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EDUCATION SYSTEM IN THE TIME OF THE PROPHET MUHAMMAD SAW SUCH AS THE ROLE OF THE KUTTAB AND MOSQUES AS EDUCATION CENTERS

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ABSTRACT

The education system during the time of the Prophet Muhammad SAW had a very important role in shaping the character and morals of Muslims. At that time, education was carried out with a very integral approach, not only covering aspects of religious knowledge, but also moral and social aspects. One of the most prominent educational institutions during the Prophet's time was Kuttab, which functioned as a place to teach reading, writing, as well as basic religious knowledge such as the Koran and Hadith. Apart from that, the mosque also functions as a very strategic educational center, not only as a place of worship, but also as a place to study religious, social and cultural knowledge. In the mosque, the Prophet Muhammad SAW conveyed Allah's revelations, taught his friends, and provided guidance in various aspects of life. With this approach, education during the time of the Prophet Muhammad SAW succeeded in creating a society that had strong religious knowledge, noble morals, and was able to adapt to the times. This article will examine in more depth the role of Kuttabs and Mosques as centers of education during the time of the Prophet Muhammad SAW and their impact on the development of the Islamic education system that exists today.

INTRODUCTION

Education is one of the most important aspects of human life. Through education, a person not only gains knowledge, but is also formed into an individual who has morals, skills, and the ability to interact with society constructively. (Doni Ahmad Saefuddin, 2022) In Islamic history, education during the time of the Prophet Muhammad SAW played a very large role in building a just society, with noble character, and spiritual intelligence. The education system during the time of the Prophet not only focused on teaching religious knowledge, but also emphasized the importance of good morals, discipline, and

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a sense of social responsibility. Therefore, understanding the education system during the time of the Prophet Muhammad SAW, including the role of the Kuttab and the Mosque as centers of education, is very important in the context of the development of Islamic education today. (Ependi et al., 2023)

During the time of the Prophet Muhammad SAW, education was not only an obligation, but also a way to form a generation that was close to Allah SWT and was able to live in a harmonious society. One of the most prominent educational institutions at that time was the Kuttab, which functioned as a place to teach children and adults about the basics of Islamic teachings, such as reading and writing, as well as studying the Qur'an and Hadith. Kuttab has a very important role in introducing Islamic teachings from an early age and equipping the Muslim generation with strong religious knowledge. (Fathurahman, 2018)

In addition to the Kuttab, the Mosque also has a very significant role in the education system during the time of the Prophet Muhammad SAW. The mosque is not only a place of worship, but also a center of social life and education. (Fathurrahman, 2015)

In the mosque, the Prophet Muhammad SAW conveyed revelations, gave life guidance, and taught various aspects of life, both in terms of religion and social. Companions and Muslims came to the mosque to study, deepen their religious knowledge, and discuss various life problems. Thus, the mosque at that time became a very vital intellectual meeting center for Muslims. (Hani Handayani, 2019)

Education during the time of the Prophet Muhammad SAW was very different from the formal education system that we know today. There were no schools or universities in the modern sense as they exist today. (Hardiyani, 1800) However, through simple, effective methods, and full of moral values, the Prophet Muhammad SAW succeeded in educating his people in a very profound and memorable way. The approach used by the Prophet Muhammad SAW in education was very focused on the formation of morals and a deep understanding of religion, which later became the foundation of the life of Islamic society. (Hasnida et al., 2024)

In addition, the education system during the time of the Prophet Muhammad SAW was also very inclusive and paid attention to all levels of society, without distinguishing social status, gender, or age. For example, women also received the same education as men. Aisyah ra., one of the wives of the Prophet Muhammad SAW, is one example of a woman who has a very deep understanding of Islam. This shows that during the time of the Prophet, education was not only a man's right, but also a woman's right. This also reflects the principle of social justice taught by Islam, where every individual has the right to receive a decent education according to their abilities and potential. (Journal et al., 2024)

Kuttab and the Mosque as centers of education have a very close relationship. Kuttabs are often established around mosques, so that students can study directly under the supervision of scholars and teachers in the mosque. (Finance et al., 2024) The learning process in Kuttab is not limited to teaching religious texts, but also includes moral and social education taught through the example of the Prophet Muhammad SAW. For example, the companions who studied in the mosque were not only taught knowledge, but were also taught to practice Islamic teachings in everyday life, such as honesty, compassion, and discipline. (Laisa, 2020)

