

## CHALLENGES IN RELIGION-BASED EDUCATION BETWEEN TRADITIONAL VALUES AND MODERN REALITIES

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### **Abstract :**

*Ethical challenges in faith-based education amidst social and technological changes. Faith-based education plays an important role in shaping individual character by instilling moral and ethical values. However, modern challenges such as digital technology, globalization, and value pluralism often conflict with the traditional values taught. It identifies two main aspects: first, ethical challenges that arise in the modern context; second, the synergy between traditional values and modern realities. Through a qualitative descriptive approach, this study proposes innovative strategies in faith-based education that are relevant and adaptive, including ethical integration of technology and teaching universal values. This study aims to provide an in-depth understanding of how faith-based education can remain relevant in the modern era, as well as offer practical solutions to support the development of the character of the younger generation with integrity and empathy.*

**Keywords :** Challenges; Education; Ethics; Religion; Social

### **INTRODUCTION**

Religious-based education plays a very important role in shaping individual character. In the context of society, this education is not only aimed at transferring knowledge, but also building a solid moral, ethical, and spiritual foundation. Values such as honesty, simplicity, responsibility, and tolerance are at the core of religious-based education designed to produce a generation that is not only intellectually intelligent, but also has integrity and empathy. (Ismaya et al., 2023) In religious teachings, education is seen as a means to shape humans who have noble morals, as well as an effort to get closer to God. Therefore, religious-based education has become one of the main pillars in building a highly civilized society .

However, the development of the times presents significant challenges for religious-based education. The presence of digital technology, globalization, and pluralism of values creates a new reality that often conflicts with the traditional values taught. Technology, for example, although it offers great opportunities to expand access and methods of religious learning, also brings threats that cannot be ignored. (Johan et al., 2024) Uncontrolled access to information via the internet and social media can affect the morality of the younger generation. In addition, the modern lifestyle that is often oriented towards materialism and individualism is a challenge for religious-based education to remain relevant. In the midst of globalization, traditional values rooted in religious teachings are sometimes considered obsolete and not in accordance with the needs of the modern era.

The clash between traditional values and modern realities is a central issue faced by faith-based education. For example, in many cases, traditional values

such as obedience, respect for authority, and modesty often conflict with modern culture that tends to prioritize individual freedom and a consumerist lifestyle. This creates an ethical dilemma in faith-based education. Teachers and educators often face difficulties in conveying these values to students who live in the digital age. (Saifudin et al., 2024) Children and adolescents who grow up exposed to technology have different views on moral values compared to previous generations.

On the other hand, religious-based education not only faces challenges from technology, but also from increasing cultural and religious pluralism. Modern society is increasingly diverse, both in terms of beliefs and culture. This requires religious-based education to accommodate diversity without losing the essence of its fundamental values. In a multicultural environment, religious values need to be communicated in an inclusive way, so that they can build social harmony without sacrificing each person's religious identity. However, this is not always easy, especially when there is a clash between religious values and the norms that develop in modern society.

Rapid social change also demands adjustments in religious-based education methods. Traditional approaches that are often dogmatic need to be adjusted to the needs of the times. For example, rigid lecture methods may be less effective in conveying moral messages to the younger generation who are more accustomed to interactive and technology-based learning. This is where innovation in religious-based education is important to bridge the gap between traditional values and modern needs. Religious-based education must be able to offer solutions that are relevant to the challenges of the times, without sacrificing the essence of the values taught.

The formulation of the problem that arises from this background includes two main aspects. First, how do ethical challenges arise in religion-based education in the modern era? Second, how can traditional values taught in religion-based education synergize with modern realities? These two questions are key to understanding the complexities faced by religion-based education in the current context. (Soleha et al., 2024) Religion-based education is not only required to provide solutions to existing moral challenges, but also to build a bridge between traditional values rooted in religious teachings and the ever-changing needs of modern society.

