CHALLENGES OF ISLAMIC TEACHERS IN IMPLEMENTING THE TAHFIZ QUR'AN PROGRAM DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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Abstract: *The purpose of this study was to determine the challenges and how to minimize the challenges in implementing the Qur'an tahfiz program at Al Azhar Private Primary School Medan. The method used by researchers is descriptive qualitative method and using interview and observation instruments and data analysis using triangulation. From the results of the research obtained, the challenges faced by the teacher were the large amount of time that was missed because students did not follow the Qur'an tahfiz program on time, intermittent communication due to network disturbances, the memorization given was incomplete, some students often forgot what they had memorized or deposited. Whereas the teacher's way of minimizing these challenges, ustadz always reminded him via WhatsApp before the implementation of the Qur'an tahfiz program began, always asked students to memorize assignments before the deposit day, always reminded students via WhatsApp to repeat their memorization at home. As for the conclusion of this study, the importance of the cooperation of teachers and parents in paying attention, directing and motivating students to take part in the learning process, especially in following the implementation of the tahfiz Qur'an program from schools.*

Keywords: *Various Challenges, Islamic Religion Teacher, Tahfiz Program, Covid-19*

Introduction

Currently, the whole world is shocked by the Corona or Covid-19 virus outbreak, including Indonesia. The Indonesian government has taken a number of policies to break the chain of transmission of Covid-19. Its main policy is to prioritize public health and safety. Work at home, worship and study. According to UNESCO data, the Covid-19 pandemic threatens 577,305,660 students from preschool to secondary education levels, and 86,034,287 students from higher education. Like the policies implemented by countries affected by the Covid-19 virus, Indonesia has closed all educational activities. This allows the government and related institutions to provide other educational processes to students through distance learning or online learning or home learning with the help of parents. (Setyo Pujiastuti, 2020)

Covid-19 has had a significant impact on the education industry, and its impact is felt by all parties, especially teachers, school principals, students and parents. Due to the widespread spread of Covid-19 in Indonesia, other universities and universities (including elementary schools) were closed. With schools closing, the government has taken steps to ensure that the learning process is not out of date and that students are entitled to knowledge. Therefore, the next

government decision is that the learning process will continue, not face-to-face but online. (Mastura, 2020)

In this extraordinary situation, teachers are now required to play many roles, namely: 1) Ensuring the achievement of educational goals and achievement of academic and non-academic goals, preparing materials, and evaluating learning outcomes. 2) The teacher is also responsible for ensuring the physical and mental safety of students. 3) Provide active support and let students understand how to follow all health procedures. 4) By continuing to prioritize the promotion of student learning, now teachers must always provide emotional support to students, parents and families. 5) Teachers must be able to communicate with school principals, parents / students' families, and establish good cooperative relationships to build trust and support the educational process. (Adit Albertus, 2020)

Al Azhar Private Elementary School is an Islamic education institution that has also felt the impact of Covid-19. Learning must be done online in order to maintain the health of each student and teacher. Al Azhar Elementary School Medan has a tahfiz class program for students who are able and willing to take part in it. And this program has been implemented long before this pandemic took place, but the program continues to run, it's just that conditions have changed. Previously carried out in person or face-to-face with the supervising teachers now it must be carried out online.

With this online implementation, students are certainly at home, where the parents direct and supervise the child's learning process. And we understand that parents also have jobs that must be completed every day, whether it is in the office, the market and so on.

So from the above, the writer raises the research questions as follows. 1) What are the challenges faced by Islamic religious teachers in implementing the tahfiz program at Al Azhar Private Elementary School during this pandemic? 2) What did Islamic religious teachers do in minimizing the challenges in implementing the tahfiz program at Al Azhar Private Elementary School during this pandemic? While the purpose of the research was to find out the challenges and how to minimize the challenges in implementing the tahfiz program at Al Azhar Private Elementary School, Medan.

