# KOPELMA: Scientific Journal of Education and Teaching

KOPELMA: Scientific Journal of Education and Teaching

Volume 1 (2) 10 - 18 <mark>December 202</mark>4

The article is published with Open Access at: https://journal.mgedukasia.or.id/index.php/kopelma

# Improving Student Learning Outcomes through Group Discussion Methods in Islamic Religious Education Learning in Senior High Schools

Wendra Saputra, ⊠, SMA Negeri 2 Linggo Sari Baganti, Indonesia

≥ wen.vs86@gamil.com

**Abstract:** This study aims to improve student learning outcomes in Islamic religious education learning by using the group discussion method. This study is a classroom action research that uses four steps, namely planning, action, observation and reflection. The subjects of this study were high school students. The data of this study were obtained by test and observation techniques. Tests are used to measure learning outcomes and observations are used to analyze teacher and student learning activities. The data analysis technique used in this study is descriptive statistics. The results of the study indicate that the group discussion method can improve student learning outcomes in Islamic religious education learning. Thus, the use of the group discussion method can be used as an alternative to improve student learning outcomes in Islamic religious education material.

**Keywords:** Learning outcome, group discussion method, islamic religious education.

Received June 15, 2024; Accepted August 11, 2024; Published December 31, 2024

**Citation**: Saputra, W. (2024). Improving Student Learning Outcomes through Group Discussion Methods in Islamic Religious Education Learning in Senior High Schools. *KOPELMA: Scientific Journal of Education and Teaching*, 1(2), 10–18.

Published by Mandailing Global Edukasia © 2024.

#### INTRODUCTION

Islamic Religious Education learning plays a very important role in shaping the character and personality of students in Senior High School. At this level, students are in the adolescent phase which is full of challenges, both in terms of academics, social, and morals. Therefore, Islamic Religious Education functions as the main guideline in helping them understand Islamic values that can be applied in everyday life.

One of the main reasons why Islamic Religious Education is important is to shape students' morals and ethics. In a modern world full of negative influences, such as promiscuity, misuse of technology, and the decline in ethical values, religious education is a fortress that can keep students on the right track. By understanding Islamic teachings, they can develop polite, honest, disciplined, and responsible attitudes.

Islamic Religious Education also plays a role in building students' spiritual awareness. During adolescence, questions often arise about the meaning of life, the purpose of human existence, and the concept of happiness. Through religious learning, students will understand that this life has a greater purpose, namely to worship Allah SWT and become human beings who are useful to others. This awareness will help them face various challenges in life more wisely and calmly.

In addition, religious education also helps students deal with social and psychological pressures. Academic pressure, parental expectations, and environmental influences often cause stress and anxiety in adolescents. By understanding Islamic values, such as patience, sincerity, and tawakal, they can better manage their emotions and the pressures they face.

Islamic Religious Education learning also provides a deep understanding of worship in Islam. Students not only learn the theory of prayer, fasting, zakat, and other worship, but also understand the meaning and wisdom behind these worships. With a good understanding, they will carry out worship with full awareness, not only as a routine, but as a form of devotion to Allah SWT.

In addition to worship, Islamic Religious Education also teaches about social relations in Islam. Students are taught to respect their parents, teachers, friends, and society in general. The concept of ukhuwah Islamiyah (Islamic brotherhood) is also introduced so that they can live in a harmonious environment, respect each other, and help each other. This is very important in forming a good personality and making them individuals who are useful to their environment.

Religious education also plays a role in guiding students to have an Islamic mindset in dealing with advances in technology and information. In this digital era, much information can be easily accessed, including misleading information. With a good understanding of religion, students will be more selective in filtering information and using it for positive and useful things.

In addition, Islamic Religious Education learning also trains students to think critically and analytically about various social phenomena. They are invited to understand contemporary issues, such as social justice, the environment, and business ethics from an Islamic perspective. Thus, they not only become religious individuals but also have broad insights into various aspects of life.

Islamic Religious Education also contributes to instilling an attitude of responsibility towards themselves and society. Students are taught that every individual has a role and obligation in life, whether as a child, student, or member of society. This understanding will help them to be more responsible for their duties and obligations in everyday life.

