



## The Use of Interactive Learning Methods in Islamic Religious Education to Increase Student Participation

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### ABSTRACT

This study discusses the application of interactive learning methods in Islamic Religious Education (PAI) to improve student participation and understanding. With approaches such as group discussions, educational games, and the use of technology, students become more involved and understand the material better. The results of the study showed a significant increase in student participation and understanding after implementing interactive methods. However, challenges such as technological limitations and differences in student abilities need to be overcome. Support from teachers and schools is essential for the successful implementation of this method in PAI

## INTRODUCTION

In the world of education, learning methods play a role in factors that greatly determine the success of the teaching and learning process. Along with the development of technology and changes in the mindset of the younger generation, the need to implement more interactive and innovative learning methods is becoming increasingly urgent (Maghfiroh & Hanafi. 2023). Interactive learning, which encourages active student participation through discussion, collaboration, and the use of digital media, has been shown to increase student motivation and participation in various lessons.

One of the important implementations in teaching Islamic Education is the application of interactive and fun methods. This method plays a crucial role in encouraging student involvement in the learning process and in shaping their character. This approach emphasizes the use of information and communication technology, as well as other media such as graphics, video, and audio, to make it easier for students to understand Islamic concepts more clearly. One example of the application of interactive and interesting teaching methods is through the development of educational games that challenge students (Oktavia & Khotimah. 2023).

Through this game, students can learn while playing, which can increase their interest and confidence in the learning process. In this way, it is hoped that students can better understand Islamic concepts comprehensively and automatically improve their learning outcomes. However, the application of interactive and fun Islamic teaching methods faces several challenges. One of the main challenges is limited access to technology. and infrastructure, which can affect the effectiveness of these teaching methods. Not all schools or learning centers have adequate internet connections or the necessary technology, such as computers and interactive whiteboards. This can lead to a learning gap between schools that have adequate facilities and those that do not. In addition, there are also issues related to the quality of learning materials that may not be in accordance with the applicable curriculum. This can hinder students' understanding and make them doubtful in understanding the Islamic concepts being taught, thus disrupting their understanding and perseverance in this field. In addition, there are also other challenges related to the teacher's approach in implementing interactive teaching methods.

However, the implementation of this method in the context of Islamic Religious Education still faces various challenges, such as lack of resources, time constraints, and resistance to changes in traditional learning methods.

In this context, it is important to explore how interactive learning methods can be effectively implemented in Islamic Religious Education to increase student engagement. This study aims to examine strategies that can be used by educators in integrating interactive methods in religious learning, as well as identifying the positive impacts generated on student participation and understanding. Thus, it is hoped that this study can make a significant contribution to improving the quality of religious education in schools.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

Islamic Religious Education, as one of the important fields in the education system in Indonesia, must also adapt to this development. Given the complexity of the material taught, especially related to moral and spiritual values, the application of interactive learning methods can be a solution to ensure that students not only master religious concepts theoretically, but can also apply them in everyday life (Mufidah. 2024).

## METHODOLOGY

This study is an example of a qualitative study that aims to identify the implementation of interactive and interesting Islamic Religious Education (PAI) teaching methods in Junior High Schools. This study was conducted by involving one of the teachers, Nabilah A. Akrom, Lc., M.A. The main data sources in this study were obtained through observation and interviews. Observations were carried out to collect data related to the implementation of PAI learning methods that are designed to be interactive and fun.

In this case, the application of interactive learning methods in PAI is very important to increase student participation. This method not only encourages active student involvement in the learning process, but also helps them understand and internalize Islamic teachings more deeply. By using an interactive and fun approach, such as group discussions, educational games, and the use of interactive media, students become more interested and motivated to actively participate in learning. Ultimately, this can deepen their understanding of the material and support character formation that is in line with Islamic values.

The application of interactive learning methods in Islamic Religious Education (PAI) plays a significant role in increasing student involvement. This method not only makes learning more interesting and fun, but also encourages students to be more active in participating in the learning process. With an interactive approach, such as the use of technology, visual media, and educational games, students are more encouraged to participate directly, both in discussions and in other learning activities.

