

**TEACHERS' STRATEGIES IN CHARACTER EDUCATION
DEVELOPMENT IN THE DIGITAL AGE FROM AN ISLAMIC
EDUCATION PERSPECTIVE**

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Abstract

This article discusses the importance of the role of teachers in developing character education in the digital era from the perspective of Islamic education. Currently, the young generation in the digital era has proven the influence of modern civilization on character education, especially in students. This is evidenced by the many crimes committed by the younger generation. The aim is to overcome the problems that arise and teach universal values about the importance of character education that can be applied by all levels of society. Thus, Islamic education not only plays an important role in shaping the personality of students but also contributes to the development of society and the nation. This study uses a qualitative method to collect data through literature research on the role of teachers in the classroom learning process for the development of student character education in the digital era, to transform the perspective of Islamic education. Islamic education can help the younger generation understand the moral and spiritual values of social life, help overcome social problems, and avoid negative behavior. Islamic education also provides the moral, ethical, and spiritual foundation needed to face the challenges of the modern world and is able to build a young generation with noble character and care for others.

Keywords: *Islamic Education, Character Of the Young Generation, Character of Education*

A. Introduction

Education is one of the most important factors in shaping human thinking towards a better, higher-quality, and more characterful direction. Education itself is also an integral part of the development of a bright future for the nation and state, as stated in Article 1 of Law Number 20 of 2003 on the National Education System, which reads, "Education is a conscious and planned effort to create a learning atmosphere and learning process so that students actively develop their potential to have religious spiritual strength, self-control, personality, intelligence, noble character, and the skills needed for themselves, the community, the nation, and the state."

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The indicators of an advanced and developing educational institution are certainly not viewed from one side, but from various sides. An educational institution is said to be successful not only in terms of the quality and quantity of student achievement. The changing era that is occurring in the world, especially in Indonesia itself, is one of the strongest reasons for the change in the mindset of students. This change not only affects students, but also educators and educational staff. Many education observers also believe that these changes have led to a decline in the social attitudes of students, both in school and at home.

Discussing the decline in the social attitudes of students today, there may be many assumptions that say that the changing times have caused students at the elementary, middle, and even college levels to experience changes in their morals and character. All of this is happening because of the strong influence of changing times and the lack of character education in educational institutions. The issue of character education has become one of the most important and hot issues in the world of education lately. This is related to the phenomenon of moral decadence that is currently occurring in society and in government circles, which is increasing and becoming more diverse. This is further emphasized by the existence of criminal acts among teenagers, social violence against young children, human rights violations, and several other acts that have an impact on the current teenage environment. The above actions are proof that in many parts of the world, especially in Indonesia, there has been a crisis of identity and character as well as moral decay among teenagers. In this case, character education is an appropriate alternative to address some of the problems that have occurred.

In this era of digitalization, it will also help us build sustainable socio-economic relationships with modern technology and knowledge. Our way of life and work has been greatly changed by the digital era, by building a society based on knowledge. The digital era will have an impact on all areas of life, including education, as time goes by. There is no doubt that technology has significantly changed the world of education. The behavior of students in the current digital era raises concerns, ranging from cyberbullying to copyright infringement. For thousands of years, character education has been a major concern in the education system, both formally and informally. To build a democratic society with principles such as respect for others, maintaining justice and equality, caring for the prosperity of society, and being willing to help others. Character has long been considered a term with a special meaning. In other words, someone who is considered to have good character usually has other traits such as trust, integrity, enthusiasm, and confidence. In this case, the role of teachers and parents is very influential in the character education of students in facing the challenges of the digital age.

In Islam, character education itself is one of the first lessons that parents must teach their children before they enter the school education phase. This is because character education in early childhood greatly influences the mindset and morals of students when dealing with other people. This is because character education taught to children at an early age aims to shape their characteristics, so that over time they will become accustomed to the character education taught by teachers at school and in society. As stated in a poem written by Sheikh Shaleh Al-Fauzan in the book "Makaanatul Mar'ati Fil Islam".

