Islamologi : Jurnal Ilmiah Keagamaan
https://jipkm.com/index.php/islamologi
ISSN: **3026-4553**

EDUCATED WOMEN: PILLARS OF ISLAMIC SOCIETY

Naya Azhara
nayaazhara29@gmail.com

Nor Afifah
norafifah258@gmail.com

English Language Education Student, Lambung Mangkurat University, South Kalimantan

Abstract

Sebagai Perempuan terkadang kita mendapat diskriminasi dalam hal Pendidikan. Banyak Masyarakat yang masih berpendapat bahwa Perempuan tidaklah perlu memiliki Pendidikan yang begitu tinggi. Pemikiran masyraakat yang masih mengutamakan Pendidikan anak laki-laki dibandingkan anak Perempuan (male oriented), Dimana hal ini berkaitan dengan budaya yang telah mengakar kuat bahwa perempuan tidak sepantasnya berpendidikan tinggi karena nantinya hanya akan hanya akan mengurus kehidupan rumah tangga. Namun nyata nya Perempuan memiliki peranan yang sangat penting dalam dunia Pendidikan. Apalagi dalam islam sangat menekankan peran dan pemberdayaan perempuan, dan perempuan Muslim memainkan peran penting dalam membentuk lanskap sosial, politik, dan ekonomi suatu bangsa.
Kata kunci: Pendidikan, Perempuan, Islam, Masyarakat, Sosial.

Abstract

As women, we often face discrimination when it comes to education. Many societies still believe that women do not need a high level of education. The prevailing mindset is often male-oriented, prioritizing the education of boys over girls. This is deeply rooted in cultural beliefs that women should not pursue higher education because their primary role is to manage the household. However, the reality is that women play a vital role in education. Moreover, Islam strongly emphasizes the role and empowerment of women, and Muslim women play a significant part in shaping a nation's social, political, and economic landscape.
Keywords: Education, Women, Islam, Society, Social.

INTRODUCTION

Knowledge is knowledge that encompasses everything that is unknown to man, and the ruling on studying in Islam is obligatory. Therefore, we should study as much as we can while we can. But in fact there are still so many people who underestimate this. Whereas science has a very important role for our lives as humans. with knowledge we can distinguish which one is good and which one is bad. And this knowledge is the guideline for our lives which will lead us to happiness, both happiness in the world and in the hereafter.

Education is the means by which humans learn how to live life. Theoretically, education is defined as a conscious effort made by families, communities, and governments through guidance, teaching, and training activities. These activities take place in formal, informal and non-formal institutions and continue throughout a person's life. The purpose of education is to prepare individuals who are intellectually, emotionally, and spiritually intelligent (IQ, EQ, and SQ) in order to be able to apply the knowledge gained in various lines of life dynamically for the future (Ramayulis, 2014).

It's not uncommon to meet people with shallow thinking who don't think education is very important. Especially for people who live in the countryside, where there are still so many thoughts such as, "Why go to high school, only the villagers will not be able to become anything" or "Halah, in the end they will also become farmers". It's sad but true. Or even worse, there are still so many parents who only allow their sons to get an education. According to Indian authorities, educating boys only benefits the individual, but educating girls has a wider impact as it leads to the education of the whole family. The reference is from Shetty's work published in 2015.

In the modern era like now, in fact, we still often encounter what is called *male oriented. Here, women are often underestimated and considered inappropriate for education.* Whereas women, with all their gentleness and wisdom, have played an important role in this life. According to Saxesana (2017, p. 1), education is the most effective means of empowering women. Women who have received formal education will have greater resilience and a more positive mindset in overcoming challenges and finding solutions to the life problems they face. In her work, (Somani, 2017) asserts that education has the potential to improve the talents of individuals, especially women. Education is important for women, not because of their gender, but because they are individuals who deserve equal access to education.

Since independence was proclaimed, women have been the foundation for the development of this nation. The heroes who defended the country were not only men but also women. This led social scientists to adopt 18th century theories of social change that women could be the carriers of the nation's sustainable development (Faqih:2021)

As the largest population in the world, women play an important role in the formation of civilization. Moreover, in Islamic civilization, there are many women with extraordinary intelligence and are so active with Muslims to develop science,

da'wah, jihad, and amar ma'ruf nahi munkar. Therefore, from the perspective of Islam, there are values that provide a strong foundation for women in terms of education.

