

MANAGEMENT OF PRAYER EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN AGED 7-10 YEARS FOR IMMIGRANT WORKERS IN MALAYSIA (PERSPECTIVE OF AN ISLAMIC RELIGIOUS EDUCATION EXPERT)

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ABSTRACT Prayer education management for children aged 7-10 years was a systematic and structured effort to form children's habits and understanding of the importance of praying. This education focuses on developing children's cognitive, affective and psychomotor aspects so they can perform prayers correctly and fervently. The most effective strategies for teaching prayer to children aged 7-10 years include a fun learning approach, application of habituation methods, modeling by parents and teachers, and continuous evaluation. Obstacles and challenges in prayer education for children aged 7-10 years can be overcome starting with an introduction to the basics of prayer, such as intentions, movements and prayer readings. Children taught through demonstration methods, educational games, and stories that contain spiritual values. Collaborative efforts between families, communities, schools and government in strengthening prayer education for children aged 7-10 years, act as a model in demonstrating good and correct prayer implementation. Apart from that, a conducive and supportive environment was very influential in the prayer education process for children. Prayer education monitoring carried out periodically to monitor children's development. Monitoring includes aspects of knowledge (memorization of readings and movements), attitude (awareness and sincerity in performing prayers), and skills (ability to perform prayers correctly). With proper prayer education management, it hoped that children aged 7-10 years can form good prayer habits, which will become a strong foundation in their spiritual life in the future.

Keywords: Education Management, Prayer, Children Aged 7-10 Years, Habituation, Monitoring.

1. INTRODUCTION

Malaysia is one of the countries that is the main destination for immigrant workers from various countries, including Indonesia. These immigrant workers often come with the hope of finding a better life for their families. However, in the midst of their busy lives, they are often faced with challenges in maintaining religious and spiritual values, especially for their children. According to Risdianto Hermawan (2018), one of the obligations that must be carried out in the Islamic religion is prayer, because prayer is one of the pillars of the Islamic religion. By praying 5 times a day, children will get used to being disciplined and have good character. This is because in prayer children will practice concentration, humility and patience in carrying it out. Prayer itself must be practiced from an early age, so that in adulthood it will become a necessity that will never be abandoned. Early childhood education is the most important education in this phase of life. This is in accordance with the theory put forward by early childhood experts, that early childhood is the golden age. At this age, children must be given continuous stimulation. Especially the child's five sense sensors which function to capture stimuli. In this way, children's development will develop optimally.

In the management of education for children aged 7-10 years, appropriate strategic management is needed as stated by M. Badrun, Tri Yuni Hendrowati et.all., (2023) strategic management is a series of decisions that are fundamental (fundamental) from the highest management of an organization/ company and applied throughout the life of the organization by all employees/members/individuals who are part of the company in order to achieve the stated goals. Several methods are carried out by parents, the community, and educational institutions, both formal and non-formal, so that children aged 7-10 years in their environment become a good generation. One of them is that early childhood education institutions teach character values and knowledge. From here, children get education. Remembering the importance of prayer education for children aged 7-10 years, Rasulullah SAW said;

٣٠١- وَعَنْ عَمْرِو بْنِ شُعَيْبٍ، عَنْ أَبِيهِ، عَنْ جَدِّهِ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ قَالَ: قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ ﷺ: ((مُرُوا أَوْلَادَكُمْ بِالصَّلَاةِ وَهُمْ أَبْنَاءُ سَبْعِ سِنِينَ، وَاضْرِبُوهُمْ عَلَيْهَا، وَهُمْ أَبْنَاءُ عَشْرِ، وَفَرِّقُوا بَيْنَهُمْ فِي الْمَضَاجِعِ.)) (حديث حسن رواه أبو داود بإسناد حسن).

Meaning: From 'Amr bin Syu'aib from his father, from his grandfather, he said: Rosululloh SAW said "Order your children who are seven years old. And beat them for leaving him when he was 10 years old. And separate them in their beds (Hadith Hasan. Narrated by Abu Dawud with Hasan sanad).

It is in this context that prayer education management becomes relevant. Prayer education management includes various strategies and approaches aimed at facilitating the learning and practice of prayer for children aged 7-10 years for immigrant workers. A holistic approach involving family, community, school, and technology is needed to create an environment that supports and strengthens these children's religious practices.

Thus, this paper aims to highlight the importance of prayer education management for children aged 7-10 years for immigrant workers in Malaysia. Through an integrated and collaborative approach, it is hoped that these children can maintain their religious identity and grow into spiritually strong individuals amidst the challenges of modern life. In the context of prayer education for children of immigrant workers in Malaysia, several problems that need to be identified are as follows:

1. What is the most effective way to teach prayer to children aged 7-10 years?
2. What are the challenges and obstacles in managing prayer education for children aged 7 – 10 years?
3. What are collaborative efforts between families, communities, schools and government to strengthen prayer education for children aged 7-10 years?