الام مدرسة الاول اذا اعددتها اعددت شعبا طيب الاعرق

Meaning: "*The mother is the first school for her child. If you prepare her well, then you are preparing a good nation.*"

The role of religious education, especially Islamic religious education, is very influential in shaping the character of students. In addition, religious education is also a means of transforming knowledge in religious aspects (cognitive aspects), transforming knowledge of norms and moral values so that it can shape a child's attitude (affective aspects), which plays an important role in controlling children's behavior (psychomotor aspects) so that a complete human personality is created and can adapt to social life in the community. Not only that, the role of religious education in shaping the character and morals of students is the main reference emphasized by every Islamic educational institution, so that it can produce students who always strive to perfect their faith, piety, and noble character, which includes ethics, manners, or morals as a manifestation of character education implemented in schools.

The existence of character education implemented by every educational institution is a manifestation of the government's concern in preparing a strong and superior national character for the future, so that it can anticipate the next generation of the nation to avoid harmful actions to the country. Therefore, character education plays a very important role in shaping individuals who have good personalities and religiosity and apply applicable norms.

This article aims to provide comprehensive information and understanding about the importance of the role of teachers in learning at school so that they can shape the character of the younger generation, as well as provide solutions and recommendations to improve the quality of education, especially in the field of character development of students based on Islamic education so that they can produce a younger generation with good character and noble morals.

B. Method

The method used in this study is a literature study, commonly referred to as library research, which is technically directly related to the method of collecting library data or research that focuses on objects extracted from various sources of library information (books, encyclopedias, documents, and scientific journals). Literature research or literature review is research that critically reviews knowledge, ideas, or findings in academic-oriented literature.

The author uses a qualitative approach to research. Qualitative education is systematic research, which is used to examine and research an object scientifically without manipulation and without using hypothesis testing in the research process.

This research also uses descriptive data analysis techniques, which is research that attempts to describe and interpret what exists, opinions that are growing, processes that are ongoing, and the consequences or effects that occur or developing trends.

C. Findings and Discussion

Basic Concepts of Character Education

Etymologically, the word character comes from the Latin word *kharakter*, which means *to mark*, or the Greek word *kharassein*, which means *to make sharp or deep*, or the French

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word *carakter*, which means to make deep. Character in English has several meanings, including disposition, character, nature, and role. In the Big Indonesian Dictionary, character is defined as the nature, disposition, psychological traits, morals, or manners that distinguish one person from another. (Majid & Andayani, 2012)

Experts use various terms for character in a terminological sense. According to Endang Sumantri, character is a positive trait that a person possesses that makes them interesting and attractive; someone who is unusual or has an eccentric personality. According to Doni Koesoema, character is a trait, characteristic, style, or unique quality of a person that comes from the environment they grew up in, such as their family. (Adisusilo, 2013)

According to Ki Hadjar Dewantara, character is a trait or moral character. If humans have morals, they will become independent individuals with personality and the ability to control themselves. Education is considered ideal if children exhibit more noble traits than evil ones. Thus, humans are the true creation of education, and the success of true education is to create civilized people, not those who are cognitively and psychomotorically intelligent, but those who have noble character or morals.

Students with noble character have values such as being reflective, confident, rational, logical, critical, analytical, creative, innovative, independent, responsible, and patient. They are careful, willing to make sacrifices, trustworthy, honest, fair, humble, ashamed of doing wrong, forgiving, gentle-hearted, loyal, hard-working, persistent, thorough, innovative, positive thinking, disciplined, anticipatory, initiative, productive, steadfast, open, orderly, and love beauty (aesthetics). Individuals also have the awareness that they are capable of acting in accordance with their potential and consciousness. (Wibowo & Purnama, 2013)

As quoted by Nurchaili, Raharjo said that character education is a comprehensive educational process that connects the moral dimension with the social realm in the lives of students to build a good generation that is able to live independently and has principles of truth that can be accounted for. The process of changing a person's behavior or character to be able to distinguish between good and bad things and apply them in their lives is called character education. Essentially, character education is the result of a person's obligations. (Nurchaili, 2010)

According to the character education plan of the Ministry of National Education of the Republic of Indonesia, character education is the process of cultivating and empowering noble values in educational units (schools), families, and communities. These noble values originate from educational theory, educational psychology, socio-cultural values, religious teachings, the 1945 Constitution, and Law No. 20 of 2003 concerning the National Education System (Sisdiknas). These values also originate from the best experiences and real practices in the daily life of the National Education System (Sisdiknas). (Anwas, 2010)

The importance of character education cannot be separated from the emergence of several social problems today. In a situation where immoral behavior and symptoms that indicate a decline in the nation's morals arise from various sources, such as the community, students, and other sources, it shows that the characteristics possessed by the nation today are still low or even lower than what is considered appropriate according to social norms. All parties must be involved in character education in schools, including curriculum content, learning and assessment processes, subject handling and management, school management, implementation of activities, empowerment of infrastructure, financing, and the work values of each student and the school environment.

