

Application of Islamic Digital Literacy in Increasing Religious Awareness of Students in Higher Education

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Abstract

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This research examines the concept and development of Islamic digital literacy among students and its impact on religious awareness. Through a comprehensive literature study, this research analyzes the role of digital media in increasing understanding of religion, strategies for implementing Islamic digital literacy in higher education, and its influence on students' religious practices. The research results show that Islamic digital literacy is a basic need in the era of massive information, enabling students to understand, evaluate and utilize religious digital content critically and ethically. Effective implementation strategies include developing structured programs, establishing Islamic digital communities, and encouraging students to become quality Islamic content producers. Positive impacts can be seen through changes in worship patterns, increased understanding of Islamic values, and strengthening Muslim identity in cyberspace. This research concludes that the integration of Islamic values in the use of technology not only helps the formation of an adaptive Islamic character, but also facilitates the practice of Islamic teachings in daily life through the use of digital resources.

1. INTRODUCTION

In the increasingly developing digital era, information and communication technology has become an integral part of everyday life, including religious aspects which have become an urgent need (Oktavia & Khotimah, 2023). This development has brought about significant changes in the way society, especially students, access and understand religious information. The digital world is now transforming into a smarter system, enabling various applications and web pages to process information more adaptively and personally like human interaction (Azhar *et al.*, 2024). This digital transformation does not only change methods religious learning but also influences interaction patterns and understanding of Islamic values among university students.

Islamic digital literacy is a basic need for students in facing the increasingly massive flow of information (Nudin *et al.*, 2022). The ability to understand, evaluate and utilize digital content related to Islamic teachings is very important to avoid misunderstandings and the spread of inaccurate information. Currently, improving the quality of Islamic education is very dependent on

the application of appropriate and effective concepts, patterns and managerial approaches (Wijaya & Murtafiah, 2023). Digital platforms such as social media, Islamic learning applications, and various other online sources have become the main means for students to access religious knowledge.

The phenomenon of increasing use of digital media among students to search for religious information raises various challenges and opportunities regarding Islamic religious learning (Barokah, 2023). On the one hand, easy access to information allows students to deepen their understanding of religion anytime and anywhere. However, on the other hand, the large amount of information spread in the digital world also carries the risk of being exposed to content that is misleading or not in accordance with true Islamic teachings.

The application of Islamic digital literacy in higher education is becoming increasingly relevant considering the strategic role of students as agents of change in society because students have *skill* understand, analyze, organize, evaluate information using digital technology (Prihatini & Muhid, 2021). The Islamic-based digital literacy programs that are being developed can help students build a comprehensive understanding of Islamic teachings through the wise use of technology. The integration of Islamic values in the use of technology also encourages the formation of a positive Islamic digital community in the campus environment.

Students' religious awareness can be increased through various strategies for implementing Islamic digital literacy (Hasanah & Sukri, 2023). Utilization of Islamic applications to support daily worship, access to trusted Islamic learning sources, and participation in online religious discussion forums are forms of implementation that can be carried out. This is in line with efforts to form students' Islamic character that is adaptive to technological developments (Adawiah, 2020). The integration of digital technology in religious practice not only facilitates access to Islamic knowledge, but also encouraging the formation of a generation of Muslims who are digitally literate and adhere to Islamic values.

The positive impact of implementing Islamic digital literacy can be seen from changes in worship patterns and increased understanding of Islamic values among students. The ability to verify religious content, distinguish credible sources, and utilize digital platforms for spiritual development are indicators of the success of this program. Strengthening Muslim identity in cyberspace is also one of the expected outcomes of implementing Islamic digital literacy. Based on this urgency, developing a structured and sustainable Islamic digital literacy program has become a necessity in higher education. This program not only focuses on the technical aspects of using technology, but also on forming critical awareness in responding to religious information in the digital world. Through a comprehensive approach, it is hoped that students can become a generation of Muslims who are digitally literate and have a strong and correct understanding of religion.

