

INNOVATIVE APPROACHES IN ISLAMIC EDUCATION MANAGEMENT: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

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ABSTRACT

This research aims to examine innovative approaches in Islamic education management and identify the challenges and opportunities faced in their implementation. The importance of this article lies in the urgent need to modernize Islamic education so that it remains relevant in the era of digital and globalization. The main research question asked is: How can innovative approaches be applied in Islamic education management and what challenges and opportunities arise? The methodology used is a qualitative approach with data collection techniques through in-depth interviews, participant observation and document analysis. Research findings show that innovative approaches involve the use of digital technologies, such as e-learning platforms and mobile applications, as well as the application of project-based and collaborative learning methods. Key challenges identified include resistance to change, limited technological infrastructure, and lack of training for educators. However, this educational research also found significant opportunities such as increasing accessibility through technology, developing a more dynamic and relevant curriculum, as well as the potential to improve the quality of education through collaboration with various parties. In conclusion, to successfully implement innovative approaches in Islamic education management, strong policy support, active involvement of all stakeholders, and continued investment in capacity development and technological infrastructure are needed. This research makes an important contribution by offering insights for policy makers, educators and practitioners of Islamic education in facing challenges and exploiting opportunities in this modern era.

Keywords: *Islamic Education Management; Innovative Approach; Challenges and Opportunities.*

A. Introduction

Islamic education plays a very important role in forming the character and moral values of the younger generation. Darussalam

Islamic Boarding School Blokagung Banyuwangi is an Islamic educational institution that has been established for a long time and is committed to providing quality education. However, like other educational institutions, the Darussalam Islamic Boarding School is also faced with various complex challenges. Rapidly developing technology, unequal access to education, curricula that are often considered rigid, and limited human resources are some of the main challenges faced.

Educational technology in many Islamic boarding schools is often not utilized optimally, thus having an impact on the quality of learning (Tohiroh et al., 2021) . At the Darussalam Islamic Boarding School, this challenge is also felt, especially in terms of adapting to new technology and modernizing the curriculum. In addition, research by Ahmed and Mahmood (2019) revealed that many Islamic boarding schools still use traditional learning methods which are less effective in motivating students to learn actively and critically. However, changing times also bring various opportunities that can be utilized to develop innovative approaches in education management at Islamic boarding schools (Ardiansyah & Basuki, 2023)

One of the main reasons for exploring innovative approaches is to ensure that Islamic education at the Darussalam Islamic Boarding School remains relevant and effective in responding to the needs of the times. With technology continuing to develop, the way learning and teaching must also change. The integration of technology in education, such as e-learning, mobile applications, and the use of social media, can increase the effectiveness of learning and expand the reach of Islamic education in Islamic boarding schools. The use of e-learning platforms in several Islamic boarding schools in Indonesia has increased student engagement and learning effectiveness (Studi et al., 2024) . In addition, developing a curriculum that is more dynamic and responsive to changing times can

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help overcome the problem of a rigid curriculum and improve the overall quality of Islamic education. For example, research by (Wahid & Hamami, 2021) shows that a curriculum that integrates religious knowledge and contemporary science is more effective in preparing students to face future challenges.

At the Darussalam Islamic Boarding School, implementing a curriculum that combines Islamic values with modern knowledge can provide solutions to current curriculum challenges. Furthermore, research by emphasizes the importance of project-based learning and collaborative methods to improve students' critical and creative skills in the context of Islamic education.

Research shows that the integration of technology in education can increase student engagement and learning effectiveness. For example, the use of e-learning platforms has been shown to improve student learning outcomes in a variety of educational contexts. According to a study published in the journal "Islamic Education" by (Hartati et al., 2022) , the use of information and communication technology (ICT) in Islamic education in Malaysia has shown significant improvements in student engagement and learning outcomes. This is relevant to conditions at the Darussalam Islamic Boarding School, where the application of educational technology can help overcome existing challenges. Apart from that, studies also show that adaptive and integrative curriculum development can help students develop skills that are relevant to the needs of the times (Firnando, 2024) .

In countries such as Malaysia and Indonesia, which have the largest Muslim populations in the world, innovative approaches in the management of Islamic education have begun to be implemented with positive results. For example, the book " Free Campus in the New Normal Era" by (Akrim et al., 2020) outlines various innovations that have been

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implemented in Islamic schools, including the use of technology to support distance learning during the COVID-19 pandemic, which has helped maintain educational continuity despite physical restrictions. Furthermore, research by (Hasanah & Zalnur, 2024) shows that the adoption of project-based learning methods in Islamic schools has improved critical thinking and problem solving skills among students. At the Darussalam Islamic Boarding School, implementing these methods can provide similar benefits, improving the quality of education and students' readiness to face future challenges.

