

## Research Article

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# Implementation Of Character Strengthening In Boarding School Students

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**Abstract:** Today the attitudes and behavior of the younger generation are starting to ignore the noble values that have long been a national tradition and run in everyday life, such as honesty, politeness, togetherness, and religious values. The purpose of this study was to determine the Implementation of Character Strengthening in Boarding School Students. This study uses a qualitative approach with descriptive methods. The results of this study indicate that the implementation of learning activities at boarding schools combined with character building has a great impact on improving student character. Learning at boarding school applies general learning and Islamic education consequently. So, every student must have an honest attitude and all these activities are also reflected in the daily life of students in the dormitory.

**Keywords:** Character, Boarding School, Islamic Education.

## Introduction

Today the attitudes and behavior of the Indonesian people tend to ignore the noble values that have long been the nation's tradition and run in everyday life, such as honesty, politeness, togetherness, and religious values. With the passage of time, little by little, they began to disappear, carried away by foreign cultures that tended to lead to a hedonistic, materialistic, and individualistic life, so that these character values were no longer considered important if they conflicted with the goals to be obtained.

The reality is that the atmosphere of modern life with a massive culture and the fulfillment of various technological-mechanical mobility of life that is developing in Indonesia is not in line with the provisions contained in the law, on the one hand it has given birth to a national ethical and moral crisis. This is a concrete manifestation of the nation experiencing a multidimensional crisis.

According to (Arifudin, 2022) suggests that building national character takes a long time and must be carried out continuously and continuously. The character that is attached to our nation these days doesn't just happen suddenly, but has gone through a long process. The portraits of violence, brutality and dishonesty of the nation's children presented by the media, both print and electronic, have now gone through a long process. Such a culture does not only affect the general public who lack education, but has reached the educated people, such as students and university students, and has even hit the elites of this nation.

According to (Lickona, 2013) reveals that there are signs of the times that must be watched out for because if these signs are already there, it means that a nation is heading for the brink of collapse. The signs in question are: 1) increased violence among adolescents, 2) worsening use of language and words, 3) strong group influence in acts of violence, 4) increased self-destructive behavior, such as drug use, alcohol, free sex, 5) the blurring of good and bad moral guidelines, 6) decreased work ethic, 7) lower respect for parents and teachers, 8) low sense of responsibility, 9) dishonesty is cultivated, and 10) there is mutual suspicion and hatred.

This problem can actually be overcome with education. Because in essence education is a long process in order to lead people to become spiritually and intellectually rich. In this context Noeng Muhadjir as quoted (Ulfah, 2020) states that there are 3 (three) functions of education, namely: first, education functions to develop students' creativity. educate. This opinion was also expressed by Ki Hajar Dewantara

in (Ulfah, 2022) arguing that education includes creativity (cognitive), sensibility (affective) and intentional (conative).

In Islamic education, Muhammad Fadhil al-Jamali in (Na'im, 2021) stated that Islamic education is an effort to develop, encourage, and invite people to be more advanced based on high values and noble life, so that a more perfect personality is formed. , both related to reason feelings and actions.

Education which is an effort that is expected to be able to improve the character of our nation. Therefore, our education needs to be reconstructed so that we can produce graduates who are more qualified and ready to face the future world which is full of challenges and can produce graduates who have noble character. In other words, according to (Arifudin, 2020) argues that education must be able to carry out the mission of character building so that students and graduates can participate in filling development in the future without leaving noble character values.

The existence of the above reality encourages contradictions to arise in education that produces quality graduates, but is immoral. Especially in religious education, which so far is seen by most people as having failed in building students' affection with internal values that are able to answer the challenges of the rapidly changing times. Basically another principle of Islamic religious education is the interconnection between religion, science, and technology (Azizy, 2002).

One of the efforts to realize education as above, wrong is education through boarding schools (boarding schools) as a place of education and teaching that emphasizes Islamic religious studies and pays attention to basic scientific materials that support school subjects that involve students and teachers. educators can interact 24 hours a day and are supported by dormitories as permanent student residences.

According to (Zubaedi, 2011) suggests that boarding school is a school system with dormitories, where students as well as teachers and school administrators live in dormitories within the school environment for a certain period of time usually one semester interspersed with one month's vacation until finishing school. In the boarding school education system, all students are required to live in one dormitory. Therefore, teachers or educators more easily control the character development of students.

In curricular, co-curricular, extracurricular activities, both in schools, dormitories and the community environment are monitored by teachers 24 hours a day. The suitability of the boarding system lies in all student activities that are programmed, organized and clearly scheduled. Meanwhile, the institutional rules are loaded with moral values.

Based on the background above, it is very important that this research be carried out in order to provide formulations for strengthening character education in educational institutions.

## Implementation Method

The method explains the design of activities, how to select the target audience, the materials and tools used, the design of the tools and their performance and productivity, data collection techniques, and data analysis techniques.