In addition, religious learning also helps students develop emotional intelligence. In Islam, they are taught how to control anger, be patient, and maintain good relationships with others. These abilities are very important to help them build healthy and harmonious relationships with others.

Religious education also plays a role in building leadership character in students. The concept of leadership in Islam does not only talk about how to lead others, but also how to lead oneself to always be in goodness. By understanding the values of leadership in Islam, students will be more confident and have the initiative to do positive things in the school environment and society.

In addition, Islamic Religious Education also provides an understanding of the importance of working hard and being disciplined in achieving success. Islam teaches that success must be achieved through halal efforts and through the right process. This concept is very relevant for high school students who are preparing for their academic and professional future.

Religious education also serves as a guide in building healthy relationships between men and women. In Islam, there are clear rules regarding the boundaries of socializing so as not to fall into negative things. By understanding Islamic teachings, students can protect themselves from deviant socializing and focus more on more useful things.

In addition, learning Islamic Religious Education also provides an understanding of the importance of protecting the environment. Islam teaches that humans are caliphs on earth who are responsible for maintaining the balance of nature. By understanding this concept, students will care more about the environment and play an active role in preserving nature.

Islamic Religious Education also instills an attitude of caring and empathy for others. In Islam, it is taught the importance of sharing and helping those in need. Students who have a good understanding of religion will be more sensitive to the social conditions around them and are motivated to do good, such as giving alms, helping friends in trouble, and contributing to social activities. In addition, religious education also provides a moral foundation in making decisions. In everyday life, students will be faced with various choices that can affect their future. By understanding Islamic principles, they will be wiser in making decisions that are in accordance with the values of goodness and truth.

Islamic Religious Education also plays a role in forming a positive and optimistic mindset in facing life. In Islam, it is taught that every difficulty there must be ease and that every effort made with good intentions will be rewarded with good results. This understanding will help students to remain optimistic and not give up easily in facing challenges.

Religious education is also a means to strengthen the relationship between humans and Allah SWT. By having a good understanding of religion, students will be closer to God and feel that every step in their lives is always under His supervision and guidance. This will provide inner peace and help them live their lives better.

Overall, learning Islamic Religious Education is very important for high school students because it plays a role in forming positive morals, character, and mindsets. With a strong understanding of religion, they will not only become academically intelligent individuals, but also have good morals, positive social attitudes, and readiness to face life's challenges with full confidence. Therefore, Islamic Religious Education must be taught in an interesting and applicable way so that it can be truly applied in everyday life.

With the various benefits that have been explained, it is undeniable that Islamic Religious Education has a very large role in forming a young generation that is noble, responsible, and has broad insight. Therefore, schools and teachers must continue to develop innovative teaching methods so that Islamic Religious Education can become a subject that is liked and applied by students in everyday life.

Education has an important role for humans as a means to develop their potential. Education is also one of the main foundations that affect the resilience and progress of a nation. The educational path can be taken through formal and non-formal education. Schools, as formal educational institutions, have the responsibility to organize the learning process optimally. This is in accordance with Law of the Republic of Indonesia No. 20 of 2003 concerning the National Education System, Chapter I, Article 1, which states: "Education is an effort that is carried out consciously and planned to create a learning atmosphere and learning process, so that students can actively develop their potential to have religious spiritual strength, self-control, personality, intelligence, noble morals, as well as the skills necessary for themselves, society, nation, and state." The current learning process has undergone a transformation, where students are no longer seen only as learning objects, but are given an active role and positioned as partners in learning. In this case, students play the role of active learners, while teachers function as creative facilitators and mediators. Islamic Religious Education is a branch of science that discusses various aspects of religion, including the study of the Qur'an and Hadith, Aqidah, Morals, Figih, and the History of Islamic Civilization. This subject has an important role for students, both in personal life and in social interaction.

In addition to teaching aqidah, Islamic Religious Education also discusses various issues related to daily life. However, until now, many students still face difficulties in understanding and following this subject. The current discussion method is still considered relevant to the learning paradigm that is in line with the Education Unit Level Curriculum, this method is very beneficial for students, especially in channeling their ideas, as well as being a means of practice to increase courage in expressing thoughts and actively participating in learning activities. In addition, the discussion method is also considered in accordance with the development of the world of education, because

students still need guidance, direction, and guidance from teachers, especially when facing new material in learning.

