

The study of the book *Ta'limul Muta'allim* in shaping the character of students at Madrasah Diniyah Showlatiyah Balikpapan

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Abstract: This research aims to find out how learning the book *Ta'limul Muta'allim* influences the character formation of students at Madrasah Diniyah Showlatiyah Balikpapan. This research uses a qualitative approach. The subjects of this research were the Head of Madrasah Diniyah Showlatiyah Balikpapan, the teacher of the book *Ta'limul Muta'allim*, the teaching staff of Madrasah Diniyah Showlatiyah Balikpapan and several students who studied the book *Ta'limul Muta'allim*, namely classes V and VI of Madrasah Diniyah Showlatiyah Balikpapan. The data collection methods used were observation, interviews and documentation. The collected data is analyzed by processing data from sources, then explaining the data and drawing conclusions from the research results. The results of the research show that (1) the learning of the book *Ta'limul Muta'allim* at Madrasah Diniyah Showlatiyah Balikpapan in this learning begins with reading the study prayer, interpreting the book led by the ustadz using the bandongan method, asking several students to read the book that has been interpreted, then Ustadz reviews previous material before going into new material, explains material using the lecture method, Ustadz makes natural reflections so that learning doesn't feel bored, strengthens students' understanding by asking questions when there is material they don't understand, provides historical stories related to material that requires it, closes learning with closing prayers and greetings. (2) the character instilled in learning the book *Ta'limul Muta'allim* at Madrasah Diniyah Showlatiyah Balikpapan. Namely religious character, curiosity character, environmental care character, patient character, compassion character, honest character, disciplined character, waro character.

Keywords: *Learning the Book Ta'limul Muta'allim, Character Formation*

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Introduction

The study of the book *Ta'limul Muta'allim* is a religious education that focuses on etiquette and methods in the pursuit of knowledge. The book *Ta'limul Muta'allim* is one of the monumental works written by Sheikh Az-Zarnuji, containing guidelines on ethics and methods of seeking knowledge aimed at students so that they are not only intellectually smart but also possess noble character (Wiguna et al., 2021). This book emphasizes the importance of sincere intentions, respect for teachers, discipline, and humility in the learning process. Many pesantren in Indonesia make *Ta'limul Muta'allim* a mandatory book because its values are relevant for shaping the character of students (Baihaqi & Hidayati, 2020).

In addition to providing spiritual guidance, this book also discusses practical aspects of learning, such as time management and the importance of choosing good companions in the pursuit of knowledge (Busiri, 2020). With its content full of wisdom, this book has become a primary reference

in traditional Islamic education in Indonesia and plays an important role in building a generation that is not only knowledgeable but also possesses noble character (Faturrahman et al., 2023). Through the study of the *Ta'limul Muta'allim* book, it is hoped that students will not only understand and master the material taught but also be able to apply it in their daily lives. The study of this book is usually conducted through group discussions with a kyai or ustadz who has experience in teaching it.

Madrasah Diniyah Showlatiyah Balikpapan is a non-formal educational institution under the auspices of Pondok Pesantren Syaichona Cholil Balikpapan, where students are taught about the study of religious texts, one of which is the book *Ta'limul Muta'allim*. The learning process at this madrasah aims to shape the character of the students through the application of the etiquette and moral values taught in the book. Various methods such as lectures, bandongan, sorogan, and question-and-answer sessions are often used in this learning process.

Character, according to Ki Hajar Dewantara, is the "wholeness of the human soul" which encompasses three main elements: moral knowledge, moral feelings, and moral behavior (Setyorini & Asiah, 2022). Good character consists of knowing goodness, wanting goodness, and doing goodness. This is in line with the view that character formation should refer to the values of character education, which encompass religious, cultural, and philosophical state values (Slamet Pamuji, 2024).

Several previous studies have discussed the learning of the yellow book and the character formation of students. For example, research by (Afif, 2019) shows that the sorogan and bandongan methods are effective in improving students' understanding of the yellow book. Another study by (Bukhari, 2019) discusses the use of the constructivist model in religious-based learning in the pesantren environment. The research results show that the constructivist model is capable of enhancing students' understanding of the yellow book material because this approach encourages students to actively build their own knowledge based on interactions with texts and the learning environment. However, there is still little research specifically discussing the teaching of the *Ta'limul Muta'allim* book at Madrasah Diniyah Showlatiyah Balikpapan, particularly regarding the application of teaching methods and their contribution to character formation. Therefore, this research will specifically examine the implementation of the *Ta'limul Muta'allim* book learning at this madrasa.