According to David Elkind and Freddy Sweet, Ph.D., *"character education is the deliberate effort to help people understand, care about, and act upon core ethical values. When we think about the kind of character we want for our children, it is clear that we want them to be able to judge what is right, care deeply about what is right, and then do what they believe to be right, even in the face of pressure from without and temptation from within."* When we talk about the kind of character we want for our children, it is their ability to choose what is right, learn about it carefully, and then do what they believe to be right, regardless of external pressure and internal desires.

It is further explained that character education encompasses everything that teachers do, which can influence the character of students. Teachers shape the character of students. This includes teachers' behavioral examples, the way they speak or deliver material, tolerance, and other related aspects. In the school environment, teachers must use an approach that incorporates character values in the process of shaping students' character. Because students spend a lot of their time at school, parents must also support the formation of students' character at home rather than at school. Therefore, parents and families have a significant influence on the formation of students' character. (Yunita & Mujib, 2021)

Ontologically, character education can be understood as a combined effort of three components: knowledge, feelings, and actions. The ultimate goal of character education is the realization of the knowledge acquired by a person, accompanied by feelings and moral values, so that they are able to perform positive actions both individually and collectively. Character education can also be defined as a planned and systematically implemented effort to help students understand the values of human behavior related to their relationship with God Almighty, themselves, and everything related to humanity.

The Role of Teachers in Character Building

Teachers are people who are tasked with guiding and educating students to develop their physical and spiritual souls so that they can become independent and responsible individuals. Officially, teachers are required to be like parents to their students at school, but they are also asked to carry out their mandate throughout their lives, not only at school. (Buan, 2021)

The role of teachers in the learning process is crucial in determining the success or failure of students. Teachers in the classroom not only impart knowledge (transfer knowledge), but they are also responsible for instilling character (values) in students, which includes psychomotor, affective, and cognitive aspects. Because of this very important responsibility for the nation's civilization, teachers must internalize their role and not neglect their duties. High consistency is required in carrying out their role in teaching and educating to achieve national educational goals. To make learning enjoyable and meaningful, teachers must exert their abilities and creativity. This is done to attract students' attention to participate in learning and achieve the best learning outcomes. (Maya, 2013)

This is also reinforced by the reality that occurs in schools. The role of a teacher is very influential in the world of character education for students. This is because character education is the nature of each individual, which can take the form of character, behavior, traits, and personality that can be expressed in everyday life. Because character is synonymous with human nature, the government promotes character-based education, which we often refer to as character education. Character education is a system of moral or ethical education used to instill good character values in a person so that they can do and perform good deeds. After that, you can

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apply it in your daily life, starting from home, school, and the community. As a result, character is very important for the learning process. Character has many benefits when used for teaching.

In this sophisticated era, rapid technological developments have a significant influence on various fields, including education. Technology can make a positive contribution to the learning process and the development of science through the use of technology-based learning media. Technology has enabled the use of various tools and applications that can improve interactivity, accessibility, and the quality of learning. For example, the use of computers, the internet, mobile devices, and educational software allows students to access information quickly, communicate online, and develop digital skills that are important in the modern era. In addition, technology can also be used as a means of communication between educators, students, and parents. Through digital platforms, such as email, text messages, instant messaging applications, or online learning platforms, communication can become more efficient and easier, enabling the rapid exchange of information and facilitating collaboration between all parties involved in education. (Widiatmaka, 2022)