2. METHODS

The research method used in this study is the literature study method, where data and information are collected through in-depth analysis of scientific journals that are relevant to the research topic. This approach involves systematically searching, selecting, and reviewing published research articles to identify, evaluate, and integrate relevant findings. Through the synthesis of information from various journal sources, researchers can gain a comprehensive understanding of *state-of-the-art* in the field under study, identify knowledge gaps, and formulate a conceptual framework that forms the basis for further analysis.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Islamic Education

Optimizing Islamic Education Management has a crucial role in integrating technology into the learning process so that it can maximize the use of information and internalize Islamic values in students' daily lives (Wijaya & Murtafiah, 2023). Islamic education in forming good character and morals for the younger generation is becoming increasingly important in the digital era. Facing the era of globalization, Islamic education is required to produce graduates who have high competence and are ready to compete in the job market in accordance with the demands of modern economic standards (Effendi *et al.*, 2023). Islamic education requires a more comprehensive learning strategy that not only focuses on developing academic and professional competencies, but also strengthens spiritual and moral foundations that are in line with Islamic teachings.

Information and communication technology

The rapid progress of information and communication technology has drastically changed the way humans learn and gain knowledge (Wijaya & Murtafiah, 2023). In this digital era, students have broad access to various online information sources, opening up new opportunities in their learning process. The development of information and communication technology has a significant impact on the world of education, especially in the learning process (Prihatini & Muhid, 2021). These technological advances have also encouraged the increasingly rapid development of the internet, thus opening up various new opportunities and challenges in the world of modern education. A hadith explains that Rasulullah SAW advocated the importance of mastering science and technology, and emphasized the obligation of parents to provide the best education for their children (Lubis, 2021). As mentioned in the Hadith: "*Seeking knowledge is obligatory for every Muslim, indeed Allah loves those who seek knowledge.*" (HR Ahmad)".

Islamic Digital Literacy

Information and communication technology literacy (ICT literacy) or digital literacy includes the ability to use digital media to adopt, configure and utilize digital devices, as well as users' views on technology that can improve life (Hasanah & Sukri, 2023). Apart from that, ICT literacy also includes learning skills, digital knowledge, as well as the ability to access, understand, assess, manage and distribute information through user-controlled social media accounts. Digital literacy is an important skill for teenagers in understanding and managing information using digital technology, which is increasingly needed as the use of devices such as computers and smartphones increases among them (Prihatini & Muhid, 2021). This ability makes a major contribution to teenagers' understanding in various aspects, and allows them to access information quickly and without limits, making digital literacy an important need in this digital era.

Religious Awareness

In Indonesia, religious awareness has a crucial role because this country is a national state based on religion, with recognition of God Almighty as stated in Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution (Wahidin *et al.*, 2022). The state guarantees freedom of religion for every resident, emphasizing the importance of religious life in the context of the nation and state in Indonesia. Religious awareness is closely related to religiosity, which is the appreciation and implementation of religious values in daily life as a form of correct obedience (Yanti, 2020). This religiosity can be realized through the practice of worship, behavior in the environment, and inner activities that are not visible to other people.

Concept and Development of Islamic Digital Literacy

Islamic digital literacy can be defined as the ability to understand, evaluate and utilize digital content related to Islamic teachings (Oktavia & Khotimah, 2023). This includes skills in using digital

media to access, understand and disseminate religious information critically and ethically in accordance with Islamic values. The main characteristics of Islamic digital literacy include: 1) the ability to verify religious content, 2) distinguish credible sources, and 3) utilize digital platforms for spiritual development. This also includes skills in integrating Islamic values in everyday use of technology.

In the increasingly developing digital era, Islamic digital literacy has become a basic need for students in facing the massive flow of information (Nudin *et al*, 2022). This is important to avoid misunderstandings and the spread of inaccurate information regarding Islamic teachings. The components of digital literacy include: 1) the ability to access trusted Islamic learning sources, 2) participation in online religious discussion forums, and 3) use of Islamic applications to support daily worship. The main challenges include the large amount of information spread in the digital world which carries the risk of being exposed to content that is misleading or not in accordance with true Islamic teachings (Barokah, 2023). Apart from that, there are challenges in integrating Islamic values with rapid technological developments.

