

Transformation of Islamic Education: The Urgency of Innovation in Islamic Education in The Digital Era

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Abstract

Islamic education is central to shaping morally upright and knowledgeable Muslim individuals. However, the challenges of modern times are pushing Islamic education to transform and innovate. This article discusses the importance of innovation in Islamic education in an era marked by rapid transformation and digital advancements. Considering the context of globalization and the development of information and communication technology (ICT), the article highlights the urgency of transforming Islamic education. Its primary focus is on innovation in Islamic education that integrates digital technology to enhance learning effectiveness, expand reach, and create more engaging and interactive learning experiences for students. The article also identifies challenges that may arise in implementing innovation in Islamic education in the digital era and presents several strategies to overcome these barriers. Thus, the article emphasizes the necessity of continuous adaptation and innovation in Islamic education to keep pace with evolving times towards greater digitalization. Using a literature review methodology, the article underscores the importance of innovation so that Islamic educational institutions can prepare a high-quality generation ready to face changes with firm Islamic convictions. Innovation in Islamic education significantly impacts overall transformation, including increasing relevance and attractiveness, expanding accessibility, improving the quality of learning, developing critical and creative thinking skills, and strengthening Islamic identity and intellectual independence.

Keywords: Transformation, Islamic Education, Innovation, Digital Era

A. Introduction

Islamic education faces many challenges and opportunities in today's fast-growing digital technology era. This technology has changed how we view education as a whole and how we learn, access information, and interact with the world around us. Therefore, it is vital to understand the role of this technology in transforming Islamic education and how challenges and opportunities can affect how we disseminate information.

Islamic education in the digital era offers unlimited opportunities to expand accessibility, generate innovative learning methods, and strengthen religious understanding in an increasingly globally connected society. One of the significant advantages of Islamic Education in the Digital Age is broader accessibility. With a few clicks, people can access Islamic literature such as classical texts, interpretations of the Quran, and hadiths, which enrich their understanding of the teachings of religion. It also enables the spread of religion worldwide, cultivating a broader awareness and understanding of Islam in increasingly connected societies. (Hajri, 2023)

Moreover, modern technology allows for more interactive, creative, and engaging Islamic educational methods. Using media like images, videos, and animations, religious concepts can be conveyed more visually and engagingly. Social media and online platforms enable students and educators to interact in person, exchange ideas, and collaborate among Muslims worldwide. It creates space for sharing knowledge, solving problems, and expanding religious understanding. (Hajri, 2023). The digital generation grew up in a digital age filled with rapid technological developments, so they have a more comprehensive knowledge of technology than the older generation. Rapid advances in technologies such as the Internet, mobile devices, and social media have enabled the digital generation to more easily access technology and become more skilled and accustomed to using it. (Astuti et al., 2018)

With these advances in digital technology, educational institutions must be able to innovate in education, especially Islamic education. Academic innovation is an attempt to improve current conditions in a better direction. All teachers should do this. The head of the school, the madrasah, teachers, and other educational staff need to maximize educational innovation. Educators are assigned to continue to create, try, and undertake initiatives in the field of education to improve the quality of education consistently.

Teachers must try new methods and approaches to innovation in Islamic education. They must not be too faithful to one approach and ignore another, even if their approach or approach is very appropriate and effective. In addition, employees who work in schools or madrasas, such as administrations, librarians, and labs, must develop new approaches to teaching. (Santika et al., 2023). They have to keep updating, improving, and perfecting the service patterns for the students or students of the madrasah to ensure that the service system becomes superior and of higher quality. All schools or madrasas can innovate in education, but only a few managers do so consistently. Many managed their leadership systems without trying to improve their education or quality of leadership. Besides, teachers and educators often need help with routine and ignore the innovation of Islamic teaching.

Therefore, the innovation of Islamic education in educational institutions should be researched and studied to improve the quality of today's Islamic education.

B. Methods

This research uses a qualitative approach to obtaining, aggregating, processing, analyzing, and defining data. (Bachtiar, 1997). The study was conducted to dig relevant information on the theme "Transformation of Islamic Education: Emergency of Innovation in Islamic Educational Education in the Digital Age". In this study, the authors covered the study of libraries, the research study whose data came from relevant library materials such as scientific journals, books, and online articles that discuss Islamic education in the digital age.

Subsequently, relevant information is structured and organized thematically to understand better the importance of innovation in education, technology integration, and student skills development in the digital age. In writing this narrative, researchers will present in depth the results of analysis from sources related to Islamic education, including broader access to learning resources and the use of digital media.

C. Results and Discussion

1. Innovation in Islamic Education

Innovation comes from Latin, which means change or something new. Innovation is meant as something new from before and can also be the discovery of a way or idea to change from traditional to modern. (Ainiyah, 2017). Innovation can be defined as the discovery or renewal of something by performing a new activity or activity. In this case, Ibrahim (1989) in (Hasanah et al., 2023) Says that innovation is a way of updating either ideas, statics, or methods of a

person or can be with ideas in groups or individuals. Innovation is done in a way that is discussed to solve a problem.

