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## Understanding the Essence of Islamic Education: Investigating Meaning, Essence, and Knowledge Sources

*Mahmudulhassan<sup>1</sup>, Waston<sup>2</sup>, Muthoifin<sup>3</sup>, Saif Uddin Ahmed Khondoker<sup>4</sup>*

<sup>1</sup>Faculty of Islamic Education, Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta, Indonesia; and Islamic Arabic University, Bangladesh

<sup>2</sup>Doctor, Faculty of Islamic Education, Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta, Indonesia

<sup>3</sup>Doctor, Faculty of Islamic Education, Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta, Indonesia

<sup>4</sup>Darul Ihsan University, Dhaka, Bangladesh

<sup>1</sup>[O300230006@student.ums.ac.id](mailto:O300230006@student.ums.ac.id), <sup>2</sup>[was277@ums.ac.id](mailto:was277@ums.ac.id), <sup>3</sup>[mut122@ums.ac.id](mailto:mut122@ums.ac.id),

<sup>4</sup>[ksua1980@mail.com](mailto:ksua1980@mail.com)

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**Abstract:** *Islamic tradition pays great importance to education, considering it as both a means of obtaining knowledge and a route to moral and spiritual enlightenment. This article attempts to close the gap in the literature by conducting an extensive analysis of the foundations of Islamic education. The different aspects of Islamic education, including its pedagogical principles, philosophical foundations, and contemporary relevance, are investigated in this study using an interdisciplinary qualitative method that combines sociology, philosophy of education, and Islamic studies. To make clear the basic objective of Islamic education that is, to develop individuals intellectually, morally, socially, and spiritually via Islamic teachings the research examines the purposes of Islamic education and the knowledge-gathering method it offers. This investigation highlights the ability of Islamic education to promote ethical leadership in the contemporary world and the transforming role that it plays in moulding people and civilizations.*

**Keywords:** *Islamic education, path of knowledge, fundamental goal, essence, moral and spiritual.*

### INTRODUCTION

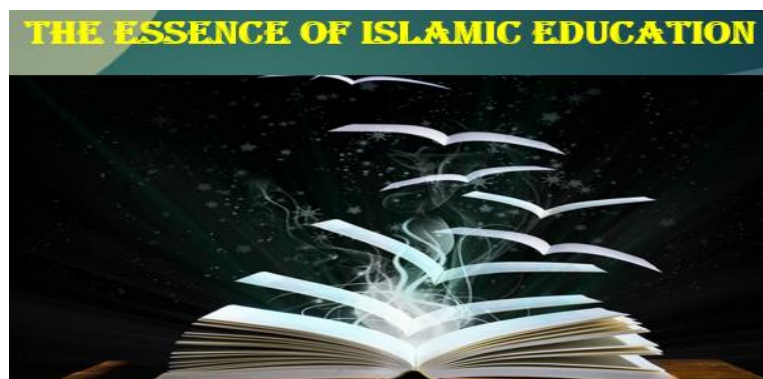
Education in the Islamic world is an important matter. Education is the first duty of a Muslim, man or woman. Education is the foundation of human development since it shapes people's moral, intellectual, and spiritual growth while also influencing the direction of society. In the Islamic religion, education is valued since it is considered a means of gaining knowledge as well as a means to achieve moral and spiritual enlightenment. Islamic education encompasses many different things, such as religious teachings, intellectual pursuits, practical skills, and moral instruction. Based on the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad and the Quran, the holy book of Islam, Islamic education is a holistic approach that aims to develop well-rounded individuals who possess moral principles and a strong sense of purpose [1], [2].

Even though much research has been done on many facets of Islamic education, there is a significant lack of literature about a thorough investigation of its core. Research that has already been done frequently concentrates on certain topics, such as curriculum creation, instructional strategies, or the growth of Islamic educational institutions across time.

Nonetheless, a comprehensive examination that explores the intellectual underpinnings, pedagogical tenets, and modern applicability of Islamic education is lacking. Furthermore, a large portion of the literature now in publication is descriptive rather than analytical, providing insights into techniques without critically assessing their efficacy or placing them in a sufficiently broad theoretical framework [3], [4].

