

## MOTIVATION TO MEMORIZE THE QURAN IN BUILDING DISCIPLINE CHARACTER OF SANTRI PESANTREN MUHAMMADIYAH AHMAD DAHLAN TEGAL REGENCY

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### ABSTRACT

*Muhammadiyah Ahmad Dahlan Islamic Boarding School in Tegal Regency has a strategic role in shaping the character of the young generation through superior programs based on the Quran. This study aims to analyze the contribution of motivation to memorize the Quran to the formation of the disciplined character of students in this Islamic boarding school. The study used a qualitative approach with data obtained through interviews, observations, and document analysis. The results of the study indicate that programs such as Dauroh Tahfidz and the memorization cadre program play an important role in training students to maintain consistency, responsibility, and time management. The motivation of students is driven by sincere intentions because of Allah SWT, parental encouragement, and intensive guidance from tahfidz teachers through a creative and supportive approach. In addition to memorizing the Quran, students are also trained through extracurricular activities to reduce boredom and support educational balance. This program not only produces competent hafidz, but also forms a strong Islamic character. This study provides a new contribution to the study of religion-based character education, especially in the Muhammadiyah Islamic boarding school environment. Thus, the motivation to memorize the Quran is proven to be an important instrument in the formation of the disciplined character of students who are oriented towards spiritual values and morality.*

### KEY- WORDS

*Memorizing the Quran, Character Building, Students, Muhammadiyah Ahmad Dahlan Islamic Boarding School*



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### INTRODUCTION

Islamic boarding schools are one of the educational institutions that have a strategic role in shaping the character of the young generation. One of the Islamic boarding schools that has a big vision in producing a generation of Islamic characters is the Muhammadiyah Ahmad Dahlan Islamic Boarding School in Tegal Regency. As an educational institution based on the values of the Qur'an and Sunnah, this boarding school not only instills religious understanding, but also encourages memorization of the Qur'an as the main foundation in shaping the character of students.

#### How to cite:

#### E-ISSN:

Redi Pujiarto, Ibnu Hasan, Darodjat (2025). Motivation to Memorize the Quran in Building Discipline Character of Santri Pesantren Muhammadiyah Ahmad Dahlan Tegal Regency. Journal Eduvest. 5(5), 5943-5950  
2775-3727

Memorizing the Quran is not just a form of worship, but also an effective method in forming a disciplined character in students. This activity requires high commitment, sincerity, and consistency in carrying out a structured daily routine. Students who are able to memorize the Quran in a disciplined manner demonstrate the ability to manage time, obey the rules, and instill strong values of obedience to religious teachings.

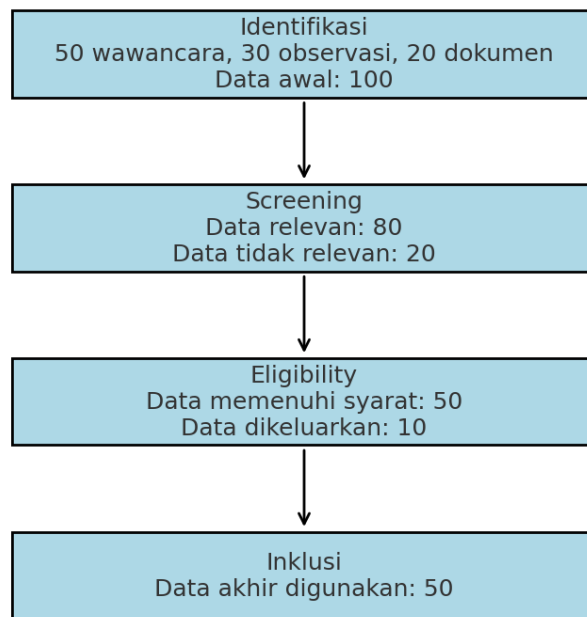
Research related to memorizing the Quran and character building has been widely conducted in various Islamic boarding schools, such as research linking memorizing the Quran with increasing the spirituality and morality of students. However, there has not been much research that specifically examines how motivation to memorize the Quran plays a significant role in the formation of disciplined character, especially in the Muhammadiyah Ahmad Dahlan Islamic Boarding School in Tegal Regency.

