

Empowering Children of TPQ Nurul Iman Warak in Learning to Read Quran

¹Nadhia Rahmawati, ²Ita Dwijayanti*

¹ Department of Sejarah Peradaban Islam, Faculty of Ushuluddin, Adab, and Humanities, Universitas Islam Negeri, Salatiga, Indonesia

²Department of Architecture, Faculty of Technic, Universitas Islam Negeri, Salatiga, Indonesia

Email: itadwijayanti@uinsalatiga.ac.id

Abstract: This research project examines the role of students in community service activities, with a particular focus on the Taman Pendidikan Quran (TPQ) Nurul Iman in Warak, Salatiga, Central Java. A TPQ, or Taman Pendidikan Al-Quran, is a non-formal educational institution in Indonesia that specializes in teaching children the Quran, the holy book of Islam. These institutions typically offer lessons in reading, understanding, and memorizing the Quran. Additionally, TPQs often provide Islamic education, teaching young learners about the basic principles of Islam, such as prayers, fasting, and the Five Pillars of Islam. The objective of this activity is to enhance the efficacy of the TPQ in terms of the quality of learning to read the Quran and knowledge of Islamic history. The methodology employed is that of Qur'anic and historical studies. The results of the activity demonstrate that TPQ plays a pivotal role in enhancing the proficiency in Quranic reading through the implementation of multifaceted and experiential pedagogical approaches. Furthermore, TPQ has effectively instilled a comprehensive understanding of Islamic history through the incorporation of historical materials into the instructional curriculum. This activity proposes the formulation of a more structured curriculum and the provision of training for educators to further optimize TPQ's capacity in fostering a profound religious comprehension among learners.

Keywords: TPQ, Community Service, Al-Qur'an, History

1. INTRODUCTION

Education is a conscious effort that aims to realize cultural inheritance from one generation to another. Education makes a generation a role model from the teaching of previous generations. Education is also an effort that is carried out consciously and planned, to create a learning atmosphere and learning process that can develop students' potential in terms of religious spirituality, self-control, personality, intelligence, noble morals, and skills needed by themselves and society (Abd Rahman BP, 2022).

Intentionally, educational institutions in general and Islamic educational institutions, basically have the main function, namely to carry out the transmission (transfer) and transformation (transfer or operation) of Islamic cultural values in general from one generation to the next. Where in it there are also elements and values of humanity and civilization that are necessary for the continuity of life of Muslims in this world. According to Hasan Langgulung, Islamic education is a process to prepare the younger generation to fill the role and transfer Islamic knowledge and values which are equated with the goal of humans to do charity in the world and will reap the results in the hereafter (Haris, September 2015).

Warak is a village located in Dukuh, Sidomukti, Salatiga, Central Java. In Warak Village, there is a Mosque which is given the name Nurul Iman Mosque. It was in the mosque that the Nurul Iman TPQ/TPA (Qur'an Education Park/Al-Qur'an Education Park) was held. The TPQ was established because there was public anxiety about the next generation who could not read the Qur'an properly and correctly. Therefore, the community built the Al-Qur'an Education Park. At the beginning of the TPQ there were approximately 90 children who learned to recite, including 50 learning to read Iqra and 40 learning to read the Qur'an, TPQ for children was held at 16.00-17.00. In addition to TPQ for children, there is also a special TPQ for the elderly which is held after Maghrib time. With 6 teachers or ustadz and ustadzah who manage TPQ and Nurul Iman Mosque.

Community Service student activities that are appropriate or aligned with curriculum components that must be followed by S1 program students, before completing their studies. This activity is one of the basic obligations of higher education of higher education in the form of service. Community Service is a learning and fieldwork activity which is an integration of education and teaching, research and community service.