Literature Review

The Qur'an was revealed by Allah among the Arabs, who were mostly illiterate at that time. Prophet Muhammad SAW recommended and ordered the recitation of Al-Qu'ran verses. Although it has many characteristics and sees this phenomenon in the form of a very strong memory, it still recommends a method that is in accordance with the conditions of broadcasting and preserving the Al-Qur'an. Each time it was revealed and the experts were ordered to write in such a way that the Qur'an could always be preserved during the time of the Prophet Muhammad (Fenty Sulastini, 2019). It is very necessary to learn the validity of the Al-Qur'an, especially if you want to memorize it. Learning forums or recitation programs are also one of the supporting factors for success in reading and memorizing the Al-Qur'an. (Ferdinan, 2018)

Commemorating the entry of "Al-Qur'an" or also known as "Tahfiz Al-Qur'an" is one of the flagship programs of public and private schools. Although at first, the Tahfidz Al-Qur'an project did not appeal to education managers or parents and students. However, it is now evident that the Tahfidz Al-Qur'an project is one of the school's flagship projects. Even with the implementation of the Tahfidz Al-Qur'an plan, many of these schools are still full of needs and interests. This study puts forward the superiority of the Tahfidz Al-Qur'an plan which is carried out by schools that are the most popular schools, large schools, and the Tahfidz Al-Quran plans are usually displayed on banners, billboards, and student admissions brochures. Only the above, and then the other excellent programs it is a matter of pride for parents of students to send their children to educational institutions that implement the Tahfiz Al-Qur'an plan. They have a dream

that their children will become Muhafidz Al-Qur'an who will guide them and wear a golden crown on the Day of Judgment. (Wahyuni et al., 2019)

Currently research on tahfidz Al-Qur'an is considered very important. Currently, many Islamic educational institutions in Indonesia are promoting and developing the "Tahfiz Al-Qur'an" project. This shows that the Indonesian Muslim community is very enthusiastic about the Koran and allows their children to do the recitation. This trend is also a sign of progress in Islamic education. Although actually memorizing the Al-Qur'an is not new for Muslims, because considering the Al-Quran has been in the Islamic boarding school for a long time. (Nurul Hidayah, 2016)

Initially, the institutions regulating tahfidzul Al-Qur'an were limited to a few fields. However, after the tahfidzul Quran branch was included in the Musabaqah Tilawatil Qur'an (MTQ) in 1981, this pilot institution developed in various regions in Indonesia. This development is undoubtedly inseparable from the participation of scholars who recite the Koran, those who try to spread and advance the study of the Qur'an. (Ahmad Lutfy, 2013)

Tahfidz Al-Qur'an is a noble activity that is very useful, is one of the interactions between humans (Muslims), there is no mention of race, ethnicity, culture and nation and state. Even if it is written in Arabic characters, all Arab Muslims and people from other areas can carry out activities. In terms of preserving knowledge, one of the techniques used by classical scholars was the Koran. Today, there are many ways to determine the purity of the Qur'an. However, the rote method is still used to ensure that the Qur'an remains intact in the hearts of its followers. (Syaifudin Noer & Evi Fatimatur Rusydiyah, 2019)

In the lower class (grades 1-3), read these letters repeatedly every day. At the same time, in the upper classes (grades 4-6), memory is carried out gradually. Generally, one part per day is used. That is, the goals that are remembered each day achieve a part. Read it again and again, and you can read it again without repeating it after pronunciation. On the second day add the verse by repeating the previous day's verse. However, because each verse in the alphabet is different in length and short, the one verse a day method cannot be applied every day. If a verse is short, you will remember not only one verse, but also several verses a day. It will be adjusted according to the students' abilities and the remaining time. After memorizing the entire letter, the teacher will convey the hidden message of the letter.

When reciting the Koran, of course, students' situations vary widely. There are students who are enthusiastic about the memorization process from start to finish, some talk with their friends, some don't doubt and imitate their friends, and some make fun of their friends. Various student behavior can still be overcome by the seriousness of the teacher in carrying out their duties. For example, under adequate supervision and guidance, students walk around and alert abusive students. To find out and ensure student memory, the teacher conducts an assessment every semester and asks students to gradually improve their memory. In addition, sometimes the teacher will occasionally test the students' reading (Indra Keswara, 2017)

