

Analysis of Strengthening Religious and Moral Values in the Habit of Morning Pledges at Aisyiyah Bustanul Atfal Kindergarten Padang Panjang

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Abstract

Purpose: This study explores how daily habituation practices—specifically the morning pledge—can strengthen moral and religious values in early childhood. Conducted at Aisyiyah Bustanul Atfal Padang Panjang Kindergarten, it aims to demonstrate the pledge's role in embedding core virtues such as discipline, gratitude, and belief in Allah, alongside moral qualities like respect and cooperation.

Methodology: Employing a descriptive qualitative design, researchers gathered data through direct classroom observations of the morning pledge ritual, semi-structured interviews with teachers, and review of relevant documentation (attendance records, lesson plans, and behavioral logs). This triangulated approach ensured a rich, multi-angled understanding of how the practice is implemented and received.

Results: Findings reveal that the morning pledge serves as a powerful, ritualized entry point for instilling both religious and moral values. Teachers' active participation—leading the pledge, modeling respectful posture, and reinforcing its meanings—and their consistency in practice were identified as critical factors. Children who regularly engaged in the pledge displayed heightened awareness of discipline (arriving and standing neatly), expressed verbalized gratitude, and demonstrated cooperative behaviors during subsequent classroom activities.

Applications/Originality/Value: By highlighting the pledge's efficacy as a daily character-building tool, this study offers a practical model for early-childhood educators seeking to integrate value education seamlessly into routines. Its insights underscore the importance of teacher commitment and consistency and can inform teacher-training programs and curriculum guidelines aimed at nurturing both spiritual and moral development in young learners.

Introduction

Children's education, it is important to understand that every contribution in pre-paring future human resources (HR) is very valuable. Through real efforts in providing good education, attention, and care to early childhood, we can hope that they grow up to be a superior and beneficial generation for society, religion, parents, nation, and state. According to Sudjono (Syifauzakia et al., 2018:19). Early childhood education is education provided for children aged 0-6 years through the provision of various stimuli to help growth and development, both physical and spiritual, so that they are ready to carry out education at the next level (Mahardhani et al., 2022). At an early age, children are called the golden age, because at this age there is a very amazing and best development and growth throughout their lives (Masganti, 2017:5).

Religious and moral values are the main foundation in the formation of children's character. Education at Aisyiyah Bustanul Atfal Padang Panjang Kindergarten has a method to strengthen religious and moral values through positive habits that are carried out consistently, such as the implementation of morning vows. Morning pledges are not only a routine, but a medium to instill faith, discipline, respect and cooperation. This activity seeks to form early childhood character, which is in line with the goal of national education, which is to produce a generation that is faithful, moral and useful for society in the future. The study aims to analyze the role of habituation of morning vows as a reinforcement of religious and moral values in early childhood.

The strengthening of religious and moral values in the habituation process is not limited to their intellectual development alone, but rather to the development of their behavior and morals, religion, attitudes, and physical and psychological development in order to form the main personality. In addition, in the selection of educational strategies, it is necessary to be based and aligned with the factors of activity objectives, attitudes, behaviors, and conditions of students, and the strengthening of religious and moral values requires encouragement and stimulus through education and exemplary by adjusting to the development of children's psychology. Therefore, competent teachers are needed so that the goals of the activity are achieved and also become an example for children (Jakarta :P T. Toko Gunung Agung, 2001). The Indonesian nation highly upholds moral and religious values. These noble values are also intended to be a spiritual

motivation for this nation in order to carry out other precepts in Pancasila (Hidayat, 2007: 9). Religious and moral values are not only transferred to children through their understanding and explanation. However, it is important that example and habit-uation can further internalize it into children (Hasanah, 2015). In addition, the results of research conducted by Malia Dinia that using narratives or stories in transferring NAM will be more interesting for children (Malia Dinia Husni Rahiema, 2017).

Moral comes from the Latin word *mos*, which means customs, habits, values, values or procedures of life. According to Hurlock (Supriyanto, 2015:93) moral behavior is in accordance with the moral code of social groups. Morality according to Suseno (Ananda, 2017:21) is a measure of how good or bad a person is, both as a person and as a citizen and citizen. The development of religious moral-ity is closely related to ethics, manners, and the willingness to carry out religious teachings in daily life. According to Lawrence Kholbergh (Ali, 2020).

