
Literature Review of The use of Islamic Educational Games to Increase Interest in Learning and Understanding Islamic Teachings in Children

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Abstract

Islamic religious education in children is an important aspect in the formation of religious values and understanding from an early age. However, teachers and parents often face challenges in attracting children's interest in learning and effectively conveying Islamic teachings. In this context, the use of Islamic educational games promises an innovative approach to increase children's interest in learning and understanding Islamic teachings. This article explores the potential use of Islamic educational games as an effective learning tool in the context of children's religious education. By integrating Islamic values into the game, Islamic educational games are able to provide a fun learning experience while strengthening the understanding of religious teachings. Through a theoretical approach and practical implementation, this article presents arguments that support the use of Islamic educational games as an effective means of improving learning and understanding of Islamic teachings in children.

Keywords: Islamic Education, Learning Interests, Islamic Teachings in Children

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INTRODUCTION

Education is a conscious effort planned to realize a comfortable learning process for students to actively explore religious abilities, self-control, intelligence and noble morals for society, nation and state (Kartika et al., 2023). The function of National Education is outlined in Law Number 20 of 2003 concerning the National Education System article 3, which reads, "National Education functions to develop abilities and shape the character of a dignified nation in order to educate the life of the nation, aiming to develop the potential of students to become human beings who believe in and fear God Almighty, have noble character, knowledge, creativity, independence and become democratic and responsible citizens". (Ariani & Festiyed, 2019)

Islamic religious education in children is an important aspect in the formation of their religious and moral identity from an early age (Rodiyah et al., 2024). However, major challenges often arise in attracting children's interest in learning about the teachings of Islam, especially in the midst of competition with modern attractions and increasingly tight time demands. In an effort to overcome this challenge, the use of technology, especially Islamic educational games, has emerged as a promising solution in enriching the learning experience of children (Hoerudin et al., 2023).

Play is a children's world. Where and with whom they gather, there will also be games. Through playing, they will get to know and learn various things about their lives, and can also train their courage and grow confidence both by using tools and not using tools. Playing will increase children's experience and knowledge. Joan Freeman and Utami Munandar define play as an activity that helps children achieve complete development, both physically, intellectually, socially, morally and emotionally. (Fitriyeni, 2013)

Islamic educational games offer an innovative and interesting approach to conveying religious concepts to children (Daheri, 2022). With their interactive features and engaging visuals, the games can captivate children's interest and provide a deep understanding of Islamic teachings in a fun way (Wijaya, 2023). In this context, the use of Islamic educational games has great potential to increase children's interest in learning and understanding Islamic teachings. (Ismail, 2006)

The variety of different backgrounds of students and their respective learning styles require educators to think more creatively so that the material presented can be accepted (Zbuzant, 2024). BAVA in the United States conducted a comparative study between learning processes using multimedia technology and not using it (Sharma, 2022). The results showed that if an educator in his learning process only uses verbal symbols (pure lectures), the material absorbed by students is only 13% and will not last long, while if the educator in the learning process uses multimedia, it can reach 64% to 84% and the material that absorbed for a long time.⁴ This shows that the use of appropriate and interesting learning methods and media will help students understand the science or subject. That way, the teaching and learning process in the classroom does not use such a method, and it can even make students bored and eventually make it difficult to understand the subject. (Maimunah, 2016)

In fact, according to Arsyad, the learning process that uses learning media can cause the awakening of students' interest or desire in learning can arouse students' motivation and stimulate learning activity. (Hamadi et al., 2017)

In this introduction, we will explore the important application of Islamic educational games in the context of children's Islamic religious education (Djazilan & Hariani, 2022). We will see how these games can be an effective tool in stimulating children's interest in learning about Islamic teachings, as well as how they can provide a deeper understanding of religious concepts in a fun way. In addition, we will discuss the challenges and opportunities associated with the use of Islamic educational games in the context of children's religious education, as well as their potential implications in the development of religious education curricula in the future. Thus, this article aims to investigate the interest and benefits of using Islamic educational games to increase interest in learning and understanding Islamic teachings in children in contemporary society.