The Hadiths of the Prophet Muhammad SAW. Provides a different and inspiring view that proves that women should get higher education and play an active role in society.

We can see that behind successful Muslim figures and great scholars there is a great role of a mother in educating her child. It cannot be denied that a mother has a huge impact on the success of a child, which later the child will become the next generation of the nation. Because " ألم مدرسة االولى" which means "Mother is the first school for her children".

RESEARCH METHODS

This research used a mixed-methods approach, combining qualitative and quantitative methods to gain a deeper understanding. In the qualitative part, this research began by exploring various relevant articles and literature as the main reference. These references were used to build a strong theoretical foundation and provide an initial perspective on the topic to be discussed. Thus, this qualitative approach is expected to enrich the basic understanding before moving on to quantitative analysis.

Furthermore, the study involved a quantitative approach through the distribution of questionnaires to a selected number of respondents. The questionnaire is designed to collect numerical data relevant to the research topic. The data collected from these questionnaires will later be processed and analyzed statistically, aiming to obtain objective and measurable conclusions. The results of this quantitative approach are expected to support and confirm the findings of the previous qualitative analysis.

By using mixed research methods, this research is expected to provide a more comprehensive view of the topic at hand. The qualitative approach will provide an understanding of the context, while the quantitative approach offers concrete and quantifiable data. The combination of these two methods is expected to produce an in-depth and thorough analysis, thus making a meaningful contribution to understanding the research topic more broadly.

DISCUSSION

Islamic education according to Muhammad Athiyah Al Abrasyi is all efforts to prepare humans to live perfectly and happily, love the homeland, perfect character, orderly mind, smooth feelings, proficient in work, sweet speech both oral and written (Hadi, IA., 2018).

Then, according to Marimba, Islamic education is a physical and spiritual guidance based on Islamic law in order to form the main personality according to

Islamic standards (Damopolii, M., 2008).

In this increasingly modern era, we as Muslims face various challenges in improving the quality of our education, especially for women. Although Islam has explained the importance of studying, there are still so many stigmas and cultural barriers in society that have limited access to education for women. This article will explore how educated women can be the key and reference to build a strong and competitive ummah so that it can become a pillar of life.

1) Women as mothers and first educators for children

Children are the most precious treasure for parents. The presence of a child can provide new colors for their lives. According to *John Locke*'s philosophy of tabula rasa, *a* newborn child in the world is likened to *a blank sheet of paper* (Sudirjo, 2016). Therefore, parents play an important role in the formation of a child's identity and future. Both fathers and mothers have important roles. The role of a father as head of the family also contributes to educating children, in the Qur'an the role of a father is not only to make a living for the family but also to provide education in the form of life values and morals, while a mother is about parenting (Zarman, 2011).

In their role as mothers, women are the first to have direct contact with children, and it is through their interactions with children that they educate and teach children about life (Lee, 2019; Mendoza, 2024; Webb, 2020).

Women in a family have roles and responsibilities that are not easy. Their job is not just to serve their husbands and do housework, they also have other responsibilities in the form of full responsibility for their children, both physical, spiritual, and educational needs. "Women are the initial madrasah for children in the process of human education. Empowered women will instill noble values to children from an early age so as to be able to give birth to a generation of quality nations that uphold moral ethics".

Fulfillment of children's education is not just letting them study at school, but in the family in general, namely women as educators, protectors and caretakers. Women are the first school for their children in accordance with "al-ummu madrasah al-ula, idza a'dadtaha a'dadta sha'ban tayyiban al-a'raq." This means that the mother is the first school, if you prepare it, then you have prepared the best generation (Nurhayati & Syahrizal, 2015).

As explained above, women represent madrasatul uula or the first school for their children, so it is fitting that women need knowledge to educate their children and instill good morals for them so as to create a smart and moral generation to continue the struggle in this country.

2) The Impact of Educated Women on Family and Society.

