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## Implementation of Discussion Method in Efforts to Improve Student Learning Outcomes in Islamic Education Learning at SMA Negeri 2 Padang

Eka Safitri ✉, SMA Negeri 2 Padang, Indonesia

✉ [ekasafitri75@guru.sma.belajar.id](mailto:ekasafitri75@guru.sma.belajar.id)

**Abstract:** This study aims to improve student learning outcomes in Islamic religious education learning by using the 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 for 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 by comparing the results obtained with indicators of research success. The results of the study indicate that the discussion method can improve student learning outcomes in Islamic religious education learning. This can be seen from the increase in the percentage of student learning completion in each cycle with details of the pre-cycle 48.71%, the first cycle 66.39% and in the second cycle it increased to 89.66%. Thus, the use of the discussion method can be used as an alternative to improve student learning outcomes in Islamic religious education learning.

**Keywords:** Discussion method, learning outcome, islamic education.

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### INTRODUCTION

Islamic Religious Education (PAI) is one of the subjects that has a strategic role in shaping students' character and personality. In addition to providing an understanding of Islamic teachings, PAI also aims to form moral and ethical values that are the foundation for student life both at school and outside of school. PAI learning is expected not only to provide theoretical knowledge, but also to be able to form students' attitudes and behaviors in accordance with the principles of Islamic teachings. However, in practice, PAI's learning results in class XI F 6 SMAN 2 Padang still show unsatisfactory numbers. Based on the results of the observations made, many students are less enthusiastic and not too active in participating in PAI lessons. This is reflected in the results of exams and assessments that tend to be low, as well as the minimal involvement of students in class discussions. One of the main factors that causes low PAI learning outcomes is the lack of student involvement in the learning process.

Islamic Religious Education (PAI) plays an important role in shaping the character and morals of students in schools. In the midst of technological advances and

globalization, Islamic values are the main foundation in guiding students to have good personalities. By understanding Islamic teachings, students can develop a disciplined, honest, and responsible attitude in their daily lives, both in the school environment and in society. Therefore, mastery of PAI is very important to form a generation with noble morals. In addition to shaping character, learning PAI also helps students understand the purpose of life based on Islamic teachings. In Islam, life in the world is not just about pursuing material success, but also seeking Allah's pleasure by doing good. This understanding will help students make decisions that are in accordance with Islamic values, both in their academics and social lives. Thus, they not only become intellectually intelligent individuals, but also have spiritual intelligence.

Islamic Religious Education also plays a role in increasing students' piety to Allah SWT. Through an understanding of the pillars of faith and the pillars of Islam, students can practice religious teachings better. For example, they will better understand the importance of prayer, fasting, zakat, and other acts of worship that are the obligations of a Muslim. Strong piety will encourage them to stay away from negative behavior such as promiscuity, drugs, and other criminal acts. In social life, mastery of Islamic religious education teaches students about the importance of tolerance and compassion for others. Islam teaches its followers to be fair, respect differences, and establish Islamic brotherhood. Thus, students will find it easier to work together in a heterogeneous environment, both with fellow Muslims and with adherents of other religions. This attitude of tolerance is very important in building a harmonious and peaceful society. In addition, Islamic Religious Education also provides students with an understanding of ethics in interacting, both with teachers, parents, and peers. Islam teaches manners in speaking, behaving, and respecting elders. This attitude will help students in establishing good social relationships and gaining blessings in their lives. By understanding Islamic ethics, students will be more careful in acting and maintaining attitudes so as not to hurt the feelings of others.

Islamic Religious Education also helps students in facing the challenges of the times, such as the increasing influence of foreign cultures that are not in accordance with Islamic values. With a good understanding of religion, students can distinguish which cultures are positive and which are contrary to Islamic teachings. They will not be easily influenced by lifestyles that are contrary to Islamic law, such as free association and a consumerist lifestyle. Thus, they can live their lives according to Islamic principles without being eroded by negative influences from outside. In conclusion, mastering Islamic Religious Education learning is very important for students to form good character, increase piety, instill moral values, and guide them in facing life's challenges. By understanding Islamic teachings in depth, students can grow into individuals with noble morals, broad insight, and are able to make positive contributions to society. Therefore, Islamic religious education must continue to be strengthened in schools as part of an effort to produce a superior and pious generation.