According to Sung and Hwang, smartphones are a mobile learning model that utilizes information and communication technology. The learning process with a mobile learning model using educational games can measure the effectiveness of students' abilities and learning outcomes. (Fatoni & Rosalina, 2021)

The learning process using this educational game is designed to make it easier and help students understand a subject, especially the subject of Islamic Religious Education (PAI). In terms of conditions in the field, many students often experience boredom with the methods used by educators in delivering lessons. It is hoped that with the use of educational games, PAI lessons will not only be filled with lecture methods, which can make students experience boredom and make it difficult to receive learning materials.

Thus, the game application can be accessed on the Google Play Store and can be used through a smartphone to play SECIL (Series playing the little one) Islamic religion. In this application, there are many learning and playing options from the menu. In the menu, children will be more interested in a basic understanding of Islam.



Then, based on the analysis of the image above on the search results of articles that have relevance by paying attention to the similarity of the theme or title of the research five years ago 2019-2024 using the *Publish Or Perish* application combined with the *Vos Viewer* application, the researcher obtained a conclusion related to the title of Literature Review The Use of Islamic Educational Games Increases Interest in Learning and Understanding Islamic Teachings in Children that will be researched is still not widely done by previous researchers and still has the feasibility of conducting research.

RESEARCH METHODS

This study uses a type of literature review research or literature research, namely, this study relying on literature materials as a source of data and a qualitative research approach to explore the use of Islamic educational games in increasing interest in learning and understanding Islamic teachings in children. The qualitative approach was chosen because it allows for an in-depth understanding of the experience in the participants' perceptions related to this research topic.

This research uses a type of literature review research or literature research, namely in this study relying on library materials as a source of data in answering problems regarding the Use of Islamic Educational Games to Increase Interest in Learning and Understanding Islamic Teachings in Children, in order to create learning technology innovations that can be done by teachers in order to create creative, innovative learning using technological media. The data analysis method in this study is descriptive in order to describe interesting and fun learning media. The stage of this research is to collect materials that are in accordance with the research title. Then, the material or data is read studied and recorded and conclusions are drawn related to the use of Islamic Educational Games to Increase Interest in Learning and Understanding Islamic Teachings in Children.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Educational Games provide a variety of features that can be used by teachers as a learning medium. Teachers can upload PAI learning materials with various desired learning models.

According to Tabor, games are a form of digital-based media, games can be created, viewed, distributed, modified, and can survive on digital electronic devices. For creators in creating content, the use of digital technology can support producing interesting content. (Widoretno et al., 2021) Technological advances in today's era have emerged various kinds of online or offline games and from there educational games were born, Randi Cartono said that educational games are a creative activity that is directly related to the creation, production, and distribution of computer and video games that are entertainment, dexterity, and education.^{8 reviews}

Tedjasaputra also argues that the meaning of an educational game is a game or game that is specifically made for educational purposes or purposes. Based on the above understanding, educational games are a relatively new learning medium with the benefit of increasing students' understanding in capturing and understanding subject matter quickly due to the support of interesting features or tools provided by the game so that students become active in learning through educational games. Wijayanto and Istianah argue about the parts of educational games in the form of attractive graphics, text, audio, various animations, and videos that can encourage students to be interested in absorbing the material.^{9 reviews}

That way, students can get to know firsthand what the object of learning is if the subject matter in the educational game provides interesting videos with sophisticated animations, so that students feel that they are not just learning but learning and playing at the same time.

The existence of educational games will make students feel more that learning is fun as well as students have a passion for learning, with an increase in learning enthusiasm, it can improve learning outcomes.

This is supported by the results of research on the comparison of learning methods using digital media with other teaching methods, which confirm that the approach to learning methods through digital media has a huge impact. The use of digital media in social interaction activities and collaboration in the learning process can increase the scope of student interaction, both with fellow friends and between students and educators. This result is due to the fact that students get new experiences in the communication of these interactions.

