

**MUHADHARAH: GROWING STUDENTS' CONFIDENCE IN SPEAKING AT MI AL-ISTIQOMAH
KATAPANG, BANDUNG REGENCY**

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ABSTRACT

This study examines the application of tabligh character (honesty and truth-telling) in Madrasah Ibtida'iyah students, especially in MI Al-Istiqomah Katapang. Tabligh, as one of the praiseworthy traits of Prophet Muhammad, is essential to form a person of integrity. However, observations show that there are still many MI students who tend to hide information or lie, indicating a low understanding and application of this value. Various factors, such as lack of religious understanding, unsupportive environment, and suboptimal learning approaches, contribute to this problem. This study aims to identify the causes of students' lack of confidence in conveying opinions or information. To overcome this, the muhadharah (public speaking practice) method is proposed. The qualitative method is used by providing assistance by mentors (teachers) to students in speaking practice. The results of the study will be based on observations of students' abilities after practice and when performing muhadharah in front of other students at MI Al-Istiqomah Katapang's habituation activities.

Keywords: character education, tabligh, muhadharah, honesty, MI al-Istiqomah Katapang

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1. INTRODUCTION

Education is a fundamental process that aims to improve the quality of human resources. Teachers, as key actors in the teaching and learning process, hold a major responsibility in transforming knowledge and guiding student development [1]. Improving students' intellectual, emotional, and spiritual intelligence is at the heart of the educational process, equipping them with the skills and expertise for social life [2]. Therefore, it is important for educators to have adequate insight and competence to create a conducive learning environment. The position of teachers is very significant in the world of education, becoming the main determinant of the success of every effort to reform the curriculum and develop human resources [3].

However, in the field, there is still a phenomenon of lack of confidence in students, especially in the ability to speak and express opinions. This often manifests in the form of students who tend not to dare to express their thoughts, fear of being wrong, or reluctant to interact openly. This can hinder students' potential to develop optimally, causing them to be less creative, easily stressed, and have difficulty accepting reality [4]. This lack of confidence can negatively impact the quality of students' communication, which in turn hinders their learning process and active participation in class [5].

Effective communication is a crucial skill for teachers in the learning process, as it allows for a good exchange of information between communicators and communicators [6]. Good communication skills are also important for students, who need self-confidence to optimize their potential and achieve success. Individuals who have self-confidence tend to have realistic

expectations, are less worried or anxious about acting, and are responsible for their actions [7]. Conversely, low self-confidence often leaves students haunted by fear of failure, fear of rejection, and doubts in making decisions, which hinder the achievement of goals [8].

Based on this background, this study identifies the main problem, namely the lack of optimal student confidence in expressing opinions and information in the basic education environment, especially at MI Al-Istiqomah Katapang. This problem needs to be addressed because it has the potential to hinder the formation of *tabligh* character (honesty and truthfulness) which is a commendable and essential trait in daily life. As a solution, this study proposes the application of the muhadharah *method* as an effort to grow and increase students' confidence in public speaking. The innovation of this research lies in the application of the muhadharah method in a structured manner with teacher assistance to overcome students' low confidence in communication, especially in the context of basic Islamic education.

2. METHOD

This research used a qualitative approach with analytic descriptive method and case study type [9]. The qualitative approach was chosen for its ability to provide in-depth data analysis, while the analytic descriptive method allows researchers to systematically detail and understand information related to student self-confidence at MI Al-Istiqomah Katapang [10]. The case study design allowed for an in-depth exploration of the implementation of muhadharah and its impact on character building and increasing students' self-confidence in the natural context of the school [7]. The research procedure included initial observations to identify students' confidence levels, followed by planning and implementing muhadharah with mentors. Teachers actively provided guidance and feedback to support student development. Data were verified through participatory observation and documentation of activities, then analyzed descriptively to identify patterns and themes related to increasing students' self-confidence and *tabligh* character [8].

