Islamic Parenting and Its Role in Shaping Children's Character in the Digital Era

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Keywords	Abstract
Islamic parenting; *Children's character;* *Muslim parents;* *Digital era.*	*This study aims to examine the application of Islamic parenting by Muslim parents in shaping children's character in a digital era full of moral and social challenges. A descriptive qualitative approach was used with in-depth interviews, observation, and documentation of several Muslim families with school-age children. The results of the study show three main focuses in Islamic parenting: strengthening the value of tauhid as a moral foundation, providing good role models (uswah hasanah), and guiding and supervising the use of digital media with love and firmness. The principles of love, wisdom, and balance serve as guidelines in educating children to deal wisely with technological advancements. The conclusion of this study confirms that Islamic parenting plays a vital role in nurturing children's character to be moral, faithful, and responsible in their use of technology. These findings are expected to contribute to the strengthening of Islamic parenting practices among Muslim families and educational institutions in the digital era.*
Kata Kunci	**Abstrak**
Pola asuh Islami; Karakter anak; Orang tua Muslim; Era digital.	Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengkaji penerapan pola asuh Islami oleh orang tua Muslim dalam membentuk karakter anak pada era digital yang penuh tantangan moral dan sosial. Pendekatan kualitatif deskriptif digunakan dengan metode wawancara mendalam, observasi, dan dokumentasi pada beberapa keluarga Muslim dengan anak usia sekolah. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan tiga fokus utama dalam pola asuh Islami: penguatan nilai tauhid sebagai dasar moral, pemberian keteladanan (uswah hasanah), serta pendampingan dan pengawasan penggunaan media digital dengan kasih sayang dan ketegasan. Prinsip kasih sayang, kebijaksanaan, dan keseimbangan menjadi pedoman dalam mendidik anak agar dapat menghadapi perkembangan teknologi dengan bijak. Kesimpulan penelitian ini menegaskan bahwa pola asuh Islami memiliki peran penting dalam menumbuhkan karakter anak yang berakhlak, beriman, dan bertanggung jawab dalam penggunaan teknologi. Temuan ini diharapkan dapat memberikan kontribusi bagi keluarga Muslim dan lembaga pendidikan dalam memperkuat praktik pengasuhan Islami di era digital.

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INTRODUCTION

In the current digital era, the development of information and communication technology has a significant impact on the character development of children, particularly within Muslim families. This phenomenon has become a significant concern because easy access to digital content without supervision can hurt children's morals and personalities (Rahman et al., 2021). In Indonesia, according to data from the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (2022), the increase in cases of problematic behavior among teenagers in the digital era poses a challenge for parents in implementing parenting models aligned with Islamic values (Utomo et al., 2022).

From an Islamic perspective, the ideal parenting model should be based on religious principles that emphasize the formation of noble character and morals (Al-Ghazali, 2019). According to the Islamic education theory proposed by Al-Faruqi (2020), parents, as primary educators, are responsible for guiding their children to navigate modern dynamics with strong Islamic values. Therefore, the practical application of Islamic parenting is crucial to preserving children's character integrity amidst the negative influences of the digital era (Utomo & Pahlevi, 2022).

The application of Islamic parenting in educating Muslim children in the digital era has become even more relevant as technological developments rapidly influence almost all aspects of life. Parents play a vital role in shaping children's character, especially amid the overwhelming flow of information that can influence their behavior and thinking (Irmayanti, 2024). Islamic parenting, which prioritizes moral, ethical, and spiritual values based on the teachings of the Qur'an and Hadith, provides a solid foundation for parents to guide their children to stay on the right path, even as they live in a world increasingly influenced by digital technology. Therefore, it is essential to explore how Muslim parents can incorporate Islamic principles into their parenting models, enabling children to develop good character, noble morals, and prepare them to face the challenges of modern times (Prayatni et al., 2025).

On the other hand, the digital era, which offers various conveniences, also brings negative impacts, such as exposure to unfiltered information, dependence on gadgets, and a decline in the quality of social interactions. In this context, Islamic parenting offers added value by providing clear guidelines on how children can manage their technology use wisely (Utomo & Mindani, 2025). By instilling values such as discipline, responsibility, and honesty through an approach grounded in Islamic teachings, parents can help children strike a balance between the real and virtual worlds (Umairah, 2025). This approach focuses not only on the development of children's cognitive intelligence but also on the formation of moral character and the positive behaviors needed to navigate the increasingly complex digital world.