This study has a novel value because it integrates two important aspects, namely intrinsic and extrinsic motivation in memorizing the Qur'an and its implementation towards the formation of disciplined character of students in Muhammadiyah Islamic boarding schools. In addition, the approach used in this study aims to identify unique factors found in this Islamic boarding school environment, thus providing a new contribution to the study of religion-based character education.

Therefore, this study aims to analyze the extent to which the motivation to memorize the Qur'an contributes to the formation of the disciplined character of students at the Muhammadiyah Ahmad Dahlan Islamic Boarding School, Tegal Regency. The results of this study are expected to provide new insights for the development of character education programs based on the Qur'an, especially in Muhammadiyah Islamic boarding schools and other educational institutions.

## RESEARCH METHOD

This research is field research with a qualitative approach. While in the field, we interviewed a number of students and alumni who were directly involved in memorizing the Quran at the Muhammadiyah Ahmad Dahlan Islamic Boarding School in Tegal Regency. In addition, to enrich the research data and get a complete picture of the learning activities at the Islamic boarding school, especially those related to the tahfiz program, the researcher used participant observation data or direct experience. This participant observation has been going on for a long time before this research was conducted, because one of the research members is an alumni of the Islamic boarding school. Furthermore, the data was processed based on the Miles and Huberman analysis method which includes data reduction, presentation and conclusions (Sugiono, 2012: 94-95). The research method consists of several main stages, namely:



**Figure 1. Research method diagram .**

## **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

### **History of the Muhammadiyah Ahmad Dahlan Islamic Boarding School, Tegal Regency**

The Muhammadiyah Ahmad Dahlan Islamic Boarding School (PPAD) in Tegal Regency was founded by the Muhammadiyah Regional Leadership (PDM) of Tegal Regency in 2010 as one of Muhammadiyah's Charitable Enterprises. Located on Jl. Raya Banjarnayar KM 02, Harjawinangun, Balapulang District, Tegal Regency, PPAD carries the concept of Islamic boarding school-based madrasah aliyah education which aims to produce a superior, knowledgeable, and Islamic-characterized Muslim generation.

The main inspiration for the establishment of this Islamic boarding school came from the figure of KH. Ahmad Dahlan, the founder of Muhammadiyah, who was born in Yogyakarta on August 1, 1868 and died in Yogyakarta on February 23, 1923. In 1912, KH. Ahmad Dahlan founded Muhammadiyah to realize his ideals in the renewal of Islam in the archipelago. The values of Islamic renewal carried by him became the main foundation in the implementation of education at PPAD, so that students were not only taught religious knowledge but also equipped with skills that were relevant to the challenges of the modern era.

As a boarding school based on Quran memorization, PPAD makes the Quran memorization program one of its mainstays. This program is implemented with a structured method, including daily memorization, muroja'ah, and periodic evaluation. Students are not only taught to memorize, but also to understand the contents of the verses of the Quran, so that they are able to apply the values of the Quran in everyday life.

### **Outstanding Program of Muhammadiyah Ahmad Dahlan Islamic Boarding School, Tegal Regency**

Muhammadiyah Ahmad Dahlan Islamic Boarding School in Tegal Regency offers various excellent programs designed to support the spiritual, intellectual, and skills development of students holistically. The following are excellent programs that are characteristic of this Islamic boarding school:

1. **Structured Islamic Thoughts**  
A structured Islamic study program designed to provide an in-depth understanding of the teachings of the Islamic religion, including creed, fiqh, tafsir, and hadith.
2. **ORTOM (Muhammadiyah Autonomous Organization) Education Center**  
Leadership and organizational development for students through ORTOM-based activities, such as IPM (Muhammadiyah Student Association), Tapak Suci, and Hizbul Wathan.
3. **The Way of Memorizing the Qur'an**  
An intensive Quran memorization program that focuses on improving the quality of students' memorization within a certain time, equipped with periodic evaluations.
4. **Recitation of the Quran**  
Training in reading the Qur'an with correct Tajweed, to improve and perfect the students' reading.
5. **Daily Book Study**  
The study of yellow books conducted every day as part of traditional Islamic boarding school learning, provides students with insight into classical Islamic knowledge.
6. **Arabian Water Area**  
An intensive program to deepen your Arabic language skills, both in terms of grammar (nahwu and sharaf) and speaking skills.
7. **Daily Arabic Language Immersion**  
Daily learning activities that emphasize active communication skills in Arabic to support religious understanding.
8. **3 Language Speech Practice**  
A public speaking skills development program in three languages: Indonesian, Arabic, and English, to increase students' self-confidence.
9. **Marching Band Extracurricular**  
Group music activities that train discipline, cooperation, and creativity through marching band performances.
10. **Archery Extracurricular**  
Sunnah archery exercise to build focus, endurance, and physical strength of students.
11. **Hadroh Extracurricular**  
Islamic arts activities in the form of a hadroh music group that develops the artistic talents of students through praise and prayers.
12. **Multimedia Class**  
Multimedia technology and design skills training, including video production, graphic design, and digital media management.
13. **Santri Entrepreneur (Student Entrepreneur)**

