THE LEADERSHIP VALUES OF UMAR BIN KHATTAB IN ISLAMIC EDUCATION IN THE ERA OF GENERATION ALPHA

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Abstract: *This study examines the leadership values of Umar bin Khattab and their application in Islamic education for the Alpha Generation. The Alpha Generation, born after 2010, lives in an era of rapid technological development with unlimited access to digital information. As a result, Islamic religious education is often neglected, and character formation for this generation poses a challenge due to the overwhelming influence of technology. The aim of this research is to understand how the leadership values of Umar bin Khattab, including religiosity, courage, tolerance, simplicity, and hard work, can be applied to shape the moral integrity of the Alpha Generation. The methodology used is library research, analyzing literature related to Umar bin Khattab's leadership and the challenges faced by Islamic education in the digital era. The findings show that Umar bin Khattab's leadership values remain highly relevant for today's context. The values of religiosity and simplicity can help the Alpha Generation balance materialism and individualism, while courage and tolerance can foster critical and inclusive attitudes in addressing social issues. The conclusion of this study emphasizes the importance of integrating these values into Islamic education curricula to develop strong character ready to face the challenges of the digital era.*

Keywords: *Leadership, Umar bin Khattab, Islamic Education, Alpha Generation.*

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Introduction

In this era of industrial revolution, the development of the world feels very rapid in all fields, including science and technology. Technological advancements have a significant impact on society, including children. The rapid development of millennialism and technological revolution has given rise to Generation Alpha, who are increasingly connected to the digital world from an early age. Generation Alpha grows up in an era where society has become part of a global community, with unlimited access to information and technology that connects them with the entire world.

Social researchers state that Generation Alpha consists of those born after 2010, following Generation Z. Generation Alpha is raised in an environment that combines the real world and the digital world. They enjoy various conveniences, such as quick access to information, technological transformations, and other modern facilities, which encourage the development of critical thinking due to the easy access to diverse information. Generation Alpha shows a significant dependence on the internet and technology, which can shape selfish and individualistic behaviors, as well as low resilience in facing challenges. This dependence has the potential to lead to behaviors that deviate from social norms, making character development for this generation an urgent concern.

Islamic education among Generation Alpha is declining because it is often neglected. This is due to their dependence on digital devices, which makes them believe that learning can be obtained easily and quickly. As a result, their interest in deepening their understanding of Islamic teachings is diminishing. The gap between the demands of Islamic education and their daily practices is widening, risking the formation of characters that do not align with the values taught by the Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him).

As Muslims, emulating the values of leadership during the era of the Rightly Guided Caliphs is important and still relevant today, such as the example set by Umar ibn Khattab. Umar ibn Khattab, as a companion of the Prophet and the second Caliph from 634 to 644 CE, is known as a respected leader in the Islamic community. He possessed the characteristics of bravery, justice, decisiveness, responsibility, honesty, and wisdom in his leadership (Anwar & Ghozaly, 2018).

Considering the character of Caliph Umar ibn Khattab mentioned above, the author is interested in researching the leadership values of Umar ibn Khattab in Islamic education and their application in the era of Generation Alpha as a form of exemplary behavior.

Methodology

The type of research used by the author is library research, as the data sources are entirely derived from journals or documentary materials. This involves reviewing data sources that consist of literature related to the theme of the leadership values of Umar ibn Khattab and Islamic education for Generation Alpha.

Discussions

The Importance of Islamic Education for Generation Alpha

According to Nurhasanah & Richardus (2021), the generation born between 1946 and 1964 is referred to as Baby Boomers. The generation born between 1965 and 1979 is known as Generation X (Slackers or Xers). Generation Y includes individuals born between 1980 and

2000. Following Generation Y comes Generation Z, starting from 2000 until the emergence of Generation Alpha, which began in 2010. Children of Generation Alpha are very comfortable with technology because they have been exposed to it since birth and are accustomed to accessing information via the internet, as well as using technological facilities such as gadgets and computers (laptops).

According to Wieta Rahmatia (2020), the characteristics of Generation Alpha include:
1. They were born during an era of rapid technological development. Gadgets have become an integral part of their lives, and without gadgets, they would feel lost. Nevertheless, Generation Alpha is the most transformative generation.
2. Generation Alpha has a significant influence on human life, especially in the global economy. They play an important role in the global economy due to their unique consumption patterns and habits.
3. The rapid advancement of technology affects various aspects of their lives, from their learning styles and the materials studied in school to their daily interactions. Distance and location are no longer limitations, and time has become more efficient thanks to technological advancements. This situation makes Generation Alpha smarter compared to previous generations.
4.

The characteristics of Generation Alpha children are:
1. They tend to feel bossy, as Generation Alpha children prefer to give orders.
2. Generation Alpha children are not fond of sharing and often say, "This is mine."
3. They are difficult to manage and do not like being told what to do.
4. Their world revolves around smart devices.

Approaches to engaging with Generation Alpha can be carried out in the following ways:
1. Equipping them with strong religious education: From infancy, even while still in the womb, they should listen to the recitation of the holy verses of the Qur'an.
2. Emphasizing ethical values and manners: Teaching noble character as an essential part of their education.
3. Instilling a fighting spirit: To prevent children from becoming easily discouraged or bored, it is important for parents to instill a strong fighting spirit.
4. Encouraging socialization and direct interaction: Encouraging children to interact with friends, neighbors, teachers, and their surroundings, not just through gadgets.
5. Setting limits on gadget usage: Establishing boundaries for gadget use to prevent excessive dependence.
6. Accompanying gadget usage: Always monitoring and accompanying children in their use of gadgets to ensure that the apps and games they access are appropriate and safe.