Previous studies have discussed parenting models in general and the impact of technology on children's development (Hussein, 2018; Ambarwati et al., 2024; Amanda et al., 2025; Nawawi, 2019). However, there is still a gap in research integrating the application of Islamic parenting, particularly by Muslim parents, in the context of the rapidly evolving digital era. Additionally, some studies have yet to explore in depth how Islamic values can be internalized through early parenting to shape the development of adaptive and responsible character in children.

This research offers a new perspective by comprehensively examining Islamic parenting as a strategy for shaping children's character in the face of digital era challenges. The analysis will be based on Islamic education theory and Kohlberg's moral development theory, which is relevant in understanding the process of internalizing religious and moral values in children (Kohlberg, 1981; Nasution, 2023). This approach is expected to make a new contribution to the literature on Islamic education and child-rearing in the modern Muslim environment.

The purpose of this study is to understand how Muslim parents apply Islamic parenting models to shape children's character in the digital era, including the challenges and strategies they use. The aim is to gain an in-depth understanding and recommend effective parenting methods for maintaining children's morals and character in alignment with Islamic values amidst the influence of digital technology

METHOD

This study employs a qualitative approach, focusing on the experiences of Muslim parents in applying Islamic parenting principles in the digital era. The research design used is phenomenology, as this approach allows the researcher to understand the meaning of the experiences directly felt by the research subjects. The study was conducted in 2025. Participant selection is conducted through purposive sampling, which involves choosing informants based on specific criteria: Muslim parents with children aged 7–15 years who are actively involved in guiding their children's use of digital technology. Data collection is conducted through semi-structured interviews, which provide informants with the opportunity to share their perspectives and experiences freely. The interviews are structured based on theoretical studies related to Islamic parenting and child development in the digital era.

In addition to interviews, non-participant observation is used to observe interaction patterns, forms of guidance, and the application of Islamic values in family daily life. Documentation, such as photos of activities, field notes, and interview recordings, is also used as supporting data. Data analysis follows the thematic analysis model, beginning with the transcription of interview results, coding, categorization, and the development of central themes. Throughout the analysis process, the researcher applies the principles of validity in qualitative research through data triangulation, expert discussions, and informant verification to ensure the credibility of the research results.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Result

1. Islamic Parenting Practices in Muslim Families

The research findings show that the majority of Muslim parents recognize the importance of applying Islamic parenting in educating children in the digital era. The parenting practices applied encompass several fundamental aspects. First, instilling the values of faith and worship from an early age is a top priority. Parents encourage children to recite congregational prayers, read the Qur'an, and understand the fundamental tenets of faith and Islam. This practice is consistently reinforced by providing a direct example from parents. Second, character development is fostered through effective communication and real-life examples in everyday life. Parents teach values such as honesty, responsibility, politeness, and empathy through stories of the Prophets, companions, and direct application in family interactions.

Third, supervision and guidance in the use of digital technology is another important aspect. Parents set clear rules about the time and content children are allowed to access on gadgets. Some families implement a digital contract system, where children and parents agree on the boundaries of technology use. Fourth, creating an Islamic family environment through shared worship routines, family studies, and activities that strengthen family bonding. Parents also use digital technology for positive purposes, such as listening to Islamic lectures, watching educational Islamic films, and using religious learning apps, as well as to provide educationally relevant rewards and punishments. Parents offer praise when children show good behavior and provide wise reprimands when children make mistakes, explaining the consequences and wisdom behind them in accordance with Islamic teachings.

2. Strategies for Character Development in the Digital Era

Character development in children in the digital era requires special strategies that integrate Islamic values with an understanding of technology dynamics. The first strategy widely applied is Islamic digital literacy, which teaches children to use technology wisely and responsibly in accordance with Islamic guidance. Parents provide guidance on the etiquette of social media use, online communication ethics, and the ability to filter information in accordance with Islamic values. Children are taught not to spread hoaxes, avoid gossip on social media, and use the internet for beneficial purposes.

