

Character Education in the Qur'an Surah Al-Isra' Verse 23: Study of the Value of Speaking Softly to Parents and Its Relevance in Modern Life

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ABSTRACT

Purpose of the study: Character education is very important for every child who is born, because children will be the successors of the older generation in building the future, both in the family environment and in society. This research aims to understand what kind of obedience a child should have and how to speak gently towards parents, even those who are older than him.

Methodology: This research method uses a qualitative method of literature study, which collects information from scientific papers and literature reviews, while the primary data are the Al-Qur'an and the translation of the Indonesian Ministry of Religion and the Tafsir Jalalain and the Tafsir Al-Mishbah, then the secondary data are in the form of books, journals, proceedings and scientific works related to character education.

Main Findings: The results of this study explain that character education, especially speaking softly to parents, is very important for children in the modern era. The Qur'an, Surah Al-Isra verse 23 provides educational values that are relevant to this day, namely direct commands from Allah SWT that must be obeyed, the prohibition of saying harsh words such as 'uff' to parents, and the recommendation to speak softly and politely to both parents.

Novelty/Originality of this study: This research has novelty in its approach which integrates the values of the Qur'an, especially Surah Al-Isra' verse 23, into the context of modern life in speaking softly to parents in forming the character of children who have noble morals amidst technological advances and socio-cultural changes.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Character education plays an important role in children's lives, because they are the ones who will continue the baton of the older generation in shaping the future of the nation. Therefore, instilling moral values, ethics, and ethics is very crucial in creating a generation that is able to face the dynamics of society [1]. Education is also a major pillar in driving the progress of a nation. The higher the quality of education provided to the community, the better the level of civilization and welfare of the nation [2]. We often hear the expression that the progress of a nation is largely determined by the extent to which its people uphold education and respect the role of teachers as the main agents of change.

Religious and moral education needs to be introduced and instilled in children from an early age as an effort to form a generation that is spiritually strong and has noble morals [3]. Character building from an early age plays an important role in forming a solid and positive personality foundation for children. Through proper character education, children can develop into individuals with noble morals, integrity, and are ready to face various life challenges in the future [4], [5].

The fact that is currently happening is that there are still many generations who have bad morals, such as children who do not respect their parents or even people who are older than them. An example of a case related to this is a case that is currently being discussed by the public, namely a child who died because he was stabbed by his neighbor. If the case is analyzed, the cause of the stabbing was due to the element of the perpetrator's hurt feelings for the child's actions who deliberately mocked the perpetrator [6]. From a legal perspective, the act of stabbing is a mistake and a violation of the law. But if seen from the side of politeness, a child should not mock an older person. This indirectly shows that the morals and ethics of children speaking well to their parents or older than them are currently decreasing.

Sometimes a child also grows older and mature without proper education, so this is what causes the morale of the younger generation to decline [7]. In fact, in the Al-Qur'an, Surah Al-Isra' verse 23, it says: "Be good to your parents. If one or both of you are old and under your care, then never speak harshly or show irritation, such as complaining with the word 'ah'. Don't shout at them, but speak to them with soft and respectful words."

Another study explained that this study focuses on the Qur'an, because the Qur'an is the holy book of Muslims which contains rules of norms, values, recommendations and even prohibitions that serve as guidelines for humans [8]. The Qur'an is the word of Allah which functions as a guide for humans, therefore the Qur'an as the word of Allah is certainly different from the word of humans, humans must try to understand it with the understanding of the people who approach it. In a context like this, of course, it leads to the interpretation of the verses of the Qur'an that are needed [9].

Several previous studies that have discussed character education, namely the first conducted by Saleh [10], stated that there are character education values in Q.S Al-Isra' verses 23-38, including religious values, honest values, disciplined values, democratic values, hard work values, peace-loving values, social care values, and responsibility values. And the implementation of character education values through several methods, including teaching methods, role models, and habituation [11].

The results of the study, which are in line with the findings of Rofi'ie [12], show the focus of character education on religious values and responsibility. As explained by Rosi and Asyihabi [13], character education is an obligation that is fardhu 'ain for every child. This emphasis arises from the command of Allah SWT, not only because parents are the ones who give birth to and raise children, but because obeying and being good to parents is a sharia command that must be carried out by every child [7].

Based on several previous studies that have been observed, this study also focuses on character education, on the Al-Isra' surah by examining the value of speaking softly to parents and its relevance in modern life. This study has novelty in its approach that integrates the values of the Qur'an, especially Surah Al-Isra' verse 23, into the context of modern life which is full of challenges in intergenerational relations. Not only emphasizing the theological aspect, this study also explores the philosophical and implementative meaning of speaking softly to parents in forming the character of children who have noble morals amidst technological advances and socio-cultural changes.

