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Instilling tawhid values in children's religious and moral development at KB Al-Ikhlas

Nadya Yulianty S.

STAI DR. KH. EZ. Muttaqien

nadyayuliantys@gmail.com

Ira Pebriyani

STAI DR. KH. EZ. Muttaqien

irapebriyani95@gmail.com

Insani Syiva Alqolbi

STAI DR. KH. EZ. Muttaqien

insanisyiva23@gmail.com

Siti Nurazizah

STAI DR. KH. EZ. Muttaqien

sitinurazizah220044@gmail.com

Abstract

This study highlights the significance of instilling tawhid (Islamic monotheism) values in early childhood education as a means of fostering love for Allah SWT and cultivating religious and moral character. Parents serve as the primary influence in shaping children's behavior, and early exposure to faith-based values ensures the internalization of honesty, gratitude, and accountability. A proper understanding of tawhid leads children to recognize that all actions are observed by Allah SWT and will be judged accordingly. Employing a qualitative descriptive method in the form of literature study, this research investigates how the values of tawhid can shape children's character development. The subjects of this study are children attending KB Al-Ikhlas in Citalang, Tegalwaru, Purwakarta, while the object of the study is the implementation of tawhid-based education derived from the Qur'an and Hadith. Data were collected through observation, interviews, and documentation. Findings indicate that tawhid education instills awareness of Allah's greatness, nurtures pious behavior, and strengthens moral traits such as honesty, responsibility, and compassion. The Qur'an and Hadith emphasize affectionate parenting, good modeling, and habitual worship from an early age. Moreover, tawhid education serves as a foundation for Islamic identity and a safeguard against harmful external influences.

Keywords: tawhid; early childhood; moral values; Qur'an; Hadith

INTRODUCTION

Tawhid education serves as the fundamental basis for shaping human character and spiritual integrity. Within the Islamic tradition, tawhid represents the core belief in the oneness of Allah SWT and serves as the foundation for instilling unwavering faith and obedience to Him. Cultivating the values of tawhid from an early age is essential in forming children's character rooted in religious and moral values. This aligns with the primary objective of Islamic education: to nurture a generation with deep spiritual

consciousness, noble character, and conduct that reflects the teachings of the Qur'an and Hadith.

The Qur'an and Hadith both emphasize the importance of tawhid education in a Muslim's life. The Qur'anic instruction in Surah Luqman verse 13 exemplifies this, wherein Luqman advises his son, "O my son, do not associate anything with Allah. Indeed, association with Him is great injustice." Similarly, the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) consistently emphasized the importance of embedding faith and morality in children from an early age.

Through tawhid education, children are guided not only to recognize and believe in Allah SWT but also to internalize key moral values such as honesty, responsibility, compassion, and justice. These values form the cornerstone of a person's integrity, shaping both spiritual life and social behavior. Hence, tawhid education plays a strategic role in nurturing children's religious and moral development, serving as essential capital to help them navigate the complexities and challenges of life.

METHOD

This study employs a qualitative descriptive approach using the method of literature review, commonly referred to as *library research*. According to Sarwono (2006), a literature study involves the collection and analysis of data sourced from books, scientific articles, and relevant previous studies, with the aim of establishing a theoretical foundation for the problem under investigation.

By engaging in a comprehensive review of relevant literature, researchers are able to construct theoretical insights that can serve to explain, predict, and even provide control over the phenomena studied. This method allows for an in-depth understanding of the concepts surrounding *tawhid* education and its implications for children's religious and moral development as reflected in the Qur'an and *Hadith*.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The concept of tawhid and its foundational role

The term *tawhid* derives from Arabic, meaning "to unify" or "to consider as one." In Islamic theology, *tawhid* refers to the belief in the oneness of Allah SWT, encompassing both His existence and sovereignty (Lubis, 2019). This doctrine is traditionally divided into two main aspects: *tawhid rubūbiyah*, which recognizes Allah as the sole creator, sustainer, and regulator of the universe, and *tawhid ulūhiyah*, which affirms that only Allah deserves to be worshipped and obeyed.

Furthermore, *tawhid* is linked with three principal theological domains: *ilāhiyyāt* (divinity), which explores the attributes and acts of Allah; *nubuwwāt* (prophethood), focusing on the prophets and divine law; and *sam'īyyāt* (the unseen), concerning eschatological beliefs such as angels, holy books, and destiny (Ramdhan, 2019). These three domains constitute the core of Islamic doctrine and practice, leading toward the embodiment of faith (*īmān*), practice (*islām*), and spiritual excellence (*ihsān*).

Tawhid as the core of prophetic teachings

Tawhid has consistently been the central teaching of all prophets from Adam to Muhammad (peace be upon them). The Qur'an, in Surah Al-A'raf verse 172, describes the primordial covenant where the children of Adam testify to the lordship of Allah.

Similarly, Luqman's advice to his son, as stated in Surah Luqman verse 13, reinforces the imperative not to associate partners with Allah, declaring it a great injustice.

The *Hadith* literature also supports early inculcation of *tawhid* values in children. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) emphasized parental responsibility in teaching faith and instilling virtuous behavior from an early age. He stated, "A person who teaches his child about goodness is better than giving a *sha`* in charity" (al-Tirmiziy, 1975). Moreover, the *Hadith* that states, "Whoever's last words are *lā ilāha illā Allāh*, will enter Paradise" (Abu Dawud), underscores that *tawhid* is not only a theological tenet but a determinant of salvation.

Application of tawhid education at KB Al-Ikhlās

In practice, the implementation of *tawhid* education at KB Al-Ikhlās, Citalang, involves consistent and structured activities aimed at internalizing monotheistic values. Teachers serve not only as educators but also as moral exemplars and motivators (Wardani, 2010). The applied methods include daily recitation of *Iqro`*, prayer routines, introduction to the pillars of faith and Islam, familiarization with the names of prophets, angels, and the practice of performing *ṣalāh*.

In addition, storytelling sessions about the life of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) using video media help children contextualize and connect with the Prophet's character. Educational songs and interactive clapping activities—such as the "four magic words"—reinforce moral messages and maintain student engagement. These strategies help children derive values from what they see, hear, and practice.

Moral development through tawhid

Through *tawhid* education, children gain not only religious knowledge but also internalize moral values. A strong understanding of *tawhid rubūbiyah* fosters gratitude and trust in Allah's decree, while *tawhid ulūhiyah* trains children to direct all worship and good deeds solely to Allah. These principles cultivate moral qualities such as honesty, justice, and responsibility (Asyari, 2023), which are critical for personal integrity and resilience against negative societal influences.

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings of this study, it is evident that the cultivation of *tawhid* education—grounded in the teachings of the Qur'an and *Hadith*—plays a significant role in shaping the religious and moral development of children. At KB Al-Ikhlās, Citalang, Tegalwaru, Purwakarta, the implementation of *tawhid*-centered educational activities has positively influenced children's understanding and behavior.

The applied methods—such as routine prayers, learning the pillars of faith and Islam, storytelling about prophets, and other engaging religious activities—help introduce and reinforce the concept of Allah's oneness from an early age. These practices are tailored to children's developmental stages and are delivered using interactive approaches to enhance engagement and retention.

Consequently, children begin to exhibit positive moral traits such as honesty, obedience, and piety. This early foundation in *tawhid* strengthens their spiritual character and serves as moral capital for facing future challenges. Therefore, *tawhid* education is not only essential for religious formation but also for nurturing responsible, ethical individuals who embody Islamic values in their daily lives.

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