ISLAMIC RELIGIOUS EDUCATION LEARNING STRATEGY IN INCREASING STUDENTS' KNOWLEDGE AND QUALITY ABOUT ISLAMIC RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT MUHAMMADIYAH MIDDLE SCHOOL 57 MEDAN

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ABSTRACT

Abstrak: *Penelitian ini membahas tentang strategi yang digunakan dalam meningkatkan pengetahuan dan mutu pembelajaran Pendidikan Agama Islam di SMP Muhammadiyah 57 Medan. Pendidikan Agama Islam memiliki peran yang amat penting dalam kehidupan umat manusia. Agama merupakan pemandu dalam upaya mewujudkan suatu kehidupan yang bermakna, damai dan bermartabat. Menyadari betapa pentingnya peran Agama bagi kehidupan umat manusia maka nilai‑nilai agama dalam kehidupan setiap pribadi menjadi sebuah kebutuhan yang harus ditempuh melalui pendidikan baik pendidikan keluarga, sekolah maupun masyarakat. Pendidikan Agama Islam dimaksudkan untuk membentuk peserta didik agar menjadi manusia yang beriman dan bertaqwa kepada Tuhan Yang Maha Esa dan berakhlak mulia. Akhlak mulia mencakup etika, budi pakerti, dan moral sebagai perwujudan dari pendidikan Agama. Dan starategi pembelajaran memegang peranan penting dalam menentukan keberhasilan pendidikan dan pembentukan pribadi peserta didik secara utuh dan menyeluruh. Strategi Pembelajaran Pendidikan agama Islam (PAI) sangat berpengaruh dalam proses pembelajaran. Strategi pembelajaran yang diterapkan oleh seorang guru harus tepat dengan kondisi dan kebutuhan seorang siswa. Kondisi lingkungan dan profesionalisme Guru dalam pendidikan Islam mempengaruhi strategi dan model pembelajaran Islam diterapkan untuk siswa. Tanpa adanya strategi yang tepat maka proses pembelajaran tidak akan berjalan secara efektif dan juga efisien. Oleh karna itu, guru sebagai ujung tombaknya pendidikan memiliki peran yang penting dalam proses pembelajaran.*

Kata Kunci: *Pentingnya Pendidikan Agama Islam; Strategi; Pendidikan Agama Islam; Mutu*

Abstract: *This research discusses the strategies used to improve the knowledge and quality of Islamic Religious Education learning at SMP Muhammadiyah 57 Medan. Islamic religious education has a very important role in human life. Religion is a guide in efforts to create a life that is meaningful, peaceful, and dignified. Realizing how important the role of religion is in human life, religious values in the life of every individual become a necessity that must be pursued through education, family, school, and community education. Islamic religious education is intended to form students to become human beings who believe in and are devoted to God Almighty and have noble morals. Noble character includes ethics, character, and morals as a manifestation of religious education. Learning strategies play an important role in determining the success of education and the formation of students' personalities as a whole and as a whole. Learning Strategy Islamic religious education (PAI) is very influential in the learning process. The learning strategy implemented by a teacher must be appropriate to the conditions and needs of a student. Environmental conditions and teacher professionalism in Islamic education influence the strategies and models of Islamic learning applied to students. Without the right strategy, the learning process will not*

run effectively and efficiently. Therefore, teachers as the spearhead of education have an important role in the learning process.

A. INTRODUCTION

Islamic religious education is one of the subjects in elementary school to form morals, morals, and ethics for students. Religious education in schools can be a foundation and can overcome moral decadence which is increasingly rampant, apparently unable to meet society's expectations, and this problem is our collective responsibility. Nowadays science, technological sophistication, and art are experiencing rapid development and progress. This of course has a huge influence on the school education system, both on strategies and methods and educational outcomes, especially in schools. One challenge in schools is how to produce good and quality graduates who will become quality and moral human resources which are basic capital which is also the key to the success of national development.

The basis and aim of innovation in PAI learning refers to educational strategies. Because learning is a component of education. One of the problems facing the world of education today is the low quality of learning, including Islamic Religious Education learning. Currently, the Islamic Religious Education learning process is simple and just a formality. Learning is influenced by two important factors, namely internal factors and external factors (Majid & Andayani, 2005). So to maximize the learning process, teachers do not only provide material but also foster interest in learning in each student so that they can think seriously in the learning process (Wafi, 2017). Bearing this in mind, the world of education as a sub-system of social life needs to openly respond to the various strategies that exist in the world of education, as well as those that occur in other areas of life to try to integrate them into order to achieve an educational condition that is not left behind by the changes that occur in society.

B. METHODOLOGY

This research was carried out at SMP Muhammadiyah 57 Medan. The subjects in this research were Islamic Religious Education Teachers and class IX students with a total of 26 subjects in the class. The approach taken in this research is qualitative and uses descriptive research methods as the researcher's attempt to explain events that occur in school learning. To be able to reveal this data, it is necessary to make observations and have direct interactions with both students and teachers. Theories in qualitative research are theories that are based on basic or grounded theory. The data analysis technique uses Phenomenological Analysis, namely to draw conclusions based on the data obtained and based on the research objectives. The data collection technique in this research uses interview, observation, and documentation methods.

C. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Definition of Learning Strategies

The definition of strategy according to Muhaimin Syah is that it can be interpreted as a strategy or plan, many views of the word strategy in English that are considered relevant are the word Approach (approach) procedures

(stages of activities). Based on the words above, strategy is several steps or actions that are engineered in such a way as to achieve a certain goal or target (Mulyasa, 2006). Meanwhile, according to Syaiful Bahri Jamaroh in his book entitled "Teaching and Learning Strategies", namely an outline of the direction for action to achieve predetermined targets. In general, strategy has the meaning of an outline of the direction for action to achieve predetermined targets. When connected with teaching and learning, strategy can be interpreted as a general pattern of teacher-student actions in the manifestation of teaching activities. The definition of strategy in this case shows the abstract characteristics of a series of teacher-student actions (Amin et al., 2021).

In a particular actual teaching and learning event, this is called an instructional procedure. Learning strategies are the methods chosen to convey lesson material in a general teaching environment which includes the nature, scope, and sequence of activities that can provide learning experiences to students. Copper said a learning strategy is selecting certain types of training that are suitable for the goals to be achieved (Amin & Alimni, 2022). In other words, he said a learning strategy is a plan to achieve learning goals.

Understanding Strategy in the Learning Process

The word strategy comes from the Latin strategy, which is defined as the art of using plans to achieve goals (Uno, 2008). Learning strategies are used to achieve goals by providing learning materials at each level of education. Strategy is an overall approach related to implementing ideas, planning, and executing an activity over some time. The theme, work team, and supporting factors are important coordination in implementing a good strategy. Strategy is differentiated from tactics which tend to be narrower in scope. Often, strategy is associated with vision and mission, although the strategy is more related to the short term and long term. In the world of education, strategy is defined as a plan method or series of activities designed to achieve a particular educational goal. So, it can also be interpreted as planning which contains a series of activities to achieve goals in education. In implementing the strategy, you can use the lecture method as well as question and answer and discussion by utilizing resources or other supporting aspects. Therefore, strategy is different from method. Strategy refers to a plan for achievement, while a method is a way that can be implemented to carry out a strategy.

Learning strategies are several alternative models, methods, and ways of organizing teaching and learning activities which are general patterns of activities that must be followed by teachers and students to achieve predetermined instructional goals (Sa'idah, 2005). In its implementation, the strategy requires certain stages. Based on various definitions of learning strategies, several things are considered necessary before implementing strategies in learning, namely, basic and critical selection of problems, setting basic goals and objectives, preparing action plans (action plans), preparing educational resource plans, and considering advantages Consider sustainability (Muttaqin, 2013).

The approaches underlying the development of learning strategies are divided into: Firstly, Advance Organizers from Ausubel, which are introductory statements to help students prepare for new learning and be able to understand and show broader ideas or concepts. Second, Bruner's Discovery Learning

suggests starting learning by presenting problems obtained from the teacher to improve students' ability to investigate and determine problem-solving (Yani, 2013).

Learning Islamic Religious Education (PAI)

In the learning process, a teacher must be able to think about the subjects that will be taught to students to form students who have intelligence, attitudes, and skills as has become the goal of national education, namely creating a learning atmosphere and learning process so that students can actively develop the potential that exists within each student (Supriadi, 2017). So the main target is that every student has strength, religious spirituality, self-control, personality, intelligence, noble morals, and skills. Islamic religious education is conscious guidance or leadership by educators of students' physical and spiritual development towards their personality (Maulidiyah et al., 2021). Education lasts a lifetime and is carried out in the household environment, schools, and communities. Learning is necessary for human life. Its application can be started by providing good teaching through education at home.

The online learning process also requires continuing to make innovations in educational strategies. Understanding the background of students and adapting them to learning methods is the main goal in perfecting the learning process even remotely. Apart from being required to be able to use various available media, educators must also be responsive if at any time there are updates to the education system (Nurjannah et al., 2020). There are three terms to gain an understanding of "learning" namely: learning, teaching, and learning. According to Sardiman, there are several definitions of learning, including those described as follows:

a. Cronbach provides the definition "learning is a process shown by a change in behavior as a result of experience".
b. Harold Spears defines "Learning is a process to observe to read, to imitate, to try something yourself, to listen, to follow direction".
c. Geoch, said, "Learning is a change in performance as a result of practice".

The definition of learning according to Dadang Suhardan, learning is an academic activity in the form of communication interaction between educators and students. Learning activities are teacher activities in activating students' learning processes using various methods (A., 2019). According to Omar Hamalik, what is meant by teaching is:

a. Conveying knowledge to students.
b. Passing on culture to the younger generation through school educational institutions.
c. Efforts to organize the environment to create learning conditions for students.
d. Provide learning guidance to students.
e. Activities prepare students to become good citizens by society's demands.

A process of helping students face everyday life. From the definition above, it can be concluded that teaching is an activity carried out by teachers in conveying knowledge to students. Teaching is defined as an effort to achieve an environmental system that allows the learning process to occur. Teachers must

be able to develop skills in students to creatively deal with environmental situations. So a teacher in teaching must develop creative thinking and actions.

D. CONCLUSION

A quality PAI learning process is a hope that must be realized optimally. To achieve a high-quality PAI learning process, of course, it must be supported by all PAI learning components, such as; PAI teacher competency, PAI learning environment, PAI learning media or tools, and PAI learning strategies. The strategic steps that PAI teachers can take are to use progressive PAI learning strategies, including; expository learning strategy, inquiry learning strategy, contextual learning strategy, cooperative learning strategy, problem-based learning strategy, foxfire learning strategy, and PAIKEM learning strategy. To implement these learning strategies effectively in the PAI learning process, PAI teachers must of course have good skills. Therefore, developing teachers' abilities in using these learning strategies can be carried out by each teacher individually.

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