

# Islamic Perspective of Educational Communication at Al Qodiri in Forming the Characteristics of *Santri*

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## Abstract

One of important aspects of education is related to how this contributes to positive changes on individuals. To do so, communication is always an important part of education especially in shaping students' characters. This also applies at Islamic boarding schools, widely known as *pondok pesantren*, in Indonesia. Regarding this matter, *kitab kuning* which literally translates into the yellow books have been the basis of how to educate *santri*, students of Islamic boarding schools, to become future individuals with great characters. One of the yellow books learnt at Islamic boarding schools is Ta'lim Mutaallim. This book is one of the obligatory books learnt at Al Qodiri Islamic boarding schools in Jember. This research is a descriptive qualitative research conducted at the Al Qodiri Islamic boarding school in Jember. The results of the study show that there are 7 characters of Islamic perspective of educational communication according to Al Jarnuzi which are conveyed and taught at the Al Qodiri Islamic boarding school in shaping the characteristics of students. Those characters include: 1) the intention to learn, 2) choosing teachers, knowledge, and friends, 3) glorifying knowledge and experts in knowledge, 4) sincerity in seeking knowledge, *istiqomah*, and noble ideals, 5) trust, 6) *wara'*, and 7) learning methods

*Keywords: Educational Communication, Character Education, Ta'lim Mutaallim Book*

## Introduction

Education is always seen as an undeniably crucial sector of character building. The successful education is the one that enable people to learn to be better individuals in the future. Khasanah et al. (2022) explain that character education is an important educational program to shape students to have great personality and social quality. Therefore, it is important to remember that the character building focuses on individuals, mostly students. Therefore, communication is always an important part to consider in any educational systems where individuals interact to one another.

As implied above, education cannot be separated from communication. In fact, communication is very vital in the world of education. This is because communication is a means to convey educational messages from educators to students (Mahadi, 2021). Further, Mahadi (2021) explains that the success of education is a deep understanding of educators about the basic concepts, goals, functions, and nature of educational

communication. In this case, educational communication is related communication activity to convey learning or educational messages. Hasanah et al. (2020) stated that educational communication is carried out by teachers or lecturers to students in conveying scientific messages both in and outside the classroom. The success of education can be seen from the communication process carried out by teachers to their students.

Educational communication is also taught from an Islamic perspective. Islam teaches all aspects of social life, including educational communication. Islamic perspective communication explains how the relationship between teachers and students is when carrying out the educational communication process that occurs in Islamic educational institutions. The core of Islamic perspective educational communication is the process of developing and saving human nature.

One of the figures in Islamic perspective educational communication is Al Jarnuzi. He is a great scholar who wrote the book *Ta'lim Mutaalim*. The book is recognized by both western and eastern scientists (Shilviana, 2020). The book *Ta'lim Mutaalim* teaches how to have a good educational process between teachers and students during the learning process (Choiriyah & Anam, 2023). Furthermore, Choiriyah and Anam (2023) explain that the book also studies ethics during the educational communication process between teachers and students and makes morals the main element in order to obtain useful and blessed knowledge. The book *Ta'lim Mutaalim* is taught in Islamic boarding schools. It even becomes a mandatory book that students must study when living in an Islamic boarding school.

Islamic Boarding School, well known as *pondok pesantren* in Indonesia, is one of the Islamic educational institutions. Islamic boarding schools are non-formal and traditional Islamic educational institutions (Adib, 2021). Islamic boarding schools come from the Arabic word *Funduq* which means dormitory (Kariyanto, 2020). Furthermore, Kariyanto (2020) explains that Islamic boarding schools are non-formal Islamic educational institutions that have dormitories for students called *santri* to live in.

There are several key elements of Islamic boarding school. As explained by Kariyanto (2020), the key elements include the following. First, Islamic boarding should schools have dormitories. This dormitory is a building used for students to stay. Second, the mosque. The mosque is a place where students carry out prayer activities, study, and so on. The third is students or *santri*. *Santri* are students who study religion and live in Islamic boarding schools. The next is the yellow books or *kitab kuning*. Yellow books are the term for books in Islamic boarding schools that use yellow paper and contain religious lessons in Islamic boarding schools. The last is *kyai*. *Kyai*, another term used is *kiai*, is the main element in Islamic boarding schools. This is because the *kyai* is a figure who founded and provides learning at Islamic boarding schools.