Previous research also supports the effectiveness of this method in increasing students' knowledge of Islamic teachings, as well as fostering their motivation and interest in learning. In addition, interactive methods help in the formation of more positive student character and attitudes. However, challenges such as limited access to technology and the quality of learning materials that are not in accordance with the curriculum need to be considered to ensure that all students can benefit from this interactive learning method. Thus, the implementation of appropriate interactive methods can significantly increase student participation in Islamic Religious Education learning.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **1. Implementation of Interactive Learning Methods in Islamic Religious Education**

Interactive and engaging learning methods can optimize the use of games, daily life simulations, interactive media, cooperative learning activities, and debates and discussions to increase student interest and participation.

This program aims to make Islamic Religious Education (PAI) materials more applicable and relevant to students' daily lives, thereby helping them understand and apply the lessons taught. Overall, this approach aims to develop students' character, not only intellectually, but also morally and spiritually, which can ultimately produce individuals who have a positive impact on society (Noor Fauzi. 2023).

Based on interviews conducted with teachers, the resource person, Mrs. Nabilah A. Akrom, Lc., MA, explained how to form students' character through Islamic religious learning. She stated that she focuses on interactive and fun approaches, such as group discussions, educational games, and inspirational stories to teach Islamic values. The resource person also ensured that this method is effective because evaluations are carried out periodically, and students are given the opportunity to reflect on what they have learned and how to apply it in their daily lives. Finally, the resource person hopes that this education will not only form students who are academically intelligent but also have noble morals that are reflected in their actions.

Based on existing research and studies, interactive and interesting Islamic education plays an important role in developing students' character. Islamic Religious Education (PAI) does not only focus on religious knowledge, but also on developing Islamic character and ethics. Through innovative teaching methods such as group discussions, educational games, and direct practice in Islamic teachings, students are encouraged to actively participate and integrate Islamic values into their daily lives (Maghfiroh and Ilyas Rozak. 2023). As mentors and guides, PAI teachers integrate Islamic teachings into all subjects and work together with other students to support their character development.

Factors such as a conducive school environment, a curriculum designed to develop character, and active student participation in the learning process are indicators of the effectiveness of implementing PAI in forming Islamic character in students. Character education through PAI is expected to be able to produce a young generation who are not only academically intelligent, but also have good morals and ethics, which will ultimately have a positive impact on the surrounding community.

In conclusion, the development of morals, ethics, and Islamic values in Islamic religious teaching plays a key role in the formation of students' character. Interactive and fun teaching methods, such as group discussions, educational games, and inspirational speeches, are used to increase student participation and present materials that are more relevant to everyday life. Periodic evaluations help assess the effectiveness of these methods. The main goal of Islamic Religious Education is to produce students who are not only intelligent, but also have moral and spiritual qualities that are beneficial to society as a whole.

The relationship between interactive learning methods in Islamic Religious Education to increase student participation is very clear. The interactive methods applied in Islamic Religious Education have proven effective in encouraging active student participation, making them more involved in learning, and strengthening the integration of Islamic teachings into everyday life. With a supportive school environment and an appropriate curriculum, student participation increases, and character education through Islamic Religious Education becomes more effective in forming a young generation that is honest, has noble character, and is able to make a positive contribution to society.

The results of the study showed that the implementation of interactive learning methods in Islamic Religious Education in the schools studied has been quite effective. Teachers use various interactive strategies such as group discussions, educational games, and the use of digital media to increase student participation. Classroom observations show that students are more actively involved in the learning process compared to conventional learning methods. For example, during group discussion sessions, students are seen enthusiastically sharing opinions and working together to complete the assigned tasks. Teachers also integrate technology, such as Android-based learning applications and educational videos, to enrich teaching materials and attract students' interest. The use of this technology not only makes learning more interesting but also helps students to better understand the material being taught.