This study aims to close the previously noted research gap by offering a thorough analysis of the fundamentals of Islamic education. Through the synthesis of ideas from many sources, such as religious scriptures, historical narratives, educational theories, and modern practices, it seeks to add to the body of knowledge already in existence. This study provides an interdisciplinary understanding of Islamic education that overcomes traditional academic borders by including perspectives from sociology, philosophy of education, and Islamic studies. It also seeks to explore the current applicability of Islamic education in light of global concerns such as cultural plurality, globalization, and technological progress. By doing so, it hopes to illuminate how Islamic education can support ethical leadership, social cohesion, and holistic human development in the contemporary world [5].

Finally, this research piece aims to clarify the essence of Islamic education by considering it as a multifaceted, dynamic phenomena that is firmly rooted in tradition yet able to adjust to contemporary circumstances. Through a critical analysis of its intellectual foundations, pedagogical principles, and practical manifestations, this study aims to investigate Islamic education and its role in shaping individuals and society in the past, present, and future [6].



**Figure 1. The Essence of Islamic Education**

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

The fundamental concepts and elements of Islamic education have attracted a significant lot of interest and investigation from both Islamic academia and more broad educational studies. The goal of Islamic education is to advance an individual's moral, intellectual, social, and spiritual development. It is solidly grounded in Sunnah and Quranic teachings. This literature review synthesizes key perspectives and findings from multiple studies to shed light on the meaning, essence, and knowledge sources of Islamic education. It emphasizes the pedagogical principles, philosophical foundations, and applicability of Islamic education in the contemporary era. Islamic education takes a holistic approach to helping students become well-rounded individuals rather than only imparting knowledge [7], [8].

According to study, emphasize that Islamic education is important to human development, shaping ethical, moral, spiritual and intellectual growth. The other paper, discusses the role of character development in Islamic religious education, presenting it as a core aim of Islamic teachings [9], [10].

According to another study, it is emphasized that the intellectual foundations and pedagogical precepts of Islamic education have not been thoroughly examined, which

necessitates a more analytical approach to comprehending its guiding principles. This lacuna in the literature highlights the need for a more thorough investigation of the philosophical and pedagogical underpinnings of Islamic education, focusing on how it shapes persons and society [11].

On the other hand, Islamic education nowadays must adjust quickly to the changing needs of society and the world at large, including cultural diversity, globalization, and technological breakthroughs. The study's goal of examining how Islamic education relates to modern society aligns with academics' discussions of Islam and secularism and suggests a dialogue between Islamic education and modern social norms [12].

A study, examines the Islamization of knowledge and the advancement of education in Bangladesh, making a case for the relevance of Islamic education in the contemporary day for meeting societal demands and issues. This is echoed by, those who highlight religious education from an Islamic viewpoint, arguing that Islamic education can provide answers to modern problems. The Quran and Hadith are the main sources of information used in Islamic education; they are supported by a strong tradition of scholarship and interpretation [13], [14].

Examine how digital learning models affect Islamic education outcomes in a different study, highlighting how information sources and approaches have changed in the modern educational environment. The way that Islamic education has adapted to new technologies and methodology highlights how dynamic it is and how well it can blend traditional and modern knowledge sources [15], [16].

## METHODOLOGY

This research is a type of library research. Library research also called literature study, is a series of activities related to data collection methods library, reading and taking notes, and processing research materials. This study conducted a literature review to obtain the relevant data to the research problem. The Qur'an, hadith, books, and research findings were among the many materials that were read, examined, and analyzed to conduct this study on community-based Islamic education. The author employed a qualitative research approach in this study, with no manipulation or hypothesis testing. Two different kinds of data were employed in this study: primary and secondary data. The al-Qur'an, its interpretations, and the opinions of Tafsir scholars on community-based Islamic education serve as the main sources of data.

In the meantime, community-based Islamic education and information that becomes pertinent to issues with Islamic education are found in books, periodicals, Islamic literature, and the internet, which serve as secondary sources of data. The researchers' method for gathering data includes looking over books and library resources that are pertinent to the issues they are studying, as well as data from community-based Islamic education resources [17].

