



The significant role of muhammadiyah in the development of education in indonesia

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this research is to understand the significant role of Muhammadiyah in the development of education in Indonesia. The research method employed is qualitative-descriptive with a library research approach. This method involves a literature study, where all the materials read are ultimately summarized into a report. The data sources consist of primary and secondary data. Muhammadiyah, from its inception to its current development, has established itself as an Islamic movement that remains steadfast and consistent in carrying out dakwah (Islamic preaching) and tajdid (renewal). The spirit of the Muhammadiyah movement inspires the importance of an organizational movement that carries out dakwah across various sectors, including education. Muhammadiyah has significantly influenced the educational landscape of Indonesia with its unique characteristics. Through education, the understanding of Islamic teachings can be conveyed and disseminated. Therefore, it is undeniable that Muhammadiyah's concrete plan is to advance education in Indonesia. The research findings highlight Muhammadiyah's success in establishing numerous schools and universities in Indonesia, producing outstanding leaders in the country's government.

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Introduction

Education is a fundamental and deliberate effort to create a learning environment that shapes thinking patterns and instills moral virtues, particularly those aligned with akhlak karimah (noble character). Reflecting on the Indonesian Law No. 20 of 2003 concerning the national education system, specifically in Article 3, it is stated that national education functions to develop abilities and form the character and civilization of a dignified nation in order to educate the life of the nation. The purpose is to develop the potential of students to become individuals who are faithful and pious to God Almighty, possess noble character, are healthy, knowledgeable, capable, creative, independent, and become democratic and responsible citizens.

Muhammadiyah views active participation in the nation's life as a manifestation of its mission and function to carry out dakwah (Islamic preaching) through amar ma'ruf nahi mungkar (commanding good and forbidding evil). This mission has been a historical calling since the era of the movement, continuing through the early years of Indonesia's independence and beyond. Muhammadiyah's involvement in national life is expressed through strategic steps and tactics that align with its principles, beliefs, and ideals. These form the movement's guide and represent its commitment and responsibility to realizing a progressive Indonesia.

In establishing its educational system, Muhammadiyah ingeniously adapted elements from

Western education while integrating traditional educational values. This approach resulted in a unique system that mirrored the Western model of schooling but incorporated Islamic religious teachings into the curriculum. Unlike the traditional practice of conducting lessons in mosques or prayer halls, Muhammadiyah shifted the educational process to dedicated buildings equipped with modern facilities such as desks, chairs, and blackboards. This innovation marked a significant transformation in how education was delivered, blending religious and secular knowledge in a structured environment.

Muhammadiyah's approach to education reflects its broader mission to contribute to the nation's intellectual and moral development. By integrating Islamic values with modern educational practices, Muhammadiyah has been able to offer a holistic education that not only imparts knowledge but also shapes character. This dual focus on academic and moral education has helped Muhammadiyah produce generations of well-rounded individuals who are equipped to contribute positively to society. The organization's commitment to education is thus seen as a critical element of its broader mission to promote a progressive and morally grounded Indonesian society.

The strategic decisions made by Muhammadiyah in the realm of education have had a profound impact on the educational landscape of Indonesia. By establishing a network of schools and universities across the country, Muhammadiyah has made quality education accessible to a broad segment of the population. This accessibility has not only contributed to the intellectual development of its students but has also played a significant role in social mobility and the democratization of education in Indonesia. Muhammadiyah's educational institutions have become key players in shaping the nation's future leaders and professionals, reinforcing its role as a pillar of Indonesian society.

Given the critical role that Muhammadiyah has played in the development of education in Indonesia, the researcher is intrigued to explore this topic further. The research titled "The Significant Role of Muhammadiyah in the Development of Education in Indonesia" aims to delve into how Muhammadiyah's educational initiatives have influenced the nation's educational system and contributed to its progress. Through this study, the researcher seeks to highlight the importance of Muhammadiyah's educational philosophy and its enduring impact on Indonesian society, providing insights that could inform future educational policies and practices in the country.

