

HABIT OF CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER IN IMPROVING STUDENTS' MORALS

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Abstract

A good habit is very necessary to build a religious character. Good habits can be done through additional program activities in schools. The habituation of the program carried out is expected to be a provision for students in the next period. The objectives of this study are 1) Implementation of the habit of praying Dzuhur in congregation in improving the morals of students in schools 2) Supporting factors for the habit of praying Dzuhur in congregation in improving the morals of students in schools. 3) Strategy for the habit of praying Dzuhur in congregation in improving the morals of students at SMAS Islam Kebumen. This research is a field research. The nature of this research is descriptive research, namely a form of research that is shown to explain existing phenomena. Conclusion 1) The habit of praying Dzuhur in congregation in improving the morals of students. 2) Supporting factors for the habit of praying Dzuhur in congregation in improving the morals of students 3). Strategy for the habit of praying Dzuhur in congregation in improving the morals of students

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INTRODUCTION

Every person's life is greatly influenced by education. An important aspect of education is religious education taught to children from an early age. A form of religious education, such as teaching about prayer. Prayer is a form of religious education that allows each individual to establish spiritual communication with God, with the aim of always feeling close to God. (Mahfudh, 2003)

One of the five pillars of Islam is prayer. And worship is very important. Prayer is a form of worship and direct communication with Allah. It has a deep meaning and cannot be divided into ritual and social categories as you say. (*FiQH Ibadah Thaharah, Shalat, Zakat, Puasa, Dan Haji / DISARPUS Kab. Lombok Barat*, n.d.)

Prayer is the greatest worship, because it is the first deed that must be done on the Day of Judgment. Students should understand that prayer is an obligation for all Muslims through the practice of congregational prayer. As they grow older, it becomes a habit that is ingrained in their lives so that it becomes a moral responsibility to carry it out. (Budianto, 2020)

Prayer occupies an important position in Islam that cannot be compared to other forms of worship. Prayer is the pillar of religion. Prayer is the first worship that is required by Allah SWT, and its command is conveyed by Allah SWT. Prayer is the core of religious teachings. In other words, if prayer is not upheld then the whole religion will be lost.

Prayer is essentially the best means to educate the soul and renew the spirit and at the same time as a purification of morals. Morals are traits that humans have brought since birth which are embedded in their souls and are always there. A Muslim is not perfect in his religion if his morals are not good, so moral education is said to be the soul of Islamic education, because the highest goal of Islamic education is to educate the soul and at the same time its morals so that they experience changes in goodness.(Budianto, 2020)

Students are the young generation as potential human resources and believe in the idea of the nation's struggle. Youth have a strategic role and have special characteristics and traits that require guidance and protection to ensure their physical, mental, and social growth in a complete, harmonious and harmonious manner. Children are the next generation of the Indonesian nation, the success or failure of the country is determined by today's children. Therefore, Islam provides guidance to educators on how to educate children.

Teachers give students the opportunity to participate in joint prayer activities. Because this custom aims for students to understand that prayer is an obligation for all Muslims. When we grow up, this becomes a habit that is embedded in our lives so that it becomes our moral responsibility to practice it. Education is an activity that develops all aspects of human personality that lasts a lifetime.(*Kedisiplinan Shalat Berjamaah Dalam Pembinaan Akhlak Siswa Di Sekolah Menengah Atas Pondok Modern Selamat Kendal - Walisongo Repository*, n.d.)

Although praying together contains many educational values that are very beneficial, praying together seems to have only a small impact on the formation of students' personalities or morals. Therefore, daily community prayer, especially in the school environment, will have a positive impact on students. There are many lessons that can be learned from the activity of praying together in congregation that can influence students' religious behavior.

Prayer is more important than other worship, because Allah SWT said that prayer is included in worship and its law is obligatory. In the life of a nation, education plays a very important role in ensuring the development of the nation's life.(*Kedisiplinan Shalat Berjamaah Dalam Pembinaan Akhlak Siswa Di Sekolah Menengah Atas Pondok Modern Selamat Kendal - Walisongo Repository*, n.d.)

SMAS Islam Kebumen is an educational institution that prioritizes religious values in all learning activities. Morals, ethics, and ethics are the foundation of personal education and deserve special attention, because they are the main objectives of all learning activities carried out. SMAS Islam Kebumen fosters the noble morals of its students and makes several efforts to achieve these goals. One of them is by getting them used to daily worship practices, such as congregational prayer. Congregational prayer during the Dzuhur prayer.

In SMAS Islam Kebumen, it was found that the implementation of congregational prayer has been carried out well. However, congregational prayer has not had much impact on improving the morals of students at the Madrasah. Many still show behavior that is not in accordance with commendable morals, such as saying impolite things, skipping class, fighting and lying to teachers.

METHODS

Researchers in this study used a survey method, namely qualitative data collected directly in the field or at the research site. Qualitative field research is research in which researchers go into the field and observe phenomena in their natural state to explain phenomena comprehensively.

This type of research is field research, which is research with research procedures, namely taking data from the field and then examining it. Field research is research that is conducted and selected as the location and purpose of naturalistic research.

The nature of this research is descriptive, namely research that is intended to describe existing phenomena, both natural phenomena and human-assisted phenomena. Phenomena can be in the form of forms, activities, characteristics, changes in relationships, similarities and differences between one phenomenon and another.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Congregational Prayer as a Means of Cultivating Discipline and Responsibility

The results of the study show that the habit of performing congregational prayers regularly, especially in schools or Islamic boarding schools, has a positive impact on the formation of students' discipline and responsibility. Regular prayer schedules and their collective implementation teach students to respect time, obey the rules, and be aware of personal and social responsibilities. Students who are accustomed to participating in congregational prayers generally show a more orderly attitude in participating in learning activities and are more aware of their responsibility for the tasks given.