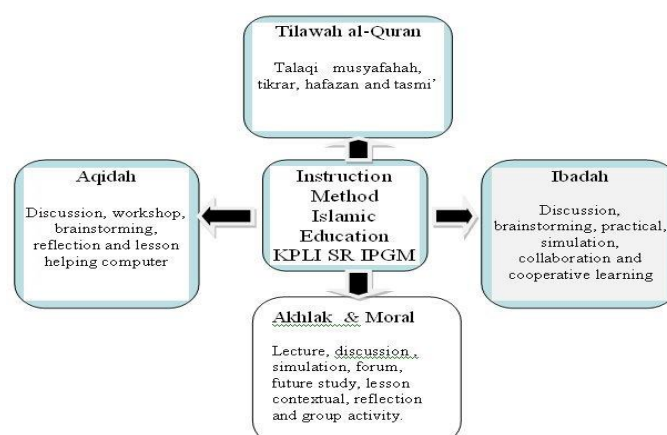


Figure 2. Method of Islamic Education

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Definition of Islamic Education

Islamic education is a comprehensive system of teaching and learning that is designed to promote a person's whole progress and relies on Islamic concepts and ideas. This system teaches about the Islamic faith, including its beliefs, practices, regulations, and ethics, in addition to moral character development, intellectual capacity, ethical behaviour, and spiritual growth. Islamic education depends on the precepts of the Sunnah, or the customs and practices of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), as well as the word of the Quran, the holy book of Islam. The concept of Islamic education includes knowledge, choice and action, which are based on wisdom according to Islamic texts [18], [19].

The majority of Islamic scholars have come to a consensus over the three Arabic phrases that together define what it means to have an education within an Islamic context. Two phrases in the Qur'an explain and clarify the aim of education. Both of these terms can be found in the same verse. The first concept to be introduced is “tarbyah” which derives from the root word ‘Rabba’ and could be defined as ‘to increase and grow. In the Qur’an God says: ‘And lower unto them the wing of submission through mercy and say: my Lord! Have mercy on them both as they did nurture me when I was little (Surah Al-Isra’ 17:24) [20].

However, the first term suggests that the purpose of Islamic education is to foster and protect the child. “ta’lim” is the second word for education mentioned in the Qur'an. It is derived from the root “allama,” which can be translated as “to know”. This term makes it very clear that the transmission of knowledge is intended to be one of the goals of Islamic education. On the other hand, the Qur'an is not the only primary Islamic source that makes mention of Islamic education [21], [22].

In addition, the Prophet Muhammad’s (PBUH) Sunnah includes a variety of sayings that touch on the subjects of education and knowledge. When the Prophet himself made the call for individuals to educate themselves, he specified the strongest call possible [23].

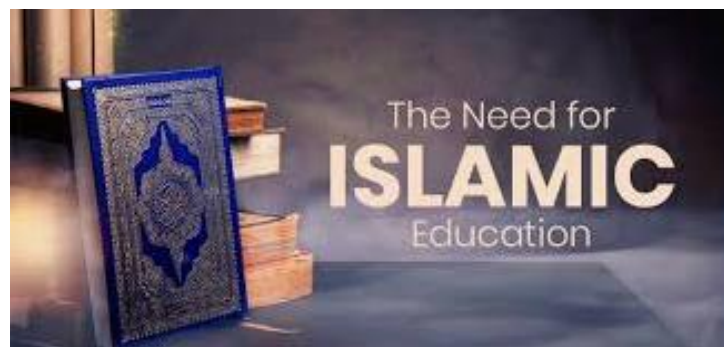


Figure 2. The Need for Islamic Education

### The Essence of Islamic Education

Islamic education is based on the teachings of Islam and takes a multidimensional approach to fostering people's intellectual, moral, social, and spiritual development. Throughout history, Islamic thinkers and educators have emphasized various aspects of this core. Islam stresses the full development of individuals within the framework of the Islamic worldview, integrating ethical, intellectual, and spiritual components, according to Dr. Syed Muhammad Naquib al-Attas. He highlights that Islamic education seeks to develop people who are “God-conscious, morally upright, intellectually astute, and socially responsible” in his book “Islam and Secularism” [24].

Character development is the primary goal of schooling. Under the framework of Islam, the development of moral character through religious instruction. Islam's educational system primarily aims to guide people toward piety and excellence both here on Earth and in the hereafter. A study that highlights educational concepts in all facets of human existence is the essence of education. The goal of education in Islam is to create generations that are capable of learning and who are devoted to using their newfound knowledge to grow closer to Allah. Since Allah honours people who seek knowledge assiduously, He will increase the rewards for those who make an effort to do so [\[25\]](#), [\[26\]](#).

The Islamic educational process, which strives to create people who obey Allah SWT, have high morals, and conduct well in society, is referred to as the essence of education. Education encompasses moral, ethical, and spiritual components in addition to intellectual ones. Islamic education places a heavy emphasis on the development of moral principles and strong character via Islamic teachings [\[27\]](#).

