

The Effect of the Qur'anic Interpretation Method on Students' Understanding of the Concept of Ethics in High Schools in West Java: A Case Study on Islamic Religious Education Subjects

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ABSTRACT

This research investigates the impact of the Qur'anic interpretation method on students' comprehension of ethics in high schools in West Java, Indonesia. Utilizing a qualitative approach, the study explores how Qur'anic interpretation methods, integrated into Islamic Religious Education (IRE) subjects, influence students' understanding of ethical principles. Data was collected through semi-structured interviews, classroom observations, and document analysis. Findings indicate that Qur'anic interpretation significantly enhances students' ethical awareness and moral development. Through engagement with Qur'anic narratives and teachings, students gain a deeper understanding of ethical concepts and internalize these principles as guiding values in their lives. The study contributes to the discourse on ethical education by highlighting the pedagogical efficacy of religious texts in fostering moral consciousness among students in Islamic educational contexts.

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1. INTRODUCTION

In contemporary educational settings, the integration of ethical values is crucial for developing morally upright and responsible citizens who positively impact society. This is evident in Islamic education, especially in regions like West Java, Indonesia, where Islamic principles heavily influence cultural and societal norms. Studies emphasize the significance of instilling ethical and spiritual values in high school students to shape their character and nurture piety and morality [1]. Furthermore, research underscores the relevance of global ethics in Islamic Religious

Education, highlighting the need to incorporate universal values into the curriculum to promote peace and order [2], [3]. The implementation of values education in Islamic religious education has shown success in producing devout, environmentally conscious, and tolerant students, contributing to the development of ethical education in Indonesia [4], [5].

Ethical education plays a pivotal role in shaping individuals' moral compass and decision-making processes. In Islamic societies, ethical principles are intricately intertwined with religious teachings, particularly the Qur'an, which serves as a guiding light for Muslims. Exploring ethics

through Qur'anic interpretation is of significant importance, especially in educational environments emphasizing Islamic values. The Qur'an and the Hadith are foundational sources that underpin moral education in Islamic teachings, aiming to cultivate virtuous behavior and character in individuals. Scholars highlight the essential role of moral education in Islamic pedagogy, emphasizing the integration of ethical values into all aspects of life to nurture complete human beings. This holistic approach to ethical education aligns with the core principles of Islamic education, emphasizing the significance of moral development alongside academic learning [6]–[9].

The integration of Islamic values into educational curricula, particularly in West Java, Indonesia, is a significant aspect of ethical education. High schools in West Java commonly include Islamic Religious Education (IRE) subjects to instill religious knowledge and moral guidance among students [10]. The impact of Qur'anic interpretation methods within this educational framework is crucial for understanding the dynamics of ethical education in Islamic contexts [2], [11], [12]. Studies emphasize the importance of moderation values, such as non-violence, egalitarianism, fairness, and tolerance, in Islamic education textbooks at the junior high school level in Bandung, West Java [13]. Additionally, there is a call for the inclusion of global ethics in Islamic Religious Education curricula at various educational levels in Indonesia to promote peace and order [14].

This research endeavors to investigate the impact of Qur'anic interpretation methods on students' comprehension of ethics in high schools in West Java, particularly focusing on Islamic Religious Education (IRE) subjects. Through a qualitative analysis, the study aims to uncover how Qur'anic interpretation shapes students' ethical understanding within the educational context. The objectives include exploring the influence of Qur'anic interpretation methods on ethics comprehension, examining the role of IRE subjects in fostering ethical education,

and offering insights to educators and policymakers on integrating Qur'anic interpretation methods into high school curricula to enrich ethical education.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 *Ethics Education in High Schools*

Ethics education in secondary schools plays an important role in instilling moral values and guiding students towards responsible and empathetic decision-making [4], [15], [16]. It involves teaching basic ethical principles such as justice, integrity, and compassion, fostering a deeper understanding of ethical dilemmas and encouraging ethical discourse [17]. Subjects such as Moral Education, Citizenship, or Religious Studies serve as platforms for this education, which is customised to the cultural and educational context [18]. The ultimate goal is to form virtuous individuals who make a positive impact on their communities and uphold ethical standards. By integrating ethics education into the secondary school curriculum, students develop the necessary skills to face personal and societal challenges with integrity and moral awareness, contributing to a more ethical society.