This study seeks to analyze and describe the Implementation of Character Strengthening in Boarding School Students. The type of research used in this study is a descriptive analysis method. According to (Rahayu, 2020) that descriptive analysis is empirical research that investigates a particular symptom or phenomenon in a real-life setting. The results of this study were collected with primary data and secondary data.

The approach used in this research is a qualitative approach. According to Bogdan and Taylor (Bahri, 2021), a qualitative approach is a research procedure that produces descriptive data in the form of written or spoken words from people and observable behavior. According to (Arifudin, 2018) that the method is by transcribing the data, then coding the notes in the field and interpreting the data to obtain conclusions.

Determining the right data collection technique determines the scientific truth of a study. Data collection techniques used in this study are: 1) Observation is part of the direct research process of the phenomena to be studied (Hanafiah, 2021). With this method, researchers can see and feel directly the atmosphere and conditions of the research subjects (Arifudin, 2019). The things observed in this study are about the Implementation of Character Strengthening in Boarding School Students, 2) The interview technique in this study was a structured interview, namely interviews conducted using various

predetermined standard guidelines, questions were arranged according to information needs and each question was needed to reveal each empirical data (Hanafiah, 2022), and 3) Documentation is a data collection technique through existing documents or written records (Nasser, 2021). Documentation comes from the word document, which means written things. In carrying out the documentation method, researchers investigate written objects, such as books, magazines, meeting minutes, and diaries. According to Moleong in (Arifudin, 2021) that the documentation method is a way of collecting information or data through testing archives and documents. The documentation strategy is also a data collection technique that is proposed to research subjects. The data collection method using the documentation method was carried out to obtain data about the state of the institution (research object), namely the Implementation of Character Strengthening in Boarding School Students. According to Muhadjir in (Sofyan, 2020) states that data analysis is an activity of carrying out, searching for and compiling notes on findings systematically through observation and interviews so that researchers focus on the research they are studying. After that, make a finding material for others, edit, classify, and present it.

## Results And Discussion

### Characters that Students Want to Form in Boarding

Characters that are formed as an effort to strengthen character for students in addition to being religious, honest, disciplined, independent, and responsible. students are also trained to have an attitude of love for the motherland (*Hubbul Wathan*) or nationalism, be friendly/communicative, and love to read. This is also done by the school as an effort to strengthen the character of the students. The attitude of loving the motherland in the implementation of daily activities, for example, students must take part in the implementation of the flag ceremony every Monday and in these activities also sing the Indonesian Raya anthem. Meanwhile, a friendly attitude in the implementation of daily activities, namely students not only know/friend their peers, but students also know their younger siblings, such as junior high school level students. In addition, the attitude of liking to read is also found in students, because students are so enthusiastic about coming to the library with the books that have just arrived in the library. According to Megawangi in (Salim, 2016) Character education is an attempt to educate children to be able to make wise decisions and practice them in everyday life, so that they can make a positive contribution to their environment. If examined further, character education is an old song that is played again. In the past, character education was implemented under the name of character education in schools. One of the educational institutions that has been and is still instilling character education is Islamic boarding schools. The students are taught to be independent, *tasamuh*, *ta'awun* and so on as a manifestation of this character education. The students not only get material learning but also its application.

The form of the responsible attitude of the students at SMA Plus Cendikia is by frequently participating in various competitive activities, both in the academic and non-academic fields. By participating in various competitions, students are trained to have a courageous, independent and responsible attitude. In addition, there are also students who are trusted and advanced to become student council presidents. This is also a form of attitude of responsibility given to these students so that they have an attitude of responsibility when they are in organizational activities and can lead the organization well.

### How to Integrate the Curriculum to Form Character

The application of an integrated curriculum in learning activities combined with efforts to strengthen character is expected that students besides having good character, they also have good morals. As for the good morals possessed by the santri here, one of them is respect and good manners towards teachers, *ustadz* and their *kyai*. Not only that, the students also have respect and courtesy to older people.

The way to integrate character with the curriculum at SMA Plus Cendikia is also applied in one of the routine activities before starting the Teaching and Learning Activities (KBM) both for general subjects and for Islamic studies subjects. For general subjects, teachers usually apply literacy activities, namely reading books before learning. As for the religious subjects themselves, the activities carried out before the teaching and learning activities are the activities of reading the Al-Quran and *Asmaul Husna* with a

period of 15 minutes. This is an effort made by the school to shape the character of students who like to read, so that they have better character.

### **Types of Integrated Curriculum**

The curriculum implemented at SMA Plus Cendikia is an integrated curriculum system or *merger*, namely a combination of the curriculum set by the National Education Office (Diknas) and the Islamic boarding school curriculum that is characteristic of the Islamic boarding school itself. For curricula originating from the National Education Office (Diknas), schools use the 2013 Curriculum (K-13) and the 2013 Merdeka Curriculum (K-13). Because class X uses the Independent Curriculum, while for class XI and XII they still use the 2013 Curriculum (K-13). Hidayah Islamic boarding school itself uses religious subjects such as the yellow book, fiqh, morality, monotheism, nahwu, sorof, and Arabic.