At Madrasah Diniyah Showlatiyah Balikpapan, to support the character development of the students, the teachers of the *Ta'limul Muta'allim* book implement several activities, especially in religious activities. Not only that, but the teachers also form organizations and extracurricular activities that must be attended by their students. In this way, the teachers collaborate with the caretakers and the organization supervisors of the pesantren. Some who have been involved accompany and provide direct lessons to their students both in terms of education at school and in the dormitory. For example, students are taught how to behave properly, speak politely, and act with good manners towards fellow students as well as guests, especially towards the family of the pesantren caretakers.

This research aims to analyze the effectiveness of the *Ta'limul Muta'allim* book learning in shaping the character of students at Madrasah Diniyah Showlatiyah Balikpapan. Thus, this research is expected to provide deeper insights into the effectiveness of the *Ta'limul Muta'allim* book learning in shaping the character of students, while also serving as a reference for other Islamic educational institutions to improve the quality of yellow book learning.

Method

This research uses a qualitative approach to analyze how the study of the *Ta'limul Muta'allim* book contributes to the character formation of students at Madrasah Diniyah Showlatiyah Balikpapan. The qualitative approach was chosen because it allows researchers to understand phenomena in depth within a natural context. According to (Fadli, 2021), qualitative research aims to obtain in-depth data through direct understanding of the object being studied, with an emphasis on meaning and process.

The research design used is a case study. Case studies were chosen because they provide the opportunity to explore certain phenomena intensively and in detail within a specific location or social unit. Case studies allow researchers to deeply understand the dynamics of learning the *Ta'limul Muta'allim* book and its influence on the character formation of students.

This research was conducted at Madrasah Diniyah Showlatiyah Balikpapan, which is a non-formal educational institution under the auspices of Pondok Pesantren Syaichona Cholil Balikpapan. The subjects of the research are fifth and sixth-grade students who participate in the study of the *Ta'limul Muta'allim* book. The research informants include teaching teachers, pesantren caretakers, and students selected based on purposive sampling techniques to ensure the data obtained is relevant to the research focus.

Data in this study were collected through direct observation of the *Ta'limul Muta'allim* learning process in the classroom and other supporting activities relevant to character formation, in-depth interviews with teachers, caregivers, and students to understand the teaching methods and their impact, as well as documentation in the form of curricula, lesson schedules, and records of extracurricular activities relevant to the research focus. Data were analyzed using the Miles and Huberman model, which includes three stages: data reduction to simplify and select data relevant to the research focus, data presentation in the form of narratives, tables, or diagrams to facilitate understanding, and conclusion drawing in the form of data interpretation to answer the research objectives (Miles & Huberman, 2007).

Results and Discussion

The learning of the *Ta'limul Muta'allim* book at Madrasah Diniyah Showlatiyah Balikpapan in shaping the character of students can proceed well if the teacher has prepared the material contained in the *Ta'limul Muta'allim* book that will be delivered. In the learning process at Madrasah Diniyah Showlatiyah Balikpapan, the planning made by each educator, from the initial opening steps of the lesson to the final closing steps in the classroom, allows the teaching and learning process to run effectively and efficiently. In this regard, it is in line with the opinion expressed by Warsita regarding the stages in the teaching and learning activities:

1. In this introductory activity, the lesson or planning is made as well as possible to attract the students' attention in following the lesson so that they focus on the material that has been presented. For example, telling historical stories related to the material, and providing games related to the material while reviewing previous lessons.
2. The core activity is directed towards listening to and paying attention to the teacher's explanation. The teacher provides examples through stories, then opens a question-and-answer session to ensure the students' understanding of the material that has been explained.
3. The closing activity is the final part of the learning process, where the teacher provides a feedback test to measure the students' learning outcomes and confirm their understanding. Additionally, the students are asked to read the book along with its meaning, while being questioned about the tools used.

