

The Role of PAI Lecturers in Improving AIK Understanding in PAI Um Students. Buton

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to analyze the role of Islamic Religious Education (PAI) lecturers in improving students' understanding of Al-Islam and Muhammadiyah (AIK) at Muhammadiyah University of Buton. The background of this study is based on the importance of integrating Islamic and Muhammadiyah values in shaping students' character as prospective educators with noble morals and have a comprehensive religious understanding. The research approach used is qualitative with descriptive methods. Data were obtained through interviews, observation, and documentation techniques with lecturers and students of the PAI study program. The results show that PAI lecturers play an important role as facilitators, motivators, and role models in the AIK learning process. Through the application of contextual learning strategies, integrative approaches, and exemplary behavior, lecturers are able to foster understanding and practice of AIK values in students. In addition, extracurricular activities with an AIK nuance and the habit of worship also strengthen students' understanding of Islamic teachings and Muhammadiyah values. Thus, the active involvement of Islamic Education lecturers is a major factor in realizing the goals of comprehensive Islamic education at Muhammadiyah University of Buton.

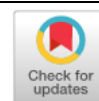
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INTRODUCTION

After Muhammadiyah was established in 1912, the spirit that was built with Islamic values was always in struggle. It can be seen from the foundation of the establishment of Muhammadiyah based on the Qur'an, namely in Surah Al-Imran verse 104:

And the Ummah of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said: "O Messenger of Allaah (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) and I am the Messenger of Allaah (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him).

Translation:

"There should be among you a group of people who call for virtue, enjoin (do) what is righteous, and prevent from doing evil. They are the lucky ones". (QR. Surah Al-Imran:104).

Over time, the mission of enlightenment continued to the aspect of education, especially higher education, which was later known as Muhammadiyah Higher Education (PTM).

Education is the main means of shaping the personality and character of students. In the context of Islamic higher education, Islamic Religious Education (PAI) plays a central role in fostering and developing the spiritual, moral, and social aspects of students. Moreover, in Muhammadiyah universities such as the University of Muhammadiyah Buton (UM Buton), Islamic values and Muhammadiyah (AIK) have become the spirit in all academic activities and campus life.

AIK is not only a compulsory course, but also an ideological and moral identity for the entire academic community of Muhammadiyah. Through AIK, students are expected not only

to understand Islamic teachings normatively, but also to be able to internalize Islamic and Muhammadiyah values in their personal, academic, and social lives. Therefore, the success of AIK education is highly dependent on the quality of the learning process, which in this case is carried out by PAI lecturers.

PAI lecturers have a great responsibility in transforming AIK values to students. They not only function as teachers, but also as educators, guides, and role models (*uswah hasanah*). This role requires high pedagogical, scientific, and exemplary skills. In practice, lecturers must be able to package AIK material in an interesting, contextual, and applicative manner so that students not only understand cognitively, but also be able to practice it in daily life.

However, the facts on the ground show that not all PAI students show a deep understanding and attitude that reflects AIK's values. There are still students who are less active in campus Islamic activities, do not understand the principles of Muhammadiyah, and even have a superficial perception of AIK's values. This raises questions about the extent of the role of PAI lecturers in fostering this understanding.

Some factors that may affect the effectiveness of lecturers in improving the understanding of AIK include the teaching methods used, lecturer-student interaction, personal and spiritual approaches, and a supportive campus environment. Therefore, it is important to systematically research and evaluate the role of PAI lecturers in improving students' understanding of AIK, especially within the PAI Study Program of the University of Muhammadiyah Buton.

This research is relevant in order to strengthen the strategic role of PAI lecturers and improve the quality of AIK learning, which will ultimately have a positive impact on the character, integrity, and Islamic militancy of students as prospective educators, leaders, and cadres of Muhammadiyah organizations.

METHOD

This research uses a descriptive qualitative approach, as stated by Creswell (2018) that qualitative research aims to understand and explore the meaning of individuals or groups to social or human problems. The research location was carried out at the University of Muhammadiyah Buton for 1 month, with the research subjects in the form of AIK Lecturers and PAI study program students. Data collection is carried out through observation, in-depth interviews, and documentation, in line with the opinion of Yin (2018) who states that data collection in qualitative research can be done with various techniques. The data analysis technique refers to Hallahan, D.P. & Kauffman, J.M. (2020) which consists of data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawn, as well as data validity tests using triangulation of sources and methods in accordance with the opinion of Patton (2019).

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The Role of PAI Lecturers

The role of Islamic Religious Education (PAI) lecturers in deepening students' understanding of Al-Islam and Muhammadiyah (AIK) at the University of Muhammadiyah Buton (UM Buton) includes various strategic aspects, including as educators, motivators, supervisors, as well as role models. According to Nata (2010), PAI lecturers not only function as conveyors of religious knowledge, but also are tasked with instilling Islamic values through a humanist and transformative educational process. Therefore, the role of PAI lecturers is an important element in the process of internalizing AIK values which are the hallmarks of Muhammadiyah educational institutions.

