



PKM STRENGTHENING CHARACTER THROUGH ISLAMIC COMPETITIONS FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN GOWA REGENCY

PKM PENGUATAN KARAKTER MELALUI PERLOMBAAN ISLAMI BAGI SISWA SEKOLAH DASAR DI KABUPATEN GOWA

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Abstrak

Program Kemitraan Masyarakat (PKM) ini bertujuan memperkuat karakter siswa sekolah dasar melalui kegiatan perlombaan islami. Latar belakang kegiatan ini didasarkan pada pentingnya pendidikan karakter di usia sekolah dasar sebagai fase pembentukan kepribadian anak. Metode pelaksanaan menggunakan pendekatan partisipatif dengan melibatkan siswa, guru, dan orang tua dalam berbagai lomba islami, antara lain lomba adzan, syarhil Qur'an, tartil dan hifdzul Qur'an, menghias kaligrafi, serta cerdas cermat islami. Kegiatan ini tidak hanya menjadi ajang kompetisi, tetapi juga sarana edukasi dan internalisasi nilai-nilai keislaman seperti disiplin, tanggung jawab, kejujuran, kerja sama, dan rasa percaya diri. Hasil kegiatan menunjukkan adanya peningkatan motivasi siswa dalam belajar agama, kedisiplinan beribadah, serta tumbuhnya sikap saling menghargai antar teman. Dengan demikian, perlombaan islami terbukti efektif sebagai media penguatan karakter siswa sekolah dasar, sekaligus menjadi alternatif kegiatan pengabdian yang bermanfaat bagi sekolah dan masyarakat.

Kata kunci: Penguatan karakter, Perlombaan islami, Sekolah dasar, PKM



Abstract

This Community Partnership Program (PKM) aims to strengthen the character of elementary school students through Islamic competitions. The background of this activity is the importance of character education at the elementary school level, which is a crucial phase in shaping children's personalities. The implementation method employed a participatory approach by involving students, teachers, and parents in various Islamic competitions, such as the call to prayer (adhan), Qur'anic speech (syarhil Qur'an), Qur'anic recitation (tartil) and memorization (hifdzul Qur'an), calligraphy decoration, and Islamic quiz competitions. These activities were designed not only as competitive events but also as educational media for the internalization of Islamic values such as discipline, responsibility, honesty, cooperation, and self-confidence. The results indicated an increase in students' motivation to learn religion, discipline in worship, and the development of mutual respect among peers. Therefore, Islamic competitions proved to be effective in strengthening the character of elementary school students while serving as an alternative community service activity that benefits both schools and society.

Keywords: character building, Islamic competitions, elementary school, PKM

1. INTRODUCTION

Character education is one of the essential aspects of education, aiming to shape students into individuals with noble character, integrity, and the ability to contribute positively to society. In today's modern era, the challenges of character building among the younger generation have become increasingly complex. The flow of globalization, technological advancements, and various external cultural influences often serve as factors that can weaken students' moral and religious values. Therefore, concrete efforts are needed to strengthen character values through creative, innovative, and enjoyable approaches.

Character education is a national movement that requires schools to produce an excellent young generation (Latifah, 2024). Character education can be defined as value education, moral education, ethics education, and character education that aims to develop the ability of all school members to make judgments of right and wrong, provide good role models, maintain what is good, and implement it in daily life with full awareness so that it becomes a habit (Suyato, 2023). In addition, character education can also be understood as a system of instilling character values that include knowledge, awareness, actions, and noble values with the goal of shaping a person's personality to become better through concrete and commendable actions (Sherli Pentianasari, 2022)

Religious character is one of the important aspects of human life that involves religious beliefs and practices. Religious character includes attitudes, values, and actions based on certain religious beliefs (Irma Anggi, 2025). The strategies that can be applied in schools to implement character education are: (1) teaching, (2) modeling, (3) reinforcing, and (4) habituating. These four aspects must be carried out continuously in order to create an educational environment that promotes strong character. On the other hand, in realizing this goal, cooperation is required from various components including teachers, parents, and the wider community (Santy Adrianie, 2021)

One of the strategies that can be undertaken to strengthen the religious character of elementary school students is through activities designed in the form of Islamic competitions. Through these competitions, students are not only encouraged to improve their intellectual abilities but are also



trained to develop a healthy competitive spirit, uphold sportsmanship, and strengthen their religious character, discipline, responsibility, and cooperation.