However, it must be acknowledged that technological developments also have negative impacts. One of the problems that arises is the loss of norms and cultural values. Excessive or uncontrolled use of technology can blur the boundaries between the virtual world and the real world, resulting in unethical or deviant behavior. In addition, technological advances can also lead to excessive dependence on technological devices and reduce direct social interaction. Therefore, it is important to use technology wisely and in a balanced manner. Education on digital ethics, self-awareness of the impact of technology, and the development of critical skills in using technology are important so that individuals can face emerging challenges wisely. In addition, normative and cultural values must also continue to be instilled and maintained in education so that technology can be used as a tool that supports holistic human development. (Muchtar et al., 2023)

Character education can be applied to all subjects, except those related to norms. All of these subjects must be developed and linked to everyday life. Character education will encourage students to remain within the corridor of goodness, even though their thoughts and knowledge continue to be influenced during the digital age. Effective use of technology is very important for the character values of students in the modern era. Good moral education will protect students from moral violations in the modern era. In addition, good character education in the digital age provides benefits for students. Students can actively participate in the use of social media for information, which leads to the development of skills and abilities through online courses, quizzes, and education offered through podcasts and discussions with other experts, or through attractive advertisements. Thus, character education has the ability to face the digital era by building strong national values, which are an important part of forming national unity. Therefore, the conveniences provided by the digital era, if not filtered, can cause damage to human character, because the current era of globalization with its technological conveniences greatly influences the influx of foreign cultures. (Muchtar et al., 2023)

Thus, the biggest challenge in the world of education is the rapid advancement of technology, which has caused moral values in education to be pushed aside, and many students do not understand what character education is. In this case, character education should be taught to children from an early age because it provides many benefits. If character education is promoted and taught from an early age, society will become more virtuous, competitive, resilient, and tolerant. It will be cooperative, moral, dynamically developing, patriotic, and oriented towards technology and science. All of this will be brought to life

through faith and devotion to God Almighty and Pancasila. (Purna et al., 2023)

This is evidenced by the existence of strategies for teachers to shape students' personalities so that they can contribute positively to the nation and state. There are several strategies that teachers can implement to build students' character, namely.(Putri et al., 2022)

1. Comprehensive introduction to character education for students so that they have the knowledge and understanding to actualize and internalize character values.
2. Teachers must be role models for students in terms of behavior.
3. Instill simplicity in students so that they do not live with an orientation towards results but towards the process, so that students can be responsible and appreciative.
4. Establishing good communication with students.
5. Using interesting learning methods that are appropriate to the needs of students, so that their learning is meaningful.
6. Provide continuous supervision of the environment in which students grow and develop.

In addition, the above strategies are in line with those presented by Maragustam, who says that there are several things to consider when teaching to build student character, such as moral knowledge to impart knowledge to students, moral models to provide moral examples to students, moral feelings and compassion to foster feelings of love and affection for good things, moral actions to encourage students to actualize them, and habits and culture that naturally encourage students to do good.(Siregar, 2015)

One component of the curriculum always includes character education as an important element in instilling values in students. Character education can restore a person's moral awareness. As people responsible for education, teachers must first be aware and be good people so that they can guide their students to be good people too. The main role of teachers remains in educating and guiding students to become moral human beings. Amidst the progress and sophistication of the current digital era, teachers must be individuals who can attract the attention of their students so that they do not lose interest in them and replace them with digital tools. Even though the digital era makes knowledge more accessible, life values still need to be taught by teachers. The existence of the digital era shows that humans still live on Earth, so we must maximize its benefits and reduce its negative effects in order to maintain balance in life.

Character Education in the Digital Age

Technological advances in the digital age have had a significant impact on various aspects of human life, including economics, culture, politics, and education. The rapid development of information and communication technology has changed the way we communicate, work, and learn. Not only that, the impact on the social sphere related to education has become an issue that is currently being discussed by the community, especially parents. The decline in social awareness of the character and morals of students has resulted in students who do not understand the importance of these values.(Hazyimara & Suwarni, 2023)

In today's digital age, increasingly sophisticated technology has made human activities easier. The sophistication of this technology has both positive and negative effects, depending on how we use or manage it. Modern technology can be utilized in the field of education to access more information about learning or to create engaging educational materials for students. However, there are also instances of

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misuse, such as cheating during exams, spreading fake news, and engaging in pornography.