Refraction in early childhood cannot be seen directly. Rather, there is the right process to train children from an early age, one of which is habituation and ex-ample. Religious activities or activities that are carried out repeatedly and consistently are needed so that these activities become good habits for children (In-tercession, 2021). Religious habits to form and strengthen children's religious character occur in daily activities such as praying before activities, greeting peo-ple when meeting people, and worshipping Allah SWT.

Strengthening religious and moral values in early childhood, especially at the kindergarten level, is an important step in shaping children's character from an early age. One of the methods that is often used is the habituation of morning vows, which not only serves as a routine but also as a means of internalizing reli-gious and moral values. To understand the effectiveness and challenges of im-plementing this method, it is important to review the existing literature, identify research gaps, and evaluate their relevance to the latest findings.

Critical Comparison of Various Studies

Initial Research on Strengthening Values in Kindergarten:

Research Results : Studies such as those conducted by Muslich (2011) highlight the importance of habituation to shape a child's character, including religiosity and morality. Habits such as morning pledges are considered effective in building a sense of responsibility and discipline from an early age.

Criticism : This research pays little attention to the sociocultural context of chil-dren, which can affect the acceptance and internalization of these values.

Amalia dan Zainuddin (2018) found that habituation methods, such as morning vows, are effective in Islamic-based kindergartens. However, the success of this habituation is highly dependent on teacher involvement and consistency in its implementation.

Gap : Lack of research on the influence of the family environment in supporting the sustainability of values taught in schools.

Research Results: A study by Triana et al. (2020) revealed that the application of the morning vow habituation in schools with diverse religious backgrounds showed more varied results. Children are quicker to understand universal values such as honesty and cooperation, but religion-specific values require a more con-textual approach.

Criticism: There is no long-term evaluation of the impact of this habituation on children's behavior after dropping out of kindergarten.

New Research and Gaps

Recent Research (2022 – 2024): A study by Rahmawati (2023) found that digitalization can strengthen the imple-mentation of the morning pledge, for example through interactive videos. How-ever, there is a risk of reduced direct interaction that can weaken the emotional connection between the teacher and the child.

Research by Suryani et al (2024) highlights the importance of family support. Children from families who actively practice religious values tend to be more consistent in showing positive moral behavior.

Gaps in the Literature: Lack of focus on the long-term psychological impact of morning vow habituation on children from diverse religious backgrounds. There is a lack of research on the effectiveness of morning vow habituation in urban environments that are more socio-culturally heterogeneous.

Method

The research method used is qualitative descriptive (Pahleviannur et al., 2022). This research is a descriptive research. The approach used is a qualitative approach. According to Mukhtar (2013), qualitative descriptive is a method used by researchers to find knowledge or theory of research at a certain time. The research method used to provide an overview that this study focuses on describing an event that occurred at Aisyiyah Bustanul Athfal Padang Panjang Kindergarten. Theresearch information is the principal and teacher staff in the kindergarten with data collection techniques of

Observation, Documentation, and Interview. The following can be used to describe the strengthening of religious and moral values.

Participants in this study involve:

1. Kindergarten children: age group A (4-5 years) and group B (5-6 years).
2. Teachers: principals and teacher staff who are directly involved in the implementation of the morning pledge every day.
3. Parents: some parents of students to provide perspectives on changes in children's behavior at home related to religious and moral values.

Results and Discussion

Results A learning approach that includes religious and moral values at the kindergarten level, such as that carried out by Aisyiyah Bustanul Atfal Padang Panjang Kindergarten, has a positive impact on the formation of early childhood character. Here are some points that can be observed from this practice: As a reference kindergarten school in West Sumatra, Aisyiyah Bustanul Atfal Padang Panjang Kindergarten has the responsibility to set a good example in the development of the learning process. Its existence as a reference for this school plays an active role in providing role models to other schools in terms of the implementation of good habits and educational practices. Emphasizing the habit of the Morning Pledge as part of the school's routine activities every Monday to Saturday is a positive step. The pledge activities carried out at Aisyiyah Bustanul Atfal Padang Panjang Kindergarten have a very positive goal in shaping the character and faith of children from an early age.

