

## AN ABSURDITY IN ISLAMIC EDUCATION

**Dr. H. Dindin Jamaluddin, M. Ag**

## ABSTRACT

*We understand Islam as a whole Muslim's way of life. When we talk about Islam It means we are talking about our life. True, if we talk about Islam So wide meaning Islam has that if we dive deep inside ourselves we will find that our faith does not only face the challenge of livelihood but also the challenge of life.*

*Education is a humanitarian effort done consciously and rationally in the achievement of the ideals of humanity that will never end and be achieved by only one generation<sup>150</sup>. Therefore, an educational effort is inherently integrated part of history. Consequently, the historical quality of a community and human as whole will be determined by how far the value of education succeeding in to apply in human history. So not surprisingly, the superiority of human civilization in this world is determined by the extent of political will and concern toward education<sup>151</sup>. This point of view constitutes one of Quran interpretation.*

*There is no doubt, that education as a systemic way to prepare people to maximally play their role in society and adjust to the environment<sup>152</sup>. The current concept of education should cover comprehensive thorough understanding of God, human, environment and society<sup>153</sup>. With education, people will be able to reach the golden age they ever had<sup>154</sup>.*

<sup>150</sup> Abdul MunirMulkhan, *Muslim Intellectual Paradigm*, (New York: Sipress, 1993), p. 64. Compare interpretation of education in pedagogies perspective, which is divided into three study areas, look at the theories of Islamic Education, Ahmad Tafsir and friends.

<sup>151</sup> In an overview of the historical stages expressed by Michael H. Hart in the *Hundred Influential People*, p. 19-26, explained that the development of civilization of a nation is determined by the literacy of poets. Recorded in the book that the Sumerians was considered the starting point of human civilization, because of their ability to recognize text. So is the next stage, the first known alphabet is the code of Hammurabi, and especially post-renaissance, which is about in the 1300s, education became an important factor for world civilization, with the technology finding as a result of educational.

<sup>152</sup> Nuquib al-Attas, *Philosophy and Practice of Islamic Education*, (London: Mizan, 2003), cet. To-1, p. 163-166.

<sup>153</sup> Ahmad Tafsir, ed. *Theories of Islamic Education*, (London: Faculty of Tarbiyah, 2001), p. 107-111.

<sup>154</sup> The most phenomenal glories of education along world civilization, is what Muhammad transmitted to the world civilization. Education of the world civilization which starts from Arab lands is barren, dry and has minimal resources. For more details, see L. Stoddard in the *New World of Islam*, p. 11-15.



spirituality (mind), physical, intelligence, imagination, language, whether individual, collective and wide society in general, (3) generate all the good aspects towards perfection, (4) establish personal, group and society as a whole to be obedient and pious to Allah<sup>155</sup>.

Discussing history means discussing periodization. The step is a way to simplify the analysis and draw lessons from these historical facts, although it will depend on how the perspective and point of view of people who classify. For example, on the history of Islam, Marshall G. S. Hodgson divides Islamic history into three periods, the first classical period. This period starts from the birth of Islam (670's AD) until the collapse of the absolute government tradition (945 M). Second is the middle period, which began in the mid-tenth century until the mid-fifteenth century (1503 AD), when the progress of the Western world balanced with the progress of the East and the growth of international civilization. And the third is modern civilization, which is the period starting from the fifteenth century, when Islam kingdom represented by three major kingdoms in the Persian Safavid, Mughal India, and Turkey (Ottoman) in Turkey until today<sup>156</sup>.