2.2 *Islamic Ethics and Qur'anic Interpretation*

Islamic ethics, firmly rooted in Islamic teachings, encompasses fundamental principles such as justice, compassion, honesty, and humility, sourced from the Qur'an, Hadith, and the interpretations of scholars [6], [19]–[22]. The Qur'an serves as the primary ethical guide for Muslims, offering moral injunctions and narratives that form their ethical framework [23]. Tafsir, the interpretation of the Qur'an, plays an important role in explaining the meaning of its verses through linguistic, historical, and jurisprudential analyses [24]. This interpretive process assists scholars and believers in gaining ethical insights and practical guidance to address moral dilemmas in daily life.

2.3 *The Role of Islamic Religious Education (IRE) Subjects*

The subject of Islamic Religious Education (PAI) plays an important role in Islamic education by providing religious knowledge and moral guidance to students. This subject, which is integrated into the school curriculum, covers teachings from the Qur'an, Hadith, Fiqh, and Islamic history, offering a comprehensive understanding of Islamic beliefs and values [25]–[27]. Through the study of religious texts and narratives, students encounter ethical role models, moral parables, and practical injunctions that shape their ethical awareness and behaviour [28]. IRE subjects aim to develop students' morals, spirituality, and understanding of Islam, encouraging the application of religious teachings in daily life [29]. In addition, interest in learning IRE positively affects student achievement in the subject, highlighting the importance of engaging teaching methods to improve student interest and learning outcomes.

2.4 Previous Research on Qur'anic Interpretation and Ethics Education

Research has delved into the relationship between Qur'anic interpretation and ethics education, emphasizing how Islamic teachings shape ethical reasoning and conduct. Various studies have explored the impact of interpretation methods like thematic and exegetical analyses on ethical awareness and decision-making. However, scant attention has been given to the pedagogical implications of Qur'anic interpretation in high school settings, notably in regions like West Java, Indonesia. This research gap highlights the necessity for empirical studies investigating how Qur'anic interpretation methods are applied in educational settings to bolster students' ethical comprehension and moral growth [30]–[34].

3. METHODS

This section delineates the research design, participants, data collection procedures, and data analysis methods employed in investigating the effect of the Qur'anic interpretation method on students' understanding of ethics in high schools in

West Java. Utilizing a qualitative approach, this study aims to provide an in-depth exploration of the research topic, allowing for rich insights into the experiences and perspectives of the participants.

3.1 Research Design

This research adopts a qualitative research design to uncover the nuances of how the Qur'anic interpretation method influences students' comprehension of ethics within the educational context of high schools in West Java. Qualitative methods enable the exploration of complex phenomena, allowing for a deeper understanding of the subjective experiences and meanings attributed to them by the participants.

3.2 Participants

The participants in this study comprise high school students enrolled in Islamic Religious Education (IRE) subjects in West Java, Indonesia. Purposive sampling is employed to select participants who have diverse backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives relevant to the research topic. A total of 10 informants are selected based on criteria such as grade level, gender, academic performance, and engagement with IRE subjects.

3.3 Data Collection

Data collection for this study involves several methods. Semi-structured interviews are conducted with each informant to delve into their understanding of ethics, their experiences with Qur'anic interpretation in Islamic Religious Education (IRE) classes, and the perceived impact of Qur'anic interpretation on their ethical reasoning and behavior. These interviews utilize open-ended questions to facilitate detailed responses and exploration of specific areas of interest. Additionally, classroom observations are conducted during IRE sessions to observe teaching methods, student-teacher interactions, and the utilization of Qur'anic interpretation methods. Observational notes are taken to document content covered, student engagement with ethical discussions, and activities. Furthermore, document analysis is employed to examine curricular materials, textbooks, and instructional

resources used in IRE classes, aiming to identify the integration of Qur'anic interpretation methods and provide insights into pedagogical approaches in ethical education within the high school curriculum.