Method

In this study, the author employed a qualitative research method, which is rooted in postpositivist philosophy. This approach is typically used to investigate natural conditions of an object, where the researcher acts as the primary instrument for data collection. The data collection techniques utilized include a combination of triangulation, and data analysis is conducted in an inductive or qualitative manner, with the results of the research being qualitative, emphasizing meaning over generalization (Nurdin and Hartati, 2019). The research employs a library research approach, drawing on sources such as books and journals that discuss Muhammadiyah and education in Indonesia. The data sources consist of both primary and secondary data.

Relevant research that aligns with the focus of this study includes a work by Azaz Akbar titled "Muhammadiyah dalam Perkembangan Pendidikan Islam di Indonesia" (Muhammadiyah in the Development of Islamic Education in Indonesia). Another related study is by Atikah Ikbar, titled "Muhammadiyah sebagai Gerakan Pendidikan" (Muhammadiyah as an Educational Movement). Additionally, Wildan Syamsu's research titled "Peran Muhammadiyah dalam Pendidikan Indonesia pada Masa Kolonial Belanda di Yogyakarta" (The Role of Muhammadiyah in Indonesian Education During the Dutch Colonial Era in Yogyakarta) also contributes to the understanding of Muhammadiyah's impact on education in Indonesia. These studies provide valuable insights and contextual background for exploring Muhammadiyah's significant role in the development of education in the country.

Result and Discussion

Muhammadiyah's Perspective on Education

Muhammadiyah regards education as an essential vehicle for equipping individuals with the skills and knowledge necessary to navigate both present and future challenges. Education, according to Muhammadiyah, should not merely impart academic knowledge but also prepare students to tackle real-life problems by shaping their character and moral compass. This perspective underscores the importance of designing educational systems that are deeply rooted in the actual conditions of the society they serve. In an era where social and environmental conditions are constantly evolving, a well-structured educational system must be adaptable and responsive to these changes. This adaptability ensures that education remains relevant and continues to provide students with the tools they need to succeed in a dynamic world (Yusra, 2018).

Integration of Religious and Secular Education

One of the significant contributions of Muhammadiyah to the Indonesian educational landscape is its innovative approach to curriculum development. Muhammadiyah has successfully integrated Islamic religious education into general school curricula while also introducing secular subjects into religious schools. This dual approach ensures that students receive a well-rounded education that balances religious teachings with modern knowledge. By incorporating elements of both religious and secular education, Muhammadiyah has created a unique educational model that addresses the spiritual and intellectual needs of students. This model not only enriches the learning experience but also prepares students to engage with the broader world while maintaining their religious identity (Aydrus, 2022).

The Evolution of Muhammadiyah's Educational Institutions

Muhammadiyah's journey in the field of education is marked by a commitment to continuous improvement and innovation. Drawing inspiration from Western educational models while staying true to Islamic principles, Muhammadiyah established schools that combined modern pedagogical practices with religious instruction. Unlike traditional learning settings that were often confined to mosques or prayer halls, Muhammadiyah's schools were housed in dedicated buildings equipped with modern facilities. This shift in the educational environment facilitated a more structured and effective learning process, where students could benefit from a comprehensive education that included both religious and secular subjects. The establishment of these schools marked a significant step forward in the modernization of Islamic education in Indonesia.

The Impact of Muhammadiyah on National Education

Muhammadiyah's contributions to education have had a profound impact on the development of the national education system in Indonesia. The organization's focus on creating a balanced curriculum that integrates religious and secular education has set a benchmark for other educational institutions in the country. Muhammadiyah's educational philosophy, which emphasizes character development alongside academic achievement, has helped shape generations of Indonesians who are not only knowledgeable but also morally grounded. This approach has resonated with many in the country, leading to widespread adoption of similar educational models across Indonesia.

