience in life, unwise use can have a negative impact, especially on children's character development. The absence of access to gadgets and social media can lead to aggressive and uncontrollable behavior. Excessive use of gadgets can also result in individualistic traits, emotionality, lack of focus, and the use of language that is not age-appropriate (Rahmalah dkk., 2019). Character development and the formation of good morals do not only occur at school, but should start early in the family environment. The family is one of the educational institutions where each individual experiences growth and change in accordance with the family culture. The role of parents is very important in this regard, which is now known as 'parenting', which includes the process of becoming parents and how they fulfill their responsibilities towards children.

Parenting is a series of educational activities that are continuously carried out to help a person recognize himself, develop his potential, and be able to take responsibility for him self (Sari, 2019). One method in approaching parents towards

children is through Islamic parenting. The term "Islamic parenting" is a combination of two English words, where "Islamic" is an adjective that describes "parenting". In the Indonesian context, this term can be referred to as "Islamic parenting". Islamic parenting is a form of parenting that is based on Islamic values found in the Qur'an and As-Sunnah. With the changing times and the need for strong character and morals, parents, especially those who are Muslim, are required to be able to adjust and guide their children from an early age in order to avoid moral decay in the future. This can be done by being wise and controlled in utilizing existing technology. Islamic Parenting is a comprehensive approach rooted in the obligations and rights of both parents and children. Raising children in Islam is considered a duty given directly by Allah. Parents have a moral responsibility to Allah and their children to fulfill their role as guardians.

Islam organizes the relationship between parents and children in a balanced framework. Both parents and children have interrelated responsibilities and rights. According to the principles of Islamic parenting, children's future behavior reflects the behavioral patterns of their parents and the educational approach adopted in their families. The formation of a child's character should start as soon as possible with education for parents first, not just after the birth of the child. Islamic parenting has a scope that covers three stages of education which include: the pre-conception stage, which starts from the selection of a life partner until conception in the womb of the wife. Then, the prenatal stage, where parents provide education to their child while still in the womb. Finally, the postnatal stage, which includes education from the time of birth to adulthood, even until the end of life, which is often referred to as lifelong education (Ubaidillah, 2019).

RESEARCH METHODS

This research is a library research, which is a research that focuses on using data and information with the help of various kinds of materials found in the library, such as: books, magazines, manuscripts, notes, historical stories, documents, and others (Mustofa dkk., 2023). In collecting data, the author uses qualitative methods as a research procedure that can produce descriptive data in the form of written words or verbal power of the object of research. Because this research is library research, in collecting data, the author divides the data sources into two parts: 1) Primary data sources, namely e-books/books that discuss Islamic education, especially Islamic character education. 2) Secondary data sources, including other references written by other intellectuals as a foothold and benchmark in analyzing Islamic parenting.

DISCUSSION

Educating the Alpha generation, often referred to as digital natives, is a complicated task for parents. In addition to guiding them and instilling good values, today's parents must also understand the digital world that is changing all the time. One of the things that is very important for parents in educating and supervising Alpha generation children is to engage in their world, learn about technology and its features, and increase understanding of the digital world. According to Al Ghazali, as quoted in (Zur Raffar dkk., 2021) It states that there are four important elements for

parents in educating children: knowledge and education, relationship with God, relationship with children, and relationship with others. Knowledge plays a major role in the process of educating children. Parents who have a strong understanding of religion can be good role models for their children. Parents' ability to explain religious concepts can also help prevent children from inappropriate behavior. Parents are expected to have good technical skills, knowledge and emotional intelligence in supervising their children in accessing information and entertainment through the internet (Munawar dkk., 2019).

Mark McCrindle states that Alpha generation children need guidance from their parents. In addition, it is important for parents to build the confidence of Alpha generation children, as many of them experience insecurity or lack of confidence, and may experience mental health disorders (McCrindle & Fell, 2019). Parents must now always be aware of the content available on their children's gadgets. Based on research conducted by Rahmalah, Astuti, Pramessetyaningrum, & Susan (Rahmalah dkk., 2019) on the effect of gadget use on early childhood character building revealed that the average child who uses their gadget intensively results in changes in the child's character.

A collaborative family atmosphere is the foundation that makes children easy to direct or advise. Cooperation between parents and children creates an environment that provides understanding and safety for children, especially in media use. A collaborative family environment will strengthen children's development and help them learn from their parents. Some things to consider in creating a collaborative family are:

First, Forming an emotional connection through shared responses. When children feel emotionally connected to their parents, they will respond naturally to a gentle parenting approach, so strict measures such as threats or physical punishment need not be applied. Providing children with reasons will help them acquire internal moral standards that will guide their behavior. In this climate, parents will find it easier to regulate their children's use of gadgets and other media.