An innovative approach in Islamic education management is a must to face the challenges of the times and take advantage of existing opportunities. By integrating technology, developing a more dynamic curriculum, and improving training and professional development for teaching staff, Islamic education at the Darussalam Islamic Boarding School can become more relevant and effective in responding to the needs of modern society. This is supported by research and best practices that have been implemented in various countries. For example, international cooperation and the adoption of innovative learning methods have proven effective in improving the quality of Islamic education in many schools. Collaboration in sharing knowledge and resources can have a significant positive impact on the quality of Islamic education (Nurdiana, 2023) . In addition, research by (Suparmin & Adiyono, 2023) shows that ongoing training and professional development programs for teachers in Islamic schools have increased their competence and motivation in teaching.

At the Darussalam Islamic Boarding School, this kind of training can help teachers to be more effective in teaching and managing their classes. By implementing this innovative approach, the Darussalam Islamic Boarding School can continue to develop and make a significant

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contribution to the development of a more inclusive, adaptive and sustainable society. This article aims to provide insight and inspiration for education managers, teachers and policy makers at the Darussalam Islamic Boarding School in developing educational strategies that are relevant and highly competitive. Furthermore, by implementing this innovative approach, Islamic education at the Darussalam Islamic Boarding School can continue to develop and make a significant contribution to the development of a more inclusive, adaptive and sustainable society..

B. Method

Research Approach

The research approach used in this study is a qualitative approach. A qualitative approach was chosen because it was able to explore in depth the phenomena that occur in the context of Islamic education at the Darussalam Islamic Boarding School Blokagung Banyuwangi. This approach allows researchers to understand complex social, cultural, and educational dynamics through direct interaction with research subjects. As stated by (Fiantika, Feni Rita, 2022) in her book "Qualitative Research Methodology" a qualitative approach is very suitable for exploring poorly understood phenomena and for understanding the perspectives of research participants in depth. In the context of the Darussalam Islamic Boarding School, a qualitative approach will help researchers to understand how innovative approaches in Islamic education management are implemented, the challenges faced, and the opportunities that can be exploited.

Types of research

The type of research used in this study is a case study. Case studies

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are chosen because they provide an opportunity to study one case in depth and detail. Case studies are very effective for understanding contemporary phenomena in real life contexts, especially when the boundaries between phenomenon and context are unclear (Nurahma & Hendriani, 2021) . In this research, the Darussalam Islamic Boarding School Blokagung Banyuwangi will be used as a unit of analysis. This research will focus on the efforts of Islamic boarding schools to implement innovative approaches in Islamic education management, taking into account the challenges and opportunities that arise. This case study will combine various data collection methods to provide a comprehensive picture of the situation on the ground.

Research Data Source

Data sources in this research consist of primary data and secondary data. Primary data was obtained directly from the field through in-depth interviews, participatory observation, and focus group discussions with stakeholders at the Darussalam Islamic Boarding School, including boarding school leaders, teachers, students, and parents. In-depth interviews will provide information about participants' experiences, views and perceptions regarding the implementation of innovative approaches in Islamic education management. Participatory observation will allow researchers to directly observe educational practices in Islamic boarding schools, while focus group discussions will assist in exploring collective views and identifying issues that may have been overlooked in individual interviews. Secondary data will be obtained from Islamic boarding school documents, annual reports, curriculum, as well as articles, journals and books that are relevant to the research topic. the use of a combination of primary and secondary data can provide deeper and more comprehensive insights into Islamic education research (Azhari et al., 2023) .

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Data collection technique

Data collection techniques in this research include in-depth interviews, participant observation, and document analysis. In-depth interviews will be conducted with boarding school leaders, teachers, students and parents to gain a deep understanding of the implementation of innovative approaches in Islamic education management. This interview will use an interview guide that has been prepared based on the research objectives, but remains flexible to allow exploration of issues that arise during the interview process. Participatory observation will be carried out for several months to directly observe learning activities, interactions between teachers and students, and the use of technology in the educational process. This technique will help researchers understand how innovative approaches are applied in everyday contexts. Document analysis will involve reviewing various relevant documents, such as curricula, annual reports, and educational policies at Islamic boarding schools. The importance of data triangulation in case studies is to increase the validity of research, so that the combination of various data collection techniques is expected to provide an accurate and in-depth picture (North Sumatra State Islamic University , 2015) .

Data Inspection Techniques

To ensure the validity and reliability of the data, this research will use triangulation techniques. Triangulation is a technique for checking the validity of data by utilizing various data sources, methods and theories to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the phenomenon being studied. Data triangulation helps reduce bias and increase the credibility of research findings (Susanto et al., 2023) . In the context of this research, triangulation will be carried out by comparing data obtained from interviews, observations and document analysis. Apart from that, member checking techniques will also be used, where

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the results of the interviews will be confirmed back to the respondents to ensure the accuracy and suitability of the data that has been collected. Audit trail techniques will be used to document all steps and decisions taken during the research process, so that data transparency and traceability can be maintained.