Method

The method used by the writer is descriptive qualitative method. A study that aims to describe events that are currently real, real, and actual (Poerwandari Kristi, 2005). The location of this research is at Al Azhar Elementary School Medan and to find out information related to the challenges of ustadz in implementing Tahfiz Al-Qur'an, the researcher chose an interview tool with the ustadz by asking questions. Then collect information from Islamic religious teachers, usually in the form of text (J.R. Raco, 2010). In addition, researchers also made observations and notes to strengthen the results of the research conducted (Albi Anggito & Johan Setiawan, 2018). For observation, the researcher went to and directly observed the school during the learning process. Meanwhile, the documentation taken by the researcher was in the form of photos of

interactions while reciting the online Quranic tahfiz. The participants in this study were seven religious teachers who directly participated in the implementation of the Alquran Tahfiz project. Each teacher will be asked a question. In data analysis, researchers used triangulation, namely testing the expression of the data carried out on the data source. Test data credibility by checking data from the same source. Then the data analyzed is the result of research. (John W. Creswell, 2009)

Result and Discussion

After the researchers conducted interviews and observations and analyzed these results. Then the results obtained regarding the challenge. First, when it was implemented, students did not follow the Al-Qur'an tahfiz program on time. Both communications were intermittent at the time of implementation, due to network disruptions. The three memorizations given were incomplete when the students deposited their memorization. Fourth, some students often forgot what they had memorized or deposited and it was evaluated when the teacher asked to read the verses that had been skipped. Meanwhile, the teacher's way of minimizing these challenges. First, the teacher always reminds him via WhatsApp before the implementation of the Al-Qur'an tahfiz program begins. The second always asks students to memorize assignments before the deposit day. The third always reminds students via WhatsApp to repeat their memorization at home.

Then the results obtained above are discussed with studies of existing research and studies. The first is about being on time. According to the results of research and discussion, the use of learning time, the use of learning facilities and motivation has a major effect on student learning outcomes. The results of the analysis show that the significance level of Fhiting is 13.433> F table 3.069 of 0.000 <0.05, so that Ho is rejected and Ha is accepted. The contribution given was 23%, and the remaining 77% was influenced by factors other than this research. (Maya Yulia Eka Putri, 2017) In addition, the results also show that learning time has a significant effect on mathematics learning outcomes, sig = 0.038. If sig = 0.00 interest in learning has a significant effect on mathematics learning outcomes. There is no real interaction between learning time and interest in learning mathematics learning outcomes with sig = 0.422. (Indah Lestari, 217)

The importance of taking advantage of free time to study, especially for high school students (SMA), because in high school, a personality has been formed, which is different from elementary school or junior high school. Middle school students can logically consider which one is most suitable for them, for example, it would be beneficial to study in their spare time. If free time is used or used to support course activities, it will help them to learn the contents of the learning process and make it easier to achieve their goals. There are still many students whose academic achievement does not reach the minimum completeness score, this may be because students do not take the initiative to study in their spare time, and students are more likely to spend their free time on other activities that do not support their interest or knowledge. (Hasana, 2017) Inability and incomprehension in time management can have a negative impact on students, namely many opportunities are wasted. Students' understanding of time management will form a disciplined person. Students must be trained in managing and allocating time each day. Good timing allows students to separate learning and personal activities. (Nurhidayati, 2016)

The second concerns intermittent communication. It is not enough just to understand and understand this knowledge, educators must also be able to use the correct communication methods and appropriate strategies in learning activities to increase the effectiveness of communication in education. In addition, educators must also be able to predict and overcome communication barriers between students and the educators themselves. Therefore, these issues are very important and deserve to be discussed and researched. (Wisman, 2017)

In learning there is communication, namely communication between teachers and students. Communication is a social process that is very important and vital for human life. It is said that

this is basic, because every primitive and modern human wants to maintain consistency in various social rules through communication. It said the reason is important because everyone has the ability to communicate with other people, which increases the chances of survival. (Masdul, 2018)