This study aims to identify the ethical challenges faced by faith-based education, especially in the context of social and technological change. By examining various aspects of these challenges, it is hoped that this study can provide a deeper understanding of how faith-based education can remain relevant in the modern era. In addition, this study also aims to propose solutions that can bridge the gap between traditional values and the needs of modernity. These solutions are expected to be applied not only in the context of formal education, but also in informal education involving families and communities.

With a focus on bridging traditional values and modern realities, this study seeks to make a significant contribution to the development of a more adaptive approach to religion-based education. (Lubis & Ok, 2024) As institutions

that have a moral responsibility for the formation of the character of the younger generation, religion-based educational institutions need to adopt innovative strategies to face this challenge. In the process, it is important to ensure that the traditional values that are at the core of religion-based education are not only maintained, but can also be integrated with the needs of modern society in a harmonious manner.

## **RESEARCH METHOD**

This study uses a qualitative descriptive approach, which aims to understand the phenomenon in depth related to the role of parents in educating children by utilizing the hadith as a normative basis. This approach was chosen to explore the meaning and values contained in the hadith, especially those relevant to the influence of technological devices such as mobile phones on children's education. (Hadis et al., 2020) The focus of the study is to describe the reality, challenges, and potential solutions that can be taken based on Islamic teachings.

The data sources for this study consist of two types, namely primary and secondary data. Primary data were obtained from a study of religious literature, especially hadiths that discuss the responsibility of children's education and the impact of the environment on their development. Secondary data include educational theories, books on family values, and relevant empirical research on the influence of technology on parenting patterns. Data collection was carried out through literature studies, document analysis, and in-depth interviews with religious experts or educators.

The analysis method used is comparative analysis, which is comparing traditional values taught in the hadith with modern challenges in educating children, especially related to the influence of mobile phones. (Salsabila et al., 2023) This analysis aims to find harmony or gaps between Islamic principles and contemporary educational practices. The results of the analysis are expected to provide practical recommendations for parents in combining traditional values with modern strategies that remain in accordance with Islamic teachings.

## **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

### **Ethical Challenges in Religion-Based Education**

Religious-based education, especially in the context of Islam, always tries to maintain a balance between existing traditions and the challenges of modernity. One of the biggest challenges in religious education in this digital era is the conflict of values between tradition and modernity. (Susanto, 2024) Traditional values contained in religious teachings, such as discipline, sincerity, and respect for authority, often clash with values that develop in modern society that prioritize individual freedom, moral relativism, and technology. In this fast-paced world, the role of parents and teachers in educating children is often neglected or defeated by external influences that come from various media and technologies. Therefore, it is important to understand how traditional values

taught in religion can be maintained without neglecting the need to adapt to the times. In this case, religious-based education must be able to bridge the two worlds in order to remain relevant in shaping children's character.

One of the more complex aspects is the role of technology in education. On the one hand, technology can be a very effective tool to support the teaching and learning process, such as the use of learning applications, learning videos, and other online resources that can improve student understanding. However, on the other hand, technology can also be a threat to morality and ethics in education. (Ahirin et al., 2024) Social media, for example, gives children the freedom to access information without clear boundaries, which sometimes has a negative impact on their character development. Children, who should be guided with strong ethical and moral values, are often exposed to content that is not in accordance with their religious and cultural teachings. In this context, ethical challenges become increasingly complex because technology functions dually, namely as an educational tool as well as a means that has the potential to damage moral values. Therefore, educators and parents need to find ways to integrate technology into education while maintaining the moral integrity of children.

In addition, the ethical challenges in religion-based education are further complicated by the pluralism and diversity of values that exist in society. Indonesia, as a country with diverse religions, cultures, and outlooks on life, often faces challenges in creating an education system that can respect and understand these differences. In the context of religious education, especially in heterogeneous environments, there is often tension between more conservative religious values and societal views that are more open to pluralism. Children who are raised in a pluralistic environment may experience their own confusion when they are confronted with different views, whether in terms of religious beliefs, religious practices, or social ethics. (Bainar, 2024) On the one hand, religion-based education must maintain this diversity by teaching tolerance and mutual respect between religious communities. However, on the other hand, there is a major challenge in maintaining the integrity of religious teachings so that they are not eroded by more secular or liberal currents of thought. Therefore, religion-based education must be able to provide a broader understanding of the importance of maintaining the integrity of religious values, while respecting existing diversity without losing a strong religious identity.