An entrepreneurship program that aims to equip students with business skills, from production to marketing, as provisions for the future.

14. Masterpiece of Santri: Happy Stage

An annual event that showcases various works and creativity of students, ranging from performing arts to exhibitions of students' works.

These programs are designed to create a generation of students who are not only superior in religious knowledge, but also have skills, leadership, and independence that are ready to face the challenges of the times. The combination of religious learning, skills development, and creativity makes the Muhammadiyah Ahmad Dahlan Islamic Boarding School one of the leading Islamic boarding schools in Tegal Regency.

**Motivation to Memorize the Qur'an in the Formation of Disciplined Character of Students of the Muhammadiyah Ahmad Dahlan Islamic Boarding School, Tegal Regency**

The Muhammadiyah Ahmad Dahlan Islamic Boarding School in Tegal Regency has a flagship program in the form of Dauroh Tahfidz, an annual activity designed as an intensive program to memorize the Quran. This program not only aims to improve the memorization of students, but also instills values of discipline through structured daily routines. In addition to Dauroh Tahfidz, this Islamic boarding school is known as a cadre boarding school, where students are given the opportunity to take part in a special program to memorize the Quran for one full month in a year in turns.

Through these programs, students are trained to prioritize their time well, maintain consistency, and be responsible for the memorization targets that have been set. The great hope of the Islamic boarding school is that every student who graduates from the Muhammadiyah Ahmad Dahlan Islamic Boarding School, after six years of education, is able to memorize at least 6 juz. This memorization is not only a spiritual provision, but also part of the process of forming a solid disciplined character, which will be an important foundation in their lives in the future.

**The Perspective of Students Regarding Tahfidz**

The Quran memorization program has had a great impact on students in their lives, both inside and outside the Islamic boarding school. One of the students, Nur Aisyah, shared her experience regarding the memorization program at this Islamic boarding school:

*"Memorizing the Quran here taught me many things, especially patience and discipline. Our tahfidz teacher not only guided us in memorizing, but also motivated us to understand the meaning of the verses we memorized. I feel that memorizing the Quran is not just about remembering the words, but also how we practice the values of the Quran in our daily lives."*

This statement shows how the tahfidz program at this Islamic boarding school not only forms new hafidz, but also students who have strong characters, based on Islamic values.

### **The Perspective of Santri**

As proof of the success of the Islamic boarding school in forming the character of its students, one of the students, Arya, shared his experience while studying at this Islamic boarding school:

*"At first, I found it difficult to wake up early and follow a strict schedule. But after a few months, I felt my life was more organized. Memorizing the Quran every morning helped me be disciplined, not only in worship but also in studying. Here, I am taught to prioritize my time well, and that really helps me to be more focused in everything."*

This interview shows that the education system in this Islamic boarding school really plays a role in forming positive habits and disciplined character of the students.

### **Motivation to Memorize the Quran**

Memorizing the Quran should be based on personal desire and intention without any coercion from parents or other parties. The main driving factor in this process is a sincere intention, which is rooted in one's spiritual beliefs. The intention to memorize the Quran must be directed solely because of Allah SWT, without expecting praise from others. A sincere intention has a great influence on the results obtained. In addition to intention, support from parents and encouragement to make them happy are also important motivations.

When a student begins to lose his enthusiasm in memorizing or submitting his memorization, the tahfidz teacher usually provides motivation. One of them is by telling inspiring stories about the virtues of those who memorize the Qur'an, such as the hadith from HR. Al-Hakim which states that those who read, study, and practice the Qur'an will be given a crown of light on the Day of Judgment, and both of his parents will be clothed with a robe of glory that they never had in the world. In addition, the Qur'an itself provides a guarantee that Allah makes it easy for those who try to memorize it, as mentioned in QS. Al-Qamar (54:17).