On the other hand, Harun Nasution divides the history of Islam to the three periods with different characteristics. The first period is started in the classical period 650 to 1250 AD, from the birth of Islam until the destruction of Baghdad's Islamic. The second is the middle period from the 1250s until 1800 AD, since Baghdad was destroyed until the emergence of reform ideas in Egypt. And the third is modern period, beginning in 1800 until now<sup>157</sup>. Periodization and arguments of each classification are sometimes different, giving rise to misinterpretation, For example, the misinterpretation on the history of the existence of Islamic madrasas as educational institutions. In many perspectives, it is considered that madrasas Nidzamiyah in 1064 became the first institution attended, as delivered by Michael Stanton, Syalabi Ahmad, Munir ud-Din Ahmad, and George Makdisi. In more recent studies, such as those conducted by Richard Bulliet, suggests the existence of older madrasas in Nishapur, Iran. In the year 1009/400 there was madrasah waliayah in Persia growing two centuries before Madrasah Nizhamiyyah, the oldest is Miyan Dahiya founded by Abu Ishaq Ibrahim ibn Mahmud in Nishapur. The opinion is supported by educational historian of Islam, Naji Ma'ruf, which states that in Khurasan madrasah has established 165 years before the emergence of Islamic Madrasah Nidzamiyyah. Or on the opinion of the existence of

<sup>155</sup> Pupuh Fathurahman, *Keunggulan pendidikan pesantren Alternatif Sistem Pendidikan Terpadu Abad XXI*, (Bandung, Tunas Nusantara, 2000), p 95.

<sup>156</sup> The Venture of Islam; Conscience and History in a World Civilization, (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1977), vol 1-3

<sup>157</sup> Islam ditinjau dari Berbagai Aspeknya, Chapter I (Jakarta: UI Press, 1985, fifth publishing, p 5-91



## Education and Science Education

Term of education has been and will always be defined differently by various perspectives. Viewpoints on terminology are often influenced by the worldview (Weltanschauung) of each perspective. In pedagogy perspective<sup>162</sup>, education can be understood in three areas of understandings. The first is in the sense of the vast education, when education is parted as the reality of human life. Life is education and vice versa education is life itself. The second is education in the limited broad sense, when education parted as a human quality improvement program. And the third is education in a narrow sense, ie when the education is parted as limited to formal activities in the school.

Thus, through education, it is believed that the change of each individual can be done. Furthermore, if each individual has been changed for the better, then it will drive the change in the surrounding environment, and finally a change in a wider scale and macro. And conversely, individuals which can not be changed towards the better; then it will be difficult to find a good community.

It has been a general opinion that education is the most design activities which affect a person's behavior changes and a society. Education is a model of the most effective social engineering to prepare a form of the "future", the "future" society that has a quality of life. In Mulkhan Munir perspective<sup>163</sup>, there are two important issues of mutual assembled in improving the quality of human beings and society, namely education and culture. On the one hand, the development and preservation of culture takes place in the educational process which requires engineering education. Meanwhile, the development of education also requires a cultural system as root and supporting sustainability education. In addition, the development of culture requires creative freedom, while the educational needs stability.

Education is a systemic way in preparing an individual to play a role and to adapt to their environment<sup>164</sup>. The existing concept of education should be able to overshadow a thorough understanding of God, man, nature, environment and the community<sup>165</sup>. With education, the community will be able to reach a golden age<sup>166</sup>.

However differences in definitions of terminology about education, as mentioned above, necessitates a true education system. According Mastuhu (Mastuhu,

<sup>162</sup> Ahmad Tafsir, *ed, Teori-teori Pendidikan Islam*, Fakultas Tarbiyah: Bandung, 2001, p. iii.

<sup>163</sup> Munir Mulkhan, *Paradigma Intelektual Muslim*, (Yogyakarta: Sipress, 1993), p. 28.

<sup>164</sup> Nuquib al-Attas, *Filsafat dan Praktik Pendidikan Islam*, (Bandung: Mizan, 2003), p. 163-166.

<sup>165</sup> Al-Baghdadi dalam Ahmad Tafsir, ed. *Teori-teori Pendidikan Islam*, (Bandung: Fakultas Tarbiyah, 2001), p. 107-111.

<sup>166</sup> A glory of educational factors in the civilization of the world, the most phenomenal is what Muhammad had bequeathed to the world civilization. Education for the world civilization started from Arab land barren, dry and minimal resources. More details see L. Stoddard in the *New World of Islam*, p. 11-15.