According to Rutten Van Joolingen & Van Der Veen, the learning process that uses digital media can improve students' abilities. In addition, the development of learning motivation in students because the use of digital media is more interesting and fun. The application of the use of digital media in the learning process makes students more motivated and enjoys understanding the subject matter, can also make the teaching process more effective and help practice directly from several learning theories that need to be developed.^{10 reviews}

Educational games are games that are designed with the specific purpose of educating. Educational games combine aspects of learning with engaging game elements, such as challenges, rewards, and hands-on feedback. Islamic educational games, in particular, present Islamic teaching content delivered in a fun and interactive way.

Benefits of Islamic Educational Games

1. Increasing Interest in Learning

Educational games have high visual appeal and interactivity, so they are able to attract children's attention. Children tend to be more enthusiastic and motivated to learn through fun media.

2. Fun Learning

By presenting challenges and rewards in the game, children feel that learning is not a boring obligation, but as a fun and fun activity.

3. Better Concept Understanding

Islamic educational games can present religious teachings in the form of stories, quizzes, and other interactive activities, making it easier for children to understand and remember religious concepts better.

4. Technology Skill Enhancement

In addition to religious understanding, children also develop technological skills that are needed in this digital era.

The use of learning media in the form of educational games, students feel happy because there is a variety in learning methods and more practical understanding of lessons. Based on the results of the survey, the students' answers when asked "do you feel happy to get subject assignments after playing children's educational games?", the students' opinions agreed and the assignment after finishing playing the game even though they answered partly wrong but still tried to do it. students' enthusiasm after using educational games when attending lessons at school. The influence of educational games is very motivating for students to get the highest scores in playing games.

Learning while playing is considered quite effective in attracting students to be more optimistic to get the best score in each lesson, Then, in order to attract more attention learning the appearance of educational games must have its own attraction. With an attention-grabbing display, students feel interested in the appearance of children's educational games.¹

The function of games for brain development is to increase concentration levels and train for problem-solving (Problem-Solving) appropriately and quickly because in games, there is an element of conflict or a problem that requires the brain to think about how to get out of that problem.²

With many studies that prove that the learning process using digital media help, which in this case refers to educational games, plus the positive effects of games on the brain, it is clear that educational games have high effectiveness on students' learning skills, students' learning interests, and support better results for students' learning.

Table 1. of the use of Islamic educational games to increase interest in learning and understanding Islamic teachings in children.

It	Heading	Year Appear	Findings
1.	Sri Widoretno, Deddy Setyawan, & Mukhlison. <i>The Effectiveness of Educational Games as a Children's Learning Media.</i>	2021	The use of learning media in the form of educational games, students feel happy because there is a variety in learning methods and more practical understanding of lessons. Based on the results of the survey of students' answers when asked "do you feel happy to get subject assignments after playing children's educational games?", the opinions of students 30% strongly agreed, 60% agreed, and 10% did not agree with the assignment after finishing playing the game. Then, 30% of students strongly agree and 70% agree with the

¹ Sri Widoretno, Deddy Setyawan, & Mukhlison, (2021), 291.

² Muzliah Rizka Hamadi, Arie S M Lumenta, & Muhamad D Putro. *Design and Build an Islamic Religious Prayer Memorization Educational Game Application*. E-JournalTeknik Informatika 12(1), (2017), p. 2.