The urgency of this study lies in the increasing phenomenon of the erosion of politeness and ethics in speaking among the younger generation, both in real life and the digital world. This study is present as a response to this condition, by re-offering the noble values of the Qur'an as a solution to rebuild ethical awareness and moral responsibility in social interactions, especially in the relationship between children and parents. Thus, this study not only contributes to the study of Islamic education and character, but also has practical implications in the formation of a more civilized and empathetic generation. The purpose of this study is to find out what kind of obedience a child should show and how to speak softly to parents, even those who are older than him.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Character Building

Education is a process that aims to change the attitudes and behavior of individuals in order to mature their personalities through teaching and training activities. In the context of character education, this process includes efforts to maintain and train students, which must be accompanied by teachings, guidance, and direction that emphasize the formation of morals and the development of intellectual intelligence [14].

According to Law Number 20 of 2003 concerning the National Education System, education is a process that is carried out consciously and in a planned manner, which aims to create a learning and teaching atmosphere that allows students to develop actively. This process is directed at helping students develop their

potential, both in terms of spiritual religion, self-control, personality, intelligence, noble morals, and skills needed to face personal life and contribute to society, nation, and state [15].

The term "character" in Latin refers to aspects such as a person's nature, psychological traits, manners, and personality. Meanwhile, according to the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), character is defined as a distinctive psychological, moral, or ethical characteristic that distinguishes a person from other individuals [16]. Religious education has an important role as a medium in transforming knowledge related to religious teachings and values, which includes cognitive aspects. In addition, religious education also functions as a means to instill norms and moral values [17].

Based on the definition of character education, character education can be interpreted as a system that instills character values, including elements of knowledge, awareness or will, and actions in implementing these values, both towards God Almighty, oneself, others, the environment, and the nation. The formation of national character can be achieved through individual character development. However, because humans live in a certain social and cultural environment, individual character development can only be done in the context of the existing social and cultural environment. In other words, the formation of culture and character must take place through an educational process that remains connected to the social environment, community culture, and national culture. Because the social and cultural environment of the Indonesian nation is based on Pancasila, character and cultural education is an effort to instill Pancasila values in students through an approach that includes emotional (heart), intellectual (mind), and physical aspects [18].

Character education is a process that aims to shape a person's personality through internalization of moral values. These values are then manifested in real daily behavior, such as politeness, honesty, responsibility, respect for the rights of others, and the application of other positive values in social life [19]. Character education is a system of instilling character values in school members which includes components of knowledge, awareness or will, and actions to implement these values, both towards God Almighty, oneself, others, the environment and nationality so that they become human beings [20].

2.2. Character Education in the Al-Qur'an Surah Al-Isra' Verse 23

In character education, especially for parents and teachers, they must make the Qur'an a guide in educating a child's character. Because in the Qur'an, rules have been determined which are the main points of discussion related to character [21]. the word of Allah SWT in the Qur'an, Surah al-Isra' verse 23:

وَقَضَىٰ رَبُّكَ أَلَّا تَعْبُدُوا إِلَّا إِيَّاهُ وَبِالْوَالِدَيْنِ إِحْسَانًا إِمَّا يَبُلُغَنَّ عِندَكَ الْكِبَرَ أَحَدُهُمَا أَوْ كِلَاهُمَا فَلَا تَقُلْ لَهُمَا أَفٍ وَلَا تَنْهَهِمَا وَمَا وَقُلْ لَهُمَا قَوْلًا كَرِيمًا

Meaning: "Your Lord has commanded you not to worship anyone other than Him and to be good to your parents. If one of them or both of you reaches old age in your care, then never say to either of them the word "ah" and do not shout at either of them, and say to both of them good words."

3. RESEARCH METHOD

This study uses a qualitative approach, where all stages from planning, implementation, to the preparation of the final report are carried out directly by the researcher. The aim is to gain an in-depth understanding and explore various issues that are viewed as social or humanitarian problems by certain groups in society [22]. With the type of library research, namely by collecting information from various scientific papers that are relevant to the literature review. The approach used in this study is a combination of descriptive and qualitative methods [23]. The data sources that the author uses are primary data and secondary data. The primary data used in this study are the Al-Qur'an and the translation of the Indonesian Ministry of Religion and the Jalalain Tafsir and the Al-Mishbah Tafsir. While the secondary data used by the researcher is in the form of evidence of records that have been arranged in archives and several studies that examine character education in the Al-Isra' surah such as books, journals, proceedings and related scientific works.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Based on the results of the literature study, it was found that the Qur'an Surah Al-Isra' verse 23 contains elements of character education. This finding is in line with the opinion of Messy and Charles [11], who stated that the verse contains very fundamental character values, especially in terms of devotion and respect for parents. The interpretation of the Tafsir Al-Azhar also strengthens this view by emphasizing the importance of these values in the process of forming the character of individuals with noble morals [11]. Another opinion put forward by Astuti [24] in her writing entitled Devotion to Parents in Hadith Expressions, says that there are several ways to show respect for parents, such as calling them politely, speaking softly and respectfully, and avoiding the use of harsh words. In addition, asking permission when leaving the house, giving news about your condition, and asking about their condition are very important forms of respect [24].