In this community service, students focus on community empowerment through TPQ. With assistance in the field of education, the field of education in question is in the form of assistance in learning to read the Qur'an, learning science of the tajweed (the knowledge of how to recite the Qur'an) prayer procedures, the introduction of the Arabic script is employed for the transcription of Javanese (pegon), and Islamic history (the story of the prophet). The activity aims to encourage and motivate children to be more active in learning, especially in terms of Islamic education. Regarding the implementation of this activity, the students collaborated a lot with the community, TPQ, and related parties.

2. METHOD

The implementation method used in the KKN UIN Salatiga 2024 (Kuliah Kerja Nyata) at TPQ Nurul Iman, Warak, Dukuh, Sidomukti District, Salatiga City is PAR (*Participatory Action Research*). PAR is an approach that has a purpose for an approach and as a way to find solutions to overcome existing problems. The use of this PAR method can help Integrated KKN students to build an era relationship between students and the community. This method is centered on the activeness of the community in a community that contributes and also the enthusiasm so that the purpose of *action research* or activities carried out in this Integrated KKN can be achieved. In the implementation of this PAR method, there are three main aspects, namely research methodology, action dimension, and participation. These three aspects include appropriate research methodologies, positive actions and enthusiasm in activities, and community involvement in the activities carried out. The stages of implementing the PAR method in Integrated KKN are as follows:

a. Building trust and determining the focus of the discussion

At this stage, students approach the community and create their trust so that an equal and mutually supportive relationship is established. In this case, students can freely look for existing problems through interviews and observations. Students conducted observations and interviews with management of the Nurul Iman mosque and the chairman of TPQ Nurul Iman. Some examples of problems that exist are incorrect reading of the Qur'an, lack of knowledge about science of the tajweed, and the correct way to pronounce Hijaiyah letters.

b. Research and analysis of the theme of problems and potential of the community

At this stage, students carry out research through *Focus Group Discussions* (FGD) with the community as driving partners in the region, such as the takmir of the Nurul Iman mosque and the chairman of TPQ Nurul Iman to analyse and understand issues or problems from observations that have been made previously, then formulate problems as a basis for designing programs.

c. Planning the program

At this stage, students plan a program to overcome the problems that have been observed and then develop a program strategy and its stages.

d. Programme implementation

The implementation of the program is carried out at this stage. Students carry out programs that have been designed and agreed, namely by reciting which includes reading and writing the Qur'an, tajwid, Islamic history, prayer practice, and the Arabic script is employed for the transcription of Javanese. With approximately 20 students who are active in TPQ activities, with an age range of 10-15 years old, the majority of whom are female students. The activity is carried out for 6 weeks, namely on Monday to Thursday.

e. Reflection and evaluation

At this stage, reflect and evaluate with members of the Integrated KKN group regarding the programs that have been implemented. Then it was continued to compile the output of the Integrated KKN in the form of activity reports, articles, and documentary videos. In implementation, this Integrated KKN activity is located at TPQ Nurul Iman, Warak Village, Dukuh Village, Sidomukti District, Salatiga City with a period of July 29, 2024 to September 5, 2024. (Aji Muhammad Ibrahim, Agustus 2024)

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

KKN UIN Salatiga or UIN Salatiga's Community Service program is a structured learning experience that combines academic study with active engagement in addressing community needs, fostering a sense of social responsibility among students. Community service is a process of implementing the science that has been

studied in higher education, it is useful to provide the widest possible benefits for the community. Community service activities must also always be directed to activities that are beneficial and have a direct impact on the community. Community service activities can be applied in various aspects, one of the activities that cannot be separated from community life is worship. Therefore, mosques cannot be separated from the religious activities of the community from worship rituals, such as congregational prayers, recitation and even religious education carried out in mosques. Education is an effort that is carried out consciously and planned to create a creative and innovative learning atmosphere and learning process, so that students can actively develop their potential to have religious spiritual strength, personality, intelligence, noble morals, self-control, and skills needed by themselves and society (Aji Muhammad Ibrahim, Agustus 2024).