The Role of Lecturers as Educators and Teachers

As educators, PAI lecturers have the responsibility of fostering students as a whole, covering the cognitive, affective, and psychomotor domains (Majid, 2014). In the context of AIK, the teaching carried out by lecturers is not limited to Islamic theory alone, but also integrates the teachings of *dinul Islam*, the structure and basis of Islamic teachings, as well as the values of Muhammadiyah sourced from the Qur'an and As-Sunnah (Mulyasa, 2013).

In addition, PAI lecturers also play a role in the development of a curriculum that aims to shape the Islamic character of students. Suyatno (2015) stated that the PAI curriculum must be designed flexibly to be able to face the dynamics of the digital era without losing the Islamic values that are the foundation. In terms of learning methods, Zuhairini (2011) emphasized the importance of using contextual and applicative approaches so that the process of transfer of knowledge and transfer of values can take place effectively and sustainably.

The Role of Lecturers as Motivators and Supervisors

Apart from being teachers, PAI lecturers also function as motivators and supervisors who play a role in fostering students' enthusiasm for learning. Sardiman (2011) explained that learning motivation grows when educators are able to create an inspiring, fun, and meaningful learning atmosphere for students. In AIK learning, lecturers are expected to instill moral values and guide students to have spiritual resilience and Islamic ethics in facing various challenges of modernity (Zainuddin, 2016).

Furthermore, Tilaar (2012) emphasized that character education is not enough to be taught theoretically, but must be realized through habituation and real examples. Therefore, PAI lecturers must be able to become exemplary figures (*uswah hasanah*) in being wise, polite, and have noble character both in the campus environment and in the wider community.

The Role of Lecturers in the Contextualization of AIK at UM Buton

In the context of the University of Muhammadiyah Buton, PAI lecturers play an important role in associating AIK's values with the university's vision and mission. Nasution (2018) stated that contextual Islamic education must be able to adapt to the needs of the times and the social conditions of the society where the education is held. PAI lecturers at UM Buton strive to integrate AIK values into the vision of the Faculty of Islamic Religion which is oriented towards the development of Islamic science that is professional, noble, entrepreneurial, and maritime character.

Meanwhile, Hidayat (2019) highlighted the importance of applying AIK values through non-academic activities. In this case, PAI lecturers also play a role in guiding students in various extracurricular activities, such as Islamic studies, religious mentoring, and social activities that support the implementation of the Caturdharma of Muhammadiyah Higher Education – including education, research, community service, and Islamic da'wah amar ma'ruf nahi munkar.

Understanding AIK Students at UM Buton

Based on the results of interviews with Indonesian students, it is stated that AIK (Al-Islam and Kemuhammadiyahan) has a significant influence on the attitude and behavior of students. AIK learning helps students understand how Islamic teachings can be applied in daily life, both on campus and in the community. Effective learning methods, such as discussions and case studies, can improve students' understanding of AIK. In addition, good interaction between lecturers and friends also creates a comfortable and supportive learning atmosphere. Overall, AIK can help students develop Islamic character, increase awareness of the importance of morality, discipline, and responsibility, and apply Islamic values in daily actions.

And also according to SA, AIK (Al Islam kemuhammadiyahan) is a typical course on Muhammadiyah campuses that makes the difference between Muhammadiyah campuses and other campuses in Al Islam to Muhammadiyah discussing history, basics of thought, faith, morals, and how to play a role in society according to Muhammadiyah's view.

From the interviews conducted with students, it can be concluded that the two opinions agree that Al-Islam and Muhammadiyah (AIK) are fundamental courses that function as the main distinguishing identity for Muhammadiyah campuses, with a comprehensive coverage of material ranging from history, faith, morals, to guidelines for playing a role in society. RI specifically highlighted the practical impact of AIK, stating that this course has a significant influence on student attitudes and behaviors, where through effective learning methods such as discussions and case studies, AIK succeeds in forming Islamic character and increasing awareness of the importance of morals, discipline, and

responsibility. Overall, AIK is recognized as having a crucial role in shaping the character and ability of students to apply Islamic values in a real way.

CONCLUSIONS

From the above discussion, it can be concluded that Islamic Religious Education (PAI) lecturers at the University of Muhammadiyah Buton (UM Buton) have a very important role in improving students' understanding of Al-Islam and Muhammadiyah (AIK). PAI lecturers serve as educators, motivators, supervisors, and role models for students. To carry out their roles, PAI lecturers must be able to integrate AIK values into the teaching process, curriculum development, and non-academic activities. In addition, PAI lecturers must also be able to create an inspiring, fun, and meaningful learning environment for students, so that they can have spiritual resilience and Islamic ethics in facing the challenges of modernity. PAI lecturers must also be role models (*uswah hasanah*) in being wise, polite, and have noble character in the campus environment and society. Thus, PAI lecturers can help UM Buton students have a strong understanding of AIK and are able to implement it in their daily lives. Overall, the role of PAI lecturers at UM Buton is very important in shaping the Islamic character of students and improving the quality of education at the university.

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