

## The Role of Family Education in Forming Islamic Character in Early Childhood (0-5 Years) at Talaga 1 Village, Talaga Raya District, Central Buton Regency

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### ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to determine and examine how family education contributes to the formation of Islamic character in early childhood (ages 0-5 years) in Talaga 1 Village, Talaga Raya District, Central Buton Regency. To determine the influence of the family on the formation of children's character within the framework of Islamic faith, this study used qualitative methodology. The methods used to obtain data in qualitative descriptive research are documentation, interviews, and observations. Based on the results of the study, the family is the main educational factor that significantly influences and plays an active role in the formation of Islamic character through the instillation of moral values and good behavior. This study highlights the importance of the role of parents in instilling awareness and involvement in daily life education in children. In addition, this study can also provide knowledge about the role of the family as the main foundation for the formation of Islamic character in children. Thus, it is clear that parents have a very important role in efforts to form Islamic character in children.

**Keywords:** *Family, Islamic Character Education, Early Childhood.*

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### INTRODUCTION

Children receive early education from their families, especially from their parents who are the primary and first teachers at home. According to a hadith narrated by the Prophet SAW, "Every child is born in a pure state (fitrah), only his parents (environment) make him Jewish, Christian, or Zoroastrian." This proves that family life is the primary source of education. (2013:28; Apriastuti). Since children only interact with people in their immediate environment, parents play an important role in helping them develop Islamic characters that contain Islamic values. Therefore, parents are the main influence in the development of children's character. Parents and their closest relatives are considered to have formed the family as the initial environment. Each family has its own uniqueness, even in terms of parenting and family education.

Islamic character encompasses a number of qualities, such as morality, honesty, accountability, and tenacity in upholding Islamic principles. As the smallest social unit, the home is seen as the primary environment where children receive their earliest character-forming impacts. Therefore, understanding how Islamic ideals can be incorporated into everyday life requires a thorough understanding of the role of family education in this process.

The way a child is treated by his family has an impact on how his character develops. Character development in children begins at a young age, and in this situation, the family plays a vital role. Family education is very important and serves as a foundation for the

development of a child's character. Establishing the practice of greeting people as they pass each other on the street is one example. It is undeniable that parental education serves as a foundation and stepping stone for children's future education. Building a solid educational foundation will make future educational progress easy and successful. Further education will be difficult to build if the educational foundation is not neat and adequate.

The family environment is a place where education can truly give birth to superior generations. That is where a child first interacts, learns, and develops personality patterns. A child's fate will be shaped by everything that is embedded and formed in the family. Because children imitate their parents in various ways, the family is another aspect of education that is most authentic, appropriate, and extensive. The family is also one of the main components of the development of educational entities, which fosters the process of social naturalization, develops personality, and instills a number of positive habits in children that will last a long time. It is hoped that by better understanding how families shape children's Islamic character, this study will help develop the role of family education by gaining a deeper understanding of the factors that influence the formation of children's Islamic character. This will allow us to design more effective interventions and approaches to strengthen the values of the younger generation and build a moral and responsible society (Barus, C. P, 2013).

## METHOD

This study uses a descriptive qualitative methodology. Researchers can use a descriptive qualitative approach to compile data or materials and present their findings in writing. Descriptive qualitative methods are concerned with people and how they interact with each other in a social environment. The study was conducted for one month in Talaga 1 Village, Talaga Raya District, Central Buton Regency, and the participants were parents of early childhood children (aged 0–5 years). Observation, in-depth interviews, and documentation were used to collect data. Families with children in a certain age range who vary in their religious beliefs and values became the subjects of the study. Data analysis methods, including data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusions, are discussed by Hallahan, DP & Kauffman, JM (2020).

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

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Based on the results of the research that has been conducted, it can be concluded that the family plays an important role in the formation of Islamic character in children. The principles of Islam are expressed in daily interactions, religious teachings, and parenting patterns. The positive influence of the family helps children to develop holistically. The function of family education in Islamic character education in children is divided into several stages. Children learn from both parents in the family which is the first educational institution. Truth, honesty, sincerity, patience, affection, love, generosity, courage, and other noble values are some of the lessons that children can learn.

There are several family obligations in teaching their children about good morals, including providing examples of moral behavior, as parents who lack self-control cannot effectively persuade their children to adopt the morals they teach. To set a good example, parents must first educate themselves about proper morals. Additionally, parents should give children opportunities to practice moral behavior, as children tend to imitate their parents in various situations. Assigning responsibilities based on the child's developmental stage is also important, which requires parents to first understand their child before placing trust in them. Furthermore, parents must monitor and teach their children to be wise in interacting with others by supervising and guiding them wherever they go, and helping them avoid peers who exhibit inappropriate or harmful behavior.

### *Family Interaction and Islamic Character Formation*

shows how family interactions between parents and children and between family members have a significant impact on character development. The book identifies open communication, shared understanding of religious principles, and parental role models as important components in fostering an atmosphere that encourages the growth of children's Islamic character.