#### **METHODS**

The method used in this study is classroom action research. Classroom action research is a research developed based on problems that arise in learning activities that aim to improve and improve the teaching and learning process in the classroom (Arikonto, 2008). Thus, the procedure for the steps to carry out this research will follow the basic principles of action research that have been commonly carried out. The approaches used in this study are qualitative and quantitative approaches.

This approach is related to improvement or efforts to improve the learning process in a classroom. A qualitative approach is a research procedure that produces descriptive data in the form of written or spoken words, as well as observable behaviors from people or sources of information. Meanwhile, the quantitative approach includes every type of research based on percentage, average, square, and statistical calculations." A qualitative approach is a research used to investigate, find, describe, and explain the qualities or privileges of social influences that cannot be explained, measured, or described through a quantitative approach. This approach is collected through observation, interviews and documentation". Meanwhile, the quantitative approach according to Juliansyah Noor (2009:8), "Quantitative research is a method to test certain theories by examining the relationship between variables".

According to Suharsimi Arikunto (2022:10), "Putting forward quantitative research requires the use of numbers, starting from data collection, interpretation of the data, and the appearance of the results". The type of research conducted is classroom action research in the field of education and learning. According to Daryanto (2014:3) said that "PTK is a combined presentation of the definitions of three words, namely Researcher, Action and Class. This research is an activity of observing an object, using certain methodological rules to obtain data or information that is useful for researchers or interested people in order to improve in various fields, action is a movement of activities that are deliberately carried out with a certain purpose which in the form of a series of periods or cycles of activities, while a class is a group of students who are in the same time and place receive the same lessons and from the same researchers"

# **RESULTS**

This type of classroom action research uses survey (field) rules that use a quantitative approach. Quantitative research is descriptive research that aims to describe existing phenomena, which take place in the present or past. Data Collection Techniques, a) Teachers' observations in teaching and learning activities from observation sheets filled out by the homeroom teacher who acts as an observer making observations to researchers who carry out teaching and learning activities; b) Observation data regarding student activities in learning is obtained through an observation sheet filled out by the homeroom teacher as an observer, by giving a check mark (checklist) on the score for each activity assessed at each meeting; c) Results of student learning tests; d) Documentation is obtained by taking photos of various student activities during the learning process.

The group discussion method is an effective learning approach to improve the learning outcomes of high school students because it is able to encourage active involvement, critical thinking, and collaboration between students. In group discussions, students are invited to exchange opinions, analyze a problem, and find solutions together, which not only enriches their insights but also trains them to appreciate different views. This discussion provides a space for students to more actively

participate in learning, so that they are not only recipients of information, but also creators of understanding through interaction with peers. In addition, this method trains students to express their ideas clearly and structured, improving communication skills that are very important at the upper secondary level.

Group discussions also help students develop social skills, such as cooperation, responsibility, and empathy, as they learn to work as a team toward a common goal. This method facilitates students to solve problems collaboratively, which strengthens their understanding of the material and encourages the application of knowledge in real contexts. By creating a dynamic and interactive learning atmosphere, group discussions can increase students' motivation, making them more enthusiastic about learning material that may have previously felt difficult or boring. In addition, by being directly involved in discussions, students can correct their misunderstandings through feedback from peers and teachers, so that their learning outcomes become more optimal. This method also fosters confidence, as students are encouraged to contribute and feel valued for the ideas they put forward. Therefore, group discussions not only improve students' conceptual understanding, but also build critical and collaborative thinking skills that are indispensable for the next level of education and future life.

## **DISCUSSION**

Group discussion method is one of the active learning strategies that involve students in the process of brainstorming, analyzing, and solving problems together. The discussion of this method includes several important aspects that support the improvement of student learning outcomes at the senior high school level: 1) Encouraging Active Participation. Group discussions allow students to be directly involved in learning. They not only listen to the teacher's explanation, but also actively convey ideas, ask questions, and provide responses. This process strengthens student involvement with learning materials, improves memory, and deepens their understanding. 2) Developing Critical Thinking, in group discussions, students are invited to evaluate various points of view and discuss alternative solutions to a problem. For example, in history lessons, students can analyze the causes and effects of a historical event from various perspectives. This process trains them to think logically, critically, and analytically, which are important skills at the senior high school level. 3) Group discussions provide space for students to practice their speaking, listening, and expressing opinions in a clear and polite manner.