In today's increasingly advanced digital age, many changes are taking place in people's lives, especially in Indonesia. People can freely use digital technology and search for information. The term "the emergence of new media in the digital age" is used to describe digital developments, especially the internet and computer information technology. Advanced technology is often described as new media. New media have features that can be changed because it is similar in nature to the internet. New media does not include print media, television, magazines, and newspapers other than the internet. Due to cultural shifts in the delivery of information, the mass media have shifted to new media or the internet.

The development of digital technology has had a significant impact on various aspects of human life, including education. The use of technology in education can provide many benefits, but it also carries the risk of misuse. Some examples of the benefits of using technology in education are

1. Access to information: Through the internet, students and teachers can easily access various educational resources such as digital textbooks, scientific journals, instructional videos, and online learning platforms. This allows them to explore further information and expand their knowledge.
2. Diverse learning: Technology enables more interactive and engaging learning through the use of media such as multimedia presentations, videos, and simulations. This can help increase students' understanding and interest in the subject matter.
3. Collaboration and communication: Technology facilitates collaboration between students and teachers, as well as between students themselves. Through online learning platforms, students can discuss, share ideas, and collaborate on projects, both in class and virtually.
4. Personalized learning: Technology can be used to adapt learning to individual needs. By using adaptive learning tools, students can learn at their own pace and focus on areas that need strengthening.

However, misuse of technology is also an issue that needs to be watched out for. As is often the case in schools, there is cheating, the spread of hoaxes or false information, the spread of inappropriate content by students, and misuse of technology that enables students to engage in negative behavior. To overcome the risks of technology misuse, it is important for educational institutions and mentors to strengthen understanding and awareness of responsible technology use. It is necessary to implement policies and educational approaches that promote ethical and safe use of technology, as well as provide an understanding of the risks associated with technology misuse. (Muttaqin, 2021)

The importance of character education, especially in today's digital age, is to instill national values in human character. Character education will have a positive impact on students if it is well organized and instilled. Even though the digital age continues to change students' thinking and knowledge, character education will encourage them to remain within the corridor of goodness. Character stems from habits that are repeated over and over again, which eventually become ingrained in a person's soul. (Azizah, 2023)

Thus, technological advances in the digital era have had a significant impact on various aspects of human life. It is important for us to continue to keep up with these technological developments and use them wisely for personal and community

interests. This is especially true in the world of character education for students, which should be strengthened and prioritized again, so that the role of schools in developing students' character in accordance with religious values is not forgotten.

Character Development from an Islamic Education Perspective

In Islam, the term "character" is often interpreted as "morals." Morals refer to a person's behavior and character based on the teachings of Islam. This shows the importance of morals in Islamic teachings. Morals cover various aspects, including manners, behavior, and good character. It reflects and embodies Islamic values in everyday life. In Islam, good character and noble morals are strongly emphasized as an important part of human resource development. (Syarifuddin, 2021)

In the face of progress and global challenges, it is important to develop and apply good character in education. By forming a strong and moral character, individuals can become qualified human resources with integrity who contribute positively to society and the world around them. Therefore, education in Islam does not only focus on academic aspects, but also on the formation of good character. Character education in Islam helps individuals develop ethical values, responsibility, honesty, patience, hard work, mutual assistance, and other positive attitudes. Thus, character education in Islam is an important requirement in building a high-quality and moral generation.

Character education can also be interpreted as personality or morality. Personality is defined as the traits, characteristics, or unique qualities of a person. Character can be shaped by their environment, for example, their family environment during childhood or their innate nature. Some people believe that good and bad traits are inherent in humans from birth. If someone has a good innate spirit, they will have a good character; however, if this opinion is wrong, character education will not be useful because it will not be possible to change a person's character. (Musrifah, 2016)

In Islam, character education plays a very important role. This can be seen from the emphasis given to moral education, which is based on the teachings of the Quran and the example set by the Prophet Muhammad. The Prophet Muhammad is considered a role model for Muslims. His exemplary character has been recognized by the Quran, which says, "And indeed, you are of a great character." (QS al Qalam [68]: 4) In a hadith, the Prophet said: "Verily, I was sent to this earth to perfect human morals." (HR Ahmad). (Hambal, 1991)

Theoretically, character education in Islam refers to the teachings of the Quran. The Quran is the main guideline in determining the values and principles that must be applied in daily life. The Quran contains moral and ethical guidelines that cover various aspects of life, such as honesty, justice, patience, kindness, and many more. In practice, character education in Islam refers to the personality of the Prophet Muhammad. The Prophet Muhammad is considered a perfect example in all aspects of life, both in his relationship with Allah and with fellow human beings. He demonstrated noble qualities, such as honesty, justice, patience, generosity, wisdom, and compassion.