The character education contained in Surah Al-Isra emphasizes filial piety towards parents. This filial attitude towards both parents is shown by the habit of speaking softly according to what Allah SWT conveys in surah Q.S Al-Isra'Ayat 23 which reads:

.....وَبِالْوَالِدَيْنِ إِحْسَانًا إِمَّا يَبُلُغَنَّ عِنْدَكَ الْكِبَرَ أَحَدُهُمَا أَوْ كِلَاهُمَا فَلَا تَقُلْ لَهُمَا أُفٍّ وَلَا تَنْهَرْهُمَا وَقُلْ لَهُمَا قَوْلًا كَرِيمًا

Meaning:...and do good to your parents. If one or both of them are elderly and under your care, never say harsh words or show irritation, such as complaining with the words 'ah'. Don't shout at them, but speak to them in a gentle and respectful manner.

Tafsir Jalalain explains that the verse instructs us to do good to our parents, namely by being devoted to both of them. If one or both of you are old, then don't say to them "uff" which is the mildest bad word, and as a child, don't yell at them and say to them soft and beautiful words [25].

Shihab explained the verse by emphasizing the importance of filial piety to both parents, namely mother and father, with full sincerity. If one or both of them are old, old, or in a weak condition so they have to live with you and be under your care, then you should never say the word "ah" to them. Don't shout or show displeasure in front of them. Instead, convey words that are noble, kind, gentle, full of kindness, and full of respect to them [26].

Ahmad Solihin et al stated that the Qur'an, Surah Al-Isra' verse 23 contains the command of Allah SWT which is relevant to character education in the family environment, namely about how to foster good morals for children. Thus, parents can play an important role in shaping the character of their children and helping them become good and noble individuals [25].

Desra Harmasah emphasized that the Qur'an, Surah Al-Isra' verse 23 is relevant to the current context, namely as a reminder not to only pursue material things, but also to pay attention to spiritual values that can maintain and control human morals. By understanding the values of character education in the Qur'an, Surah Al-Isra' verse 23, we can increase awareness of the importance of treating parents well and lovingly [27].

According to Zaman et al., [7] humbling oneself to parents with love is obeying their orders that do not conflict with sharia law. This attitude of humility must be carried out with awareness that arises from the conscience, not only to cover up other people's reproaches or avoid shame. Thus, children can show obedience and respect to their parents, and obtain blessings and approval from Allah SWT.

Based on several existing opinions, the researcher assesses that this verse is an important guideline in forming ethics of communication and interaction in the family, by emphasizing the prohibition of rudeness and impolite speech, as well as the importance of politeness in interacting with parents. By understanding and practicing the values contained in this verse, we can create a harmonious and loving family environment, and build a strong relationship between children and parents.

A Study of the Value of Speaking Softly to Parents and Its Relevance in Modern Life

Speaking softly to parents is one of the important teachings in Islam that is stated in the Qur'an, such as Surah Al-Isra verse 23. In this verse, Allah SWT emphasizes the importance of respecting and treating parents with affection through polite and courteous speech. This value remains relevant today, even in the midst of the current of modernization that often shifts ethical norms in the family. In the midst of this increasingly strong current of modernization, the values of individualism are increasing, so that many children prioritize themselves. However, this verse reminds us that the relationship with parents remains the main priority that must be maintained and respected by children.

The values of speaking softly to parents contained in QS Al-Isra' verse 23 are:

1. Direct Command from Allah SWT that must be Obeyed: This verse emphasizes that speaking softly to parents is not only social ethics, but also a direct command from Allah SWT that must be obeyed and implemented in daily life to obtain His blessings and pleasure.
2. Prohibition of Saying 'Uff': This verse shows that saying harsh words such as 'uff' to parents is prohibited, even just showing displeasure in a subtle way is not allowed.
3. Speaking Softly: Islam emphasizes the importance of speaking softly and politely to parents, especially when they are elderly and need more attention.

Mahbubah Hasanah et al. said that Modern life is a combination of two words, namely 'life' which means human social interaction and 'modern' which means new and in accordance with the demands of the times. Modern life literally means a society that lives together with certain bonds that are up-to-date and relevant to the present. Thus, modern life can be interpreted as a life that is built on the basis of a life attitude that is relevant to the present, with an emphasis on technological progress, social change, and improving the quality of life [8].

Character education is very important for a child in this modern era, because the relationship between parents and children often becomes strained due to a lack of good communication [28], [29]. This can trigger conflict, especially when children feel they have high self-esteem or are influenced by the rapid development of digital technology. In this context, moral and spiritual teachings, including verses that emphasize the importance

of being devoted to parents, remain very relevant. These teachings can be a guideline for maintaining family harmony, preventing intergenerational conflict, and strengthening the values of empathy and affection in children towards their parents [30], [31]. And being a preacher in the life of the nation and state has a very significant role [20].

5. CONCLUSION

Character education sourced from the Qur'an, Surah Al-Isra verse 23, is very important to build a harmonious relationship between parents and children. This verse is not only a religious instruction, but also a practical solution to create a happy family, and a generation that is empathetic and virtuous. By understanding and practicing the values contained therein, namely the direct command from Allah SWT that must be obeyed, There is a prohibition on saying the word 'Uff which is the lightest harsh words, and Speaking Softly. These three values are timeless, in fact increasingly relevant amidst the challenges of modern life.

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