Quantitative Growth in Muhammadiyah's Educational Network

The growth of Muhammadiyah's educational institutions over the years is a testament to the success of its educational philosophy. According to data from the Central Leadership of Muhammadiyah, the number of schools and universities under its management has seen a significant increase. From 2,896 elementary schools, 1,713 junior high schools, 929 senior high schools, 55 Islamic boarding schools, and 132 universities in the year 2000, the numbers have continued to rise. By 2010, Muhammadiyah was overseeing 2,604 elementary schools, 1,722 junior high schools, 965 senior high schools, 67 Islamic boarding schools, and 151 universities. This steady growth highlights Muhammadiyah's commitment to expanding access to quality education across Indonesia.

The Continued Expansion of Muhammadiyah's Educational Institutions

The expansion of Muhammadiyah's educational network did not stop at the turn of the century. The organization has continued to grow, with the most recent data showing an increase in the number of institutions it manages. Today, Muhammadiyah operates 2,604 elementary schools, 1,772 junior high schools, 1,143 senior high schools, 67 Islamic boarding schools, and 172 universities. This expansion is not just a matter of numbers; it reflects Muhammadiyah's dedication to meeting the growing educational needs of Indonesia's population. The organization's ability to establish and maintain such a vast network of educational institutions speaks to its effectiveness in promoting education that is both modern and rooted in Islamic values.

Challenges in Maintaining Educational Quality

While the quantitative growth of Muhammadiyah's educational institutions is impressive, it also brings with it significant challenges. The primary challenge is ensuring that the quality of education keeps pace with the expansion in the number of schools and universities. As Muhammadiyah continues to grow, it must focus on maintaining high educational standards and ensuring that its institutions remain competitive and relevant. This involves continuous curriculum development, teacher training, and the adoption of innovative teaching methods. Muhammadiyah must also ensure that its schools and universities provide an education that prepares students for the demands of the modern world while staying true to Islamic values.

Muhammadiyah's Role in Shaping Indonesian Governance

The impact of Muhammadiyah's educational efforts extends beyond the classroom and into the sphere of national governance. Many of Indonesia's leaders, including prominent figures in the government, are products of Muhammadiyah's educational system. Alumni such as KH. Agus Salim, Prof. Dr. H. Haedar Natsir, Prof. Dr. H. Abdul Muthi', and Dahnil Anzar Simanjuntak have played significant roles in shaping the direction of the nation. These leaders embody the values instilled in them through their education at Muhammadiyah institutions, demonstrating the organization's success in producing individuals who are not only knowledgeable but also committed to the betterment of society.

The Influence of Muhammadiyah on Islamic Education

Muhammadiyah's approach to education has had a lasting influence on Islamic education in Indonesia. By integrating secular knowledge into religious education, Muhammadiyah has helped modernize Islamic education and make it more relevant to the needs of contemporary society. This approach has been widely adopted by other Islamic educational institutions in the country, further cementing Muhammadiyah's role as a leader in the field of education. The organization's emphasis on character development, intellectual growth, and moral integrity has set a standard for Islamic education that continues to inspire educators and students alike.

The Future of Muhammadiyah's Educational Mission

Looking ahead, Muhammadiyah's educational mission remains as relevant as ever. As Indonesia continues to develop, the need for quality education that balances religious values with modern knowledge will only grow. Muhammadiyah is well-positioned to meet this need, with its extensive network of schools and universities and its proven track record of educational excellence. However, the organization must remain vigilant in addressing the challenges that come with growth, particularly in maintaining the quality of education and adapting to the changing needs of society. By staying true to its principles while embracing innovation, Muhammadiyah can continue to play a vital role in shaping the future of education in Indonesia.

Conclusion

Based on the discussion above, it can be concluded that the emergence of the Muhammadiyah organization in Indonesia as a movement for the promotion of good and the prevention of evil was both a response to Dutch colonial rule and an effort to uphold Islamic teachings rooted in the Qur'an and Sunnah. Muhammadiyah was established with the goal of eradicating poverty and ignorance, with a particular focus on the field of education. The

organization has made significant contributions to the development of education in Indonesia, successfully establishing numerous schools and universities, and producing outstanding leaders who have played key roles in the Indonesian government. Through its efforts, Muhammadiyah has become a vital force in advancing both education and Islamic values in the country.

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