Communication is one of the subjects learnt at Islamic boarding schools. This is an essential part of the contribution of Islam in relation with character building and education. In this case, one of the yellow books that teaches about communication based on Islamic perspective the *Ta'lim Mutallim*. The book, *Ta'lim Mutaalim*, was written by Sheikh Al Jarnuzi (Dalimunthe & Siregar, 2023). This book is one of the important books taught in all Islamic boarding schools in Indonesia.

The Ta'lim Mutallim book is one of the important books taught in Islamic boarding schools. The importance of this book is due to its rich content which includes the basic principles of Islam, morals, and communication in the world of education, as well as Islamic perspective learning procedures (Dalimunthe & Siregar, 2023) This is the reason why the book is one of the main references dealing with character education, specifically communication.

The book Ta'lim Mutaallim strongly emphasizes morality in educational communication (Hidayatulloh et al., 2024). Furthermore, Hidayatulloh et al. (2024) explain that in this book by Al Jarnuzi it also has implications in the character education of students. First, the intention to learn. Second, choosing teachers, knowledge, and friends. Third, glorifying knowledge and experts in knowledge. Fourth, sincerity in seeking knowledge, *istiqomah*, and noble ideals. Fifth, trust. Sixth, *wara'*. Seventh, learning methods.

Al-Qodiri is one of the Islamic boarding schools in Jember Regency, East Java. This Islamic boarding school is located in Gebang Village, Patrang District, Jember Regency. Al Qodiri Islamic boarding school is one of several large Islamic boarding schools in East Java. Students who study there come from various regions in Indonesia. Thousands of Al-Qodiri students study Islamic religious knowledge in formal and non-formal education held at the Islamic boarding school.

Al-Qodiri Islamic boarding school has a formal and non-formal education system. The formal education institutions consist of kindergarten to higher education. While non-formal education is also carried out at Al-Qodiri Islamic boarding school in addition to formal education hours. Both education systems are integrated with each other. This integration is intended to foster the character of Al-Qodiri students.

Educational communication in developing the character of students at Al-Qodiri is very interesting to study in more depth. This is because formal and non-formal education at Al Qodiri synergize in developing the character of students. In addition, educational communication that will be studied in more depth will use the concept of educational communication from an Islamic perspective in the book Ta'lim Mutaalim by Al Jarnuzi.

## **Research Methods**

This study uses a descriptive qualitative approach. This approach is used to examine in detail the concept of educational communication in developing the character of students at Al Qodiri. The reason the researcher conducted the research at the Islamic boarding school was because formal and non-formal education at Al Qodiri synergize in developing the character of students. Meanwhile, the determination of informants used a purposive technique determined directly by the researcher. This study lasted for three months. The data collection process needed in this study used interview, observation, and documentation study techniques. From this technique, data was obtained and then tested for validity using source triangulation, method triangulation, and member check, so that the existing data was truly valid.

## **Results and Discussion**

Al Qodiri Islamic boarding school is one of the big Islamic boarding schools in Jember City. This Islamic boarding school has thousands of students from all over Indonesia. The thousands of students are divided into several formal and non-formal institutions. The formal institutions owned by Al Qodiri Islamic boarding school range from kindergarten to college. The thousands of students study religious knowledge and also general knowledge.

Non-formal institutions are also owned by Al Qodiri. These non-formal institutions are held every day after formal activities are finished. Non-formal activities are held from 2 pm to 10 pm outside of school activities. All students receive non-formal learning from several yellow books taught by *ustadz* and also the caretakers of the Islamic boarding school. The non-formal institutions that are held also have their respective levels. This is because the students' abilities are different in learning yellow books. The yellow books taught are also different according to their respective levels.

Formal and non-formal learning in Al Qodiri has synergy. This synergy is implemented for the character education of students in accordance with the book *Ta'lim Mutaalim* by Sheikh Al Zarnuzi. The character education of students is implemented through Islamic educational communication in accordance with the characteristics of Islamic boarding schools which are very thick with Islamic teachings. In addition, the character education of students in accordance with the book *Ta'lim Mutaalim* is also to obtain blessings in studying at Islamic boarding schools.

The following is communication on character education for students at the Al Qodiri Islamic boarding school which is in accordance with the treasury of *Ta'lim Mutaallim* books.