By formulating these problems, it is hoped that it can provide clear direction in identifying challenges and solutions in the management of prayer education for children aged 7-10 years for immigrant workers in Malaysia. Community service in the context of prayer education management for children of immigrant workers in Malaysia aims to:

- 1. Increasing Religious Understanding:** Providing parents with an effective way to teach prayer to children aged 7-10 years for immigrant workers, so that children can carry out their worship with full confidence and sincerity.
- 2. Building Worship Habits:** Encourage the formation of strong and sustainable worship habits from an early age, so that children of immigrant workers can maintain the practice of prayer as an integral part of their lives in Malaysia despite challenges and obstacles.
- 3. Strengthening Religious Identity:** Helping children of immigrant workers maintain their religious identity amidst different social and cultural environments, so that they can grow as spiritually strong individuals.

Prayer is one of the main pillars of Islam which has an important role in forming the character and spirituality of a Muslim. Children aged 7-10 years are at a stage of development where they begin to understand the concept of obligation and can be taught the practice of worship more systematically. Prayer education and management in this age range is very important to instill habits and a deep understanding of the obligation to pray.

a. Understanding Educational Management

According to Sherly, Leni Nurmiyanti, and Hery Yanto (2020) Education Management is a series of processes to achieve the goals of an educational organization through the effective and efficient use of existing resources. According to Sudadi Kasran (2023) educational management is a comprehensive guide regarding the importance of educational management in achieving learning goals. According to the Teacher Education website (2023), it explains that educational management involves joint efforts to utilize personnel and material resources effectively and efficiently to achieve educational goals.

Overall, educational management can be concluded as a systematic process that aims to optimize the use of resources in educational institutions to achieve educational goals. This process includes various management functions such as planning, organizing, implementing and monitoring, and includes important aspects such as curriculum, educators, students and infrastructure. The main goal is to improve the quality of education and achieve the desired results effectively and efficiently.

b. Understanding Prayer Education for children aged 7-10 years

To find the meaning of prayer education for children aged 7-10 years, the author can explain as follows. According to Ahmad Tafsir (2015) prayer education for children aged 7-10 years must consider the child's psychological aspects. Children at this age should be

taught to pray with a fun and loving approach, and the spiritual and social benefits of prayer should be explained. According to M. Quraish Shihab (2017), prayer education for children aged 7-10 years is an important part of comprehensive religious education. Children need to be taught spiritual and moral values through the practice of prayer, with an emphasis on understanding and sincerity in carrying out worship.

According to Muhammad Tholhah Hasan (2008), prayer education for children aged 7-10 years must be carried out in the family environment by providing direct examples from parents. Children should be invited to participate in congregational prayers and given an understanding of the meaning of prayer in everyday life.

From the opinions above, it can be concluded that prayer education for children aged 7-10 years must be carried out with a loving, consistent approach and provide a deep understanding of the importance of prayer. Parents and educators must set good examples and use methods that are appropriate to children's psychological development to foster a love and habit of prayer from an early age.

2. METHODS

To assist Malaysian migrant workers in managing prayer education for children aged 7-10 years, several implementation methods that can be used include:

a. Education and Extension:

- 1) Special Classes: Organize regular classes in migrant worker communities, focusing on basic Islamic teachings and how to perform prayers.
- 2) Workshops and Seminars: Hold workshops and seminars involving parents and children to provide a deeper understanding of the importance of prayer.

b. Practical Approach:

- 1) Direct Practice: Providing direct prayer practice training with the guidance of an ustadz or religious teacher.
- 2) Interactive Sessions: Hold interactive sessions where children can ask questions and learn through practical demonstrations.

c. Technology Use:

- 1) Applications and Video Tutorials: Develop or use applications and video tutorials that can be accessed by children and parents to learn the correct way to pray.

- 2) Online Platform: Provides an online platform for religious classes, including video calls or webinars with ustadz.

d. Mentorship Program:

- 1) Children's Mentors: Involve older teenagers or young adults as mentors for children in learning prayer and other religious knowledge.
- 2) Study Groups: Form small study groups led by mentors to facilitate shared learning.

e. Collaboration with Religious Institutions:

- 1) Collaboration with Mosques: Collaborate with local mosques to provide a place and time for children to learn and pray in congregation.
- 2) Support from Religious Organizations: Obtain support from religious organizations to provide teaching materials and spiritual guidance.

f. Family Approach:

- 1) Parental Guidance: Providing education to parents about the importance of supporting children in praying, including how to provide motivation and supervision.
- 2) Family Activities: Organize activities with the family that involve learning and praying, so that children feel supported by the whole family.

g. Social and Religious Activities:

- 1) Camp or Retreat: Host a religious camp or retreat where children can learn and practice prayer in a fun and conducive atmosphere.
- 2) Competitions and Competitions: Hold competitions or competitions related to memorizing prayers and prayer movements to increase children's motivation.

h. Creative Approach:

- 1) Educational Games: Use educational games that teach children about prayer in a fun and engaging way.
- 2) Stories and Fairy Tales: Using stories and fairy tales that contain religious values to attract children's interest in learning to pray.