Educational innovations are ideas, goods, or techniques considered new to the results of individuals or groups. These results can be discoveries or new findings that can be used to achieve educational goals or solve academic problems. However, innovation in education can go well and yield positive results if educators understand some of its features. These traits are characteristic of the educational innovation itself.

2. Models of educational innovation

If one talks about education, one will discuss two rather essential aspects: the theoretical and the practical. (Hasbullah, 2009). Including educational innovation. In this context, "innovation" refers to the process of creating new goods, concepts, or practices that individuals, groups, or educational institutions absorb. This process has several stages that will be visible when described by a continuum as follows (Naif, 2016):

1. Invention

The invention or creation of something newly called "invention". However, when education is changed, the results are sometimes very different. Most innovations happen inside and outside schools, but most hardware upgrades happen outside schools. Many "inventions" happen in schools when teachers try to change situations or create new solutions to old problems.

2. Development

In most cases, the update can only reach a small scale after it undergoes development. "Development" is often associated with research, so the research and development process encompasses a variety of activities, such as basic research, such as finding and testing learning theories. In this study, the team of curriculum writers research curricular development processes, experimental schools where materials are prepared for testing and valuable research designs designed to evaluate the effectiveness of various curricula upgrades.

3. Diffusion

Diffusion and dissemination are often synonyms, but both have different meanings. According to Roger, diffusion is "the spread of a new idea from its source of innovation to the last user or absorber." If the term spread is neutral and refers to the spread of a renewal, spreading indicates a planned pattern of diffusion in which several agencies take specific steps to ensure the renewal reaches as many people as possible.

3. Urgency of Islamic Education Innovation

Every person or individual in education should have a role in making an innovation in teaching because educational achievement depends on the individual's accomplishments in carrying out an educational innovation. Therefore, the components in education, both teachers and people involved in the educational process, must be integrated and sustainable. In education, much effort is being put into innovative activities. These innovations include education management, teaching methodologies, media, learning resources, teacher training, curriculum implementation, etc.

Educational innovation can emerge as a new path in the world of education. It can be used as an alternative way to solve educational problems that conventional methods cannot solve. Further details about the purpose of this educational innovation can be found below: (1) Development of education as a new solution to educational problems. Current advances in technology and communications can help advance in other areas, including education. The primary task of educational innovators is to solve educational issues in innovative or conventional ways. Education is also a new response to the real issues of education. Educational renewal focuses on a real educational problem that needs to be solved innovatively. (2) Innovation in education attempts to produce more cost-effective and efficient methods.

Educational innovation is done to solve problems in the ever-changing world of education. The methods needed to solve complex and evolving educational problems must focus on cheap and effective methods sensitive to emerging educational issues. (Hasbullah, 2009)

4. The Role of Digital Technology in Islamic Education

Technology has played an essential role in advancing Islamic education, changing the way teaching, access to religious resources, and how Muslim communities interact. Increasing accessibility to religious science resources is one of the critical roles of technology in Islamic education. Students can easily access sacred texts, interpretations, hadiths, and literature related to Islamic religion worldwide through the Internet. It addresses the geographical challenge that previously restricted access to religious education and made Islamic education more inclusive. (Alfi et al., 2023) In addition, technology has enabled the emergence of online learning platforms that offer a wide range of Islamic educational courses and materials. This platform allows students to follow religious lessons on various topics and at different difficulty levels. It allows you to improve your skills and better understand Islam. Enhanced interaction in teaching is the next step. Students can now strengthen their knowledge by participating in online discussions, speaking in person with their educators, and even following online quizzes to evaluate their abilities. These interactions help students better talk about Islam, solve problems, and share ideas. (Salsabila et al., 2022)

Technology is essential to setting learning goals and acting as an intermediary in the learning process. It also helps students learn about various things, especially about the teachings of Islam. Some tools are needed for higher education in today's digital age. Constant technological developments make the education system need to be updated, especially the teaching methods. Thus, educational technology can help educators and students obtain the necessary assistance and training to use technology in today's all-digital world.

As digital technology evolves rapidly, learning requires sufficient resources to adapt to such developments. Teachers are a resource. All the needs of society, except education, are affected by the digital age. Society no longer uses conventional learning but is starting to use the virtual world. It also affects how students learn, as they are optimizing the use of digital libraries to meet their needs or answer their curiosities about lessons. Thus, the learning process has evolved to meet the needs of students. As a result, various media have emerged to enable a more effective and efficient learning process. (Ambarwati et al., 2022) Digital books are one type of digital content that can be used in learning. Research results show that digital books can present a variety of media (multimedia), such as text, images, videos, animations, and user tutorials, which will encourage students to participate in learning. (Mawarni & Muhtadi, 2017)

5. The use of technology in Islamic education

Since teachers determine learning success, teachers must have sufficient capacity to develop digital technology. This is related to the professional competence of teachers in their work as educators. Besides, teachers must be prepared for future changes. In addition to teachers' skills in developing digital technology, exciting teaching methods will enhance students' understanding of learning. Therefore, there is a need for such a strategy or learning process which is based on opinion (Burbules et al., 2020). However, this does not mean that technological advances replace the role of teachers in teaching; instead, they create new opportunities for teachers to involve students in the critical thinking activity they experience. (Mawarni & Muhtadi, 2017)

