

STRATEGY OF IMPLEMENTING INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY IN IMPROVING STUDENT INVOLVEMENT IN PAI LEARNING AT SMP NEGERI 3 TANJUNG BERINGIN

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Abstract: This study uses a qualitative research method with a descriptive approach, involving data collection techniques through structured observation and interviews to identify strategies for implementing information technology in increasing student engagement in Islamic religious education (PAI) learning. This study aims to explore how technology can increase student engagement in the process of learning Islamic religious education, teachers can use gamification strategies, constructivist learning and technology-based learning to increase student engagement and motivation to learn.

Keywords: Information technology, Student involvement, Islamic Religious Education learning, Learning strategies.

Introduction

In this digital era, technology has influenced almost all aspects of life, including in the field of education. The application of technology in Islamic religious education (PAI) learning has the potential to increase accessibility, flexibility and interactivity in the teaching and learning process. Various digital tools and platforms, such as learning applications, interactive simulations and multimedia resources that offer various ways to deepen understanding of Islam, both inside and outside the classroom environment.

The development of information and communication technology has now grown rapidly. One of its applications is the use of the internet in the learning process. The development of information and communication technology has a major influence on the world of education. Technological advances have been utilized by many parties. One example is the use of smartphones which have now become devices that are almost owned by all groups, from children to adults. Smartphones as a practical and portable communication medium are also used to support various aspects of everyday life.

Islamic religious education (PAI) is a process of coaching, teaching and learning that aims to instill Islamic values in students. This process includes strengthening aspects of faith, worship, morals, and understanding of Islamic laws, so that students are able to understand, internalize and apply them in their daily lives. Islamic religious education is not only oriented towards conveying knowledge (cognitive aspect), but also emphasizes the formation of attitudes (affective aspect) and behavior (psychomotor aspect) that are in accordance with Islamic principles. Islamic religious education (PAI) plays a very important role in shaping the religious identity and morality of Muslims throughout the world. As an inseparable part of the education curriculum. The purpose of learning Islamic religious education (PAI) is not only to convey religious knowledge, but also to develop attitudes, values and behaviors that are in line with Islamic teachings. (Firmansyah, 2019)

Islamic religious education (PAI) learning is the most important part of the education system in countries with a Muslim majority population. Conceptually, Islamic religious

education learning is not only focused on understanding religion, but also an effort to expand its scope in building deep moral, ethical and spiritual character. Islamic religious education also aims not only to form individuals who understand religious teachings, but are also able to apply these values in everyday life. Islamic religious education learning also serves as a basis for building an inclusive and harmonious society. Through a deep understanding of Islamic values such as justice, tolerance and compassion. This learning encourages students to become positive agents of change. This not only strengthens social ties within Muslim society, but also makes a good contribution to harmony and diversity in a global context. Thus, Islamic religious education (PAI) learning has deep meaning and relevance in general education and the formation of the character of Muslim individuals. (Rahmadani, 2024)

Student involvement is very important in the teaching and learning process in education. Student participation has a significant impact on academic achievement and student skill development. When students are actively involved in learning activities, they are more likely to understand the material more deeply. This not only increases learning motivation but also strengthens the relationship between theory and practice in the educational context. Student involvement also plays a role in creating an inclusive and collaborative learning environment, ideas can be actively exchanged in class discussions or other learning activities. (Rahmania & Hudri, 2024)

This digital transformation opens up great opportunities to improve the quality of learning, including in the context of Islamic religious education. Islamic religious education does not only aim to convey knowledge about religious teachings, but also to shape students' character and morals. Therefore, student involvement in the learning process is very crucial. This involvement includes active participation of students in learning activities, interaction with materials and collaboration with peers and teachers.

In the context of general education, information technology can be utilized as one solution to overcome various existing challenges. By integrating technology into the learning process, it is hoped that innovations will be created that can improve the quality of education. The use of the internet in education can provide many benefits for teachers in the teaching and learning process. However, in the context of Islamic religious education, the application of technology must be carried out by paying attention to religious and cultural values related to religion, such as the Qur'an, Hadith, Tafsir and Islamic history. This requires a different approach in the digitalization process. In addition, there are concerns about the potential for misuse of technology in spreading inaccurate or misleading information related to Islamic teachings. Therefore, it is very important to ensure that technology is used in a way that is in line with Islamic principles and maintains the integrity and ethical values upheld by Islam. (Isti'ana, 2024)