### **Opportunities and Solutions in Religion-Based Education**

In facing the ever-evolving challenges of modern times, religious education based on modern contexts has the opportunity to transform without having to lose the essence of traditional values that have been inherited by scholars and religious figures. (Darsana & Institut, 2024) One of the main solutions is the implementation of religious education that is relevant to the conditions of the times, but still rooted in the basic principles of religion. Religious education does not only focus on teaching religious texts alone, but must also be able to present an understanding that is applicable in everyday life, taking into account technological advances and social changes. Thus, religious

teaching can respond to modern challenges by continuing to prioritize values such as honesty, discipline, compassion, and responsibility which are the core of religious teachings. Implementing religious-based education that is relevant to the modern context, for example by integrating discussions on contemporary issues such as social media, globalization, and changing values, can help the younger generation understand how religious teachings can still be held firmly even though the world around them continues to develop. (Sugianto et al., 2023) This opens up space for renewal in the way religious values are taught, so that they remain contextual and not outdated.

One of the biggest challenges in today's education world is the use of technology that is developing very rapidly. However, the ethical use of technology can be an important solution in supporting religious education without sacrificing moral values. Technology, in this case, is not only seen as a threat to religious education, but also as a very potential tool to expand learning space. The use of digital devices to support religious teaching can accommodate various methods, such as interactive learning, video lectures, religious-based educational applications, and online discussion forums that facilitate communication between teachers and students. Thus, religious education can be carried out in a more interesting and dynamic way. However, the use of this technology must still be accompanied by an understanding of ethics and responsibility, where children are taught how to use technology positively and wisely. For example, they must be given an understanding that although information can be easily accessed, not all information available on the internet is in accordance with religious teachings. Therefore, it is important to educate the younger generation on how to filter information and use technology wisely, in order to strengthen religious and ethical values in everyday life.

Amidst increasingly complex global challenges, religious education also needs to integrate universal values that can be accepted by all groups, without reducing the religious values that are the basis of the teachings. Universal values such as justice, peace, compassion, and honesty are concepts that can be found in almost all religions and can be the foundation for inclusive religious education. (Mustafida, 2020) Religious education that is able to integrate these universal values has the potential to not only shape good individual character, but also build harmonious relationships between religious communities. In the context of an increasingly pluralistic and connected world, an understanding of these values will help children to better appreciate diversity and behave with a sense of tolerance and mutual respect. Therefore, religious education based on universal values can be a solution in facing modern challenges, where various views and beliefs often conflict. Through the integration of these universal religious values, religious education can provide practical solutions that are not only beneficial for Muslims, but also for the global community as a whole, which increasingly needs a sense of mutual understanding and cooperation in overcoming various world problems.

### **The Role of Teachers and Educational Institutions in Religion-Based Education**

The role of teachers in religious-based education is very important, because they are not only teachers, but also agents of change who are able to align traditional values with modern needs. As educators, teachers have a great responsibility to instill religious values in the younger generation in a relevant and contextual way. Amid the shift in values caused by technological advances and modernity, teachers must have the ability to bridge two different worlds: eternal religious values and values that develop in modern society. (Salsabila & Karina, 2021) One of the important roles of teachers is to guide students to understand that religious teachings, although revealed in a certain historical context, still have universal values that can be applied in everyday life, both in social, economic, and technological contexts. Effective teachers are able to adapt their teaching methods so that they can explain the essence of religious teachings in a way that is relevant to the situation of the times, without sacrificing the depth of meaning of the teachings. They must use educational technology wisely to support the teaching and learning process, so that religious education is not only seen as a theory or teaching of the past, but as a guide to life that can be applied in various contemporary situations.