They learn how to articulate their ideas well, respond to other people's arguments, and build effective communication. These skills will be useful not only in school but also in everyday life. 4) In groups, students learn to work together with others, understand different points of view, and respect differences of opinion. This helps them develop empathy and the ability to adapt to team dynamics. For example, when working in groups consisting of various backgrounds, students learn to appreciate diversity and build a sense of solidarity. 5) Group discussions create an interactive and fun learning atmosphere. When students feel actively involved, they become more motivated to learn. In addition, success in completing group assignments or understanding material through discussion can increase their self-confidence. 6) Strengthening understanding of the material, Through discussion, students can teach each other and improve their understanding of the material being studied. If there is a misunderstanding, friends in the group or the teacher can provide clarification, so that students' understanding becomes better. This process also accelerates learning because students learn from various perspectives. 7) Preparing Students for the Real World, the group discussion method trains students to face real situations where they have to work together, collaborate, and solve problems with others.

These skills are very relevant to their future professional and social lives. The discussion of the group discussion method emphasizes the importance of this approach in creating student-centered learning. By maximizing active participation, collaboration, and

reflection, group discussions become an effective tool to improve the learning outcomes of high school students holistically.

The group discussion method is one of the active learning strategies that can improve student learning outcomes in Islamic Religious Education. This method involves interaction between students to share opinions, analyze, and find solutions to problems related to Islamic Religious Education material. With discussions, students not only gain a deeper understanding but also develop various cognitive and social skills that are useful for their lives.

One of the reasons why the group discussion method is effective in improving learning outcomes is because this method encourages students to think critically and analytically. In learning Islamic Religious Education, there are many concepts that require in-depth understanding, such as faith, worship, and morals. By discussing, students can explore various perspectives, clarify their understanding, and strengthen the concepts that have been learned.

In addition, group discussions also help improve students' learning motivation. When they are actively involved in learning, they feel more responsible for their learning process. This is different from the lecture method which tends to be passive, where students only receive information without the opportunity to develop their understanding independently.

The discussion method also improves students' memory of the material being studied. When they discuss a topic in a group, they indirectly repeat and strengthen their understanding of the material. Repetition through discussion helps students to more easily remember the religious concepts taught.

Group discussions also train students' communication skills. In the discussion process, they learn how to express opinions clearly, listen to the opinions of others, and put forward arguments logically. These skills are very important in everyday life, especially in establishing good social relationships with friends, family, and the community.

In addition to communication skills, this method also teaches students to be more open and tolerant of differences of opinion. In Islam, an attitude of mutual respect and appreciation of differences is part of the teachings that must be applied in life. By discussing, students learn to accept differences with a wise and tolerant attitude.

The group discussion method also allows students to learn more actively and independently. When they are given the opportunity to find a solution to a problem, they will be more motivated to think and seek information independently. This helps them become more independent learners and not rely entirely on teachers.

In Islamic Religious Education learning, there are many materials related to daily life, such as manners in interacting, ethics in society, and other values of virtue. With group discussions, students can relate the material learned to their own experiences, so that they better understand how to apply Islamic teachings in real life. Discussions also help students build self-confidence. When they are given the opportunity to speak and express their opinions, they learn to overcome fear and anxiety in speaking in front of others. This is very useful for their personal development in the future.

In addition, this method helps improve reflective thinking skills. In discussions, students not only understand concepts theoretically, but also learn how to apply them in various situations. They are invited to think about how Islamic values can be applied in everyday life. Group discussions also play a role in increasing a sense of togetherness and cooperation among students. In Islam, cooperation and mutual cooperation are important values that must be applied in community life. Through discussions, students learn how to work together to achieve common goals.

In addition, this method also helps teachers identify students' understanding of the material being taught. Through discussion, teachers can find out to what extent students understand the concepts given and identify which parts still need to be clarified. Group discussions can also improve students' problem-solving skills. In Islamic Religious

Education learning, many life situations require solutions based on Islamic values. By discussing, students can learn how to solve problems based on the Islamic principles they have learned. In addition, this method also provides a more enjoyable learning experience for students. Learning that involves social interaction tends to be more interesting than methods that only rely on lectures. Thus, students are more motivated to learn and more easily understand the material being taught.