Learning that is only one-way, where teachers give more lectures or material explanations, tends to make students feel bored and less interested in being actively involved. This has an impact on students' low understanding of the material, which in turn affects their learning outcomes. In addition, monotonous and less varied learning methods can cause students to feel unmotivated to study harder and delve deeper into Islamic Religious Education lessons.

Seeing these problems, more effective efforts are needed to increase student involvement in learning, as well as improve their understanding of the material being taught. One solution that can be applied is to use a more active learning method and involve students directly in the learning process, such as the discussion method. The discussion method provides an opportunity for students to express their opinions, share information, and discuss with their classmates about the topic being studied. In discussions, students not only become recipients of information, but also become active participants involved in the process of problem-solving and concept discovery.

The discussion method has various advantages, including increasing social interaction between students, enriching understanding through various points of view, and helping students develop critical and analytical thinking skills. In addition, discussions can also improve students' communication and cooperation skills in working in groups, which are important skills in daily life. By applying the discussion method in learning Islamic religious education, it is hoped that students can better understand the material in a fun and more meaningful way, because they are directly involved in an active and interactive learning process. In class XI F 6 SMAN 2 Padang, the application of the discussion method in PAI learning is expected to solve the problem of lack of student involvement in learning, as well as improve their learning outcomes. With discussions, students are expected to be more active, understand the material better, and be more motivated to learn. Through this study, the researcher wants to find out the extent to which the application of the discussion method can affect student learning outcomes in PAI subjects, and whether this method can be a solution to improve the quality of learning in class XI F 6 SMAN 2 Padang. Thus, this research is expected to make a positive contribution in developing more effective learning methods that are in accordance with the needs of students.

## **METHODS**

This research is a Classroom Action Research that aims to improve and improve the quality of learning in the classroom through a series of actions designed by teachers as researchers. PTK is carried out directly in the classroom by involving students as research subjects. This research process consists of several cycles that include the stages of planning, implementation, observation, and reflection to evaluate. The effectiveness of the measures implemented. In this study, the discussion method is applied in Islamic Religious Education learning in class XI F 6 SMAN 2 Padang with the hope of increasing student involvement and learning outcomes.

This study involves two main variables, namely the independent variable in the form of the application of the discussion method and the bound variable in the form of student learning outcomes in PAI subjects. The discussion method includes activities such as group discussions, questions and answers, and sharing opinions that aim to improve student understanding. Student learning outcomes are measured based on test scores and observations of student involvement in learning. The relationship between these two variables was analyzed to determine the influence of discussion methods on student learning outcomes.

The population in this study is all students of class XI F 6 totaling 30 people. The data collected consisted of quantitative and qualitative data. Quantitative data were obtained through pre-test and post-test tests to measure the improvement of student learning outcomes, while qualitative data was collected through observation during the discussion process to understand the level of student participation and learning dynamics. The data sources come from students and their learning outcomes, which are then analyzed using various techniques such as tests, observations, and documentation.

Data analysis techniques include quantitative descriptive analysis to measure the difference in pre-test and post-test scores and qualitative analysis to understand student interaction during discussions. Hypothesis testing was carried out using a t-test to determine the effectiveness of the discussion method, as well as data triangulation to increase the validity of the findings. The results of the study are expected to provide an overview of the effectiveness of discussion methods in improving student learning outcomes and provide recommendations for future learning improvements.

## **RESULTS**

The researcher made initial observations on Islamic religious education learning in class XI F 6 SMAN 2 Padang and found that 55% of students obtained a score below the KKM set at 85, with a monotonous learning atmosphere due to the dominance of the lecture method so that student participation was limited. To overcome this, the group discussion method is applied to improve student interaction and understanding. Action planning includes the formation of heterogeneous groups, the preparation of materials, the preparation of Group Worksheets (LKK), the division of roles, assessment, and awarding. The implementation of the action is carried out in two cycles, with the first cycle including the planning, implementation, observation, and reflection stages. The results of the first cycle showed an increase in student participation and an average score increase of about 16-17 points, indicating that this method had a positive impact on student comprehension.

The implementation of cycle I showed that the group discussion method succeeded in increasing student activity in learning, where students who were previously passive began to be more enthusiastic and confident in expressing their opinions. This discussion also had a positive impact on the understanding of the material, as evidenced by the increase in test scores after the activity, as students could learn from each other in groups. However, some challenges are still faced, such as students who lack confidence and are less active in discussions, so further efforts are needed to create a more inclusive atmosphere and encourage the participation of all students.