It is hoped that these approaches can help the children of Malaysian migrant workers understand and perform prayer well, and make prayer an important part of their daily lives.

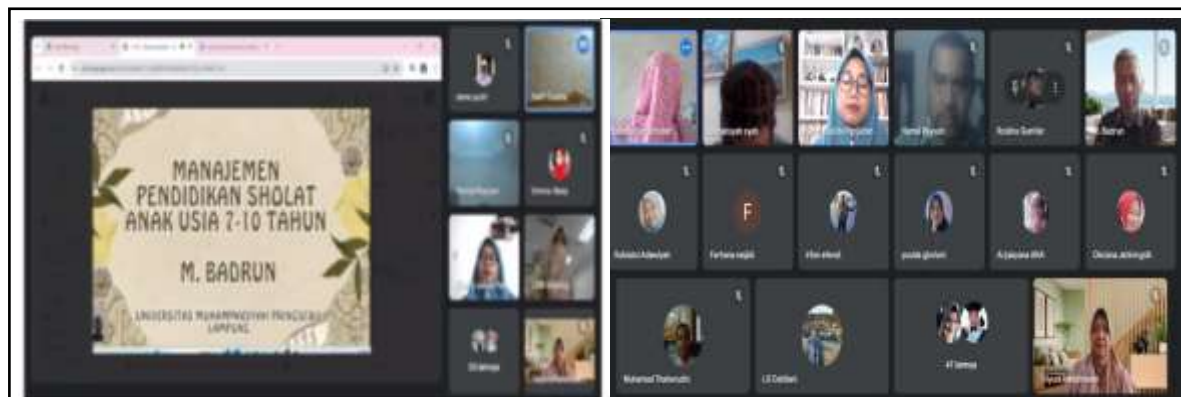


Figure 1. Presentation of PKM material by resource persons



Figure 2. Venue International Community Empowerment

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Effective Ways to Teach Prayer to Children Aged 7-10 Years

Prayer education for children aged 7-10 years is an important stage in children's spiritual and moral development. Several experts provide views on effective ways to teach prayer to children at this age, namely:

1) Abu Abdullah Muhammad bin Ismail Al-Bukhari:

According to Al-Bukhari in "Saheeh Bukhari" recorded that Rasulullah SAW said, "Order your children to pray when they are seven years old, and beat them (with blows that do not hurt) if they do not pray at the age of ten." (Hadith Bukhari 5970). This approach

emphasizes the importance of starting to introduce and teach prayer at an early age, with a stronger emphasis on discipline at age ten.

2) Imam Nawawi:

According to Imam Nawawi (t.t.) in his book "Riyadhus Shalihin", Imam Nawawi emphasized that parents must start teaching prayer to their children in a gentle and loving way. According to him, the age of seven is the right time to start teaching prayer seriously. He also emphasized the importance of parental example in carrying out prayers, so that children can see and imitate daily prayer practices.

3) Dr. Yusuf Al-Qaradawi:

According to Dr. Yusuf Al-Qordawi (2001) in his book "Fiqh of Muslim Minorities", Al-Qaradawi emphasized the importance of gradual religious education and adapting teaching methods to the child's age. He suggested that children aged 7-10 years be taught prayer in an interesting and fun way, and using a visual approach and direct practice. He also suggested using stories and tales from the life of the Prophet Muhammad SAW and his companions to inspire and motivate children.

4) Sheikh Abdul Aziz bin Baz:

According to Shaykh Bin Baz (1997), in his fatwa, he emphasized that prayer education must start early, and at the age of seven children must be regularly reminded and taught the correct prayer procedures. He also emphasized the importance of praising and rewarding children who consistently pray, as well as setting a good example as parents and teachers.

5) Dr. Aisyah Bint Muhammad Al-Hamdan:

According to Dr. Aisyah Bint Muhammad Al-Hamdan (2004) in the book "Child Education in Islam", emphasizes a loving approach and positive motivation in teaching prayer. He suggests using storytelling, educational games, and repetition to help children understand the importance of prayer. He also suggested that parents and teachers create a supportive and positive environment at home and school, so that children feel motivated to pray.