Group discussions also provide an opportunity for students to share their experiences and insights. In Islam, sharing knowledge and experience is one form of good deeds that is recommended. By exchanging experiences, students can broaden their understanding of Islam and how religious teachings can be applied in various contexts of life.

In addition, this method also helps students develop a critical attitude towards various religious and social issues. They are invited not only to receive information passively, but also to analyze and understand various aspects of life based on Islamic teachings.

Group discussions also provide an opportunity for students to learn from their peers. Sometimes, students find it easier to understand concepts from explanations from their peers than from teachers. With discussions, they can help each other understand difficult material.

In addition, this method also reduces boredom in learning. Monotonous learning tends to make students easily bored and lose focus. With discussions, learning becomes more varied and interactive, so that students are more enthusiastic about learning.

Group discussions also help students understand concepts more deeply. When they discuss, they have to think more deeply about a topic, look for references, and ask questions. This process helps them to truly understand the material being taught.

In addition, this method also encourages students to be more active in learning. In the lecture method, students tend to only be listeners, while in discussions they must actively participate, both in expressing opinions and in listening to and responding to the opinions of their friends.

Group discussions also provide a more contextual learning experience. In Islamic Religious Education learning, many concepts are related to real life, such as business ethics in Islam, rights and obligations in the family, and the concept of justice in Islam. By discussing real cases, students find it easier to understand the relevance of the material to their lives.

In addition, this method also helps students develop leadership skills. In discussions, they learn how to lead groups, organize discussions, and make decisions based on deliberation.

Group discussions also help students understand various perspectives in Islam. In religious learning, there are various interpretations and approaches to a problem. By discussing, students can understand that Islam provides space for critical thinking and understanding differences with a wise attitude. In addition, this method also encourages students to read and seek more information. Before discussing, they must prepare themselves by reading and understanding the material first. Thus, they are more accustomed to learning independently.

Group discussions also help build better relationships between students. When they work together in groups, they learn to respect each other more and build closer relationships. Overall, the group discussion method has many benefits in improving student learning outcomes in Islamic Religious Education. With this method, students not only understand the material more deeply, but also develop various important skills that will be useful for them in the future. Therefore, teachers should apply this method more widely in Islamic religious learning.

## CONCLUSION

Senior high school students group discussion method is an effective learning strategy to improve the learning outcomes of senior high school students because it encourages active participation, critical thinking, and mastery of communication skills. In the process, students not only understand the material more deeply, but also practice the ability to work together, respect differences of opinion, and solve problems collaboratively. Group discussions create an interactive and fun learning environment, thus increasing students' motivation to be directly involved in learning. In addition, this method prepares students with social and academic skills that are relevant to everyday life and the future, such as analytical skills, effective communication, and teamwork. With these various benefits, group discussions are a learning approach that not only enriches students' understanding of the material, but also builds essential competencies for their success in the next level of education and in real life.