## 2. Student Involvement in Learning

Based on an interview with Mrs. Nabilah A. Akrom, Lc., M.A., the resource person revealed that there are several factors that support and hinder the implementation of interactive and interesting Islamic teaching methods. One of the most important factors in learning is having professional teachers who are able to manage the class well and apply innovative teaching methods. In addition, positive motivation from teachers also plays a very important role, because motivated students tend to be more involved and enthusiastic in the learning process.

Based on the results of observations and interviews, the increase in student involvement in Islamic Religious Education learning was quite significant. Students who were previously passive and less participating began to show greater interest in the subject matter. For example, in educational games involving interactive quizzes, students were very enthusiastic to participate, which directly increased the interaction between students and teachers. Interviews with teachers revealed that interactive methods encourage students to be more active in asking questions and giving their opinions during the learning process. Teachers also noted an increase in student attendance and their attention during the lesson. Students feel more interested and motivated when they are faced with challenging but fun tasks.

## 3. Obstacles and Challenges in the Implementation of Interactive Methods

Although the implementation of interactive learning methods shows positive results, several challenges also arise. Teachers face difficulties in preparing appropriate and sufficient materials to support interactive activities,

especially due to limited time and resources. In addition, not all students have adequate access to technological devices, which sometimes hinders the smooth running of digital-based learning.

Classroom facilities that support interactive learning activities are also an important factor. However, obstacles that are often faced include differences in student ability levels, which require individual attention in the learning process. In addition, limited time allocation is a challenge, especially in implementing teaching methods that require more interaction and activity. Therefore, an appropriate strategy is needed to overcome these inhibiting factors, so that the process of teaching Islam can run effectively and enjoyably (Sari, 2024).

Another challenge found is the difference in students' abilities in adapting to interactive methods. Students who are more introverted or less confident tend to feel uncomfortable with activities that require active participation. This requires special attention from teachers to ensure that all students can be optimally involved (Kaliwungu, K. 2023).

Thus, it can be concluded that in the context of modern education, the application of interactive and broad Islamic teaching methods is very important. Factors such as the availability of technology, teacher skills, and student participation affect the effectiveness of this method. Understanding Islamic teachings and practices is also crucial. Although this method can increase student interest and participation, there are also disadvantages, such as limited access to technology and difficulty in understanding the concepts taught.

#### 4. Impact on Understanding the Material

One of the important findings of this study is that interactive learning methods not only increase student engagement but also deepen their understanding of Islamic Religious Education material. Students who are involved in group discussions and practical activities show a better understanding of religious concepts, such as Islamic moral and ethical values (Hayatunnisa, Syahidin, S., & Parhan, M. 2024).

Analysis of the documentation of test results and evaluations shows a significant increase in students' average scores after the implementation of the interactive method. This shows that this approach is not only effective in attracting students' interest but also in helping them understand and remember the material better.

#### 5. Practical Implications and Recommendations

Based on the results of this study, several practical implications can be drawn. Islamic Religious Education teachers are advised to continue to develop and implement interactive learning methods to improve student engagement and understanding. Further training for teachers in the use of technology and interactive methods is also important to support more effective implementation. In addition, schools need to consider providing adequate facilities and resources to support interactive learning, including access to technological devices for students. To overcome challenges related to differences in student abilities in adapting to this method, teachers can use a more personalized approach and provide additional support for students who need it.

The results and discussion above describe how interactive learning methods can have a positive impact on student engagement and understanding in Islamic Religious Education, although some challenges still need to be overcome.

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The application of interactive learning methods in Islamic Religious Education (PAI) has proven effective in increasing student participation and understanding. Through interactive approaches such as group discussions, educational games, and the use of technology, students are more actively involved and show increased understanding of Islamic teaching materials. However, challenges such as limited technology, quality of materials, and differences in student abilities need to be overcome so that the implementation of this method can run optimally. Therefore, support from teachers, schools, and the provision of adequate facilities is very important for the success

## FURTHER STUDY

This research still has limitations, so it is necessary to carry out further research related to the topic of The Use of Interactive Learning Methods in Islamic Religious Education to Increase Student Participation in order to improve this research and add insight to readers.

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