Based on the characteristics of Generation Alpha and the approaches mentioned above, the selection of Islamic education methods must be applied appropriately. The goal is to ensure that Generation Alpha children do not become complacent in an instant and advanced lifestyle while still developing strong religious values and morals in their lives.

According to Dr. Aisyah Dahlan, Islamic education for Generation Alpha must be adapted to technological developments without forgetting religious values. Instilling a strong belief system is a priority, serving as a moral fortress amidst the overwhelming influence of technology. Additionally, it is important to equip Generation Alpha with critical thinking skills and digital

literacy, given their extensive access to online information. The curriculum should also be dynamic, teaching religious knowledge, general knowledge, ethics, and social skills.

In shaping a person's character, religious education plays a very important role. Religious education serves as a countermeasure against undesirable behaviors. If religious teachings are used as a guide in daily life and applied from an early age, an individual's behavior will be more controlled in facing various problems. This aligns with Allah's command, which made it the main duty of the Prophet to perfect the morals of his people. In a hadith narrated by Abu Hurairah (may Allah be pleased with him), the Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) said:

<div dir="rtl">إِنَّمَا بُعِثْتُ لِأُتَمِّمَ مَكَارِمَ الأَخْلاقِ</div>

"Indeed, I was sent only to perfect good character."

In the context of education, Islam consistently emphasizes the importance of instilling moral values and character in children. Al-Ghazali explains that the purpose of education is to draw closer to Allah, which is the measure of human perfection. To achieve this closeness, knowledge plays a crucial role. Meanwhile, Ibn Miskawaih states that although there is no specific curriculum for moral values, relevant materials can be integrated into various disciplines, as long as the ultimate goal is obedience to Allah (Rusn, 1998).

The Leadership Values of Umar ibn Khattab for Generation Alpha

As a companion who often served as a reference for the Prophet and a leader with the title Amirul Mukminin, Caliph Umar ibn Khattab left many relevant leadership lessons for Generation Alpha. These values are not only worthy of emulation but also highly appropriate for the moral challenges faced by today's youth.

1. Religiousness

Religiousness is an important aspect of character, where a person always bases their thoughts and actions on principles of divinity (Mustari, 2011). With his strong faith and closeness to Allah, Umar ibn Khattab consistently engaged in self-reflection as an expression of his love for the Creator (Pratama, 2022). In today's world, which tends to lean towards Western influences, religiousness is often marginalized. Generation Alpha should emulate Umar's steadfast faith to live in harmony with the advancements in knowledge without neglecting their spiritual connection.

2. Courage

Umar's bravery in upholding the truth is one of his defining traits. As a leader, he did not hesitate to reprimand officials, such as the commander Amr ibn Ash, who mismanaged public wealth (Marwah, 2018; Intan, 2017). Generation Alpha must also have the courage to voice the truth amidst various social deviations occurring today, such as alcohol abuse and online gambling. The courage shown by Umar is crucial for building an integrity-filled generation.

3. Tolerance

Umar ibn Khattab exemplified a very tolerant leader. He did not impose his beliefs and respected his people, including non-Muslims (Hadisaputra, 2020; Patimah et al., 2022). Generation Alpha can learn from this attitude by appreciating differences in religion, ethnicity, and opinions, as well as maintaining harmony within society.

4. Simplicity

Despite holding great power, Umar lived a life of simplicity (Oktaviana et al., 2023). He preferred a lifestyle that was not excessive and displayed humility, even during significant moments like the conquest of Jerusalem (Alkhateeb, 2016). This simple attitude stands in stark contrast to the luxurious lifestyles often adopted by today's generation. Umar teaches that living a simple and meaningful life is more valuable than pursuing worldly luxuries.

5. Hard Work

Umar ibn Khattab is known for his diligent work ethic in advocating for Islam and the advancement of the Muslim community (Pratama, 2018). He not only created innovations such as the Hijri calendar but also established an efficient government system. Generation Alpha needs to emulate this spirit of hard work to achieve maximum results in education, work, and social life.

By emulating these values, Generation Alpha can become individuals who are religious, courageous, tolerant, simple, and hard-working, building a strong moral foundation for a better future.

Conclusion

Leadership values can be seen as attitudes, actions, and words that are worthy of emulation because they provide positive benefits. These values are clearly evident in important figures in Islamic history, one of whom is Caliph Umar ibn Khattab, who serves as a model in various aspects of leadership.

For Generation Alpha, who are growing up in an era of technology and influenced by various changes, the values championed by Umar ibn Khattab are highly relevant. The leadership values he exemplified include:

- **Religiousness**, which reflects loyalty and steadfast faith in Allah that always guides his actions.
- **Courage** in upholding truth and justice, even when confronting powerful officials.
- **High tolerance** in interfaith relations, demonstrating respect for differing beliefs.
- **Simplicity**, as Umar led a humble life without excess despite his wealth and power.
- **Unceasing hard work** in fulfilling his trust and responsibilities for the benefit of the community.

Generation Alpha needs to make these values the foundation for building a strong character to face the challenges of the times, integrating Islamic principles with technological advancements in a balanced manner.

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