The second strategy is strengthening family bonding through quality time. Despite the busyness and technological influences, parents make efforts to provide special time to interact with children without gadget distractions. Moments such as eating together, performing congregational prayers, and family vacations are used as opportunities to strengthen emotional bonds and instill Islamic values. The third strategy is for parents to set an example in using technology. Children tend to mimic the behavior of their parents, so parents need to show a good example in using gadgets in a balanced and non-excessive manner. When parents can control their own technology use, children will be more likely to follow suit.

The fourth strategy is collaboration with educational institutions and communities. Parents maintain active communication with teachers at school and in religious education settings to ensure continuity in character education at home and school. Additionally, involvement in Muslim family communities offers social support and the opportunity to share experiences in navigating parenting challenges in the digital era. The fifth strategy involves developing children's spiritual intelligence through practices such as dhikr, prayer, and reflection on nature. These spiritual activities help children grow closer to Allah and develop strong self-control in dealing with negative temptations from the digital world.

3. Challenges in Implementing Islamic Parenting in the Digital Era

The implementation of Islamic parenting in the digital era faces various complex challenges. The first challenge is children's technology addiction, which is difficult to control. Many children become overly dependent on gadgets, resulting in a reduction in time spent on spiritual and social activities. Parents face difficulties in setting effective boundaries, as technology has become an integral part of daily life. The second challenge is exposure to harmful content that is easily accessible via the internet. Despite parental supervision, children still have opportunities to encounter pornography, violence, and values contradictory to Islam through various digital platforms.

The third challenge is the lack of quality time between parents and children, often due to work commitments and technological distractions. Many parents work late into the night or are too engrossed in their own gadgets, limiting communication with their children. The fourth challenge is the influence of peer groups and social environments that do not always support Islamic values. Children are often influenced by peers with different technology usage patterns, creating conflicts between the values taught at home and practices in their social circles. The fifth challenge is the limited knowledge of parents about digital technology. Many parents are technology-averse and struggle to supervise and guide their children in using the ever-evolving digital platforms.

4. Impact of Islamic Parenting on Children's Character

The consistent application of Islamic parenting has a positive impact on children's character formation. Children raised with Islamic parenting tend to have more stable personalities, are more responsible, and exhibit good self-control. They can distinguish between right and wrong according to religious teachings, making them more selective in their use of digital technology. Honesty, discipline, and social concern also develop well in children who receive intensive Islamic character education. Additionally, these children possess high spiritual intelligence, as evidenced by good worship habits, the ability to control their desires, and a tawakkul (trust in Allah) attitude when facing problems.

Islamic parenting also contributes to building children's resilience in facing the challenges of the digital era. Children with a strong spiritual foundation are better able to cope with social pressures, cyberbullying, and the negative influences of social media. They possess positive self-esteem, understanding their value in the sight of Allah rather than from social recognition in the virtual world. However, the effectiveness of Islamic parenting greatly depends on the consistency with which it is applied and the example set by parents. When parents are inconsistent or fail to set a good example, children become confused and struggle to implement the values they are taught.

Discussion

This study focuses on how the application of Islamic parenting by Muslim parents plays a crucial role in shaping children's character in the digital era, as evidenced by the research findings. The analysis reveals that Islamic parenting encompasses not only instilling religious values such as morality, worship, and etiquette but also adapting to the challenges of digital technology, which can potentially hurt children. This finding aligns with Islamic education theory, which emphasizes the central role of parents in shaping children's morals and character through religious guidance (Al-Faruqi, 2020). This aligns with the research problem regarding the relevance of Islamic parenting in the context of modern society and the research objective of understanding parental strategies in the digital era.

Implementing Islamic parenting to shape children's character in the digital era requires a holistic approach, where parents not only act as supervisors but also as educators who provide role models for their children. One of the main principles in Islamic parenting is instilling strong religious values such as honesty, discipline, responsibility, and compassion (Riadi, 2024). In the digital world, parents must ensure that their children not only understand technology but also comprehend the boundaries of its use in accordance with Islamic teachings (Firdausi et al., 2025). Limiting gadget and social media usage time and guiding children to use technology for positive purposes, such as religious learning and general knowledge, can help children grow in a healthy and productive environment.