The teacher creates the digital content as necessary in his teaching, in which the teacher knows the material's characteristics and the student's learning. Before making the learning content, the teacher must look for what learning content will be delivered according to the learning to update the teaching. The process of creating the digital learning content must be by the method of teaching the teacher so the teacher can pay attention to the following things (Juraschek et al., 2020) :

1. Learning based on educational games or educational games should enhance the conceptual understanding of students and their imagination so that they can be more creative in solving problems.
2. Technology-supported education can give teachers and students more opportunities to learn. An online laboratory with experimental activities can allow students to study while working more broadly to ensure that students are not bored with lessons.
3. Technology can enhance cooperation between local and international cultures, allowing students to learn about cultures outside Indonesia.
4. Using current technology, teachers can evaluate students' learning, adapt it to their needs and identify skills that students need to acquire more comprehensively. Learning assessment now does not need to be done manually as it used to be because they can use digital technology.

Technology can facilitate human activity in the process of searching for information and delivery of information. Technology can be instrumental in education because it enables the search for literacy, such as books, journals, books, and other digital resources. (Putri, 2018). It is also supported by the statement that technology in education can be used to support learning and achieve learning goals. (Lestari, 2018)

Parents, teachers, and society are essential in today's technological age so that children can use technology well and not lose their character as a nation's successors. In addition to using technology in the learning process, teachers can teach well. The community's responsibility is to monitor and encourage children to avoid misconduct. In addition, several ways can be done to reduce the negative impact of the application of information technology in education. It is essential to consider children's use of information technology carefully. It does not make technology the only means of education or media.

6. The Challenges and Opportunities of Islamic Education in the Digital Age

In the 21st century, Islamic education faces many promising challenges and opportunities. Digital technology has changed the way we learn and interact with the world around us. In this context, it is essential to understand the challenges we face in incorporating digital technology into Islamic education and the opportunities that can be exploited to improve our teaching and understanding of religion. (Muflihini, 2020)

Ensuring that content delivered through digital technology is genuine and reliable is one of the significant challenges in Islamic education in the digital age. In this era of rapid and abundant information, strict monitoring is required to prevent the dissemination of false, inaccurate, or inconsistent Islamic teachings. Educators must ensure that the digital content conforms to Islamic values and is reliable as a source of accurate and accurate information. Besides, the gap in technology accessibility causes some problems. Access to Islamic education through digital media may be limited in some places due to a lack of technological infrastructure. A person's ability to use digital technology in Islamic education can be affected by financial constraints. To overcome these disparities and ensure that Islamic education is accessible to everyone in society without exception, efforts are needed. (Hajri, 2023). However, there are immense opportunities that can be exploited during the challenge. With the help of digital technology, more people worldwide can access Islamic education through high-quality online platforms. If adequately applied, Islamic education can reach a wider audience and benefit Muslims worldwide. (Alfi et al., 2023)

In addition, using digital technology opens the way and opportunities for developing more interactive, innovative, and exciting Islamic learning methods. Students can better understand religion and have a more exciting learning experience with multimedia content such as videos, animations, and simulations. The live interaction available through the online platform also allows students to talk and collaborate with their teachers, which improves the learning process. (Lestari, 2018) Digital technology enables more effective evaluation and monitoring of Islamic education. The existence of an online platform allows teachers to track their students' progress

personally, provide quick feedback, and find areas to improve. This enables adaptation and improvement of learning content and enhances the effectiveness of teaching and learning. (Hajri, 2023)

Islamic education faces many challenges and opportunities in the 21st century digital age and the Internet. One of the significant challenges is the authenticity and reliability of content, the quality of education, and the digital gaps. However, by using digital technology wisely, we can develop interactive and creative learning methods, boost creativity and innovation, improve global accessibility, and improve evaluation and monitoring. Using theories such as curriculum development, learning constructivism, and digital literacy are essential to addressing these problems. Besides, it is crucial to implement a gradual guidance mechanism. Therefore, in today's era of computers and the Internet era, Islamic education can still flourish and be profitable.

D. Conclusion

Innovation is a process of change and renewal. The world of education needs innovation to continue to evolve and keep up with developments in other fields. Innovation in the education world must be measured and continuously improved to a better level. Knowledge, technology, and creative output correlate with high quality of education. Educational innovation also correlates with technology. Technology plays an essential role in contributing innovation to education. Technology can benefit many things in education, such as the media used in learning. The importance of innovation in Islamic education is linked to improving the quality of learning and solving complex educational problems. Digital technology plays a crucial role in improving the accessibility of Islamic educational resources, developing more interactive learning methods, and enabling more efficient evaluation and monitoring.

Despite obstacles and challenges, such as the authenticity and accessibility of technology, digital technology has many opportunities for Islamic education.

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Conflict of interests

The authors affirm that they do not own any identifiable conflicting financial interests or personal ties that might have impacted the research presented in this study.

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