At the Muhammadiyah Ahmad Dahlan Islamic Boarding School, the best time to memorize the Quran is in the morning before starting other activities, such as from 06.00 to 07.00. Students are also encouraged to repeat memorization after obligatory prayers to strengthen their memory. In addition to tahfidz activities, students participate in various extracurricular activities such as sports and arts to channel their talents and reduce boredom. For example, volleyball, soccer, and takraw competitions between classes. In the field of arts, students often participate in the Musabaqah Tilawatil Quran (MTQ) even though they have not achieved many achievements. Their enthusiasm to give their best for the Islamic boarding school remains high.

If a student looks uncomfortable or has difficulty, the tahfidz teacher provides additional motivation by reminding them that memorizing the Quran is a form of love for their parents. Parents also play an important role as the main motivator. The Islamic boarding school supports the learning process by providing classrooms decorated with writing and calligraphy of Quranic verses, the students' own work, to increase learning motivation. In addition, learning is carried out in a relaxed atmosphere, such as sitting on the floor or outdoors, so that students feel comfortable and motivated.



Tahfidz teachers use various methods to help students memorize faster and maintain their memorization so that they do not forget easily. The Prophet Muhammad SAW once said that memorizing the Quran is lost faster than a camel that is loose from its rope, so continuous effort is needed to maintain memorization. Repetition and reinforcement of memorization are carried out routinely so that the memorized verses are embedded in long-term memory.

The motivation of students to become hafidz is not only driven by personal desires, but also by an understanding of the blessings promised by the Quran. Reading one verse of the Quran is believed to provide one reward, and those who memorize the Quran will be given glory in this world and the hereafter. One of the alumni, Aldi Mustafa, said that although memorizing felt difficult at first, now he feels happy and grateful to be part of the Quran memorizers. According to him, the greatest blessing is the spiritual happiness felt during the memorization process.

Tahfidz teachers have an important role in providing encouragement and praise, as well as creating a pleasant learning atmosphere. Students help each other by submitting memorization to friends before submitting it to the ustadz or ustadzah. This method helps reduce errors during formal submission, so that the memorization process runs more smoothly. Through this approach, students not only learn to memorize, but also learn to work together and support each other.

The process of memorizing the Quran is not only about pursuing the number of memorizations, but also fostering a deep love for the Quran. With the support of continuous motivation, both from teachers and families, students at the Tahfizul Qur'an Boarding School are able to feel the extraordinary spiritual benefits in their journey as Quran memorizers.

The motivation to become a hafizh is to reduce sin, because it is believed that every reading of 1 verse can get 1 reward. Someone who can memorize and maintain the integrity of the Qur'an if he leaves will be protected from anything, and if he dies will reduce sin. The blessing of the Qur'an is by maintaining it through memorization the Quran will help 7 generations enter heaven.

*"In memorizing the Quran, it is not the amount of memorization that is pursued but the pleasure of memorizing the Quran that must be felt. In the past, it felt burdensome but now I just feel how happy and joyful it is to be part of those who memorize the Quran. That is an extraordinary pleasure."* He said with a cheerful smile (Aldi Mustafa as Alumni)

This article shows that motivation from the tahfidz teacher who always accompanies him is very much needed by the students. People who memorize the Quran are very easily bored and tired. Therefore, the main motivation is needed from the teacher who guides him. Motivation can be done by providing inspiring enthusiasm, giving praise and appreciation, giving stories of hafidz/hafidzah who were successful after struggling to memorize the Quran.

## CONCLUSION

The motivation to memorize the Quran at the Muhammadiyah Ahmad Dahlan Islamic Boarding School in Tegal Regency has a strategic role in shaping the disciplined character of students. Excellent programs such as Dauroh Tahfidz and the intensive memorization cadre program are a means to train students to maintain consistency, be responsible, and prioritize time well. The motivation of students is

supported by sincere intentions because of Allah SWT, encouragement from parents, and guidance from tahfidz teachers who provide inspiration and enthusiasm through various creative approaches. This process not only aims to achieve memorization targets, but also fosters a deep love for the Quran, builds a sense of gratitude, and strengthens the personality of students spiritually and emotionally. Thus, this program not only produces competent hafidz, but also a generation with Islamic character who is ready to face future challenges.

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