Although quantitatively the attendance of students in congregational prayer is quite high, qualitatively there are still many students who participate in the activity without deep understanding and appreciation. For some students, congregational prayer is seen as an administrative obligation that must be carried out, not as a spiritual need or a means of self-development.

This can be seen from the attitude of some students who are less solemn, hasty, and do not maintain manners when in the mosque. There are also those who arrive late or even leave early without a clear reason. The lack of internalization of spiritual values causes congregational prayer activities to not touch the realm of moral formation in depth.

According to Al-Ghazali, worship not only has an impact on the spiritual aspect, but also functions as a medium for moral and social development. In this context, congregational prayer internalizes the values of discipline repeatedly so that it becomes a habit that is firmly embedded in the students. (Islahi, 2021)

Practicing Congregational Prayer and Strengthening Social-Spiritual Values

Congregational prayer is not only a ritual activity, but also a means of forming social and spiritual solidarity. Students involved in congregational prayer learn about equality, mutual respect, and the importance of living together. In its implementation, there is no difference in social status between the imam and the congregation; all stand on equal footing, demonstrating the principle of equality before God.

Although routine worship activities are carried out, teachers still record various forms of behavior that indicate weak self-control and lack of moral awareness in some students. Among them are: saying rude or impolite words, skipping class, being dishonest with teachers, and involvement in conflicts between friends.

This finding shows that the habit of congregational prayer is not effective enough if it is not accompanied by a more comprehensive and integrated approach to moral development. The implementation of worship that is only ceremonial tends not to have a significant impact on behavioral change.

Based on the description above, it can be explained that the strategy for getting used to congregational prayer is the implementation of congregational Dzuhur prayer, the head of the madrasah and teachers supervising congregational prayer activities, verbal encouragement (reminding, explaining, and advising), direct control of classes and around the madrasah building and giving warnings to students who do not pray in congregation will be punished.

This habit strengthens the values of ukhuwah Islamiyah (brotherhood in Islam) among students. They learn to remind each other in goodness and avoid negative behavior, such as criticizing each other, lying, or being selfish. This social morality grows along with the congregational routine that becomes part of their daily lives.(Albarado & Eminita, 2020)

Internalization of Moral Values through Role Modeling and Consistency

The implementation of congregational prayers that are carried out routinely is also an effective medium in instilling moral values through role models. Teachers, instructors, or ustadz who are consistently present and provide examples in congregation become moral figures who are emulated by students. This is in line with the concept *treatment* in Islamic education, namely instilling values through habituation and role models.(Cahyono & Iswati, 2021)

The interview results revealed that the success of habituating worship is largely determined by the presence and active role of educators as moral models. At SMAS Islam Kebumen, some teachers are very active in fostering and being role models in implementing congregational prayers. However, there are also those who are only physically present without providing in-depth direction or guidance.

The lack of consistency and emotional closeness between teachers and students in the context of worship makes congregational prayer activities not yet fully a medium for character formation. Students tend to just "follow along", not because of personal awareness of the importance of prayer and morals.

There is no structured evaluation or reflection program after the congregational prayer activity. In fact, the moment after prayer is the right time to provide direction, short sermons, or discussions on moral values. The absence of these reinforcement sessions causes congregational prayer to not have a sustainable impact on students' ethical awareness.

With consistent practice, students not only perform worship formally, but also internalize the spiritual and moral meaning in it. They become more polite in speaking, more respectful to teachers and parents, and more concerned about their surroundings. This shows that practicing worship can be a gateway to improving morals as a whole.(*Kedisiplinan Shalat Berjamaah Dalam Pembinaan Akhlak Siswa Di Sekolah Menengah Atas Pondok Modern Selamat Kendal - Walisongo Repository*, n.d.)

Morals are related to the responsibility and function of students. To support the success or effectiveness of teaching and learning activities, each student must have this special morality. Among educational experts, there is an understanding related to the formulation of this special morality, with various backgrounds. Encouraging students to learn with the intention of worship, avoiding worldly love (zuhud), being humble (tawadlu), avoiding the conflicting thoughts of scholars, prioritizing good knowledge for the benefit of the world and the hereafter, learning from the easy to the difficult, from the real to the abstract, and from fardhu ain knowledge to fardhu kifayah knowledge.(Rizal;, 2000)

Based on this, it can be seen that one aspect that influences students' morals is their habit of performing congregational prayers. The teachings of Islam were revealed to regulate and guide human life with their personal needs. Islam respects physical power as best as possible, not leaving it as it is and not letting it go, but Islam fixes and directs its path according to its function.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the study conducted at SMAS Islam Kebumen, it can be concluded that the habit of congregational prayer has been carried out routinely and has become an integral part of school activities. However, the effectiveness of this activity in improving students' morals has not been fully optimal. Thus, the habit of congregational prayer needs to be strengthened not only from the technical implementation aspect, but also in terms of values, understanding, and moral awareness built within students.

The strategy of habituating congregational Dhuhr Prayer in improving students' morals is the strategy of implementing habits used for the implementation of congregational Dhuha Prayer and Dhuhr Prayer, the application of role models is part of a number of the most effective strategies in preparing and improving morals, motivational strategies can improve students' morals, and role models are one of the strategies used by teachers to direct behavior to be in accordance with expected behavior and stop unexpected behavior.

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