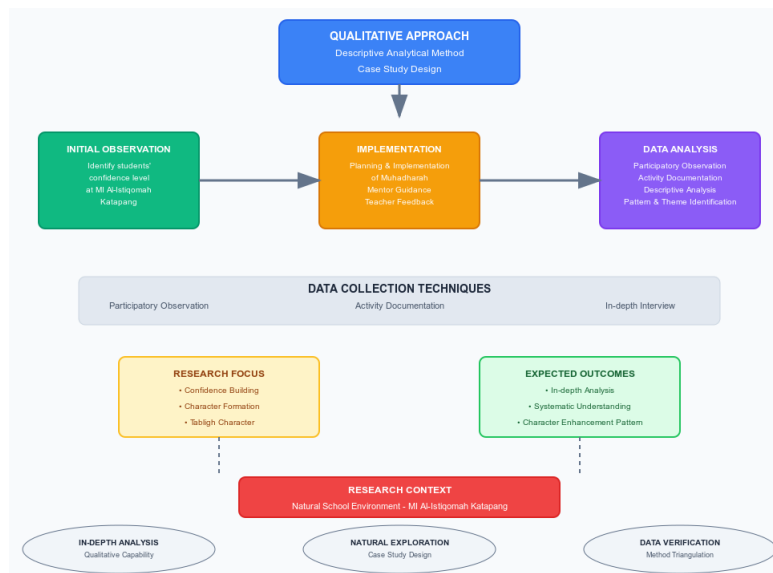


Figure 1. Qualitative Research Methodology of *Muhadharah* Implementation

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In the implementation of the Muhadharah program at Madrasah Ibtidaiyah Al-Istiqomah Katapang, Bandung Regency, of course, there is a background behind the process of forming this Muhadharah program, namely by the vision and mission that is the school's goal in producing skilled and confident graduates in terms of public speaking. In this vision, of course, it has a connection with the Muhadharah program, namely in order to form a confident character in the educational system. One of the character values that needs to be instilled from an early age is the nature of tabligh, which is to speak the truth, convey the truth, and not hide information that should be known by others. This trait is one of the commendable traits of the Prophet Muhammad SAW that is relevant to be applied in daily life, including in the school environment. The way the Muhadharah program is considered very relevant and important to make students confident in their ability to speak in front of a crowd. The definition of muhadharah is known as the activity for practicing oral lectures or da'wah bil which is emphasized on the ability of a student. Muhadharah is an activity that trains students so that students are active and able to speak well in public in order to spread Islamic teachings to the public or called oral Da'wah. Muhadharah is also an activity of students to practice speech and public speaking well. The purpose of muhadharah activities is to develop students' abilities, especially in terms of lectures as well as oral preaching and so that students have a good mentality when appearing in front of their friends with confidence.

3.1. The Meaning of Muhadharah

Muhadharah comes from the Arabic language, namely al-muhadharatu which means lecture, lecture [11]. As it is understood that the definition of Muhadharah is identified with activities or exercises of speeches or lectures that emphasize students' skills. Muhadharah is intended to educate students to be skilled and able to speak in front of the public to convey the teachings of Islam in public with confidence. The Great Dictionary of the Indonesian Language reveals that a lecture is "a speech discussing a problem," in addition to it also revealing that a speech is "a well-composed speech that is addressed to people or a crowd to express congratulations, welcome arrivals, and so on." [12] Meanwhile, according to Tanjung (1988), speech is "speaking in front of a number of people [13]." In Muhadharah, students are required to lecture with mastery of techniques, materials, and language styles as well as possible. Therefore, one of the knowledge that students must have is the knowledge of 4 ways to present and convey da'wah material in front of the da'wah target (mad'u) called rhetoric. Kuswata and Kuswara Suryakusumah (1990) stated that "*rhetoric or rhetoric*, is an art of speaking: *the art of speech*, in English. Or "*de kunstder welspreken heid*" in Dutch [14].

Thus, the emphasis of rhetoric is an art or practical intelligence and is considered not a science. Thus, rhetoric is a good speaking style/art that is achieved based on natural talent (talent) and technical skills. Nowadays, rhetoric is interpreted as the art of speaking well, which is used in the process of communication between humans. The art of speaking is not just speaking fluently without a clear and contentless way of thinking, but an ability to speak and speak briefly, clearly, concisely and impressively. Rhetoric is a science that studies the intricacies of speech, so that from rhetoric will be born good, interesting talks and in the end able to attract the attention of the congregation to listen and pay attention to the message (material) of the sermon itself. Another consideration that must be considered in rhetoric is the ability of an orator or da'i in terms of logic, on the grounds that each speaker is not only conveying but also needs a form of conclusion in order to avoid a wrong conclusion from the audience or listener.

The functions of Muhadharah are:

1. To train students to speak in public.
2. Improve the quality of speaking
3. Beirbicara series ta me to get the job done with good and confidence.

Muhadharah is a series of activities or processes in the context of a certain goal. The word da'watun means a call or invitation or invitation. In addition, the purpose of muhadharah is also to train students' mentality to dare to speak in front of many people, develop students' courage, teach how to make good speeches, and practice how to convey the content of the material clearly.

3.2. The implementation of the Muhadharah Program activities in the formation of the confident character of MI Al-Istiqomah Katapang Bandung Regency.