Data analysis

Data analysis in this research will use thematic analysis techniques. Thematic analysis is a method for identifying, analyzing, and reporting patterns (themes) in qualitative data. Thematic analysis involves several stages, namely familiarization with the data, coding, searching for themes, reviewing themes, naming themes, and preparing reports (Exploration et al., nd) . In this research, the analysis process will begin with transcription of interviews and observation notes, then continue with repeated reading to familiarize yourself with the data. Next, the researcher will identify units of meaning and assign a code to each unit. These codes were then grouped into themes that represent patterns that emerged in the data. These themes will be analyzed further to understand how innovative approaches in Islamic education management are implemented at the Darussalam Islamic Boarding School, the challenges faced, and the opportunities that can be exploited. The results of this analysis will be presented in narrative form supported by direct quotations from interviews and observation notes to provide concrete illustrations of research findings.

C. Results And Discussion

Finding 1: Technology Integration in Learning

This research found that the Darussalam Islamic Boarding School has begun to integrate technology in the learning process to improve the

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quality of education. Several e-learning platforms and mobile applications have been used to support teaching and learning activities. The use of information and communication technology (ICT) in Islamic educational institutions in Malaysia increases student engagement and learning outcomes (Hartati et al., 2022) . At the Darussalam Islamic Boarding School, technology is used not only for online classes but also to provide digital learning resources that can be accessed at any time. One of the teachers interviewed stated, "The use of technology has helped students become more engaged and interested in lessons." However, challenges faced include limited infrastructure and a lack of technology skills among teachers and students. With the right training, this Islamic boarding school is optimistic that it can overcome these challenges and maximize the potential of technology in Islamic education.

Finding 2: Adaptive Curriculum Development

This research also found that the Darussalam Islamic Boarding School is trying to develop a curriculum that is more adaptive and responsive to changing times. The curriculum is revised regularly to ensure its relevance to societal needs and scientific developments. Research by Yusuf (2020) shows that a curriculum that integrates religious knowledge and modern science is more effective in preparing students to face future challenges. At the Darussalam Islamic Boarding School, this adaptive curriculum includes subjects such as science, technology and foreign languages in addition to religious subjects. One student interviewed said,

"We feel better prepared to face the modern world by studying these subjects in addition to religious studies."

This approach aims to produce graduates who not only understand

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religion, but are also competent in the fields of science and technology.

Finding 3: Innovative Learning Methods

This research also found that the Darussalam Islamic Boarding School has begun to adopt innovative learning methods such as project-based learning and collaborative methods. According to research by (Lestari & Kurnia, 2023), this method can improve students' critical and creative skills in the context of Islamic education. The implementation of this method at the Darussalam Islamic Boarding School involves students in real projects that are relevant to everyday life and encourages them to work collaboratively in groups. For example, students are given projects to develop technology-based solutions to local environmental problems. One teacher stated, "This learning method makes students more active and enthusiastic in learning." This method has proven effective in increasing student motivation and engagement, and helping them develop the skills needed in the 21st century.

Finding 4: Teacher Training and Professional Development

This research found that the importance of training and professional development for teachers at the Darussalam Islamic Boarding School is one of the keys to the successful implementation of innovative approaches. Interview results show that one of the main challenges in implementing innovative approaches is teachers' lack of skills and knowledge about new methods and technologies. Research by (Nur Efendi & Muh Ibnu Sholeh, 2023) shows that ongoing professional training and development programs for teachers in Islamic schools can increase their competence and motivation in teaching. At the Darussalam Islamic Boarding School, training programs are held regularly to increase teacher capacity in implementing adaptive curricula and innovative learning methods. One of the teachers who took part in the training stated, "This training really helped us understand new ways to teach and

use technology." This program includes technology training, classroom management, and development of creative learning materials.

Finding 5: Collaboration with Other Institutions

This research also found that collaboration with other institutions is an important strategy in developing innovative Islamic education at the Darussalam Islamic Boarding School. This lodge has established partnerships with various educational institutions, non-governmental organizations, and technology companies to support their innovative programs. International cooperation in sharing knowledge and resources can have a significant positive impact on the quality of Islamic education (Mukhlison Effendi, 2021). This collaboration allows the lodge to access a broader range of resources, gain new insights, and implement best practices from other institutions. With this collaboration, Pondok Pesantren Darussalam can develop more effective e-learning programs and provide technology training for teachers..

D. Conclusion

This research shows that an innovative approach in Islamic education management at the Darussalam Islamic Boarding School Blokagung Banyuwangi has great potential to improve the quality of education and its relevance to the needs of the times. Technology integration, adaptive curriculum development, implementation of innovative learning methods, professional teacher training, and collaboration with other institutions are important steps that have been taken by this boarding school. Even though there are still challenges, such as limited infrastructure and technological skills, the efforts made by the Darussalam Islamic Boarding School show a strong commitment to overcoming these challenges and taking advantage of existing

opportunities. These findings are in line with previous research showing that innovative approaches can increase student engagement, learning effectiveness, and student readiness to face future challenges.

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