Because women are built with many strengths, many discussions focus on women's history. One of the ways women contribute to society is through the roles they play in everyday life. Since Indonesia's independence, women have been a pillar of the nation's progress. The heroes who fought for Indonesia during colonialism and imperialism were not created only by men to be born. The fact that women have an important role in protecting their homeland is something that cannot be denied. The adoption of theories of social change in the 18th century, which indicated that women could be agents that sustained national development, led to the adoption of these theories by social scientists (Aswiati, 2016).At present, it needs to be accepted that the role of women is not optimal. The fundamental issue contributing to the existence of this situation is the fact that women's potential and capabilities have not been institutionalized (Arpino, 2019; Jawhar, 2022; Kröger, 2020; Wang, 2024). There is still a lack of services available to women. Current functions are inadequate because women have not yet transformed into human resources of proven quality.

Educated women tend to have better decision-making skills, both in household and social contexts. They can be a source of social change that encourages families and communities to care more about education, health and well-being. Educated women also contribute greatly to reducing poverty and improving health because with their knowledge they are better able to manage the economy and maintain family health.

Given the Indonesian culture that prioritizes family life, the role of women in the family is mandatory. Children will later inherit their mother's intelligence not their father's. There is a saying that if women are smart, they will give birth to smart generations as well. It can be interpreted that education will influence the mindset of the family, how to educate children and apply the principles of justice in the family.

Educated women have the ability and privilege to shape moral values, ethics, and spirituality in children's daily lives. Here are some contributions that educated women can make:

1. Good example

   Through their polite, compassionate behavior they can inspire children to develop positive traits in social life.
2. Emotional support

   Women play an important role in providing emotional support to children. They have a natural ability to understand children's feelings and emotions, and are able to create strong emotional bonds with them.
3. Domestic skills education

Women play an important role in educating children about domestic skills. Through this education women help children to become independent, responsive to

tasks, understand the importance of cooperation and peace in life.

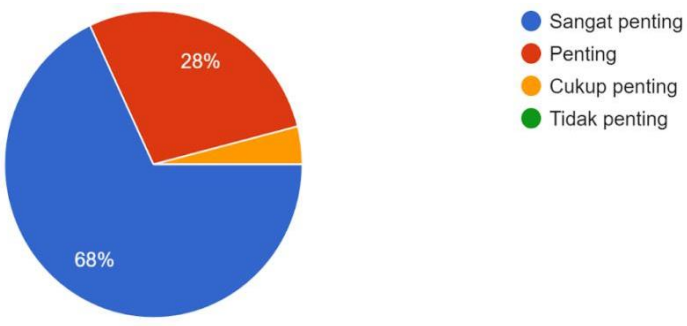
3) The Role of Women in Islamic History

On many occasions there are many questions about the extent to which women contribute to the development of Islamic law. In fact, in the history of Islam, there are many female figures who are educated and contribute greatly to the development of science and society. Since the time of the Prophet Muhammad, women have played a variety of significant roles in the religious, social, and political development of Islam. The role of teaching was carried out very well by one of the wives of the Prophet Muhammad named "Aisyah ra who had a very extraordinary role in narrating the Prophetic hadiths and was a mirror of the leading Muslim female figures who greatly influenced Islamic fiqh, the life of thought, religion and politics for Muslims (al-Baghdady, 2001: 36). Aisha bint Abu Bakr was one of the prophet's wives and one of the most prolific transmitters of hadith. She was known for her intelligence and was often asked to give fatwas by the companions after the death of the Prophet, she also actively taught religious knowledge to the next generation of Muslims. From her life story we can see and learn that women also have an important role in Islamic history, especially in the field of education.

4) Challenges and opportunities for Muslim women today

Although Islam has emphasized the importance of education for women, there are still social and cultural challenges that hinder women's access to education. This is usually due to factors such as poverty, restrictive social norms or lack of support.

But thankfully in the modern era like now the opportunities for women to get education are more wide open, both through formal and informal education. Women have now realized that education is so important for them as well as parents, their thoughts have also become more open that their daughters also have the right to pursue the highest education possible. We have observed this by conducting an online-based survey by filling out a questionnaire, where overall the results of this questionnaire show strong support for women's education.