Learning is a communication process. Communication is the process of sending information from one party to another for a specific purpose. If the communication that occurs produces a two-way flow of information, namely through feedback from the recipient of the message, the communication is considered effective. The quality of learning is influenced by the effectiveness of the communication that occurs in it. Effective communication in learning is a process of transforming scientific information from educators to students, students can understand the meaning of information in accordance with predetermined goals, so as to increase knowledge and technical knowledge, and improve behavior. The teacher is the person in charge of effective communication in learning, therefore lecturers as teachers must have good communication skills in order to produce an effective learning process. (Sutirman, 2016)

Communication in education is a very important element, even playing a very important role in determining the success of schools. Educational communication is based on the interaction between students and teachers, and vice versa. Usually face-to-face courses are held during the learning process. Teachers must be able to communicate to convey information more effectively. (Khamid, 2018)

The third is about forgetting. The steps to improve children's memory are: 1) The teacher uses the media to invite children to read and recite scriptures; 2) The teacher invites children to repeat the reading; 3) The teacher invites children to play and read poetry aloud through storytelling; 4) Children - Children take a rote test and give gifts. (Ismawati, 2016)

In addition, the muraja'ah method is a method used to achieve predetermined goals by repeating the memorized sign so as not to forget and get it wrong. Repetitive memory activities are very important to maintain memory so that memories are not easily lost and lost due to forgetting, which is a natural human phenomenon. Therefore, this is where Muraja continues to remember the Qur'an. Everyone who remembers the Qur'an is actually very clear that if he does not keep reciting the Koran, his reading will be lost. It must be admitted that Qu'ran with muraja'ah are security guards, which really help one to do muraja'ah effectively by Allah's permission. (Ilyas, 2020)

There are also ways to help strengthen memory or save memorization or save it to the tahfi teacher, so that the memorized memory can be maintained properly. The application of the takrār method in reciting recitation comes from the fact that the use of the correct learning method will produce good results in increasing and increasing the level of recitation. Gradually Allah sent down the Koran so that the Prophet Muhammad's heart became strong. So the purpose of implementing the takrār method is to maintain the memorization of the Al-Qur'an and make it easier to memorize the Koran, because the Al-Qur'an has extraordinary functions, including easy to read, easy to remember and understand. In addition, the implementation of Takrar in commemorating the Al-Qur'an is closely related to the successful use of learning methods. The process of reciting "Al-Qur'an" cannot be separated from human memory. Since the takrār method can be used to reactivate past processes, they can acquire three memory functions, namely receiving impressions, maintaining impressions, and obtaining impressions. (Gade, 2014)

The fourth is about reminding. Education for students is a vehicle for providing assistance for the growth and development process to grow optimally, balanced, harmoniously, and completely or totally. In this process, one of the most important potentials is the development of children with intelligence. The ability of intelligence / thinking power is what can encourage the development of other potentials that exist in students, meaning that in this context it is what enhances thinking. The strength of students has a very important meaning for children's development towards maturity and maturity levels. So in this case, the teacher's ability to improve

thinking is a challenge that must be realized to be applied at every stage in the teaching process. (Elin Rosalin, 2008)

The requirements with respect to students mean that the teacher should be fair to students, the teacher should be a motivator for students in seeking knowledge, the teacher should pay attention to the level of development of their students, the teacher should evaluate their students. (Sumiati, 2018)

Discipline arises from the need to strike a balance between what individuals want to do and what individuals want from others to a certain extent and meet the demands of others from themselves according to their abilities and from wider development. With discipline, students are willing to obey and follow certain rules and stay away from certain restrictions. This kind of willingness must be learned and must be patiently accepted in order to maintain common interests or maintain the smooth running of school tasks. Discipline can be improved through training, supervision, and habituation so as to create an orderly and obedient situation for individuals to form individuals who can be disciplined when in school. ((Rachman & Agustian, 2016)

Conclusion

In the world of education we must realize the importance of teacher and parent cooperation and good communication between teachers and students. This will support the implementation of the Qur'an tahfiz program for special students who are still at the elementary level. When the pandemic takes place, children automatically learn from home, this is certainly a big job for teachers who teach them online and a big job for parents to monitor their children's discipline in following the process of implementing Quranic tahfiz. If this collaboration and communication goes well, it will get good results too. In addition to the challenges of Islamic religious teachers in implementing the Quranic tahfiz program, there will also be less.

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