### ***Intention to learn***

A person who seeks knowledge must start with intention. Sheikh Al Jarnuzi in his book said that intention must be accompanied by sincerity and seeking the pleasure of Allah SWT. Students at the Al Qodiri Islamic boarding school are required to have a sincere intention to obtain the pleasure of Allah while studying at the Islamic boarding school. This is communicated by the *ustadz* and also teachers both in formal and non-formal institutions. This is conveyed every day before teaching and learning activities begin. In addition, with a sincere intention, students will not easily give up in seeking knowledge and will not be tempted by temptations while at the Islamic boarding school.

### ***Choosing teachers, knowledge, and friends***

Choosing to become a student at the Al Qodiri Islamic boarding school is one of the elements of educational communication in the *Ta'lim Mutaallim* Book. Al Jarnuzi in his book said that a student is expected to choose the right knowledge and teacher in pursuing knowledge. Every day the caretaker of the Islamic boarding school and also the *ustadz*

say that by choosing knowledge and teachers at Al Qodiri, the students are ready to carry out all character education processes that will be obtained until they graduate or leave the Islamic boarding school. This communication is conveyed every time to the students so that Al Qodiri students have a steadfast heart. In addition, students are also required to choose good friends when pursuing knowledge. This is because choosing the wrong friend will affect the student's learning process at the Islamic boarding school. Choosing the wrong friend will also affect character education.

### ***Glorifying knowledge and scientific experts***

Al Jarnuzi emphasized respecting knowledge and scientific experts. This aims to gain knowledge that is blessed and also useful. The caretakers of the Al Qodiri Islamic boarding school and the *ustadz* emphasize the students to respect knowledge and teachers, especially in daily communication. Good communication between students and their caregivers and *ustadz* is a form of respect for science and scientific experts.

### ***Cincerity in seeking knowledge, istiqomah, and noble ideals.***

Students will not get blessed knowledge if they are not serious in seeking knowledge. In addition, *istiqomah* must also be implemented in seeking knowledge. The caretakers and *ustadz* have arranged the schedule in such a way that the students are always *istiqomah* and serious in carrying out activities at the Islamic boarding school. The schedule is communicated to the students well and is also obeyed by the students. Even the students also get punishment if they violate the schedule that has been determined.

### ***Tawakkal***

A student must have the attitude of *tawakkal* in seeking knowledge. This includes not being tempted by worldly pleasures when seeking knowledge. The *tawakkal* attitude of the students at the Al Qodiri Islamic boarding school is instilled with an attitude of simplicity in their daily lives while seeking knowledge. This is always communicated by the caregivers and also the *ustadz*.

### ***Wara'***

*Wara'* is protecting oneself from things that are subhat and haram. When studying, students must be *wara'*. This is so that students get blessings in seeking knowledge. The caregivers and *ustadz* never stop conveying this. Even so that students have this *wara'* nature, certain rules are made in Islamic boarding schools.

### ***Learning methods***

Learning methods are also one of the character education of students. This can be done if the Islamic boarding school really carries out a good teaching and learning process for

students. There are several learning methods written by Al Jarnuzi in his book. First, memorizing. Students at the Al Qodiri Islamic boarding school are also given the task of memorizing lessons received both in formal and non-formal institutions. Second, *Mudzkarah* or reminding each other. Reminding each other is one of the character education methods taught by Al Jarnuzi. Third, *muthaharah* or discussion. The students routinely hold discussions after the learning activities are carried out. This is done to strengthen and exchange knowledge that has been obtained. Of the three methods, it explains the importance of choosing teachers and friends in character education according to Al Jarnuzi in his book.

## Conclusion

Al Qodiri Islamic boarding school is one of the large Islamic boarding schools in Jember. AL Qodiri educates students to have strong characters in the fields of Islam and science. This character education of students is carried out in formal and non-formal education. Both synergize to produce students who are strong and have Islamic characters. Character education carried out at Al Qodiri Islamic boarding school uses an Islamic perspective. Educational communication carried out in character education also uses an Islamic perspective taught in one of the famous yellow books, namely Ta'lim Mutaallim, the work of Sheikh Al Jarnuzi. Educational communication from an Islamic perspective and character education delivered at Al Qodiri Islamic boarding school aims to obtain blessings in pursuing knowledge.

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