The Role of Digital Media in Increasing Understanding of Religion

Various digital platforms such as social media, Islamic learning applications, and other online sources have become the main means for students to access religious knowledge (Wijaya & Murtafiah, 2023). This allows students to deepen their religious understanding anytime and anywhere. The use of social media for da'wah has become an effective means for spreading Islamic messages and carrying out digital da'wah. This allows a wider reach and more dynamic interaction in the spread of Islamic teachings. Various Islamic applications have been developed to support daily worship, such as digital Al-Qur'an applications, prayer time reminders, and zakat guides. These applications make it easier for users to carry out their religious obligations.

It is important to identify and utilize trusted and authoritative digital sources in Islamic learning. This could include official websites of religious institutions, Islamic digital libraries, and e-learning platforms managed by recognized religious experts. The ability to verify religious content has become increasingly important in the digital era. This involves the skills of cross-checking information, identifying credible sources, and understanding the context of the information received.

Strategy for Implementing Islamic Digital Literacy among Students

The development of a structured and sustainable Islamic digital literacy program is a necessity in higher education. This program includes training on the use of technology in an Islamic context and critical understanding of religious digital content (Prihatini & Muhid, 2021). This strategy involves applying Islamic principles in the use of technology, such as social media ethics that are in accordance with Islamic teachings and the use of technology to improve worship and morals.

The formation of an Islamic digital community on campus can encourage the formation of an Islamic digital community in the campus environment and can help students share knowledge, have religious discussions, and support each other in developing Islamic digital literacy. By using tools and technology, this includes the use of Islamic applications to support daily worship, access to trusted Islamic learning sources, and participation in online religious discussion forums (Hasanah & Sukri, 2023). The development of Islamic digital content by students can encourage students to become a producer of quality Islamic digital content, not just a passive consumer. This could include creating blogs, educational videos, or infographics about Islamic teachings.

The Impact of Islamic Digital Literacy on Religious Awareness

Islamic digital literacy enables changes in the way students carry out their worship, such as using applications to remind them of prayer times or reading the digital Koran. Easier access to

sources of Islamic knowledge through digital platforms helps increase students' understanding of Islamic values and teachings. Islamic digital literacy helps students build and strengthen their identity as Muslims in digital spaces, including in interactions on social media and online forums (Effendi *et al.*, 2023). The integration of Islamic values in the use of technology helps to form an Islamic character that is adaptive to technological developments but still adheres to religious principles. Islamic digital literacy facilitates the practice of Islamic teachings in everyday life by providing digital tools and resources that support religious practice and sustainable Islamic learning.

4. CONCLUSION

Islamic digital literacy has become a basic need in the modern era, especially for Muslim students who face a massive flow of information. This concept includes the ability to understand, evaluate and utilize digital content related to Islamic teachings critically and ethically. Its main characteristics include verification of religious content, identification of credible sources, and utilization of digital platforms for spiritual development. Digital media, including Islamic learning applications and online discussion forums, have become the main means of increasing understanding of religion. However, the main challenges lie in the risk of exposure to misleading information and the difficulty in integrating Islamic values with rapid technological developments. Implementing Islamic digital literacy among students requires a comprehensive strategy, including the development of structured programs, the formation of an Islamic digital community on campus, and encouragement for students to become quality Islamic digital content producers. The positive impact of Islamic digital literacy on religious awareness can be seen through changes in worship patterns, increasing understanding of Islamic values, and strengthening identity Muslims in cyberspace. The integration of Islamic values in the use of technology not only helps the formation of an adaptive Islamic character, but also facilitates the practice of Islamic teachings in daily life through digital tools and resources that support religious practice and sustainable Islamic learning.

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