Second, one strategy for creating a collaborative family atmosphere is through conversations or dialog with the child. Conversations can cover everyday topics or discuss specific future plans. Parents need to explain the rules of the house and the reasons behind them so that the child can understand the importance of obeying the rules. Talking calmly will make the child more receptive to instructions from parents, while conversations during conflict will not be effective. Through dialog, parents can:
1. Educate children about the benefits and negative impacts of the media they use.
2. Giving understanding about the time limitations in accessing gadgets
3. Understand children about the limits of privacy in social media
4. Teaching them about the basics of sex education in the realm of media
5. Direct screen time into productive activities, such as learning, creating work, watching video tutorials, and accessing important information.

The third is encouragement. Encouragement from parents is a key factor in facilitating children's development. Supportive parents will allow children to express themselves more freely and explore things. In the digital age, parents can use digital

platforms as a tool to support and encourage Alpha generation children to use digital activities in a more positive way, such as (Andriani, 2019):

1. Producing positive and productive content together. Parents are able to direct device playing activities for more productive and insightful things.
2. Participate in productive activities related to digital media such as donation activities, workshops or competitions.
3. Parents and children collaborate to create digital content

The fourth is discipline. Femmie Juffer, Marian Bakermans-Kranenburg, and Marinus van Ijzendoorn integrate the concepts of attachment theory with the learning theory proposed by Gerald Patterson to help parents manage impulsive, aggressive, and disruptive behaviors in children, by covering suggested discipline programs (Taraban & Shaw, 2018):

1. Use reasoning to help children understand the need for rules and routines and the benefits of following them.
2. Helping the child focus attention on positive alternatives when they are frustrated. For example, when the child insists on eating cookies before dinner, parents can say "why don't you help me set the table so we can eat faster" and so on.
3. Pay attention to the child when they obey the rules and do positive actions. Parents need to show appreciation for their behavior.
4. Empathize with the child's feelings, desires, and life stages and express them to the child.
5. Help the child to disengage from anger or confrontation by giving the child time to think about the behavior in a certain room. It is important for parents to be calm and available when the child needs someone to talk to or play with.
6. Talk to the child during the routine, explaining to them and answering their questions.
7. Always be ready to make time for play and fun.

Mona Ratuliu revealed some recommendations on how long to use gadgets and facilitate children with gadgets in accordance with those issued by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), which are as follows:

1. When they are under the age of eighteen months, children are not allowed to use mobile devices at all, except for certain purposes, such as chatting and calling for communication needs between children and their parents or closest family. When introducing digital media to children aged eighteen to twenty-four months, start with quality content and be fully supervised by adults.
2. Limit screen time to a maximum of one hour per day for children aged two to five years. This is done under the control and guidance of parents.
3. For children who are six years old or older, parents should be strict in setting time limits on the use of digital media, in addition to mandatory times such as school, physical activities, studying and completing school assignments, carrying out responsibilities at home, and nighttime sleep.
4. When driving or eating, it is imperative that they are not allowed to use digital devices. In addition, the bedroom can also be a place that is free of mobile or digital devices. Children should be taught to socialize wisely and always uphold tolerance and respect for others both virtually and in person (Ratuliu, 2018). One form of

Islamic parenting that can be implemented in educating alpha generation children in the digital era is by Muslim parents being role models for their children and motivating them by giving rewards in the form of 1 hour of study or recitation, 1 hour of gifts for online with time limits and controlling their online activities as a friend to ask questions and help for advice.

Parents and children need to strengthen communication to build closeness. Parents need to foster trust in their children and set aside time to teach ethical, religious and time management values, as well as supervision that influences healthy gadget use for children who are accustomed to technology. Parents, as educators, should understand the techniques of nurturing and learning their children. The education process should pay attention to various aspects of the child's personality, including spiritual, moral, physical, mental, psychological and social. Jane Brooks, in her book "The Process of Parenting", states that some strategies that parents can use in parenting their children are:

1. Parents model the actions and ways of thinking that they want their children to develop.
2. Provide good nurturing so that children are able to develop self-confidence and a sense of belonging.
3. Providing explanations to children so that they are able to understand the consequences of their actions and the impact on others.
4. Parents set high but realistic standards for children and support them to meet these standards.
5. Involving children in family decision-making and problem-solving so that children can contribute their thoughts and views and understand other people's points of view.

Based on the above opinions, the researcher tries to elaborate on parenting strategies in general views to be associated with Islamic views. First, good example (modeling) or what is often referred to as exemplary is one of the methods used by the apostle in terms of educating. As contained in the Quran letter Al- Ahzab verse 21:

"Indeed, in the Messenger of Allah there is indeed a good example for you, (that is) for those who hope for (the mercy of) Allah and (the coming of) the Day of Resurrection and who remember Allah much".

According to the Islamic perspective, parents are expected to be uswatun hasanah or good examples for their children. The exemplary approach is a very effective educational technique because it has a major impact on the educational process, which includes behavior, actions, expressions of feelings, and thoughts, so that it becomes the basis and meaning of a method (Khakim & Munir, 2018). In this digital age, parents should set an example in the disciplined and thoughtful use of technology. As mentioned earlier, this includes activities such as not using electronic devices or watching television during meals or before bed. When parents follow these principles and explain the reasons to children, positive habits are formed in usage.