Religious-based educational institutions also play a very large role in facing ethical challenges in this modern era. As institutions that serve as places for education and character development, religious educational institutions must function not only as centers of teaching, but also as centers of adaptation and innovation in responding to changing times. Ethical challenges arising from technological advances, cultural pluralism, and social change require a quick and appropriate response from religious educational institutions. Educational institutions must be places where religious values are conveyed in a way that reflects the social changes that are occurring. In this case, the curriculum taught needs to integrate an understanding of modern ethics, such as the responsible use of technology, social media management, and the importance of maintaining moral integrity in the face of global information flows. (Putri et al., 2020) In addition, religious educational institutions must be able to create an environment that supports students' spiritual and intellectual growth, by providing access to broad religious knowledge, as well as training in social and technological skills needed by today's young generation. Thus, religious-based educational institutions can be a relevant place to develop a generation that not only understands religious teachings, but is also able to apply them wisely in facing increasingly complex global challenges.

The strategy of improving teacher competence in facing social and technological changes is the main key to the success of adaptive religious education. Teachers need to be given continuous training and professional development so that they can master various relevant educational technologies, and have a deep understanding of how to integrate religious values in a broader context. Improving teacher competence not only includes deeper religious knowledge, but also skills in managing classes well, overcoming social problems faced by students, and utilizing technology to support the teaching and learning process. Educational technology training held by educational institutions or

religious institutions can help teachers to use digital devices, learning applications, and social media in ways that support students' religious and moral education. In addition, teachers need to be given an understanding of current social issues, such as the impact of social media, internet addiction, and the challenges of pluralism and diversity of values in society. Through this training, teachers will be better prepared to face the dynamics of education in the digital era and be able to guide students wisely in facing various moral and ethical challenges that arise. In addition, it is important for teachers to develop good interpersonal skills, such as empathy, effective communication, and the ability to provide examples of good behavior, as these are also integral parts of religious education.

In addition to training in technology and pedagogy, strategies for improving teacher competency also involve character building and spiritual development. As religious educators, teachers are not only required to teach, but also to be role models for students in practicing religious teachings. (Briliantara & Salim, 2024) Therefore, teacher self-development in the spiritual aspect is an important part of improving the quality of religious education. Teachers who have spiritual depth and high moral integrity will be better able to guide students to follow in their footsteps in everyday life. Educational institutions must provide support to teachers to continue to develop themselves personally and spiritually, through in-depth activities, such as religious studies, retreats, and character building. Teachers who have a deep understanding of religion and emotional maturity will be more effective in teaching religious values and guiding students in facing the challenges faced in the modern world. In addition, it is important for teachers to work closely with parents and the community in creating a holistic educational environment that supports student development both academically and morally.

Overall, the role of teachers and religious-based educational institutions in facing modern challenges is very important. Teachers as agents of change must be able to align traditional values and modern needs with a relevant and adaptive approach. Meanwhile, religious-based educational institutions must be places that not only teach religion, but also integrate universal moral values, and facilitate the development of character and social skills needed by students in this digital era. (Mulyadi, 2024) Strategies for improving teacher competence, both in technology, pedagogy, and character development, will greatly determine the success of religious education in facing the challenges of the times. Thus, religious-based education will remain relevant and can produce a generation that is not only intellectually intelligent, but also has good morals, is able to adapt to social change, and is ready to face global challenges.

## **CONCLUSION**

Religion-based education plays a crucial role in shaping individual character and building an ethical society. However, the challenges faced, such as technological developments, globalization, and pluralism, require an adaptive approach to maintain the relevance of traditional values in a modern context.

Ethical dilemmas arise when religious values conflict with the norms of

modern society that emphasize individual freedom. Therefore, it is important for educators to find effective ways to teach religious values while still considering existing social dynamics.

Faith-based educational institutions must be agents of change that not only teach religious teachings, but also integrate universal values such as justice and tolerance. Through innovation in teaching methods and ethical use of technology, religious education can remain relevant and responsive to the needs of the younger generation.

With ongoing training for teachers and character building, faith-based education can produce individuals who are not only intellectually intelligent, but also able to adapt to changing times and face global challenges with strong moral integrity.

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