In the context of the history of Islamic education, Kuttab and Mosque as educational institutions have made a very large contribution to the spread of Islamic knowledge throughout the world. After the time of the Prophet Muhammad SAW, many scholars and scientists were born from these educational institutions. (Lannuria, Unita Karinah, Muhammad Yusuf, Muhammad Syamsi Shuha, 2023) The education system built by the Prophet Muhammad SAW not only survived during his lifetime,

but also developed and expanded to various parts of the world, even to this day. Therefore, understanding the education system during the time of the Prophet Muhammad SAW is very important to provide a clear picture of the roots of Islamic education and how the system can be applied in the world of modern education. One aspect that distinguishes the education system during the time of the Prophet Muhammad SAW from the education system today is the way of delivering knowledge which is very interactive and direct. On many occasions, the Prophet Muhammad SAW taught his companions directly by means of dialogue, question and answer, and discussion. This method is very effective in building deep understanding and allowing students to actively participate in the teaching and learning process. This is very different from the modern education system which tends to use a one-way approach, where teaching is carried out formally in the classroom with the lecture method. (M. Arief Affandi, 2020)

In addition, the existence of the Mosque as a center of education shows how important places of worship are in the lives of Muslim communities. The mosque is not only a place to carry out ritual worship, but also a place to seek knowledge and strengthen relationships with Allah. This illustrates the very close relationship between religious education and worship in the lives of Muslims. The Prophet Muhammad SAW taught that learning is part of worship, and seeking knowledge is an obligation for every Muslim.

Education during the time of the Prophet Muhammad SAW also taught the values of togetherness, helping each other, and respecting each other. In this case, the Prophet Muhammad SAW provided a very good example of how to educate his people with compassion and exemplary behavior. The Prophet SAW taught that knowledge is not something exclusive, but must be shared with everyone, be it rich or poor, male or female.

Overall, the education system during the time of the Prophet Muhammad SAW can be used as a reference for the development of the Islamic education system to date. Education based on teaching morals, ethics, and religious knowledge carried out in a very humane and simple way, is the basis for creating a civilized society, with noble character, and a sense of responsibility towards humanity. Therefore, the role of Kuttab and Mosque as centers of education during the time of the Prophet Muhammad SAW is very important to study and implement in the context of modern Islamic education. (Education & Classics, 2015)

In conclusion, education during the time of the Prophet Muhammad SAW through the role of Kuttab and Mosque not only equipped Muslims with religious knowledge, but also shaped them into individuals who had strong characters and good morals. The educational approach taken by the Prophet Muhammad SAW is very relevant to be applied in the lives of Muslims today, in order to create a generation that is not only intellectually intelligent, but also has noble morals and is able to play an active role in society.

METHOD

This study uses a literature review method with the main objective of tracing and analyzing various written references related to the education system during the time of the Prophet Muhammad SAW, especially highlighting the role of Kuttab and

mosques as learning centers. This method was chosen because the study focuses on understanding the concepts, principles, and practices of Islamic education applied during the prophetic period through a review of various literature, in the form of books, scientific articles, journals, historical documents, and relevant classical sources (Permana, 2018).

Research Steps:

Identification of Library Sources

The initial step in this study is to collect references related to the education system during the time of the Prophet Muhammad SAW. The library materials used as references include classical books, Islamic history books, journal articles, and academic works on Islamic education during the time of the Prophet. Authentic hadiths that describe the Prophet's teaching practices are also the main sources in this study (Solihin, 2013).

Classification and Categorization of Literature

After the literature collection is carried out, the next stage is to group the library sources into several main categories, namely:

- a. Education in the Mosque: Examining the role of the mosque as a center for teaching and learning activities for Muslims.
- b. Education in the Kuttab: Examining the function and teaching methods in the Kuttab as an educational institution for children and adults.
- c. The Prophet's Teaching Method: Analyzing how the Prophet Muhammad SAW conveyed knowledge, both through lectures, questions and answers, and direct practice.
- d. Moral and Social Education: Reviewing the importance of teaching ethics and morals in the Prophet's education and its influence on the formation of a moral society (Tahun et al., 2025).

Content Analysis

The next step is to analyze the content of each classified source. The focus of the analysis is directed at how the mosque and Kuttab played a role in Islamic education during the Prophet's time, as well as the impact of the teaching methods applied on the formation of the character and morals of Muslims at that time. The analysis also considers the relevance of the Prophet's educational teachings to the socio-cultural context at that time.

Synthesis of Findings

After the analysis is carried out, the researcher will synthesize the various findings to form a comprehensive understanding of the education system during the time of the Prophet Muhammad SAW. This synthesis aims to clarify the contribution of mosques and Kuttab as centers of education and the effectiveness of the Prophet's teaching methods in forming a religious and noble society (Utami et al., 2024).

Conclusion Drawing

Conclusions will be formulated based on the results of the analysis and synthesis that have been carried out. This conclusion includes an understanding of the

contribution of the education system during the Prophet's time to the formation of the character of Muslim society, as well as its relevance in the context of contemporary Islamic education.