			tasks in children's educational games, even though some of them answered incorrectly but still tried to do it.
2.	Kholishoh Nur Aini, Abdul Muhid The Effectiveness of <i>Muslim Kids Marble Games in PAI Subjects to Improve Fun Learning</i>	2022	The use of game media, in this case the Marbel Muslim Kids Game, is an educational game, a game which contains basic Islamic Religious Education (PAI) subject materials. Educational game media used in the learning process has a very big role for the understanding of the material conveyed by educators to their students.
3.	Fatah Yasin Al Irsyadi, Lia Dewi Susanti, Yogiek Indra Kurniawan <i>Educational Game for Learning Hijaiyah Letters for Grade 2 Children at the Special School of the Surakarta Deaf and Speech Deaf Rehabilitation Foundation</i>	2021	The Let's Learn Hijaiyah Letters application can help and increase learning interest for deaf children. In addition, the Let's Learn Hijaiyah Letters Application can help deaf children to learn on their own outside of school hours. Lastly, the Let's Learn Hijaiyah Letters Application can help improve the ability of deaf children to learn hijaiyah letters.
4.	Amaliyatul ulya, Ahmad Arifi Quizizz Educational Game Media in Learning Islamic Cultural History as an Effort to Improve Student Learning Outcomes	2021	The use of the Quizizz Educational Game is effective in improving student learning outcomes. This is shown by the difference in the learning outcomes of the control group and the experimental group. It is known that the increase in SKI learning outcomes in the Experimental group is 11.83. While the control group was 9.6. The results of the posttest hypothesis test with the t-test are the ones that show the value of sig. (2-tailed) = 0.000 < 0.05, then it can be concluded that Ho is rejected so that the hypothesis that there is a significant difference between the Experiment class and the control group in MI Al-Huda is accepted or approved.
5.	Dinda Septarini, Making an Educational Game Regarding Daily Prayer Memorization Material as an Android-Based Learning Media	2020	that this application is easy to use, the application runs well, the game looks attractive which can help increase students' interest in memorizing, the information presented is easy to understand, the language in the game

is easy to understand, students are interested in using this educational game, and this game application is very influential for students in memorizing daily prayers, which initially students memorize for 6 hours per day, After using this application, students memorize for 3 to 4 hours per day.

The use of educational games shows that children who use Islamic educational games show a significant increase in learning interest compared to conventional methods. These games provide an interactive and engaging learning environment, so children are more motivated to learn about the teachings of Islam. Additionally, the direct feedback provided in the game can increase children's sense of achievement and confidence. indicates that Islamic educational games not only increase interest in learning, but also understanding Islamic teachings. Children who learn through educational games show a better understanding of the basic concepts of Islam, such as the pillars of Islam, the pillars of faith, and the stories of prophets and messengers. Interactivity and visualization in games help children to understand and remember the material better.

The use of Islamic educational games has great potential to increase children's interest in learning and understanding Islamic teachings. Islamic educational games offer an interactive and engaging learning approach, which can help children to be more interested and understand the teachings of Islam better. However, special attention is needed to the quality and accuracy of game content and monitoring of usage so that learning objectives are optimally achieved. Further research is needed to explore the potential and challenges that exist and develop more effective Islamic educational games.

The use of Islamic educational games has proven to be effective in increasing children's interest in learning and understanding Islamic teachings. Through an interactive and fun approach, educational games are able to attract children's attention, making the learning process more interesting and fun. In addition, this game can also convey Islamic values and teachings in a creative and easy-to-understand way, so that children are more motivated to learn and practice Islamic teachings in their daily lives. Thus, the integration of Islamic educational games in the learning process can be an effective strategy to support the development of Islamic religious education in the younger generation. However, it is important to overcome the existing challenges so that the benefits can be felt to the maximum. With the right integration, Islamic educational games can be a valuable tool in Islamic religious education for the younger generation.

CONCLUSION

The use of Islamic educational games in increasing children's interest in learning and understanding Islamic teachings emphasizes that Islamic educational games have a significant positive impact. This game is able to make the learning process more interesting and fun, so that children are more motivated to learn Islamic teachings. In addition, the interactive and creative approach in educational games helps children understand and internalize Islamic values and teachings more effectively. The integration of Islamic educational games in the educational curriculum can be a useful strategy to improve the quality of Islamic religious education in children. The use of Islamic educational games is an effective innovation to increase children's interest in learning and understanding Islamic teachings. With an interactive

and fun approach, educational games are able to make the learning process more interesting and effective.

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