# REFERENCES

- Arikunto, S. (2002). Prosedur Penelitian. Bandung: Rineka Cipta.
- Dasopang, M. D., Lubis, A. H., & Dasopang, H. R. (2022). How do Millennial Parents Internalize Islamic Values in Their Early Childhood in the Digital Era? AL-ISHLAH: Jurnal Pendidikan, 14(1), 697–708.
- Dasopang, M. D., Nasution, I. F. A., & Lubis, A. H. (2023). The Role of Religious and Cultural Education as A Resolution of Radicalism Conflict in Sibolga Community. HTS Theological Studies, 79(1), 1–7.
- Fatimah, A., & Maryani, K. (2018). Visual Literasi Media Pembelajaran Buku Cerita Anak. Jurnal Inovasi Teknologi Pendidikan, 5(1), 61–69. https://doi.org/10.21831/jitp.v5i1.16212
- Gogahu, D. G. S., & Prasetyo, T. (2020). Pengembangan Media Pembelajaran Berbasis E-Bookstory untuk Meningkatkan Literasi Membaca Siswa Sekolah Dasar. Jurnal Basicedu, 4(4), 1004–1015.
- Hendrawati, S., Rosidin, U., & Astiani, S. (2020). Perilaku hidup bersih dan sehat (PHBS) siswa/siswi di sekolah menengah pertama negeri (SMPN). Jurnal Perawat Indonesia, 4(1), 295–307. https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.32584/jpi.v4i1.454
- Lubis, A. H. (2019). Upaya Peningkatan Hasil Belajar Siswa Sekolah Dasar melalui Model Cooperative Learning Tipe Numered Heads Together. FORUM PAEDAGOGIK, 11(2), 127–143.
- Lubis, A. H. (2023). The Interactive Multimedia Based on Theo-Centric Approach as Learning Media during the Covid-19 Pandemic. JPI (Jurnal Pendidikan Indonesia), 12(2), 210–222.
- Lubis, A. H., & Dasopang, M. D. (2020). Pengembangan Buku Cerita Bergambar Berbasis Augmented Reality untuk Mengakomodasi Generasi Z. Jurnal Pendidikan: Teori, Penelitian, Dan Pengembangan, 5(6), 780–791.
- Lubis, A. H., Dasopang, M. D., Ramadhini, F., & Dalimunthe, E. M. (2022). Augmented Reality Pictorial Storybook: How does It Influence on Elementary School Mathematics Anxiety? Premiere Educandum: Jurnal Pendidikan Dasar Dan Pembelajaran, 12(1), 41–53.
- Lubis, A. H., & Wangid, M. N. (2019). Augmented Reality-assisted Pictorial Storybook: Media to Enhance Discipline Character of Primary School Students. Mimbar Sekolah Dasar, 6(1), 11–20. https://doi.org/10.17509/mimbar-sd.v6i1.16415

- Lubis, A. H., Yusup, F., Dasopang, M. D., & Januariyansah, S. (2021). Effectivity of Interactive Multimedia with Theocentric Approach to the Analytical Thinking Skills of Elementary School Students in Science Learning. Premiere Educandum: Jurnal Pendidikan Dasar Dan Pembelajaran, 11(2), 215–226.
- Manshur, U., & Ramdlani, M. (2019). Media audio visual dalam pembelajaran PAI. Al-Murabbi:Jurnal Pendidikan Agama Islam, 5(1), 1–8.
- Mardhiyah, R. H., Aldriani, S. N. F., Chitta, F., & Zulfikar, M. R. (2021). Pentingnya Keterampilan Belajar di Abad 21 sebagai Tuntutan dalam Pengembangan Sumber Daya Manusia. Lectura: Jurnal Pendidikan, 12(1), 29–40.
- Ningsih, Y. S., Mulia, M., & Lubis, A. H. (2023). Development of Picture Storybooks with TheoAnthropoEco Centric Approach for Elementary School Students. AL-ISHLAH: Jurnal Pendidikan, 15(2), 1888–1903.
- Nurhidayah, I., Asifah, L., & Rosidin, U. (2021). Pengetahuan , Sikap dan Perilaku Hidup Bersih dan Sehat pada Siswa Sekolah Dasar. 13(1), 61–71. https://doi.org/10.32528/ijhs.v13i1.4864
- Pebtiyanti, I., Ahmad, A., Dzaky, M., Fauziah, S. N., Rendi, & Puspitasari, P. (2023). Peran kurikulum merdeka dalam meningkatkan harmonisasi antara masyarakat dan sekolah. Jurnal Pacu Pendidikan Dasar, 3(1), 269–277. https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.22021/pacu.v3i1.411
- Rahman, A., Munandar, S. A., Fitriani, A., Karlina, Y., & Yumriani. (2022). Pengertian Pendidikan, Ilmu Pendidikan dan Unsur-Unsur Pendidikan. Al Urwatul Wutsqa: Kajian Pendidikan Islam, 2(1), 1–8.
- Ricardo, R., & Meilani, R. I. (2017). Impak Minat dan Motivasi Belajar terhadap Hasil Belajar Siswa. Jurnal Pendidikan Manajemen Perkantoran (JPManper), 2(2), 188–201.
- Santi, Undang, & Kasja. (2023). Peran Guru PAI dalam Membentuk Karakter Peserta Didik di Sekolah. Jurnal Pendidikan Tambusai, 7(2), 16078–16084. https://doi.org/10.31004/jptam.v7i2.8918
- Sugiyono. (2018). Metode Penelitian Kuantitatif Kualitatif dan R&D. Bandung: Alfabeta.