Critical Discussion and Recommendations

This section presents a critical review of the research findings, by identifying the advantages and limitations of the education system during the Prophet's time. In addition, recommendations will be given for the development of the current Islamic education system by adopting the noble values of the Prophet's education, such as a holistic approach that combines religious knowledge, morals, and social aspects.

Utilization of Primary and Secondary Sources

In carrying out this study, the researcher utilized two main types of sources:

- a. Primary Sources: Includes authentic hadiths, works of classical scholars, and original historical documents that directly describe the practice of education during the Prophet's time.
- b. Secondary Sources: Consisting of books, scientific articles, journals, and other academic publications that review the education system during the Prophet's time based on interpretations of primary sources (Yusra & Zulmuqim, 2022).

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

During the time of the Prophet Muhammad SAW, education became the main foundation in shaping the character of Muslims. The education system implemented at that time was not formal like modern educational institutions, but had a strong structure in its simplicity. Education did not only focus on religious knowledge, but also touched on moral, ethical, and social responsibility aspects. The Prophet Muhammad SAW put forward a very humane approach, emphasizing exemplary behavior and values derived from Allah's revelation, namely the Qur'an and Hadith.

One form of education that developed at that time was Kuttab, which became the initial place for children to learn to read, write, and understand and practice the teachings of the Qur'an and Hadith. The teaching method was carried out directly by the teacher to the students in a simple but effective atmosphere. The close relationship between teacher and student became a strength in the learning process, so that not only knowledge was absorbed, but also moral values inherent in everyday life, such as honesty, responsibility, and respect for others.

In addition to Kuttab, the mosque also played a role as an important center of education. The mosque is not only used as a place of worship, but also as a space for discussion, study of knowledge, and the delivery of revelations and hadith by the Prophet to his companions. In the mosque, various social, political, and economic issues are also discussed, making the mosque the intellectual center of Muslims. It was from these mosques that many great thinkers and leaders in Islamic history were born.

The teaching method of the Prophet Muhammad SAW himself was very interactive. He often used a dialogical approach, questions and answers, and gave real examples

in everyday life. His exemplary behavior in being patient, honest, and compassionate became a strong educational tool for his companions and people. The Prophet taught not only with words, but also through real actions.

Education at that time also emphasized the importance of morals and social relationships. The Prophet taught noble values such as patience, humility, and an attitude of helping each other. These values were instilled early on in the education process, thus forming a generation that not only understood religious teachings, but was also able to live side by side in society peacefully and respectfully.

The impact of the education system implemented by the Prophet Muhammad SAW was very much felt in the formation of an advanced and highly civilized Islamic society. The companions who were directly educated by the Prophet became important figures in Islamic history, who not only excelled in religious knowledge, but also had strong moral integrity and leadership. This education created a society that was thirsty for knowledge, upheld the values of justice, and was active in building civilization.

The education model implemented during the time of the Prophet Muhammad SAW is an example of holistic education. It integrates knowledge, moral formation, and social concern. These values are very relevant to be applied in today's Islamic education system, in order to create a generation that is not only intellectually intelligent, but also has a strong character and is able to make a positive contribution to the people and nation.

CONCLUSION

During the time of the Prophet Muhammad SAW, the education system implemented reflected a comprehensive and balanced approach between religious aspects, moral formation, and social life. Education was not only directed at understanding religious knowledge, but also at forming noble character. The Prophet Muhammad SAW implemented direct and contextual education methods, such as dialogue, question and answer, and providing real examples, which proved very effective in forming intelligent and well-mannered individuals.

Institutions such as Kuttab became the initial place for children to learn to read, write, and understand the basics of religion. Meanwhile, the mosque functioned as a center for learning and disseminating knowledge, both in religious and social aspects. With a simple and easily accessible approach, the education system built by the Prophet SAW was able to reach various groups, while at the same time instilling noble values derived from Allah's revelation and the principles of Islamic life.

Character was at the core of the education process at that time. Values such as honesty, patience, compassion, and respect for others were instilled in everyday life through the teachings and examples given by the Prophet. The result was the birth of a society that supported each other and lived in harmony. Education that not only touches the intellectual realm, but also moral and social, made Muslims at that time develop rapidly in various fields of life.

In general, the education system during the prophetic era played a major role in forming an Islamic civilization that was knowledgeable and had noble morals. The educational principles applied by the Prophet, such as a personal approach, interactive methods, and consistent role models, are very relevant when applied in the context of today's education. This model teaches that education should not only focus on academic achievement, but must also be able to form a whole person—knowledgeable, faithful, and have noble morals.

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