This Community Service Program (PKM) is expected to serve as a platform for students to express their talents, increase their interest in learning religion, and strengthen Islamic character values through direct experience. The competitions are held not merely as a means of determining winners but rather as a process of continuous character education. Carrying the theme “*Young, Qur’anic, Revive the Nation*,” this activity becomes an important forum in nurturing the younger generation, particularly elementary school students in Gowa Regency, to develop a greater love for the Qur’an while instilling noble values that will serve as their foundation in building the nation’s future. Through this competition, not only is Qur’anic understanding sharpened, but a strong Qur’anic character can also be developed from an early age. Therefore, this program contributes positively to supporting the achievement of national education goals, particularly in shaping a generation that is faithful, knowledgeable, and of noble character.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

The Islamic Competition Program was carried out in several structured stages. Each stage was designed to ensure that the activities could run effectively and have a positive impact on the participants.

1. The preparation stage

The preparation stage aimed to arrange all matters related to the competition, starting from the formation of the committee, drafting of the activity proposal, and socialization of the program to schools in Gowa Regency. At this stage, a technical meeting was also held with the committee and participants to provide further clarification regarding the competition as well as to confirm the participants’ readiness, so that the event could be carried out effectively and successfully.

2. The implementation stage

The implementation stage was the core activity of this competition. It was held over three days, from Friday to Sunday, September 5–7, at Pondok Pesantren Sultan Hasanuddin, Limbung, Gowa. Participants registered on Friday afternoon, followed by the opening ceremony in the evening. The competitions took place on Saturday from morning until afternoon, while the closing ceremony and announcement of winners were conducted on Sunday morning.

3. The Evaluation Stage

At this stage, an evaluation of the activities was carried out, focusing on the internal assessment of the committee’s performance as well as gathering feedback and comments from the accompanying teachers of each school regarding the implementation of the competition. This process was expected to help the committee identify aspects that need improvement and enhancement for the better implementation of future activities.



3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Islamic competition was organized by the Alumni Association of Pondok Pesantren Sultan Hasanuddin. Carrying the theme “*Young, Qur’anic, Revive the Nation*,” this activity served as an important platform in nurturing the younger generation, particularly elementary school students in Gowa Regency, to develop a stronger love for the Qur’an while instilling noble values that will serve as their foundation in building the nation’s future. Through this competition, not only was Qur’anic understanding sharpened, but a strong Qur’anic character could also be developed from an early age. The following are the stages of implementation carried out during the Islamic competition activities:

1. The opening ceremony

The opening ceremony was held on Friday at 8:00 p.m. local time at Baruga Ahmad Husein, Pondok Pesantren Sultan Hasanuddin. It was attended by all committee members, participants, pesantren leaders, and accompanying teachers from each school. On this occasion, it was conveyed that the objectives of this activity were: to enhance students’ knowledge and skills in understanding and applying Islamic teachings; to serve as a medium for strengthening relationships among students across Gowa Regency; and to create a healthy and fair competitive arena while encouraging the active role of educational institutions in fostering religious development.



The First Picture : The opening ceremony

2. The Competitions

The competitions were held on Saturday from morning until afternoon, consisting of six categories. The competitions conducted were as follows:

- a. Islamic Quiz Competition
- b. Qur’an Memorization (*Hifdzil Qur’an*)
- c. Adhan (Adzan)
- d. Qur’an Recitation (*Tartil*)
- e. Qur’anic Speech (*Syarhil Qur’an*)
- f. Calligraphy Decoration



In addition to the competitions, there were also other activities aimed at building the participants' character and strengthening bonds of friendship, such as sports, communal meals, and congregational prayers. These activities were carried out effectively as the participants stayed together at the pesantren, which allowed all programs to be well-coordinated and organized.



The Second Picture : The Competition Activities

3. The Closing of Competition

This activity marked the final stage of the competition series, during which the winners of each category were announced. This moment was the most anticipated by the participants, as they could see the results of their efforts. However, this was not the main goal of the competition. Rather, the true purpose was to train students' mentality and character, as well as to instill the spirit of *fastabiqul khairat*—competing in goodness. It is hoped that this activity brings blessings and motivates the younger generation to continue growing within Islamic values.



The Third Picture : The Closing of Competition

4. CONCLUSION

The implementation of the Community Partnership Program (PKM) through Islamic competitions has proven effective in strengthening the character of elementary school students. Various competitions such as adhan, syarhil Qur'an, tartil and hifdzul Qur'an, calligraphy decoration, and Islamic quiz contests have served as enjoyable educational media as well as a means of internalizing Islamic values.

This activity has brought positive impacts such as increasing students' motivation in learning religion, improving worship discipline, fostering a sense of responsibility, honesty, cooperation, as well as nurturing mutual respect among peers and strengthening bonds of brotherhood among elementary school students across Gowa Regency. Thus, this PKM not only provides benefits for students but also serves as a relevant and valuable community service activity for schools and the surrounding community.



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