4.2 Challenges and Obstacles to Management of Prayer Education for Children Aged 7–10 Years

Challenges and obstacles in managing prayer education for children aged 7 – 10 years are:

1) Dr. H. Abdul Majid, M.Ag.

According to Abdul Majid (2015) Challenges and Obstacles in prayer management for children aged 7-10 years are;

- a) Lack of parental understanding of effective methods for teaching prayer.
- b) Lack of role models from parents.
- c) An environment that does not support the practice of prayer.

2) Prof. Dr. H. Abdul Munir Mulkhan

According to Abdul Munir Mulkhan (2012), Challenges and Obstacles in prayer management for children aged 7-10 years are;

- a) Difficulty in instilling the habit of prayer from an early age.
- b) Children who are more interested in playing activities than praying.
- c) There is a negative influence from electronic media.

3) Dr. Nurhayati Djamas

According to Nurhayati Djamas (2016) Challenges and Obstacles in prayer management for children aged 7-10 years are;

- a) Difficulty in forming children's religious character.
- b) Lack of consistency in the implementation of the five daily prayers.
- c) Challenges from an unsupportive social environment.

4) Dr. Ahmad Fauzi

According to Ahmad Fauzi (2018) Article: Challenges in Prayer Education for Early Childhood are;

- a) Lack of creative and fun educational methods.
- b) Low motivation of children in praying.
- c) Limited time for parents to accompany their children.

4.3 Collaborative Efforts Between Families, Communities, Schools and Government to Strengthen Prayer Education for Children Aged 7-10 Years.

Collaborative efforts between families, communities, schools and government in strengthening prayer education for children aged 7-10 years are an important aspect of Islamic education. Experts agree that collaboration between all relevant parties is necessary to create an environment conducive to the learning and practice of prayer. Here are some collaborative strategies identified by experts:

1) Family:

According to Abdul Karim (2010) parents have a major role in introducing and guiding their children in the practice of prayer. Parents should be good role models by praying regularly with their children.

Parents provide special time for congregational prayers at home and invite children to participate in the preparation and implementation of prayers.

2) Community:

a) Mosque and Prayer Room:

Communities through mosques and prayer rooms can hold prayer education programs for children. These can be special classes or congregational prayer activities for children.

b) Social Religious Activities:

According to Hidayat (2015), social and religious activities, communities can organize social activities that support prayer education, such as call to prayer competitions, lectures, or special studies for children.

3) School:

a) Islamic Religious Education Curriculum:

According to Syamsudin (2012), schools can include prayer education in the Islamic religious education curriculum, lessons about prayer procedures and the importance of prayer can be taught from an early age in school.

b) Practical Prayer:

Provide special times to practice prayer at school, such as dhuha/noon prayers and congregational afternoon prayers.

4) Government:

a) Policies and Regulations:

The government can make policies that support prayer education, for example by providing adequate prayer facilities in schools.

b) National Program:

According to Zainuddin (2014), Launching national programs that encourage the implementation of prayer education in various educational institutions. The government can collaborate with religious institutions to organize national prayer education programs.

5. CONCLUSIONS

In general, prayer education for children aged 7-10 years must be carried out patiently, lovingly and consistently. Parents and teachers need to be good role models and create a supportive environment so that children feel motivated and enjoy praying. Management of prayer education for children aged 7-10 years includes several important aspects that parents and educators need to pay attention to to form good prayer habits in children. Important aspects that need to be considered are as follows:

a. Phased Approach:

Prayer education must begin gradually and consistently from an early age. At the age of 7 years, children are introduced to prayer procedures, prayer readings, and the importance of prayer. At the age of 10 years, prayer discipline needs to be emphasized more.

b. Parental and Environmental Examples:

Parents and the surrounding environment must be good role models in carrying out prayers. Children tend to imitate the behavior of adults around them, so it is important for parents to show seriousness and consistency in worship.

c. Educational and Creative Approach:

Using interesting and fun learning methods can help children be more interested and understand the importance of prayer. For example, through stories, educational games, and visualizations about the benefits of prayer.

d. Rewards and Positive Reinforcement:

Giving rewards or praise when children perform prayers correctly can motivate them to continue doing so. This positive reinforcement helps instill the habit of prayer as part of the daily routine.

e. Understanding and Patience:

Parents and educators must be patient and understanding in teaching prayer. Understand that each child has different learning abilities and don't push too hard, but rather provide guidance with love.

f. Consistency and Routine:

Forming prayer habits in children requires consistency. Getting children used to praying at the same time every day and making it part of their daily routine will help children more easily remember and carry out prayers. By paying attention to the aspects above, the management of prayer education for children aged 7-10 years can run more effectively and pleasantly, so that children can understand and carry out prayers with awareness and sincerity.

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