THE URGENCY OF EMBEDDING RELIGION-BASED LITERACY FOR FUTURE MOSLEM'S INTELLECTUALS

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ABSTRACT

One of the fields that is a benchmark for the progress of a nation is education. The world of education is one of the most logical paths towards an advanced future. Therefore, the world of education must have the proper guidelines so that the learning process can run effectively and efficiently. The Method used in this study is a literature review, namely by conducting a comprehensive literature review of previous relevant studies, then analyzing the concepts developed. The results of the study state that the primary thing that becomes a reference so that future generations can become intellectuals and be able to think critically is through Literacy. Formal education provides a reading culture system in the learning curriculum with the support of the environment and adequate facilities. Meanwhile, non-formal education starts from family education which is based on Islam. Thus, it is hoped that it can positively impact the Indonesian nation, especially the Muslim generation, in readiness to face life in the next era. In order to be able to compete in the global world and build a new civilization, it is undoubtedly better than the previous civilization, namely with a moderate and dignified civilization.

ABSTRAK

Salah satu bidang yang menjadi tolak ukur kemajuan suatu bangsa adalah pendidikan. Dunia pendidikan menjadi salah satu jalan yang paling rasional dalam menuju masa depan yang maju. Oleh karena itu, dunia pendidikan harus memiliki pedoman yang tepat agar proses pembelajaran dapat berjalan dengan efektif dan efisien. Metode yang digunakan pada penelitian ini yaitu literature review, yaitu dengan melakukan tinjauan pustaka secara komprehensif dari penelitian-penelitian yang relevan sebelumnya, lalu di analisis dengan konsep yang dikembangkan. Hasil penelitian menyatakan bahwa hal mendasar yang menjadi acuan supaya generasi mendatang bisa menjadi seorang intelektual dan mampu berpikir kritis adalah melalui literasi. Pada pendidikan secara formal yakni dengan menyediakan sistem budaya membaca dalam kurikulum pembelajaran dengan dukungan lingkungan dan fasilitas yang memadai. Sedangkan dalam pendidikan non formal dimulai dari pendidikan keluarga yang didasarkan pada agama Islam. Dengan demikian, harapannya dapat memberikan dampak positif pada bangsa Indonesia terutama generasi muslim dalam kesiapan menghadapi kehidupan era selanjutnya. Supaya mampu berkompetisi pada dunia global, serta dalam rangka membangun peradaban baru yang tentunya lebih baik dari peradaban sebelumnya, yakni dengan peradaban yang moderat dan bermartabat.Tulis Abstrak

dalam bahasa Indonesia (10 pt). Abstrak harus terdiri dari latar belakang, tujuan, metode, hasil, dan implikasi dari penelitian.

1. INTRODUCTION

The growth of time is rapidly developed over time. The rapid changes of time are assisted by increasingly broad knowledge development. The increase of rapid development becomes evidence that generation-by-generation has succeeded at creating world civilization. A report published by *Human Development Report* (HDR) 1990 reported that *United Nations Development Programme* (UNDP) placed humans as the nation's true wealth. Humans, as the country's true wealth, can manage either material or immaterial (Nugroho & Rahmawati, 2018). According to the statement, *human capital* has become the main feature. This case indicates that the quality of human resources must be increased.

The most rational way to increase a nation's quality is through the quality educational approach. With mastering knowledge and technology, the nation's prosperity is more realistic like America, Japan, South Korea, China, Singapore, and others. To follow the trend of a developed country, an endeavor to master knowledge is by increasing the interest in reading or known as Literacy. *Program for International Student Assessment* (PISA) has surveyed, which was then further has released by *Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development* (OECD) in 2019 that evinced that Indonesia ranked 62 to 70 countries (Dyah Utami, 2021).

Off the previous assessments, Indonesia is consistently ranked at the lowest. This is shown that the level of Indonesian Literacy is still lacking. Currently, Literacy is not limited to reading and writing but also emphasizes the ability to process information. The ability to process information involves collecting, processing, and communicating the information (Muhajang & Pangestika, 2018). The process of analyzing will provide a personal understanding of the information. A broad knowledge can impact critical thinking to form a mindset and proper attitude.