The combined with character building, namely teachers and students must be disciplined. So that when there are learning activities that have started, the teachers and students must be in their respective classrooms. If there are students who are late to enter the classroom, then these students will be given sanctions/*ta'zir* form of walking while squatting from the school hall to class and then reading short letters.

Implementing a religious and honest attitude at SMA Plus Cendikia, students must be honest, not allowed to cheat during exam activities in class. If someone is caught cheating, the student will be subject to sanctions/*ta'zir*. So that students must have an honest attitude. Meanwhile, religious attitudes are also implemented to students in learning activities, the teacher or ustadz leads reading prayers before and after learning activities. This is one of the efforts made for the formation of the character of the students which is also applied in learning activities.

According to (Dewi, 2019) stated that the implementation of student character education through the boarding school program has proven effective in moral education. Especially in activities at school through boarding schools which are clearly regulated from time to time. This institutional rule is full of moral values. Therefore, the boarding school system is often used as a reference for character education in other schools, which in fact has a lot of positive effects on students.

### **Challenges in Integrating Curriculum**

The integrated curriculum used at SMA Plus Cendikia is between the 2013 Curriculum, and the Islamic boarding school curriculum which is taught in one package in educational institutions. Then the teachers will ask why the curriculum used at SMA Plus Cendikia is not in accordance with the curriculum set by the National Education Office, but uses several curricula.

SMA Plus Cendikia uses an integrated curriculum because the school does not stand alone and is part of a foundation, so the curriculum used must be integrated. With the implementation of an integrated curriculum, schools must be able to manage the allocation of time in the learning schedule and in learning activities. Thus, the teacher must be very clever in managing the time when learning activities, so that learning objectives can be achieved, both for general subjects and Islamic boarding school subjects, both of which can be balanced. For reports to the National Education (Diknas), the National Education Office itself has never had a problem and understands that even though SMA Plus Cendikia uses an integrated curriculum, as long as the ultimate learning objectives can be achieved.

The purpose of implementing the 2013 Curriculum (K-13) is to put more emphasis on soft skills and hard skills which include aspects of attitude (affective), skills (psychomotor) and knowledge (cognitive) competencies. Then, currently subjects are developed from competencies, whereas originally competencies were derived from subjects. In addition, the learning carried out becomes integrative thematic in all subjects (Fadlillah, 2014).

The religious curriculum is an internal curriculum that is implemented in an educational institution, with the aim of achieving directed, systematic and structured education. With this religious/boarding school curriculum, it is hoped that the needs of the students to acquire religious knowledge can be achieved, besides that the learning objectives will also be achieved. The Islamic boarding school curriculum usually teaches subjects related to religious knowledge such as fiqh, morality, monotheism, nahwu, sorof, and Arabic. The advantage of implementing an integrated curriculum is that the friendly relationship between teachers who teach general subjects and ustadz/ustadzah who teach diniyah subjects

becomes harmonious and there is no difference. In addition to the seven diniyah subjects, there is also one special subject for memorizing, namely the subject of muhafadzah/memorization of thematic verses of the Qur'an and Hadith. In this subject students are required to memorize verses or hadiths with a total of 40 each in 1 year. Because this hut is a type of modern hut or commonly called a *khalaf*, so that not only is the study of the book given to *students*, but also provides a balanced education between general knowledge and religious knowledge.

The benefit of having learning combined with character building is that it is expected that students will have better character (akhlakul karimah), by having good morals, the students will be loved by Allah, their prophet, their parents and friends and right - really understand the teachings of Islam after graduating from schools and Islamic boarding schools. This was also stated by the Directorate of High School Development (2014) stating that: Islamic boarding school-based schools are "an effort to combine the advantages of implementing education in schools and the excellence of implementing education in Islamic boarding schools". The reason for the need for pesantren-based schools to be implemented at the high school level is to provide education to students through character education at senior high school age, because high school aged students are a vulnerable age level. Because at this age children will be easily influenced by the culture around them. With the existence of Islamic boarding school-based education, it is hoped that it will be able to shape the character of children in accordance with the culture of the Indonesian nation.

Implementation of curriculum learning combined with character building carried out by teachers in the classroom is one of the efforts to strengthen efforts to strengthen the character and morals of students in Islamic boarding schools or schools within Islamic boarding schools.

## Conclusion

Based on the results of the research above, it can be concluded that implementation in learning activities at boarding schools combined with character building greatly impacts on improving student character. Learning at boarding school is the first religious attitude that is applied to the activity of reading prayers together, before and after learning activities. Second, in the process of learning activities combined with character building, teachers and students must be disciplined. So that when the learning activities have started the teachers and students must immediately enter their respective classrooms. Third, students must be honest, not allowed to cheat during the exam. If there are students who cheat, these students will be subject to sanctions/ta'zir. So, every student must have an honest attitude and all these activities are also reflected in the daily life of students in the dormitory.

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