Community Service activities carried out by students are non-formal learning assistance. The learning assistance is carried out through TPQ activities, which are based on the work program that has been made and agreed upon by the TPQ management, management of the Nurul Iman mosque, and related parties. The target focus on this activity is children who are learning to read the Qur'an properly and correctly. In terms of implementation, it is determined to facilitate and become a good facilitator for children in studying at TPQ, and also accompanied by TPQ management. Al-Quran education park is an institution or community group in which there is non-formal education of the Islamic religious type which aims to provide Quranic teaching, as well as teach the basics of Islam to elementary school age children or Madrasah Ibtidaiyah. Community-based education is the implementation of education based on the peculiarities of religion, culture, social, and community potential as a manifestation of education from the community by the community and for the community (Malik, 2013).

With the work program that we have designed in such a way from Monday to Thursday, the Community Service that we carry out at TPQ Nurul Iman has had a fairly significant impact on social and religious changes in the TPQ environment. Starting from the discipline of TPQ children who began to arrive on time if they were late immediately apologized and did not repeat the mistake the next day, the children's reading began to be correct according to the existing law of reading the Quran, their prayers began to be in accordance with the harmony and mandatory requirements of prayer in the Shafi' scholars' view, their interest in history has begun to increase quite significantly, which initially not all children knew the history of the prophets. The following is a further description of the implementation of the community service work program that has been agreed, as follows:

The implementation of the work program in the second to sixth week carries out the work programs that have been prepared, namely: learning to read the Qur'an, learning tajweed science, prayer procedures, teaching how to write Arabic, introducing the Arabic script is employed for the transcription of Javanese, telling the story of the prophet using the method of watching videos and retelling. At the beginning and end of TPQ

activities, it is a routine for children to read prayers together. In terms of implementation time, TPQ is held from Monday to Thursday at 4-5 PM. The following is a further explanation of the activity:



Figure 1. Prayer together before the start of the lesson

Introducing the Qur'an early on is the main and first step before learning other sciences. It is mandatory for every Muslim to instill the values of the Qur'an, so that there is a special time to learn to read the Qur'an, whether taught by parents, teachers at school or other institutions. The ability to read the Qur'an, usually known as recitation, is the initial process in understanding the content or content of the Qur'an. Therefore, in this service activity at TPQ Nurul Iman, there is a work program, namely learning to read the Qur'an. This activity was attended by approximately 20 children with 5 teachers (community service members). The development obtained after the service activity at TPQ for 40 days in learning to read the Qur'an, namely, TPQ children are enthusiastic about learning to read the Qur'an until they are fluent in reading the Qur'an.



Figure 2. Learning Activities to Read the Qur'an Learning at TPQ Nurul Iman

Another work program is to learn the science of Tajweed, while the meaning of Tajweed Science according to language (etymology) is to beautify something. Meanwhile, according to the term tajwid, it is knowledge about the rules and how to read the Qur'an properly and correctly. Regarding the obligation of a Muslim in reading the Qur'an in recite the Qur'an slowly and correctly, there are several things that include the reading of recite the Qur'an slowly and correctly, namely mastery in understanding the law of science of the tajweed and the pronunciation of good and the correct way to pronounce Hijaiyah letters. These two things are a small part that needs to be considered to produce the reading of Qur'an verses with Recite the Qur'an

slowly and correctly. A Muslim is required to have the ability and understanding of the mastery of science of the tajweed and the correct way to pronounce Hijaiyah letters in reading the Quran. This is because if the reading of the Qur'an verses read is not in accordance with the law, it will cause errors where it can change the meaning of the verses read. Learning the science of tajweed carried out in service activities at TPQ is studying the laws of death and harakat tanwin (Iqlab, Ikhfa, Idzhar Halqi, Idghom Bighunnah, Idghom Bilaghunnah) and Mad Tabi'i. Learning is carried out with written media (whiteboards, books, and stationery). (Fatiya Nurul Laily, 2021)