The concept of character education has actually existed since the time of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). This is evident in Allah's command that the main task of the Prophet was to perfect the morals of his people. Discussions about the meaning of character, together with the concept of Islamic morals, both discuss the actions performed by humans. Al-Ghazali said that morals are attitudes

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rooted in the soul that enable various actions to be performed quickly and easily without thought or consideration. Suwito mentions that morals (character) are often referred to as the science of behavior or disposition, because with this science, one will gain knowledge about the virtues of the soul, as well as how to obtain and purify them.(Anwar & Salim, 2019)

This results in the idea of a broad Islamic education that is integrated with real demands and good cultural values, because the true human life is a balance between the relationship between humans and their God, the relationship between humans themselves, and the relationship between humans and their environment. In Islamic education, character is always the main goal, as it is considered the foundation of human life that determines the success of other teachers' potential. Therefore, Islam prioritizes the educational process as a tool for instilling morals in children.(Ulfa, 2019)

Undoubtedly, character or personality building must begin with the individual or oneself, within the family, especially with parents as teachers. Morals, manners, and exemplary behavior are the three main values of Islam. Morals refer to roles and responsibilities beyond Sharia and Islamic teachings in general, manners refer to attitudes associated with good behavior, and exemplary behavior refers to the character qualities demonstrated by a good Muslim who follows the example of the Prophet Muhammad SAW.

Religious knowledge taught in classrooms and places of worship will not automatically make a society religious if it focuses solely on cognitive aspects. For a person to truly become religious, a deep understanding is needed that encompasses the conscience, actions, and thoughts of the believer. Education should not only emphasize the development of intellectual intelligence, but also the formation of children's character. Good education must combine the development of the intellectual, emotional, moral, and spiritual aspects of students. This aims to develop other potentials possessed by students and ensure their optimal growth.

In a religious context, effective education will include an understanding of religious teachings, moral values, ethics, and worship practices. However, this teaching must be accompanied by efforts to help students understand and internalize these values in their daily lives. This means paying attention to how students apply religious values in their actions, sharpening their awareness of spiritual practices, and helping them develop critical thinking related to religious beliefs and practices. Thus, holistic and character-oriented education will help students develop a deeper understanding, profound appreciation, and application of religious values in their daily lives.(Yunita & Mujib, 2021)

In Islamic character education, two values need to be instilled to shape good behavior and personality. These two values are known as divine values or values of divinity and human values, namely:

1. **Divine Values:** These values involve an appreciation of God's majesty and greatness. In this context, students are taught to develop an awareness of God's existence and to appreciate His creation through an understanding of the universe and all its contents. They are encouraged to observe the beauty of nature, the wonders of creation, and the harmony that exists within it. Through these observations, students are expected to internalize values such as gratitude, openness, and obedience to God.
2. **Humanitarian Values:** In addition to divine values, Islamic character education also emphasizes humanitarian values. These values involve

relationships between individuals and their fellow human beings and the surrounding environment. Students are taught to appreciate and respect human dignity, maintain harmonious relationships with others, and care for the environment and living things around them. Islamic character education emphasizes the importance of ethics, justice, mutual assistance, and social awareness as an integral part of religious life.