The strategy of implementing information technology in Islamic religious education learning can help create a more interactive and interesting learning environment. By utilizing various digital platform tools, teachers can design learning experiences that are not only informative but also fun. For example, the use of interactive learning applications such as Quizizz and Kahoot can increase student motivation through game elements. In addition, learning videos and online discussion forums can provide students with wider access to understand religious values in a deeper way. One strategy that can be applied is the integration of information technology in the direct teaching and learning process. Teachers can utilize various technological tools to illustrate religious concepts in a more visual and interesting way. Online collaboration is also an effective strategy in Islamic religious education (PAI) learning in the digital era. Through e-learning platforms or educational social networks, students can engage in group discussions, collaborative projects or online forums that expand interactions between students and increase their understanding of Islamic teachings. (Maisura et al., 2023)

In this context, this study aims to explore various strategies for implementing information technology that can increase student engagement in Islamic religious education learning. This study will also discuss the challenges that may be faced in implementing these strategies. Thus, it is hoped that this study can provide a significant contribution to the development of Islamic religious education in the digital era.

Theoretical review

1. Student Engagement Theory

Student Engagement theory refers to the concept that explains how students interact with the learning process and the extent to which they are involved in academic activities. Student engagement is seen as the most important element in achieving good learning outcomes.

Student engagement in the learning process is a very important concept in the world of education. Student engagement consists of three aspects, namely cognitive, emotional, and social engagement. Cognitive engagement relates to the level of students' understanding and thinking about the material, emotional engagement relates to students' feelings about the learning experience and social engagement includes student interactions with peers and teachers. In the context of Islamic Religious Education learning, the application of information technology can improve these three aspects of engagement by creating a more interactive and engaging learning experience. (Lathifaturrohmah AJ & Yunikawati, 2022).

2. Constructivist Learning Theory

Constructivist learning theory emphasizes that students construct their own knowledge through experience and social interaction. In Islamic Religious Education learning, information technology can be utilized to create a learning environment that supports the process of knowledge construction. For example, the use of interactive learning applications and online discussion forums allows students to collaborate and share their understanding of religious teachings, thereby strengthening the learning process.

Constructivist learning theory has been applied in various educational contexts, both formal and informal education and has been proven effective in improving students' understanding and critical thinking skills. This approach encourages students to become learners who can adapt to changes and challenges in the future. (Masgumelar & Mustafa, 2021)

3. Gamification Theory

Gamification refers to the application of game elements in non-game contexts to increase student engagement and motivation to learn. Gamification enriches the learning experience by making it more fun and engaging. In PAI learning, gamification strategies such as the use of interactive quizzes and technology-based challenges can encourage students to actively participate and compete in a healthy way, thereby increasing student engagement.

Gamification theory has been applied in various circles, including in education, corporate training and marketing and has shown beneficial results in increasing student engagement in the learning process and can motivate learning and achieve learning success. By integrating game elements into the learning process, gamification also creates a more dynamic and enjoyable atmosphere. (Fairuz Mahmud & Halim Tamuri, 2023).

4. Technology Based Learning Theory

Technology-based learning theory is an approach in education that utilizes information and communication technology to support, improve and facilitate learning activities. This approach includes the use of various digital tools and platforms such as computers, the internet,

educational applications and mobile devices with the aim of creating a more interactive and flexible learning experience according to the needs of each student.

Technology-based learning theory also emphasizes the importance of using technology in the learning process to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of learning. The use of multimedia in learning can improve student understanding by presenting information in various formats. Overall, technology-based learning theory aims to create a more interesting learning atmosphere according to students' needs and prepare them to face challenges in the digital era. (Adam & Syastra, 2015).

5. Digital Access and Justice Theory

The theory of digital access and equity highlights the importance of equitable access to information technology in education. The digital divide can affect student engagement and learning outcomes. Therefore, in implementing information technology in Islamic Religious Education learning, it is very important to ensure that all students have equal access to digital tools and resources, so that no student is left behind. The goal of this approach is to address inequalities in education and ensure that every student has an equal opportunity to learn and develop. By understanding and applying the principles of digital access and equity, education can become more inclusive and provide equal opportunities for all students to achieve their potential. (Desa & Beratan, 2021)

Method

The method used in this study is a qualitative method with a descriptive approach. Descriptive is an approach or method that aims to explain, describe and provide details about a particular phenomenon, object or situation. In the context of research, a descriptive approach is used to present a clear and detailed picture of the characteristics, conditions or relationships between variables without making changes or experiments. (Depita, 2024)

The focus of this research is to focus on the strategy of implementing information technology in increasing student involvement in Islamic religious education (PAI) learning. Data collection techniques are carried out using observation and interview techniques that are carried out in a structured manner with the object of this research. The data obtained are then analyzed through grouping, categorizing and interpreting information that has been collected through observation and interviews related to the strategy of implementing information technology in increasing student involvement in Islamic religious education learning. The final step, the researcher will draw conclusions based on the results of the research analysis.