Figure 3. Tajweed Science Learning Activities

Learning the introduction of the Arabic script is employed for the transcription of Javanese (pe.gon) the is also one of the work programs implemented. In the Great Dictionary of Indonesian (KBBI), Arabic the introduction of the Arabic script is employed for the transcription of Javanese is a writing, script or Arabic letter without symbols or punctuation, bare Arabic writing. The word pe.gon comes from the word "pego" which means deviant, this is because languages written in Arabic letters are considered unusual. Arabic pe.gon can also be called in Malay, Arabic, Answer or other regional languages using Arabic writing. The pe.gon script taught in this service activity is an introduction to the pe.gon script and writing the pe.gon script which is interpreted into Indonesian (such as the names of fruits, daily activities, and the writing of pe.gon Arabic in a book). The purpose of learning the pe.gon script is to introduce Javanese culture that is acculturated with Islam. Not only that, children are also taught how to read Arabic pe.gon properly and correctly. The enthusiasm of the children in learning new things for them can also be seen from the enthusiasm they show in learning the pe.gon script. (Siti Mahmudah Fitriani Ningrum, 2021)



Figure 4. Pegon Script Learning Activities

Reading or doing storytelling activities is the process of conveying a message to listeners without forcing or encouraging an understanding of a broader knowledge. As exemplified by the Prophet PBUH, where he told about the history of the previous ummah to the companions by taking benefits or wisdom from the historical story. In learning with the storytelling or storytelling method, children will learn to listen and learn what the storyteller conveys. Therefore, in storytelling activities, the stories of the Prophet are included, so that children can take advantage of the Prophet's stories.

The prophet's story that was carried out consisted of the genealogy and stories of the Prophet Muhammad SAW, Prophet Yunus A.S, and Prophet Sulaiman A.S. Children at TPQ were enthusiastic about the story and fairy tale activities of the prophet's stories. From the historical story of the prophet, the wisdom that can be taken is how the Prophet Muhammad PBUH fought to uphold the religion of Islam. From the story of the Prophet Jonah A.S., we can take wisdom not to abandon the commands or obligations that should be carried out as Muslims. From the story of the Prophet Sulaiman A.S., the wisdom can be drawn, namely not to be too arrogant about yourself, because above the power you have, there is still a higher power of Allah SWT (Kartini, 2024).



Figure 5. Watching and Explaining the Story of the 3 Prophets

This community service activity was carried out at TPQ Nurul Iman. There are 20 students who are active in TPQ activities, with a vulnerable age of 12-15 years. Before this service activity, there were relatively few students who attended, after this activity the students who attended increased from 6 students to 15 students.

After the service activity, students at TPQ experienced an increase in reading the Qur'an, as well as getting to know more widely the procedures for reading the Qur'an properly and correctly. In accordance with the objectives of implementing community service activities, namely in the form of assistance in learning to read the Qur'an, learning tajweed science, prayer procedures, , introducing the Arabic script is employed for the transcription of Javanese, and Islamic history (prophet stories). This activity also encourages and motivates TPQ children to be more active in learning, especially in terms of Islamic education.

4. CONCLUSION

Community Service activities carried out by students are non-formal learning assistance. The learning assistance is carried out through TPQ activities, which are based on work programs that have been made and agreed upon by TPQ administrators, mosque administrators, and related parties. The target focus of this activity is children who are learning to read the Qur'an properly and correctly. In terms of implementation, it is determined to facilitate and be a good facilitator for children in learning at TPQ, and also accompanied by TPQ administrators. With a work program that has been designed in such a way from Monday to Thursday, for approximately 40 days. Community Service that has been carried out at TPQ Nurul Iman has had a significant impact on social and religious changes in the TPQ environment. Starting from the discipline of TPQ children who began to come on time if they were late immediately apologized and did not repeat the mistake the next day, the children's reading began to be correct according to the existing laws of recitation of the Qur'an, their prayers have begun to comply with the pillars and conditions of compulsory prayer in the view of the shafi'i ulama, their interest in history has begun to increase quite significantly which initially not all children know the history of the prophets.

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