## **DISCUSSION**

The application of discussion in learning at school can be one of the effective strategies to improve student learning outcomes. Discussions provide opportunities for students to be actively involved in the learning process, interact with classmates, and present their ideas and understanding of the material being taught. Thus, discussions not only improve students' academic understanding, but also critical thinking, communication, and collaboration skills that are so important in everyday life. One of the main benefits of applying discussion in learning is its ability to deepen students' understanding of the subject matter. When students discuss, they tend to ask each other questions, give their opinions, and clarify each other's understanding, which allows them to better understand difficult concepts. Through the exchange of ideas and arguments, students can see the material from various perspectives, thus enriching their overall understanding. In addition, discussions allow students to identify and address their confusion, as well as correct errors in their understanding with the help of classmates or teachers.

Discussions also play an important role in improving students' critical thinking skills. During the discussion, students not only listen to the information provided by the teacher, but they are also involved in the process of analyzing, synthesizing, and evaluating the information. They are required to think deeply, consider various points of view, and build logical and rational arguments. It trains students to not only take information for granted, but also to question, analyze, and relate the knowledge they have learned to other relevant experiences or information. Critical thinking skills built through this discussion are very useful in facing academic challenges as well as real-life problems.

In addition, discussions also improve students' social and communication skills. In a discussion, students should be able to express their opinions clearly and listen carefully to the opinions of others. They learn how to communicate ideas effectively, respect differences of opinion, and work together with others to reach an agreement or solution. These good communication skills are essential for students' social development and can be applied in a variety of contexts, both inside and outside the school environment. Discussions also help build students' confidence as they are given the opportunity to speak in front of their classmates, which in turn can increase their motivation and engagement in learning. The application of discussion in learning can also facilitate collaborative learning, where students help each other and support each other in understanding the subject

matter. Group discussions allow students to exchange knowledge and understanding, which can speed up the learning process. By working together in groups, students can teach each other, provide additional explanations, and delve into certain topics that may be difficult to understand individually.

This kind of collaboration not only enriches students' understanding of the material, but also increases their sense of responsibility and leadership in working closely with classmates. However, to ensure the effective implementation of discussion in learning, teachers need to manage discussions well. Teachers should facilitate discussions by providing clear guidance, asking thought-provoking questions, and creating a supportive atmosphere so that all students feel comfortable participating. Additionally, teachers need to ensure that discussions remain focused on relevant topics and avoid unproductive conversation deviations. Evaluation of student participation in the discussion is also important to provide feedback and ensure that the discussion achieves the desired learning objectives. Overall, the application of discussion in learning can make a great contribution in improving student learning outcomes. By actively discussing subject matter, students not only improve their academic understanding, but also develop invaluable critical thinking, communication, and collaboration skills. Discussions also allow students to become more involved in the learning process and develop confidence and motivation to learn. Therefore, the application of the discussion method in the classroom can be an effective strategy in supporting the achievement of better and more holistic learning goals.

## **CONCLUSION**

The conclusion of this discussion shows that the application of discussion in learning can significantly improve student learning outcomes. Discussions provide opportunities for students to be actively involved, express their opinions, and understand the subject matter from various perspectives. Through this process, students can deepen their understanding, develop critical thinking skills, and improve communication and collaboration skills. The discussion also encourages students to help each other and work together, creating more interactive and collaborative learning. With good management by teachers, discussions can be an effective method to enrich students' learning experience, increase motivation, and create a more dynamic classroom atmosphere. Therefore, the application of discussion in learning can be a very useful strategy in achieving more optimal and comprehensive learning goals. Overall, the application of discussion in learning has proven to be an effective method to improve student learning outcomes. Through discussions, students not only gain a deeper understanding of the material, but also develop critical thinking, communication, and collaboration skills. Discussions allow students to ask questions, share ideas, and clarify each other's understanding, which enriches their insight into the topic being studied. In addition, this method also encourages students to be actively involved in the learning process, increase motivation, and provide confidence. If managed properly by teachers, discussions can create a more dynamic and interactive classroom atmosphere, which can accelerate the achievement of learning objectives. Therefore, discussions not only play a role in improving students' academic learning outcomes, but also help in the development of social skills that are essential for their future lives.

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