The purpose and target of Islamic education, which, in general, we hope to do and realize is creating environments and circumstances that allow people to live moral lives here on Earth and to live in the hereafter under the protection of Allah's pleasure and reward (SWT). He said "I did not create jinn and humans except to worship me" (Adz-Zariyat 51: 56). So, Islamic education aims to draw humans near to God and God's purposes through religious education with central educational values [\[28\]](#).

In summary, experts have underlined that the core of Islamic education is anchored in raising people who are morally upright, intellectually curious, spiritually grounded, and socially responsible. The complete nature of Islamic teachings and their relevance to human growth are reflected in this all-encompassing approach [\[29\]](#).

## **Fundamental Goals and Functions of Education**

The fundamental goals of Islamic education are based on Islamic principles and are drawn from Islamic teachings. These goals are focused on the development of morally, cognitively, socially, and spiritually sound individuals. These concepts have been established by scholars and educators within the Islamic tradition, using Islamic literature and educational philosophy as a guide [\[30\]](#). Here, we investigate these concepts using pertinent literature as a guide:

### **1. Goal of Islamic Education**

The principal aim of Islamic education is to facilitate the holistic growth of individuals by nurturing their moral, intellectual, social, and spiritual facets in alignment with Islamic teachings. The concept of "Tazkiyah," or the purification of the self, which emphasizes acquiring virtue and reaching spiritual perfection, forms the foundation of this goal [\[31\]](#).

In another study, the main goal of education is to promote people's social, emotional, intellectual, and ethical development to assist their holistic development. This goal is captured by the concept of "human flourishing," which entails reaching one's full potential and leading a happy and meaningful life. Islamic education aims to develop human character through the development of an Islamic personality, the study of Islamic philosophy, and the study of life sciences [\[32\]](#).

Following Islamic beliefs, Islamic education seeks to support a person's overall development by addressing their spiritual, moral, intellectual, and social needs. It is predicated on the ideas of self-purification, or tazkiyah. This goal is consistent with the broader concept of human flourishing, which emphasizes realizing one's full potential and living a meaningful life following Islamic teachings. Islamic education aims to produce individuals who are morally upright, intelligent, and capable of making important contributions to society that is, individuals who live out the core principles of Islam daily. This can be achieved by fusing spiritual guidance with pragmatic understanding [\[33\]](#).



## 2. Functions of Islamic Education

Here in this research, we can see some functions of Islamic Education:

a. **Spiritual Development.** According to Surah al-Alaq 96: 1-5, Islamic education aims to promote people's spiritual development and relationship with Allah, by cultivating qualities like faith, humbleness, sincerity, and adherence to Islamic norms [34].

b. **Moral and Ethical Development.** According to our prophet Muhammad SAW, Islamic education emphasizes the importance of ethical and moral conduct based on Islamic teachings to instil in individuals virtues like honesty, justice, compassion, and integrity.

c. **Intellectual Development.** Islamic education combines reason with faith to promote critical thinking, intellectual inquiry, and the pursuit of knowledge in a variety of fields.

d. **Social Responsibility and Service.** According to Surah Al Baqarah 02:177, Islamic education promotes the virtue of serving others and contributing positively to society by enticing individuals to actively engage in deeds of charity, community involvement, and service.

e. **Community Building and Solidarity.** According to hadiths, Islamic education fosters a sense of community and solidarity among believers, hence promoting brotherhood, cooperation, and mutual assistance.

f. **Lifelong Learning and Personal Development.** In another hadith, People are encouraged to pursue knowledge, self-improvement, and spiritual growth throughout their lives through Islamic education. It encourages personal growth and lifetime learning [35].

The main objective of Islamic education is to enhance individuals' moral, spiritual, and social attributes. It also aims to produce Muslims who are obedient, responsible, and constructive members of society. Islamic education enables people to comprehend and uphold Islamic principles in their daily lives, as well as to serve as role models for others. The development of moral principles, character, and social skills are further functions of Islamic education. Usually, we discuss the goals of Islamic education here [36].

To put it briefly, the primary objective of Islamic education is to help people develop holistically in line with Islamic teachings. Its functions include academic, social, moral, spiritual, and personal aspects. Knowledge of the transforming power of Islamic education in raising individuals and societies steered by Islamic principles requires a knowledge of these fundamental ideas [37].