Moral education is more directed to the stages of its formation, so that moral education is based on shaping each stage of students. If these stages can be passed optimally by children, children will have a strong foundation in making religious habits and have good moral development (Alviyan et al., 2020). Morality is one of the aspects of development that must be strengthened in children from an early age. Husni and Maila (Khaironi, 2017) explained that habituation has six important aspects in learning for early childhood, namely: moral and religious values; social and emotional, development, and independence; language skills; cognitive abilities; physical/motor skills; and artistic talent. While another opinion from Samad (Kanesa & Maryana, 2021).

Challenges faced by teachers in carrying out the morning pledge, especially in a conducive space or environment, such as a comfortable classroom or audio facilities to interact between teachers and all students to make it clearer and more directed to the leader of the morning pledge. And the child's attention span is very short, so maintaining the child's focus during the morning vow can be a challenge for teachers.

The importance of Pledge Education at Aisyiyah Bustanul Atfal Padang Panjang Kindergarten is one of the means to educate children in the concept of monotheism or the oneness of Allah. Understanding and acknowledging the existence of Allah as God Almighty is the main basis in Islamic teachings. Pledge activities involve readings that contain Islamic values. It includes important teachings from the Qur'an and Sunnah that can shape children's understanding of religious teachings in a positive way. Building faith and devotion through the morning pledge is an effort to build and improve faith in Allah SWT and involve children for this activity, so that they are aware of the greatness and enjoyment given by HIM. This awareness provides a strong basis for forming an attitude of respect, gratitude, mutual respect, help, love and remembrance of the greatness given by Allah.

The introduction of Islam, the Qur'an and the Sunnahs of the Prophet is a pledge activity that not only emphasizes the existence of Allah, but also introduces Islam as the true religion and the Qur'an as a guide to life. It helps children to understand and appreciate religious teachings from an early age Through pledges, children are taught that Islam and the Qur'an can be used as a reference in all things. This provides a moral and ethical foundation for children to guide their daily behavior and decisions. Pledge activities such as those carried out at Aisyiyah Bustanul Atfal Padang Panjang Kindergarten show a commitment to provide strong religious education and build a solid foundation of faith in children from an early age. Involving children in spiritual activities like this can help form a good character and a positive attitude towards Islamic religious values.

At Aisyiyah Bustanul Athfal Kindergarten Padang Panjang, every day they carry out morning pledge activities that help strengthen children's morals and religion through habituation, the following is a series of morning pledge activities that have been implemented:

1. Singing Islamic songs for example: pillars of prayer, pillars of faith, names of the Prophet and others.
2. Read the school pledge and the student pledge before carrying out learning activities.
3. Reading short letters that have been memorized so that children can memorize together.
4. Read daily prayers with examples: 2nd prayer for parents, prayer for the afterlife, prayer for entering and exiting the bathroom, prayer before and after studying, prayer before and after eating and others.

All Pledge activities are carried out consistently and with affection. With the habit of a good morning pledge, children at Aisyiyah Bustanul Athfal Kindergarten are ready to learn and develop with Akhlakul karimah according to the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad SAW. As the results of research conducted by Husni Rahim that influencing moral and religious values to children through stories will be more effective so that they are well internalized (Rahim & Dinia, 2012). Research conducted by Celia Cinantya also results that education based on religious and moral values in early childhood can also

use strategies of assignment, direction, habituation, role modeling, and environmental conditioning (Cinantya, SURIANSYAH, Asniwati, & Aslamiah, 2019). The morning pledge activity at Aisyiyah Bustanul Athfal Kindergarten can be seen through the photo documentation below and the video link that I uploaded on my own Youtube.



Figure 1: Pledge Activities in the yard



Figure 2: Pledge Activities in the Mosque

Link Youtube kegiatan Ikrar pagi : <https://youtu.be/yg87tt3JerI?feature=shared>

Conclusion

Habituation is to do something continuously so that children can repeat it until children can understand it and be embedded in the child's heart. The habit of the Morning Pledge in the development of children's religious and moral values must be developed from an early age. This is because early age is a golden age period that requires good habits and later is expected to make children their guide to get closer to Allah SWT and a guideline in behaving in the community. To develop religious and moral values at Aisyiyah Bustanul Atfal Padang Panjang Kindergarten, the Morning Pledge is practiced for all children so that religious character in children is formed from an early age.

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