Before the scientists discussed the quality of human resources, Al-Qur'an initially discussed it. Surah Al'Alaq verse 1-5 proves that Al-Qur'an emphasizes science in general. It is said that Islam has contained Literacy in that verse, which means that Islam upholds literacy culture. In general, Literacy is a process of learning. The effectiveness of education is highly needed in this rapid time development. Therefore, the role of pillars as support in learning is urgent. UNESCO, as the educational organization of PBB, formulated four educational pillars. Islam as a religion upholding education also has three educational pillars. Moreover, it chains a challenge between two pillars on integrating both of the pillars.

This study aims to examine the efforts made to improve the quality of education. A formula to integrate the pillar of UNESCO with the Islamic pillar can awaken the younger generation to have the ability of critical thinking and intellectual spirit. Theoretically, this study is expected to provide the knowledge concerning a literacy concept in the Islamic perspective through integrating UNESCO's educational pillar associated with Islam. Meanwhile, this study is expected to be the principle of the literacy movement based on Islamic teachings.

2. METHODS

This type of research is qualitative, which is the researcher's effort to collect data based on a natural setting so that the results are natural but can be accounted for. Research is used to examine the condition of scientific objects where the researcher is the key instrument of interview guidelines, checklists, observation sheets, and observation guides. Data collection techniques in this study used interview techniques, observations or observations, exams and documentation.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 The Urgency of Literacy Improvement

Simply, Literacy is the ability to know, understand, and use the characters to communicate (Wartomo, 2017). Luke and Freebody argued that Literacy has four characteristics, namely the ability to interpret precisely (interpret and decipher the code so that it becomes necessary), interest in understanding and shaping (composing content, or speaking content), utilize the content which is suitable for the job, and analyze and change the content according to its own (Mulyono & Halim, 2015).

Kellner and Share said that the term literacy covers the skill and knowledge of reading, doing a reading (by writing), obtaining tools, and intellectual capacity to participate in the culture and surrounding environment (Azhar, 2020). Kellner and Share emphasize that Literacy is genuinely built by the social area under a specific identity. Consequently, it is very typical if Literacy depends on the context, rules, and agreement result of social space. Since 2016, the Ministry of Education and Culture has campaigned *Gerakan Literasi Nasional (GLN),* or called National Literacy Movement, as a part of applying regulation of the Ministry of Education and Culture Number 23 of 2015 about noble character growth. There are six kinds of Literacy developed by GLN: reading and writing, numerical Literacy, science literacy, finaFinancialeracy, Digital literacy, and cultural and citizenship Literacy (Suprayitno, 2018).

Paulo Freire dan Donaldo Macedo (1987: 100-103) said that there are four approaches in the practice of embedding reading interest. The four approaches include 1) an academic course in which this approach can be conducted and more emphasis on formal education. The standard achievement

of the ability to read, comprehend, enrich the vocabularies and others can direct to the standard achievement in this approach; 2) a utilitarian approach led to material need or primary economic need in daily life. Furthermore, Literacy become tools to improve better economic quality, for example, to get a job more efficiently and enhance work productivity; 3) a cognitive growth approach; this approach emphasizes meaning construction that links to dialectic interaction between its own to social reality on what matters is how one constructs meaning or description through the problem-solving process; and 4) a romantic approach sees that readers are the activity of self-fulfilling the exciting experience also the meaning or explanation born within readers themselves, not as the result of interaction between readers also the author through the text as in the previous cognitive approach (Subandini, 2012).

According to UNESCO or *United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization*, in the study book by Aunurrahman (2014), educational commissions for XXI century said that education is learning (Pane & Darwis Dasopang, 2017). Learning referred previously has four aspects, as follows:

a. *Learning to know* is to learn to receive meaning from the concept and hypotheses, also a method for securing the information that is meaningful for life (Priscilla & Yudhyarta, 2021).

b. *Learning* to apply the learned theory to achieve a current and future dynamic need (Dwi Laksana, 2016). *Learning to do* relates to soft skills and complex skills that are essential to improving the quality of human resources.

c. *Learning to live together* is a facility for individuals to learn and train to build a relationship with other people by creating good relationships to create harmonization in life.

d. *Learning to be* is to learn to be by mastering soft and hard skills through comprehensive identity necessity. The individuals learn to understand the concept then implement it according to the needs of each individual.