To realize the planned learning, a method that aligns with the material being taught is needed. At Madrasah Diniyah Showlatiyah Balikpapan, the teaching methods used are still dominated by lectures and question-and-answer sessions. It is important for teachers to vary the teaching methods so that the students do not feel bored. This is in line with the opinion of Said and Affan, who mentioned that the *wetonan* and *sorogan* methods, which are characteristic of pesantren, are now often replaced with the lecture method in the classical learning system.

The book *Ta'limul Muta'allim* plays an important role because its content and material are rich in moral values in learning. This book is a classical written work that extensively discusses the etiquette of seeking knowledge, so that seekers of knowledge can gain benefits and blessings from their

learning. As one of the important guides in Islamic education, this book is valued not only in the Islamic world but also in various parts of the world due to its universal and relevant content. Through the study of the Ta'limul Muta'allim book, students demonstrate character development reflected in:

1. The practice of the material taught in the study of the book Ta'limul Muta'allim.
2. There is a change in attitude for the better.
3. The ability of students to distinguish between good and bad behavior, and its application in daily life.

The Application of Character Values in the Learning of the Book Ta'limul Muta'allim

The application of character values in the learning of the Ta'limul Muta'allim book at Madrasah Diniyah Showlatiyah Balikpapan is reflected through various activities that take place during the learning process. These values include (Annur et al., 2022; Tamiya et al., 2022):

1. First, religious character is a good trait that is related to the Creator. With this, students are accustomed to performing the activity of tahsinul Qur'an. The practice of collective istighfar can help students lead their lives with confidence, speak well, and respect one another.
2. The second character of curiosity is an attitude and behavior that always strives to seek and learn new things. That is the activity of the students conducted by the teacher, which involves discussing together and exchanging opinions on the material that has been presented. With this, the students will become accustomed to asking each other questions and seeking opinions from their peers with the aim of fostering mutual curiosity.
3. The third character is environmental awareness, which is an attitude or action that is always aware of the surroundings, such as the roan or gotong royong activities carried out by students to clean the courtyard of the pesantren, especially within the environment of madrasah diniyah showlatiyah. Disposing of waste in its proper place is one of the traditions used to habituate students and also to shape their environmental awareness character.
4. The fifth character trait of compassion is a sincere feeling that comes from the heart and a desire to love and make others happy. The students are instilled with the value of compassion as directed by the ustadz so that they become accustomed to visiting one of their classmates who is absent from school. Through this activity, the students will develop a sense of compassion for their friends, and it will also become a habit they will practice.
5. The seventh character of honesty is being a trustworthy person in every word, deed, and work. In this character, it can be seen through the activities of the madrasah exam whether during the exam they do not cheat, do not make noise, do not open books. With this activity, the students will become accustomed to being honest in everything.
6. The eighth character of discipline, in the formation of the students' character, is carried out through the activity of performing congregational prayers on time, and the practice of fasting on Mondays and Thursdays, which is encouraged for the students, so that they become accustomed to performing Sunnah practices. Remembering that the reward for fasting on Mondays and Thursdays is the opening of the Ar-Royan gate of heaven for them. In its implementation, before having sahur, the students are woken up by the duty officer to perform tahajjud prayer first. After the tahajjud prayer, the students head to the kitchen to have sahur. The implementation of the Monday-Thursday sunnah fast is mandatory; if any student does not fast on Monday-Thursday, they will receive a sanction. Sanctions can take the form of educational sanctions, welfare, and deterrence. Thus, a disciplined character will be formed.
7. The ninth The character of waro' is a behavior that is cautious and strives to avoid all things that are clearly haram, but also those that have the potential to lean towards haram, doubtful, and makruh actions. In this character-building activity, the students are asked to avoid overeating and excessive sleeping. And this activity is carried out by the students when they

find items or money that do not belong to them, to not take them but to give them to the rightful owner. After that, an announcement will be made regarding the item. With this activity, the students will get used to not keeping what does not belong to them, but instead storing it first and later giving it back to its owner.

Teaching the book Ta'limul Muta'allim at Madrasah Diniyah Showlatiyah Balikpapan.