From the diagram it can be concluded that the majority of respondents support higher education for women, with around 68% of respondents thinking that it is very important. This reflects the increasing awareness of the importance of equality in education and the role of women. This strong support also indicates a shift in public attitudes towards the idea that women have the same rights as men to pursue education and participate in society. With adequate education, women can improve their quality of life, contribute to various fields, and accelerate development in the community. Education for women is not only a basic right, but also a long-term investment that has a positive impact on future generations. The diagram above emphasizes that education for women is a fundamental right that must be guaranteed.

CLOSING

Education for women has a very significant role in building an empowered and civilized society. Although there is often still a view that prioritizes men's education, women also have the same right to pursue the highest education possible. In Islam, education for women is highly recommended, because women are the foundation of the family and act as the first educators for their children. Educated women can shape moral and ethical values in children's lives, and have a positive influence on the character building of the next generation.

Educated women also have good decision-making skills, both within the family and in the community. They tend to care more about education, health and family welfare. This suggests that women with greater knowledge are able to contribute to improving the quality of life of their families and even help reduce poverty through better economic capabilities.

On the other hand, many challenges are still faced by women in accessing education, such as economic and cultural constraints that still look down on education for women. However, in this modern era, opportunities for women to get an education are increasingly wide open. Many women and parents are beginning to realize the importance of education and support women to pursue higher education.

From the survey conducted for this article, it appears that the majority of people are in favor of education for women, indicating a positive change in people's views. This equality in education will encourage women to take an active role in various fields of life and accelerate the development of society as a whole. Education is not only a basic right for women, but also a long-term investment to create a prosperous and competitive society.

Overall, women's education is one of the important pillars in creating a generation that is knowledgeable, characterized and ready to face future challenges. Thus, empowering women through education is not only an individual responsibility, but also a shared responsibility to ensure a better future for the nation.

LITERATURE

Abdurrahman al-Baghdady, Emancipation in Islam. Jakarta: Gema Insani Press, 2001

Arpino, B. (2019). Education Inequalities in Health Among Older European Men and Women: The Role of Active Aging. Journal of Aging and Health, 31(1), 185-208.https://doi.org/10.1177/0898264317726390

Damopolii, M. (2008). Theoretical Perspectives of Islamic Education: A Comparative Study of the Terms Tarbiyyah, Ta'dib, and Ta'lim. Journal of Lentera Pendidikan, 11(1), 19-31.

Femmy Eka Kartika Putri. (2021). Women Play an Important Role in Building Quality Human Resources. https://www.kemenkopmk.go.id/perempuan-berperan-penting-bangun-sdm- berkualitas

Hadi, IA. (2018). Critical Analysis of Muhammad 'Athiyah al-Abrasyi's Progressive Education Thought in the Perspective of Islamic Education Philosophy). Journal of Inspiration, 1(3), 257-279.

Lee, B. G. (2019). The Educational Effects of the Experience of Nursing Students' Patients Role in the Simulation Practice Education for the Women's Health Nursing. Journal of Korean Academic Society of Nursing Education, 25(4), 436-447. https://doi.org/10.5977/jkasne.2019.25.4.436

M. faqih, (2012). Gender Analysis and Social Transformation (Yogyakarta: Pustaka Pelajar Offset, 2012), 80.

Nurhayati, & Syahrizal. (2015). The Urgency and Role of Mother as Madrasah Al-Ula in Children Education. Itqan, vol 6(2), 153-167.

Ramayulis. (2014). The science of Islamic education. Jakarta: Kalam Mulia

Somani, T. (2017). Importance of educating girls for the overall development of society: A global perspective. Journal of Educational Research and Practice, 7(1), 10.

Sudirjo, E. (2016). Innovative Learning Model Based on Child Friendly School Concept. Edu Humaniora. Cibiru Campus Basic Education Journal, vol 2(1).https://doi.org/10.17509/eh.v2i1.2748

Zarman, W. (2011). It turns out that Educating Children the Prophet's Way is Easy & Effective (Ade Saeful Muslim (ed.). Ruang Kata Publisher. https://books.google.co.id/books?id= 9ZUvdZntBvMC&lpg=PP1&hl=id&p g=PP1#v=onepage&q&f=false.