By combining divine and human values, Islamic character education aims to shape individuals who believe in God, have good relationships with fellow human beings, and are responsible for their surroundings. Through the appreciation and implementation of these values, it is hoped that students will become good, honest individuals who contribute positively to society. (Zulqarnain et al., 2022)

Islamic education, like general education, aims to shape human character and requires a long process with uncertain results. Therefore, efforts must be carefully and prudently considered based on clear and precise perspectives and formulations to achieve the desired results. Islamic education must understand the objectives of education. In education, this is referred to as educational objectives. From several concepts regarding character education from an Islamic perspective, there are fundamental values that need to be instilled in students, including:

- a. Faith, which is a sincere inner belief in Allah; therefore, it is not enough to simply believe in Allah; we must further believe in the existence of God and put our trust in Him.
- b. Islam, which is a continuation of faith, involves surrendering to Him with the belief that everything that comes from God is beneficial.
- c. Ihsan which is the deepest awareness that Allah is always present or always with us wherever we are.
- d. Takwa is the attitude of willingly obeying all commands and rejecting all prohibitions.
- e. Ikhlas is an attitude and action that is pure and free from any outward or inward desire solely to obtain Allah's pleasure or approval.
- f. Tawakkal is the attitude of continually relying on Allah SWT with full confidence that He will provide the best path for His servants.
- g. Gratitude is an attitude of appreciation and thankfulness for Allah's countless blessings.
- h. Patience is an attitude of patience in facing all of life's difficulties, both big and small, physical and spiritual. (Zulqarnain et al., 2022)

From the perspective of Islamic education, the concept of character has a very important value, especially in moral education. There are two major paradigms in the Islamic view of morality.

- a. First, the paradigm that views the understanding of morals narrowly, with the assumption that students need certain qualities that are only given. In this view, morals are considered a set of ethical values that must be understood and applied by individuals. Students are considered recipients who need to receive teachings and guidance from teachers or educators to develop good morals.
- b. Second, the broader paradigm is personality pedagogy. This paradigm places individuals involved in education as key players in personality development. In this view, educators have a broader and more important role in shaping

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the character of students. Educators act as examples and role models, and help students develop good character through interaction, guidance, and a supportive educational environment.

Thus, in Islamic education, a broader approach to character and moral development is applied. Character education is not only based on imparting certain values to students, but also involves the active role of educators in shaping students' personalities through interaction and a supportive educational environment. Technological advances can also be used as a tool to strengthen character and make education a means to achieve broader goals, such as national identity, unity, and good humanity. (Kulsum & Muhid, 2022)

D. Conclusion

A world full of the wonders of rapidly developing and increasingly sophisticated technology will change the nature of everyone in this era of sophistication. Times are destroying trust and character. One way to overcome the decline in character in our country is to provide students with character education that is useful for shaping behavior in accordance with religious and state rules. The entire community plays many roles in instilling and teaching good character values, which are very important for character education.

Character is a characteristic that distinguishes a person and their country. The formation and cultivation of character through religious values, Pancasila, culture, and national educational goals is carried out consciously and deliberately. One of the ways this is done is through educational institutions in accordance with Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 20 of 2003 concerning the national education system. Islamic education focuses on the formation of morals, with character as the main goal of education. As a result, character building is carried out in the educational process through teaching, habituation, exemplification, coercion, and punishment, which encourage and shape the character of students. With the development of IT-based education, learning concepts that emphasize moral formation, religious personality, and concern for the environment are very important to help achieve the educational goal of improving the character of students.

Therefore, even though technology is increasingly developing, one's beliefs must be maintained so that they are not damaged. Religious education must be strengthened again so that it is not forgotten, and even though we are also required to adapt to the times, so that we are not left behind or crushed by them. To prevent us from being crushed by the times and to keep up with the times, we need a character education system that can truly achieve a person's life goals, so that in this increasingly sophisticated era of digitalization, the world of education from an Islamic perspective becomes stronger and produces a moral nation that reinforces prevailing values and norms.

And from the above explanation, education plays an important role in shaping the character of the nation, and Islamic education plays an important role in this process. However, the problem today is that Islamic education in schools is only taught as knowledge, but is not applied in the daily lives of students. As a result, its function in shaping character and noble morals is not being fulfilled properly. Therefore, teachers must be creative in delivering Islamic education. Not only in the classroom, but also in how teachers can encourage and support religious learning

outside the classroom through religious activities and by creating a religious educational environment.

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F. Author Contributions Statement

The Author Contributions Statement can be up to several sentences long and should briefly describe the tasks of individual authors. Please list only 2 initials for each author, without full stops, but separated by commas (e.g., JC, JS). In the case of two authors with the same initials, please use their middle initial to differentiate between them (e.g., REW, RSW). The Author Contributions Statement should be included at the end of the manuscript before the References.

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