Madrasah Ibtidaiyah Al-Istiqomah Katapang Bandung Regency has made a commitment to producing positive character in students through various kinds of useful activities. This approach is realized through learning programs, extracurriculars, and habituation efforts. One of the efforts to get used to this school is through the Muhadharah event which is carried out every Friday morning. Muhadharah activities are planned and determined in the school semester meeting, not only students can appear to speak in front of many people but the essence of this activity must be achieved with the target goals packaged by the school's vision and mission. One of the ways to achieve the planned goals is the existence of a strategy in carrying out these activities. The strategy in the Muhadharah Program at MI Al-Istiqomah Katapang in training students' public speaking skills and confidence is to make a muhadharah schedule, but in making the muhadharah text itself the school frees students to look for it, choosing a muhadharah place so that students are comfortable in doing it, participating in competitions or competitions. With this planning strategy, it is hoped that the goals of the Muhadharah program at MI Al-Istiqomah Katapang can be achieved to the maximum [15].

Muhadharah activities mean a means for students to speak in front of their friends in the form of speeches. This program is mandatory for all students, starting from grade V and grade VI, and involves the use of verses from the Qur'an and Hadith. The Muhadharah program at MI Al-Istiqomah Katapang is scheduled every Friday, from 06.45 to 07.40 am, which takes place in the school field. This activity aims to train public speaking skills, build confidence, and instill discipline and responsibility values in students. Before the implementation of muhadharah activities at MI Al-Istiqomah Katapang, the students were asked to write a script of the speech a week before. This manuscript is then collected from the supervisor for correction first. The goal is to ensure that the material to be delivered at the time of the speech is in accordance with the educational goals without deviating. Speech materials are allowed to be taken from books, the internet or so on. The structure of the speech follows 3 main parts, namely opening, content, and closing. However, the material delivered in the speech must have a focus on science and religion. Maximum in delivering material, students are given 5 to 10 minutes in the implementation. So with that time, students are expected to be able to summarize and convey the content of the speech text in a short, concise, and clear manner.

3.2.1. Evaluation of the Muhadharah Program in the formation of students' character to become self-confidence at MI Al-Istiqomah Katapang Bandung Regency.

Evaluation is the process of determining the extent to which a goal has been achieved, as well as to understand, meaning, and communicate information to aid decision-making [16]. In achieving a goal, of course, there are obstacles and obstacles that are not in harmony with the plan that has been planned and designed from scratch with various concepts. These inhibiting factors are obstacles that affect the achievement of goals. In the practice of the Muhadharah program at MI Al-Istiqomah Katapang, Bandung Regency, there are several obstacles, including those that must be evaluated after students appear to deliver the material they have made. Each mentor assesses students carefully when the muhadharah takes place to be a future evaluation for students who appear for follow-up.

Students who succeed and have met the target of the goal of muhadharah will later become mentors (*peer-tutors*) with other students, while students who are less than optimal in delivering material will be fostered and given time and schedule for the next muhadharah. In addition to direct criticism by the mentor, there are other problems such as the lack of interest of students in participating in muhadharah coaching, lack of confidence, inadequate facilities, different student characters, and the delivery of material that students do not understand [17]. As a result of the obstacles above contained from various conditions, it will certainly have an impact on goals that will not be achieved as needed. Therefore, the school needs to evaluate how the future of students can face these activities optimally and in sync with the expectations of the school's goals in the scope of muhadharah activities, it is important to provide motivation and rewards in the form of activities that are interesting, entertaining, orderly, and sometimes carried out outdoors so that students do not feel bored. Therefore, effective cooperation and communication between the supervisor/mentor and the principal are very necessary to overcome the obstacles and obstacles that may arise in the Muhadharah activity program.

To achieve the goals of an activity, the factors that support the activity are very important. Based on the results of observations and interviews with students, several supporting factors are the routine implementation of Muhadharah activities every Friday, the existence of a learning evaluation mechanism, reprimands and even punishments for violations of the rules, and the quality of the supervisor is guaranteed. When an activity is carried out consistently, it tends to become the norm. Likewise, using Muhadharah activities, if held and followed regularly, it will hone the ability to speak in public.

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the results and discussions that have been presented, this study concludes that the Muhadharah program at MI Al-Istiqomah Katapang Bandung Regency is effective in fostering students' confidence in public speaking, as well as strengthening the character of tabligh. What was expected in the introductory section, namely the need for special efforts to inculcate the nature of tabligh and increase students' confidence through the muhadharah method, has been shown to have a positive impact on the results and discussion sections. The Muhadharah program has careful planning, involving the school's vision and mission to produce graduates who are skilled in public speaking and confident. Routine scheduling strategies, students' freedom in preparing materials, and intensive mentoring by mentors play an important role in this process. Despite facing several obstacles such as students' lack of interest, varying levels of confidence, limited facilities, and differences in learner characteristics, evaluations show that structured guidance, motivation, and rewards can overcome these challenges.

The consistent and structured application of the muhadharah method has proven its ability to train students to speak in public naturally through habituation. This not only enhances their verbal communication skills, but also significantly forms a confident and courageous character. The role of teachers or coaches is crucial in accompanying, evaluating, and motivating students during the process.

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