Prof. Dr. Omar Mohammad At-Toumi Asy-Syaibany defined an Islamic education as the process of an individual's behavioral change on personal life, society, and surrounding environment, by teaching ways as a primary activity and profession among society's essential professions (Dwi Laksana, 2016). In general, Islamic education divides pillars into three; Tauhid educational pillars, Akhlaq (moral) pillars, and Ibadah (Worship) education.

a. Tauhid education emphasizes everything related to God, in his nature, creation, and others.

b. Akhlak education (moral education) is related to honesty, ethics, behavior, and others.

c. Worship education is the relationship between humans and God through certain rituals. Islam emphasizes Method rather than the result, which implies that a servant must approach God without asking for reciprocity.

3.2 A Literacy Improvement based on Religion

The primary way to be a manual for future generations is to be intellectual and think critically, which improves the culture of reading or literacy interest. Literacy is an essential skill that is obliged to every person to compete in life I development. Currently, the study of Literacy is expanding to the religious aspect. Stephen Prothero was the pioneer of this term. According to him, the Literacy of Religion is defined as an ability to comprehend and use it in daily life from the block of a primary building of religious rituals covering the critical concept of symbols, doctrine, practice, speech, character, metaphor, and narration (Halafoff et al., 2020).

Moreover, building a foundation of knowledge is also the essential element and a spearhead in executing the concept of national unity. Such understanding must be reached by the active participation of all levels of society. Literacy is a definition of one's ability to read textually and think critically, collaborate, communicate, and analyze the middle path of all aspects of society's life, whether in the social, religious, political, or cultural spheres.

In general, the literacy discussion contains in Tafsir Al-Qur'an Surah Al-Alaq verse 1-5. *First,* the name *Iqra'* comes from *Qara'a* with several meanings, but all meanings exist down to words that collect and interpret as reading. The verb does not mention the object specifically. It means that it is generally related to the word. Reading is defined as a symbol. Reading due to Allah means that doing something is because of Allah. *Second,* humans with various characteristics are intended to contemplate His instructions, namely by introducing His identity through the process of human creation (Ayu & Syukur, 2019). Allah commands humans to maximize their minds to seek knowledge (Ulvah, 2018). *Third,* repetition of reading commands is an affirmation of how essential reading is and the benefit that Allah gives. This benefit is a form of His generosity. *Fourth and fifth*, These two verses are related to each other because of Allah's mercy, it also teaches humans who previously did not know through the pen (writing) or directly experienced by the Apostles when they received revelation.

The strength of implementing Literacy in society's life is critical to be paid attention to. Considering the nation's problem primarily related to religious matters for the last few decades has been very easy to become issues triggering disunity in a pluralistic society (Yetri et al., 2019). The importance of the strength of Literacy is intended to manifest a moderate attitude, whereby this modal is comprehended and developed as a mutual commitment to maintaining a complete harmony among the people, whatever their background. Religious Literacy is also the essential reference for the progress or breakdown of a system in future society. The scope of phases and purposes of literacy improvement must be achieved so that the diversity comprehension will be manifested, as follows:

a. Comprehending

This step is the first phase to form a moderate character. A someone will be led to understand all existing orders, rules, values, customs. Someone will be understood well related to what they get. When someone can understand well, they can form a character of accepting for the diversities. So that, this will make a limited possibility for a conflict to arise, because in general, they already know the existed differences well.

b. Accepting

After understanding appropriately and correctly, the next step is to accept. A proverb said that *"Before accepting something new, clear your mind first so that you can absorb something properly and correctly."* This statement supports this process of acceptance. The study of the aforementioned statement is to accept something, someone must be neutrally thought forward it. What the manifestation is, either value, orders, customs, and rules that shape people's lifestyles must be accepted with genuine acceptance so that it later can be appropriately digested and analyzed as well.

c. Appreciating

The very rational effect of a good cause is that it will also produce a good outcome. When someone has been able to understand and accept the differences, this attitude will lead to an appreciation of these differences. Furthermore, it is vital to emphasize to appreciate what he already knows at this stage.

d. Respecting

When someone respects what they have already known, it can create high respect for the reality in front of them. Respect for everything valued is the highest level in seeing social reality. Recently, the appreciation and respect of Indonesia have been decreasing. This is what makes the urgency that there is a need for changes that provide comprehension to restore the identity of Indonesia, which is a friendly country, a nation that appreciates diversities, and a nation that upholds pluralism and multiculturalism.

e. Harmonizing

A harmonious life is people's desire and hope. It is the obvious thing that cannot be deniable. The attempt for literacy improvement aims to increase in-depth (critical) awareness of diversity, generate acceptance, understanding, appreciation, and respect, and create a humanistic and harmonious situation.