The study of the Ta'limul Muta'allim book generally serves as a moral education lesson at Madrasah Diniyah Showlatiyah Balikpapan, and the study of the Ta'limul Muta'allim book is one of the subjects in the field of ethics. The book is taught in the fifth and sixth grades at Madrasah Diniyah Showlatiyah Balikpapan. It is something very important in education.

Before the implementation of the Ta'limul Muta'allim book learning, the teacher should first study the material that will be conveyed to the students. In the learning of the Ta'limul Muta'allim book, it is not the same as other formal learning, which requires a lesson plan (RPP) in formal education. Therefore, the guideline is only to indicate what will be studied in the upcoming week. Even with just that, the teacher does not deviate from the material during the lesson. Learning continues to proceed optimally.

The teaching of the book Ta'limul Muta'allim at Madrasah Diniyah Showlatiyah is overall proceeding well. Although not one hundred percent, the teaching of the Ta'limul Muta'allim book proceeded according to the existing guidelines. The initial activities begin with the recitation of nadhom and reading a prayer before studying. So when the teacher enters the classroom, the teacher only greets the students and then proceeds to take attendance before starting the main activity, which is to review the material that has been discussed. After interpreting the book and explaining the material, the teacher provides feedback so that the students can ask questions beforehand. The teacher invites the students to observe it, helps the students explain a little about the materials that have not been understood, and draws conclusions from the materials that have been taught.

The allocation of learning for the Ta'limul Muta'allim book is 1 x 30 minutes for each session in a week. Which, with that time, the teacher makes the most of it so that the learning targets can be achieved. And it is not uncommon for there to be class discussions followed by reading the scriptures using the tools of knowledge. Thus, the teacher must continuously find ways to ensure that students do not fall asleep during the lesson.

The character instilled in the study of the Ta'limul Muta'allim book at the Madrasah Diniyah Showlatiyah Balikpapan.

Character is something that is inherent in each individual and is subsequently manifested in their daily behavior. If someone has good character, then they will behave well. Conversely, if someone has a bad or even very bad character, they will also behave poorly. Madrasah Diniyah Showlatiyah Balikpapan, which is a non-formal educational institution under the auspices of Pondok Pesantren Syaichona Cholil Balikpapan. Therefore, it will certainly educate and shape the students to have good akhlakul karimah. Therefore, the teaching of the Ta'limul Muta'allim book is very important to support and facilitate the formation of students with good character or akhlakul karimah. Because in the book Ta'limul Muta'allim there are several chapters or sections that can shape the character of students, including the etiquette of a seeker of knowledge, the etiquette of respecting teachers, honesty, and patience. As the results of the observations and interviews conducted show, the study of the Ta'limul Muta'allim book aims to shape the character of the students. And of course, what is hoped for is the formation of students who have good character. That will be seen from the learning that is carried out. The characters instilled in the learning of the Ta'limul Muta'allim book are religious, curious, environmentally conscious, patient, compassionate, honest, disciplined, and cautious (waro').

Conclusion

The conclusion of this research is that the teaching of the Ta'limul Muta'allim book aims for the students, especially those studying the Ta'limul Muta'allim book in the 5th and 6th grades of Madrasah Diniyah Showlatiyah Balikpapan, to be able to apply the contents of the Ta'limul Muta'allim book in their daily lives. The teaching of the Ta'limul Muta'allim book at Madrasah Diniyah Showlatiyah Balikpapan, the teacher prepares the material using the yellow book and its translation. Before starting the lesson, all the students in the class read the nadhom while waiting for their teacher to arrive. In this lesson, the teacher delivers the teaching material using the bandongan system, providing explanations related to the material with stories or history and the issues that arise. The teacher also motivates the students to practice the values that have been taught. In the material of the Ta'limul Muta'allim book, it contains the code of ethics for seeking knowledge, such as the intention in seeking knowledge, choosing knowledge, and it also relates to the noble character of students towards their teachers.

The character instilled in the study of the Ta'limul Muta'allim book includes religious character, curiosity, environmental awareness, patience, compassion, honesty, discipline, and waro'. In shaping the character of students, the role of the teacher is very important, because the teacher is a figure who is observed and imitated by the students. What is usually done is to provide guidance to the students so that they can try to apply the material that has been taught by linking the learning material to things that can be applied in their daily lives. So that the students can more easily understand the wisdom from the lessons they have learned.

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