1. Tarbiyah used to develop, maintain, maintain, administer, provide knowledge, hints, guide, improve, and perfect for students, good body, mind, soul potential, feelings and so on, thus forming the perfection of human nature, to live independently and attain pleasure happiness.
2. Ta'lim used for the acquisition of knowledge, understanding and its practice that benefits the next world, more precisely the term used for teaching.
3. Tadris used for the purpose of preparing students to read, learn and assess their own and practice it in everyday life in the pleasure of Allah.
4. Tahdzib used for the purpose of fostering moral, improved behavior, conscience development, education motivation on Islamic principles, to achieve a Muslim which are noble, well-behaved and clean conscience.
5. Ta'dib used for planting, cultivating and strengthening of morals in children with Shari'ah of God so they would be well behaved, clean heart, faith, good deeds, pious to Allah<sup>169</sup>.

Education recognized the most effective way to internalize the values of faith. Thus, the aim of Islamic education should be appropriate and in line with the Quran as the basis for the motion and measures of Islam as Kailani suggests. He details the educational goals of Islam according to the Quran, as follows<sup>170</sup>:

1. So that people know the creator, then the knowledge is intended to establish a relationship between the two, on the foundation creator and creatures (Surah al-Anbiya 21:25, adz-Dzariyat 51:56). Stated educational goals by al-Kailani are universal goals, which are attached to the teachings of every prophet and messenger who was sent. Theological perspective, deep understanding that human beings have an attachment to the One of the most high-in this case-is the divine influence behavior and life on earth. If only humans get happiness, surely he believes that what he had essentially comes from the Creator and vice versa.
2. Developing human behavior as being personal, and change the orientation towards the orientation based, related to and in accordance with the orientation of the teachings of Islam (Surah al-A'la 87: 14-17). Education is done to be able to develop the potential of humans as theist being toward a better person. With good personal, people will have life orientation accordance with the teachings of Islam, that is, in that what is done on this earth in order to prepare them for life in the hereafter.

<sup>169</sup> Dedeng Rosidin, *Akar-akar Pendidikan dalam Quran dan Hadits* (Bandung; Pustaka Umat, 2003) p. 203-204

<sup>170</sup> Majid 'Arsan al-Kailani, *al-Nadhariyah al-Tarbiyah al-Islamiyyah*, (Beirut: Daar Ibnu Katsir, tt), p. 24-26.



man to live in this world and the hereafter and to realize rahmatan lil'alamin. Hence the Islamic education according to him is all efforts to maintain and develop human nature and human resources at its disposal towards the formation of perfect human being (insan kamil) in accordance with Islamic norms.

Therefore, added Achmadi, the main source of Islamic education of the Quran, in relation to different anthropological and sociological conditions, needs to have a function as follows<sup>173</sup>:

1. To develop appropriate and correct insight about human identity, the natural surroundings and the greatness of the Divine, in order to grow the ability to read (analysis) of natural phenomena and life and understanding the laws contained therein. With these capabilities creativity and productivity will foster as the implementation of self-identification with God "Creator".
2. To free people from all elements that can be degrading to human dignity (human nature), whether it comes from within themselves and from outside. Which inside themselves are rigidity, dogmatic, individuals cult, superstition and the toughest, shirk. Against the elements of this, man must continue to purify himself (an-Nafsi tazkiyatun). While what are coming from outside are circumstances and conditions, both culturally and structurally to the freedom of people in the developing realization and self-actualization. To eliminate or minimize these elements from the outside must be systematic and strategic efforts of all elements of society, especially the government. With the minimum proficiency level of the elements opens the way to optimize for self-realization and self-actualization that leads individuals and communities to live more wisely and responsibly.
3. To develop science to sustain and promote both individual and social life. To develop knowledge in a given signal by the Koran, as mentioned in the first point above, should be initiated by understanding natural phenomena and life with empirical approach, so knowing His laws (law of Allah).

In simpler language, to explain what Islamic education means, Ahmad Tafsir<sup>174</sup> defines education as limited to influence of someone to other done consciously. Effect of one self, the environment, is not included in the study, they are only considered as a mere influence. Understanding the diversity of education, and even seemed different, recognized by it is due to two things: First, many types of activities that can be referred to as educational activities. Second, the extent fostered by the educational aspects.

Therefore, in his book Ahmad Tafsir reveals much understanding of education and Islamic education from many experts. This clearly illustrates how difficult it is to

<sup>173</sup> *Ibid*, p. 36-37.