Moreover, parents in Islamic parenting are taught to consider the influence of the outside environment, including the child's interaction with the virtual world (Kholil, 2021). In the digital era, children are often exposed to various unfiltered information that can influence their behavior and worldview (Hairani, 2022). Therefore, from an Islamic perspective, parents must actively guide their children in selecting information that aligns with Islamic values and teach them to evaluate what they encounter on the internet critically. Parents should set a good example in their own use of technology, demonstrating how to wisely utilize digital tools and guiding children in the process of learning to use the internet for good purposes (Aryani & Lindawati, 2025).

Islamic parenting also emphasizes good communication between parents and children, including discussing the challenges children face in the digital world (Mareta, 2018). By establishing an open and understanding relationship, parents can more easily identify issues their children face, such as social media addiction or cyberbullying (Mansyur et al., 2020). In this regard, Islamic principles such as patience, empathy, and mutual respect are crucial to apply in daily communication. Parents need to listen to their children's complaints without judgment and provide constructive advice so that children feel safe and supported in navigating the challenging digital world (Selvira, 2024). In this way, Islamic parenting not only shapes children's character in moral terms but also equips them with the social and emotional skills needed to grow into mature and responsible individuals in the digital era.

When compared to previous literature, the findings of this study align with those of Muhibbin and Muzdalifah (2025), who highlight the importance of parental involvement in monitoring gadget use to ensure effective Islamic parenting. However, these findings differ slightly from those of Diasokawati (2019), who found a tendency toward an authoritarian and less communicative parenting style. This study, however, suggests the need for a more responsive and communicative Islamic parenting style to help children internalize religious values optimally in the face of the influence of digital media. Aslan's (2019) study supports this by emphasizing that a parenting style combining role modeling and adequate supervision helps develop adaptive and faithful character in children in the digital era.

The findings of this study offer practical insights for Muslim parents to adapt Islamic parenting styles to the evolving dynamics of technological development, ensuring that the character-building process is not only rooted in religion but also responsive to changing times. Furthermore, these findings strengthen the development of Islamic education theory by integrating contemporary aspects of digital media into the social family context. However, this research has limitations, including a small number of participants and a focus on a particular parenting style that may not accurately represent the full

range of parenting practices in Muslim communities in the digital era. Future research is recommended to examine the influence of broader socioeconomic and cultural factors on Islamic parenting.

The limitations of this study lie in its relatively small sample size, with only seven Muslim parents participating from a specific geographic area. As a result, the generalization of the research findings should be done cautiously, as the experience of Islamic parenting in the digital era may vary across different communities or regions. Additionally, this study employs a qualitative phenomenological approach, focusing on subjective experience aspects, which results in descriptive findings that cannot be statistically measured for causal effects. Socioeconomic factors and broader family cultural variations were also not the primary focus of this study, although both factors could influence parenting styles. Future research is highly encouraged to involve a larger and more diverse sample, and to employ a longitudinal design to observe changes in Islamic parenting styles and their impact on children's character over a longer period. A quantitative or mixed-methods approach could also be employed to enhance the validity and generalizability of the findings.

CONCLUSION

This study indicates that the application of Islamic parenting by Muslim parents plays a vital role in shaping children's character in the digital era, despite facing various complex challenges such as technology addiction, exposure to harmful content, and limited quality family time. Effective Islamic parenting involves instilling religious values and worship from an early age, fostering moral development through role modeling, supervising the use of digital technology, strengthening family bonding, and collaborating with educational and community environments. Key strategies that have been successfully implemented include Islamic digital literacy, quality family time, parental role modeling, and the development of children's spiritual intelligence through practices such as dhikr and prayer.

The research findings reveal a significant positive impact on character formation, with children raised in an Islamic parenting environment tending to exhibit stable personalities, responsibility, good self-control, and resilience in facing digital era challenges, such as social pressure and cyberbullying. These findings align with Islamic education theory, which emphasizes the central role of parents in shaping children's morals and character through religious guidance. This role must adapt to the development of digital technology. However, the effectiveness of Islamic parenting highly depends on the consistency of its application and the role modeling by parents. Therefore, there is a need to improve digital literacy among parents, as well as support from Islamic educational institutions and the formation of supportive Muslim family communities.

This study offers practical insights for Muslim parents to adapt their Islamic parenting practices to the evolving dynamics of technological development. However, it has limitations due to the relatively small number of participants and its specific geographic focus. Future research is recommended to involve a larger and more diverse sample, and to employ longitudinal or mixed-methods designs to enhance the validity and generalizability of the findings.

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