### *Islamic Character Values*

Islamic character values are very important to be instilled from an early age because they can form the moral and spiritual foundation of children. In Islam, there are three main aspects in Islamic character education for early childhood, namely:

#### *Aqidah (Belief)*

Parents teach their children about faith in Allah, introduce the concept of monotheism, and build a strong belief in Islamic teachings.

#### *Sharia (Worship)*

To help young people get used to religious customs from an early age, introduce them to religious activities such as praying, reading the Quran, and praying.

#### *Morals (Behavior)*

Instilling values such as responsibility, honesty, tolerance and compassion in children to help them develop into morally upright adults.

### *Islamic Character Formation Methods for Early Childhood*

The method of forming religious character consists of 7, including:

#### *Teaching Methods*

This method emphasizes education and knowledge. With this method, the role of parents in the context of Islamic character formation can make it easier for parents to teach their children. For example, teaching about praying before eating. With this teaching periodically, it will be embedded in the child about prioritizing praying before eating.

#### *Exemplary Method (Uswah)*

Because toddlers learn by seeing, hearing, and feeling, modeling is essential. For example, a child who watches his parents pray and is asked to join in congregational prayer, even though he does not understand the ritual or text, will imitate his parents' actions as he grows older. Positive outcomes will result from parents who set a good example; negative outcomes will result from parents who set a bad example.

#### *Habituation and Practice Method*

Repeated actions or behaviors that eventually develop into habits are called habituation. Children are influenced by their parents' lack of prayer, recitation of the Quran, and respect for others; these behaviors will eventually become embedded in their memories.

#### *Targhib and Tarhib Method (Promises and Threats)*

Targhib is a guarantee of pleasure, enjoying the afterlife while being seduced. Meanwhile, tarhib symbolizes the threat of evil deeds. The main difference lies in God, while the teachings of retribution are based on the rewards and punishments of the material world.

#### *Singing Method*

Singing is an activity that most young children enjoy, especially if the lyrics are simple.

#### *Qishah or Story Method*

The use of stories as a supporting technique for the development of Islamic character at home is very important because stories serve as examples and sources of education. For example, children can learn from the stories of the prophets.

#### *Rule Enforcement Methods*

Establishing norms that are accepted by all family members, including parents, is the first step in implementing rules in the family. The purpose of rules is to be obeyed, not broken. Family rules serve to control the comfort and efficiency of household life while helping the development of children's morals and character.

### *Supporting and Inhibiting Factors in the Formation of Islamic Character*

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### *Supporting Factors*

#### *Religious Family Environment*

Parents who practice Islamic teachings and set a good example for their children thus creating an environment that supports the formation of Islamic character.

#### *Formal and Non-Formal Education*

In addition to formal education at school, non-formal activities such as reciting the Koran and participating in other religious activities help support the formation of Islamic character values.

#### *Effective Communication*

Children can more easily understand and apply Islamic character standards in everyday life when parents and children communicate well.

#### *Parental Exemplary Behavior*

Parents who set a good example for their children in their daily behavior, values, and worship will be true role models.

#### *Social Support*

A supportive social environment, such as extended family, friends, and religious-based communities, is also no less important in strengthening Islamic character.

#### *Inhibiting Factors*

##### *Lack of Parental Knowledge*

Parents who do not understand Islamic teachings may have difficulty in teaching Islamic values to their children.

##### *Negative Environmental Influences*

External environments that are not in line with Islamic values, such as the influence of the media or bad company, can be obstacles in the formation of Islamic character.

##### *Parental Time Constraints*

Busy parents who do not have enough time to educate their children directly can result in a lack of understanding and application of Islamic values.

##### *Conflict in the Family*

Conflict and disharmony in the family can trigger disruption of the process of forming Islamic character.

##### *Lack of Facilities and Resources*

Limited access to quality religious education and resources that support learning to form Islamic character can be an obstacle in the process of forming Islamic character.

## CONCLUSION

Using an analytical narrative approach, the results of this study describe how family education helps children in Talaga 1 Village, Talaga Raya District, Central Buton Regency, develop Islamic character. Children of parents who actively teach Islamic principles to their children and provide good examples tend to have good morals, behave well, and be responsible. Strengthening Islamic character is also inseparable from the various contributions of people around them such as parents, family, friends, the environment and society as well as good interactions between families, schools also contribute greatly to shaping children's Islamic character. Islamic character education can be instilled through the family from an early age. In order for educational goals to be achieved, the development of Islamic character in children must pay attention to intrinsic and extrinsic variables. In Talaga 1 Village, Talaga Raya District, Central Buton Regency, there are seven methods that can be used to help early childhood develop Islamic character, namely teaching methods, role models, practice and habituation, targhib and tarhib, songs, qishah or stories, and methods of enforcing rules (punishment). A religious home atmosphere, parental education level, good communication, parental role models, and social support are supporting and inhibiting aspects of the family's educational function in the formation of Islamic character. These

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characteristics must be present in every activity. While the inhibiting factors are lack of parental knowledge, negative environmental influences, limited parental time, conflict within the family, and lack of facilities and resources. This conclusion is the basis for increasing public awareness, especially parents, of their role in forming children's Islamic character.

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