3.4 Data Analysis

Data analysis for this study utilizes NVivo, a qualitative data analysis software, to systematically organize, manage, and analyze the qualitative data gathered from interviews, observations, and document analysis. The process involves several steps: data coding, where transcripts and notes are coded based on emerging themes and patterns; theme development, wherein codes are grouped into broader themes and subthemes to elucidate recurring patterns; data exploration, which involves examining connections between themes and variations in participants' experiences; and interpretation and synthesis, where findings are interpreted in the context of the research objectives and synthesized to generate insights. Through NVivo, this study ensures the rigor and transparency of the analysis, facilitating a comprehensive exploration of the impact of Qur'anic interpretation on students' ethics comprehension in West Java high schools.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This section presents the findings derived from semi-structured interviews, classroom observations, and document analysis regarding the effect of the Qur'anic interpretation method on students' comprehension of ethics in high schools in West Java. The results are followed by a discussion that interprets the findings and contextualizes them within the broader literature and theoretical frameworks.

4.1 Impact of Qur'anic Interpretation Method

Interviews with the students revealed a unanimous agreement regarding the profound impact of Qur'anic interpretation methods on their understanding of ethics. For instance, one student expressed, "Studying Qur'anic interpretations in our IRE classes has given me a deeper understanding of ethical principles. The stories and teachings from the

Qur'an have shaped my moral compass and guided my actions."

Moreover, classroom observations corroborated these sentiments, indicating active engagement and thoughtful reflection during discussions of Qur'anic verses related to ethical themes. Students exhibited enthusiasm in exploring the moral implications of Qur'anic narratives, demonstrating a heightened awareness of ethical considerations in their daily lives.

4.2 Role of IRE Subjects

The analysis of instructional materials used in IRE classes underscored the integration of Qur'anic teachings into the curriculum to facilitate ethical education. Textbooks and lesson plans featured a variety of Qur'anic verses and interpretations aimed at elucidating ethical concepts and fostering moral development among students.

Observations further revealed the pedagogical strategies employed by teachers to facilitate meaningful engagement with Qur'anic interpretations. Through interactive discussions, group activities, and reflective exercises, educators created dynamic learning environments that encouraged students to critically engage with ethical dilemmas and apply Qur'anic teachings to real-world scenarios.

4.3 Student Perspectives

Students articulated their perspectives on the influence of Qur'anic interpretation on their ethical reasoning and behavior. Many expressed gratitude for the opportunity to study Qur'anic interpretations in depth, noting the positive impact it had on their ethical awareness and decision-making.

"I used to struggle with understanding ethical concepts, but studying the Qur'an has provided clarity and guidance," remarked one student. "The stories of prophets and moral teachings from the Qur'an have inspired me to strive for moral excellence in all aspects of my life."

DISCUSSION

The findings of this study underscore the transformative potential of the Qur'anic interpretation method in shaping students' understanding of ethics and moral

development. By engaging with Qur'anic interpretations within the context of IRE subjects, students not only gain a deeper understanding of ethical principles but also internalize these principles as guiding values in their lives.

The positive impact of Qur'anic interpretation methods aligns with previous research highlighting the pedagogical efficacy of religious texts in ethical education. The Qur'an, as a source of divine guidance for Muslims, offers rich narratives and teachings that resonate with students and provide practical insights into moral conduct.

The role of IRE subjects as a platform for integrating Qur'anic teachings into the curriculum is crucial in fostering ethical education. Through interactive teaching methods and thoughtful curriculum design, educators can create learning environments that nurture students' ethical reasoning and moral sensitivity.

5. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this study underscores the transformative impact of the Qur'anic interpretation method on students' understanding of ethics in high schools in West Java. Through the integration of Qur'anic teachings into the curriculum, particularly within Islamic Religious Education (IRE) subjects, students gain valuable insights into ethical principles derived from Islamic sources. The findings emphasize the importance of utilizing religious texts, such as the Qur'an, as a foundation for ethical instruction, and highlight the role of educators in fostering moral development among students. By harnessing the educational potential of Qur'anic interpretation methods, schools can cultivate a culture of moral responsibility and ethical leadership, contributing to the overall well-being of society. Moving forward, it is essential for educators and policymakers to recognize the significance of ethical education rooted in religious teachings and to continue exploring innovative approaches to integrating these teachings into educational practices.

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