Results and Discussion

Based on the results of the study, it shows that the application of information technology, such as the use of learning applications and learning platforms, can increase student involvement in learning activities. The use of multimedia, such as videos and learning animations will be more interesting and easier for students to understand.

Use of information technology in Islamic Religious Education learning

The use of information technology in the learning process of Islamic religious education (PAI) is not only aimed at improving the learning process, but also to improve the quality of learning and create a more interactive and interesting learning experience. Technology also changes the way of management and evaluation in PAI learning. Educational information systems can be used to monitor student progress, monitor participation and analyze data to understand learning patterns may require more attention. The application of technology in learning Islamic religious education (PAI) also faces several challenges, one of which is the

importance of ensuring that the use of technology does not reduce the essence of the religious values taught. The integration of technology must be carried out carefully and in accordance with Islamic moral and ethical values, so that it continues to support the goals of religious education. (Pratama & Adinda, 2022)

Strategy for implementing information technology in Islamic Religious Education learning in the digital era

In the face of rapid progress in the field of information and communication technology (ICT). Islamic religious learning needs to be adjusted to remain relevant and effective in accordance with the development of the times. One strategy that can be applied is to integrate technology into the learning process directly. Teachers can utilize various technological tools, such as multimedia presentations, learning videos and interaction simulations that are used to illustrate religious concepts in a more visual and interesting way. This approach not only increases students' interest in learning materials, but can also help them increase their involvement in the learning process.

The strategy that can be used in the application of information technology is the development of interactive and easily accessible digital content. Teachers can utilize learning platforms to create learning modules, educational videos or game elements that are interesting but still informative. This content is designed as a medium for conveying Islamic religious concepts in an interesting and relevant way for the younger generation in the digital era. (Alfiah et al., 2025)

Problem-solving based strategies can also be applied in Islamic religious education (PAI) learning in this digital era. Duru can provide scenarios or challenges that encourage students to apply critical thinking. This approach helps students develop critical thinking skills and relate understanding of Islam to the context of practice in everyday life.

The last strategy, namely technology-based evaluation, can improve the effectiveness of Islamic religious education (PAI) learning. Teachers can use online evaluation software to measure students' understanding, monitor their progress and provide direct feedback. By implementing various Islamic religious education (PAI) learning strategies in the digital era, educators can utilize the potential of information technology to improve the quality of Islamic religious education, strengthen spiritual and moral values and prepare the younger generation who are ready to face global challenges with courage and a deeper understanding of religious teachings. (Rahmadani, 2024)

Information technology allows students to access learning materials anytime and anywhere and provides greater flexibility in the learning process, so that students can learn according to their own speed and abilities. Online learning platforms allow for better interaction between students and teachers. Students can ask questions and get feedback directly. (Asmawi et al., 2019)

Student engagement is a major aspect in the learning process, this engagement includes cognitive, affective and behavioral dimensions that all need to be considered in designing learning. Technology-based learning models must be designed. When students are actively involved in learning activities, they are more likely to understand the material more deeply. This not only increases learning motivation, but also strengthens the relationship between theory and practice in the context of education. Student engagement also plays a role in creating an inclusive and collaborative learning environment, ideas can be actively exchanged in class discussions or other learning activities. (Vestia et al., 2012)

The results of the study show that students involved in technology-based learning will experience very significant involvement in learning compared to traditional methods. Overall,

student involvement not only improves students' academic achievement, but also provides skills, learning motivation and maximum learning outcomes.

Conclusion

Information Technology plays an important role in increasing student engagement in the learning process. The application of technology such as learning applications, learning platforms, videos and learning animations can increase interaction between students and teachers. It is important to ensure that technology is used in accordance with Islamic values and the use of appropriate strategies needs to be applied so that technology supports the development of students' morals and ethics. Gamification and constructivist learning approaches have proven effective in increasing student engagement. Equal access to technology for all students is the key to success in technology-based learning processes.

The role of teachers is very important in choosing and implementing technology in learning. Teachers must ensure that technology is used to improve the quality of learning and support the goals of Islamic religious education. Student involvement in Islamic religious education (PAI) learning is very important. Student involvement not only increases learning motivation, but also increases student learning outcomes in the learning process.

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