In order to adapt to the current development, the concept embedding is by integrating the pillars of education according to UNESCO on the pillars of education according to Islam. Its implementation is classified into two kinds, namely formal and informal. Formal education provides an educational system of reading in the learning curriculum supported by the environment and proper

facilities. At the same time, informal education starts from family education according to Islamic teaching.

An integration of UNESCO's educational pillars and Islamic educational pillars is the endeavor to improve the quality of education through religion-based Literacy to form a youth generation who intellectually thinks critically and has a noble character. This attempt is a preparation for facing and competing in future life. The current trend also believes that human capital is a central feature (Baron & Armstrong, 2007). Even in the modern era, artificial intelligence plays a prominent role, considering fulfilling people's needs. This alteration is very interesting and is the attention of most people (Sukma et al., 2019). Considering the theory of the new form of competition, it can be said that The superiority of a nation is no longer based on its comparative advantage. Still, the competitive advantage is determined by the population's quality (Saptana, 2008).

As a result, this change will impact increasing the level of competition among people. If youth generations are not equipped with more abilities, they are very likely to be eliminated from global competition. Therefore, the acceleration of the improvement of human capital competence becomes the main issue that acceleration of increasing human capital competence becomes the main issue that is constantly being touted.

Young generations require the skill to encourage them to reach the industrial revolution era 4.0, like creativity, originality, initiative, critical thinking, and persuasion and negotiation, which *World Economic Forum* (2020) has explained. Reflecting on this, it is necessary to integrate with Islamic values; there are five abilities at least that young intellectual must-have. The following skills are: (1) The ability of Academic, social, and vocational. (2) The power of spirituality drives the ability to self-confidence. (3) The ability to Communication and build connections (networking) (4) Self-character or noble character and moderate ability (5) The ability to care to share (endowment).

The fifth skill can be obtained through the stability of Literacy based on the integration of the educational pillar and its implementation. This is due to the harmony of monotheism (Tauhid) education with learning to know, moral education with learning to be and live together, and worship education with learning to do.

3.3 The Intellectual Role of the Future

An intellectual comes from the Latin word *Intellectus*, which means comprehension, intellect, and meaning in the linguistic term. Whereas in terms, according to George A. Theodorson and Achilles G. Theodorson, intellectual is the elements of society that devote themselves to developing original ideas and engaging in creative intellectual endeavors (Sunarko, 2016). It can be concluded that intellectual is an individual that can think and create a framework of thinking to convey the unique thinking and carry out a commitment of his thought.

A capital intellectual or an intellectual modal is a strength of the collective thinking that can be found or used to win the competition (Serdarmayanti, 2002). Moreover, the intellectual modal positively impacts the competition since new ideas or breakthroughs are highly required for future life. The intellectual role of time changes can influence human civilization under a specific period. As stated in Al-Qur'an Surah Ar-Ra'ad Verse 11 that *"Indeed, Allah will not change the condition of the people until they change what is in themselves. And when Allah intends evil for a people, there is no repelling it. And there is not for them besides Him any patron."*

4. CONCLUSION

Education significantly impacts generations to become individuals who have character and critical thinking. However, it is not enough to have only these two features at competition in the future life. Furthermore, this discussion is to complete the previous study regarding UNESCO's educational pillar integration and Islamic educational pillar. The values included in both pillars are mutually synergized. The implementation of the pillars impacts a better and godly civilization. This attitude can be grown through cultural Literacy that in it includes several attempts, such as 1) comprehending, 2) accepting, 3) appreciating, 4) respecting, and 5) harmonizing. These five elements are processed with the supporting elements under the unity and diversity whereby it becomes the main modal for national progress and an effort to produce intellectuals who have a moderate attitude.

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