### **The Path of The Knowledge of Islamic Education**

Based on the Path of Knowledge is Knowledge and Understanding. The application of knowledge and education to achieve a deeper comprehension of Islamic teachings and how to apply them in daily life is referred to as the "path of knowledge" in Islamic education. Islamic education teaches the practical applications of the faith in various domains of life in addition to the doctrine itself. Islamic education imparts not only the knowledge of the faith but also its practical applications in different spheres of life. This calls for a profound comprehension of both religion and how science can enhance human well-being [38].

The Islamic tradition views the way of knowledge as a complex idea that includes the pursuit of knowledge for both religious and secular purposes to advance both individual and community growth. Islamic academics and educators have clarified this idea by referencing Islamic teachings and educational theory. Here, we examine this idea with citations to pertinent journal papers. The path of knowledge in this context refers to efforts to achieve comprehensive knowledge and understanding [39].

The two aspects that are the main focus of this discussion are a deep understanding of religion (deep understanding of religion) as well as recognition of fitrah (human nature) and the influence of the environment on individual development.

a. Deep Understanding of Religion. Understanding religion as an orienting worldview can help us better evaluate and study religious traditions across contexts and connect them to the science-religion dialogue. Besides, religious concepts can be understood as the product of aggregated ordinary cognition, allowing for a fuller account of their distinctive properties. The first part of the concept of the path of knowledge emphasizes the importance of a deep understanding of religious teachings. In Islam, a correct and deep understanding of religious principles is the basis for individuals to live according to Islamic teachings. This includes an understanding of *aqidah* (belief), worship (worship), *akhlak* (morality), and Islamic laws. A deep understanding of religion enables individuals to make decisions and act based on Islamic values and principles in everyday life [40].

b. Nature and Environment. The Islamic environment for achieving Islamic knowledge is a ‘*tauhid* (oneness) oriented approach, integrating revealed knowledge and acquired knowledge, such as Islamic ethics and professional knowledge. Therefore, acknowledging human nature and the impact of the environment on personal growth constitutes the second half of the concept of the path of knowledge. *Fitrah* alludes to the fundamental character or intrinsic impulses of people, such as their propensity for righteousness and knowledge of God's existence. A person's character and personality are also greatly influenced by the environment in which they are raised and developed. Social and physical environments can have an impact on a person's behaviour, values, and outlook on life [41].

Through the integration of a profound comprehension of religion with an awareness of human nature and environmental influences, people can embark on a path of knowledge that fosters holistic development and an enhanced understanding of their self, society, and the universe [42].

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the examination of the fundamentals of Islamic education demonstrates its deep relevance and complexity. Islamic education, which has its roots in the teachings of the Quran and the customs of the Prophet Muhammad SAW, takes a comprehensive approach to developing people who are morally pure, academically curious, socially conscious, and spiritually oriented. This study illuminates the transformational power of Islamic education in forming people and societies by a thorough examination of its philosophical underpinnings, pedagogical tenets, and practical applications. The research highlights the primary objective of Islamic education, which is to support the comprehensive growth of individuals following Islamic principles. This includes moral, intellectual, social, spiritual, and personal aspects, intending to raise people who are fervently devoted to their religion, morally pure, highly engaged in the arts, socially conscious, and always seeking to better themselves. Furthermore, Islamic education emphasizes the value of combining religious and secular knowledge for the advancement of individuals and society, providing a means of achieving a deeper comprehension and application of religious teachings in daily life. In addition, the idea of the “path of knowledge” in Islamic education emphasizes the route toward all-encompassing knowledge and comprehension, which includes a thorough comprehension of religion as well as an awareness of human nature and environmental factors. People can pursue a path of knowledge that promotes holistic growth and a deeper understanding of themselves, society, and creation by integrating these factors. This study essentially highlights how Islamic education is dynamic and adaptive, staying firmly grounded in tradition while simultaneously addressing modern issues. Islamic education can continue to play a crucial role in fostering individuals and communities guided by Islamic principles by understanding its essence and goals. This will help to promote social cohesion, moral leadership, and comprehensive human development in the modern world.

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## Author Contribution

All authors contributed equally to the main contributor to this paper, all authors read and approved the final paper, and all authors declared no conflict of interest.

## Conflicts of Interest

All authors declare no conflict of interest.

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