Parents and children must build communication intensity to establish togetherness with children. parents must be able to build children's trust and take the time to teach ethics, religious teachings and discipline in the use of time and other supervision that will have an impact on the healthy use of gadgets for digital natives.

The second is a strategy in educating by providing good parenting and being able to create a sense of security. Parents are obliged to educate their children as explained by Lukman in teaching his son about tawhid. This is contained in the Quran letter Lukman verse 13:

"Remember when Luqman said to his son, when he advised him, 'O my son, do not associate partners with Allah, for indeed associating partners with Allah is a great injustice".

The verse emphasizes that parents are obligated to teach their children about monotheism. Allah commands that the most important thing to teach children is about belief, monotheism and man's relationship with His creator. In the context of Islamic parenting, parents must first understand the basics of religion before they teach their children. The process of monitoring children must be equipped with knowledge that parents must first understand. Muslim parents have an obligation to teach the basics of religion to children by increasing literacy about religious science. In this process, parents play an important role.

Third, understand to children that every action or behavior has consequences. Therefore, children need to know certain boundaries and know the good and bad of every action because everything will have an impact. Every behavior that a person does will have consequences in it. As advised by Lukman in the Quran Surah Lukman verse 16:

(Luqman said,) "O my son, indeed if there is (an action) as heavy as a mustard seed and it is in a rock, in the sky, or in the earth, surely Allah will bring it (to be rewarded). Verily, Allah is most gentle, most meticulous".

The verse explains that every action will have its own reward. If associated with the context of educating children, especially in the digital era, this can be a guideline for parents to discipline their children. Children must be given an understanding from an early age that in this world there are always various choices, and every choice taken always has consequences in it.

Fourth, parents set high but realistic standards for their children and support them to meet those standards. It is important for parents to know the limits of their children's abilities. Islam itself forbids a person to impose the will of others as in the Qur'an letter Yunus verse 99:

The verse explains that everything that happens is by the will of Allah. A child's future or their strengths and weaknesses are gifts from Allah and we have no control over them. It's just that there are some things that can be worked on and changed as well as potential that can be developed and bad behavior that can be avoided. Parents need to be a good supporter and support system for their children. Positive support from parents will provide good motivation for children.

Fifth, involve children in family decision-making and problem solving so that children can contribute their thoughts and views and understand other people's points of view. Islam teaches its servants to be critical and responsible for the decisions they make. In the context of parenting, parents need to establish good communication with their children, inviting them to practice making decisions starting from simple things.

Based on the explanation above, it can be understood that Islamic parenting strategies are in line with the concepts put forward by experts. Islamic parenting is flexible and adaptive. Some of the strategies presented above will help parents in the process of educating children, especially in the realm of Islamic families. One of the essential things of Islamic parenting is good interaction between parents and children.

Educating children is a very important responsibility for parents. The education process can begin even when the child is still in the womb. This is due to the development of the child's brain and sense of hearing that has begun since the womb, which makes them able to feel what is happening in the outside environment. Good education in the family environment will shape good character in children. Children's character building should start at an early age. According to research conducted by Zakiyah on character building for kindergarten-age children through a spiritual approach, education must start from educators who are active in child development activities, based on spirituality, providing examples of worship to children, applying religious teachings in everyday life, and enriching themselves with good morals (Zakiyah & Darodjat, 2019).

From this explanation, it can be concluded that educators, especially parents, have a very important role in shaping children's Islamic character. Character cultivation must be adjusted to the child's developmental stage. In children under the age of 4, the characters that need to be emphasized are honesty, discipline, and the ability to build good relationships. In children aged 5-8 years, the focus of character building is cooperation, empathy, and self-confidence. Meanwhile, for children aged 9-12 years, it is important to develop optimism, tolerance, and the ability to find solutions. Character building starts from educators who show behavior in accordance with religious teachings and applicable norms, considering that children tend to imitate the adults around them. Therefore, it is important for children to be in an environment filled with people who can be role models for them.

CONCLUSION

This research shows that Islamic parenting views the process of child education starting from choosing a partner. In the process of raising children, especially the alpha generation, it is absolute for parents to have a strong foundation of education and knowledge both in general and religion. Parents in Muslim families should instill the basics of religion from an early age so that children have strong guidelines and fortresses so that they do not easily fall into forbidden things. In addition, in the digital era, parents play a role in educating and disciplining children's activities related to technology. Strategies that can be carried out by parents in educating the alpha generation, especially in building Islamic character through Islamic parenting, are by instilling religious values early on, creating a collaborative family, providing limits and rules in the use of technology, involving children in problem solving, and instilling character according to the age of child development. The educational process carried out by parents can use methods exemplified by the prophet such as dialogue, advice, exemplary, stories, imstal, habituation and game methods.

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