<sup>174</sup> Ahmad Tafsir, *Ilmu Pendidikan dalam Perspektif Islam*, (Bandung: Rosda Karya, 1992) cet I, p. 25-33.







between the pragmatic and normative. Because should the wrong step be taken it can remodel pesantren tradition, so that the "defenders of" traditional Islamic education in running a long tradition are well established and entrenched in society. Zamakhsyari Dhofir said pesantren can not just let them go with the flow despite changes in it in a non introduced tradition such as general education schools, really pesantren do have to remain concerned about the original purpose of tafaquh fiddin institutions. At least, pesantren must reinforce the vision of education without doing the fact that exists otherwise pesantren will oscillate between pragmatic and normative priority. Should the pragmatic priority win then pesantren will only be a transit point to their students. Attending in to pesantren for school sake, after school going home, or move to another pesantren to continue school. Here the value of schools does not change as a rented place, needed if necessary, and released after the purpose is over.

## Madrasah

In the world map of education in Indonesia, the madrasah is not something that is indigenous (genuine Indonesian). As indicated by the word "madrasah" itself is derived from language Arab. Literally word "madrasah" means equivalent to the Indonesian word meaning "sekolah" which is also not the native Indonesian word. In this sense, madrasah describes the process of learning in non-formal schools are no different. Only in the cultural realm, the madrasah has specific connotations. At the institute, students gain religious instruction and religious teaching, so that in use the word madrasah school known as "religious school".

From existing sources, it is known that the growth and development of madrasah in Indonesia affected quite strongly by the Islamic tradition in the modern Middle East who has taught religious sciences and general sciences. Before the 20th century, tradition of Islam does not recognize term madrasah; what were there at that time was teaching the Quran and religious lectures in mosques, schools, *surau*, or Islamic *langgar*. The terms became a new phenomenon at the beginning of the 20th century when, in some areas, especially in Java and Sumatra, established madrasah. In colonial times the development of madrasah in Indonesia was also a response to policy and politics in the Dutch East Indies government. In a simpler language it can be said that madrasah, in certain limits, is a Dutch institutional school that loaded by religious teachings.

During the development, the original madrasah system is a refinement of Islamic education in the *surau*, *langgar*, mosques, or other places are like, eventually divided into two kinds, namely (1) the special Islamic education and religious instruction (Madrasah Diniyah) and (2) that in addition to providing Islamic education and religious instruction also studied general subjects. For a basic level called Islamic elementary



No	Institutional Format	Direction of Academic Development	Academic Pressure	Product
			changing society.	
3	Akademi/Sekolah Tinggi Agama Islam Negeri (STAIN)	Education and training in the field of religious profession that promotes maturity by mastering the skills and ethics of Islamic knowledge sufficient	Professional religious personnel as religious teachers, religious judges, preachers, etc.	Islamic banking practitioners.

According to Muhtar Affandi, there are three macro academic challenges for the world of higher education of Islam in Indonesia. First, higher education must respond to the needs of Islamic integration with the tradition of modern Islamic studies in the field of the science and technology. The issue of separation between religious and general science has never been resolved academically the second is concerned with the problem of Islamic studies (Islamic Studies) itself. Namely that the development of Islamic studies is not the domain of Muslims in the Middle East alone, these studies have become domain of all Muslims. Hence, the positive response and being responsible both theologically and scientifically are important to be presented. And the third challenge is related to national development, especially human resource development<sup>176</sup>.

## Closing

Based on the discussion on the paper above, the author concludes, that:

1. Education can not necessarily claim that the process carried by the Messenger is an education process because, at that moment, the greater things are the preaching and planting the basics of Islamic belief and worship. Understanding that is closer to the term “dakwah”.
2. Education is a system, it is essential to meet the scientific qualifications of philosophical sciences, the ontological, epistemological and axiological of education itself. Understanding education as a science, indirectly will make the education itself in the box or the domain of science. This means that education in that meaning is not going to achieve all things related to life. It will interact with other disciplines.

<sup>176</sup> Membedah Diskursus Pendidikan Islam (Jakarta; Kalimah, 2001) p. 125-129.

