Islamic Values Reinforcement to Overcome Moral Degradation

Winda Dwi Hudhana, Westi Bilda

UniversitasMuhammadiyahTangerang

windhana89@gmail.com

Abstract

Technology can help humans work. Being fast in every work is possible because of technology. Nevertheless, human unawareness the sophistication of technology gives a lot of bad effects. Humans develop into individualistic, egoistic, hedonic, materialistic and so on. This is due to the rapid science development that is not based on religion. Meanwhile, it is believed generally in religions, especially in Islam, the importance of social life. Therefore, it needs Islamic values reinforcement in all subjects throughout the education level. For science advancement, technology and Islamic values can go hand in hand.

Key words: *Islamic values, Moral degradation.*

A. Introduction

Islamic values are getting left behind with the fast development of information and technology. The glam of technology in this modern era is very infectious yet venomous since people seem to reach every inch of any updated information with their latest expensive gadget equipment. It is not a surprise since one of these actions might elevate their social class and existence. Basically, human are born with huge uncontrollable desire which gives us a quite bold conclusion that technology contains more negative impacts than the good ones. The use of technology with inappropriate amount of time will cause adverse impacts that directly affect human's self-perception, mental readiness, and physical development.

People who only pursue their own pleasure and satisfaction without thinking the bad effect of technology, for example, will use their smartphone which its main functions is to communicate, for misuse actions.Another bad example is the use of smartphone to facilitate criminals such as frauds, immoral actions, and others.Teenagers, in their level of age, are still not be able to differentiate the good things and bad things. They may use their smartphones to play games all day long, sometimes they also spread inappropriate contents, hoaxes, and any

provocation actions. Teenagers also eagerly hunt the latest gadget with the most expensive price showing their character ofarrogance, materialism, and hedonism. In contrary, teenagers in the low class family will try to find any possible way to follow the technology trends and justify any actions to get them, for instance by stealing and robbing their nearest circle. These things actually happenin real life; the moral of the nowadays youthis currently degrading.

To solve the problems, we need the moral education to be taught intensively. Besides moral education, teenagers need to get the religion education regularly, especially forIslamic education. Religion values and morals values are very important; they are both interconnected. In the religion values there are basic values that need to be transformed in human daily lives. The basic values are religious values containing principal teaching about the truth of the Godand it will be the strength for those who possess them(LalompohdanLalompoh, 2017:131).

According to Muhsinin (2013:208),Islam is a religion with the perfect rule system. The system and rule are said to be perfect because it governs relationship with God, neighbors and other living beings even the dead ones. It is stated in Al-Quran surah Al-Kafiruun about the teaching to create harmony among people, mutual respect, and mutual help. Education demands not only intellectual intelligence but also spiritual and emotional intelligence that is the moral (character) education based on Islamic values.

B. Discussion

Moral Education

Moral is reflected in behavior, attitudes and attributes which make a person's specific characteristics. In addition, moral is also a form of character. There are two morals: good morals and bad morals. Good morals will bring someone to a good character, otherwise a bad morality will make a person's bad character.

The concept of moral (character) education was originally proposed by Thomas Lickona. He revealed that character education is a hallmark of human life as a foundation in living in a society that has good behavior, attitude and personality. Lickona also revealed that character education is divided into two: goodness of self and kindness towards others (Lickona in Budimansyah, 2012: 6).

Education, as expressed by Budimansyah (2012: 14), is an effort to build awareness to perform various virtues to create a better world. Thus, character education is a human effort to lead a person toward a moral life, behavior, personality and good attitude to provide benefits for

themselves and others to have a better life.According to Budimansyah (2014: 16-18), there are four reasons emerging of moral (character)in Indonesian education. They are:

1. Historical

Indonesia has a long history of being a colonized country for more than 3.5 centuries. Thus, the colonialism has formed the characters of Indonesian people into a hard-working, persistent, tough, selfless, unyielding, honest, hearted, roomy and brave citizen. These characters of a strong Indonesian started to seize their independence from the colonists and expelled the invaders from Indonesian homeland. These attitudes should be passed on to the next generation so as to make the generation strong in accepting the changes and progress of the era.

2. Juridical

Character education is covered in Undang-Undang No.17 Tahun 17 of "Character Education" that the vision and mission of national development is "... the realization of a nation character that is strong, competitive, noble, and moral based on Pancasila, which is characterized by behaviors of Indonesian people who believe and obey the Almighty God, virtuous, tolerant, cooperative, patriotic, dynamic, and has potential strength of information and technology".

3. Sociologically

In the last few decades, there has been a decline in the morality of Indonesian society. It is caused by various things including technological advances in it. Moral values degradationcauses crimes, immoral acts and other negative acts everywhere. The government is trying to take steps to improve the nation's morale by applying character education in the education sector. This character education should not only be applied to the education sector, but all sectors to support the better life goals. Character education is also not only taught in formal education but also in non-formal education.

4. Pedagogical

A child or adolescent is a hypothetical citizen who needs education and coaching to become a person who is aware of obligations and rights as God's creatures, social being, and sentient being. Character education needs formation and coaching. Thus, all walks of life are obliged to shape the character of the young generation. Basically

children are creatures who are in a position of development and growth then they need guidance and direction toward the optimal point of his fitrah ability (Fauzan, 2015: 88).

How can Morals Degrade?

Through some observations that have been made by experts, they conclude that morale are sometimes declining. This can be seen in the increasing cases of crime among teenagers such as bullying, theft, robbery, free sex, drugs, sexual harassment, and murder. Many teenagers end up desperate to satisfy their desires and satisfactions.

In addition, Lickona (2013: 15-22) gives his opinion on the symptoms of moral degradation such as: 1) violence and vandalism, 2) stealing, 3) cheating, 4) disrespecting authority figures, 5) peer cruelty, 6) bigotry, 7) abusive language, 8) abuse and sexual development too soon, 9) increasing selfishness and declining responsibilities as citizens, and 10) self-destructive behavior.

In line with the theories above, Kesuma, Triatna and Permana (2013: 2-5) say that some cases indicate the cause of moral degradation include: 1) the existence of free sex, drug trafficking, brawl, sexual harassment, 2) alarming unemployment, 3) corruptions and crimes in all sectors, 4) continuous disasters, 5) increasing poverty, 6) low competitive power so that many workers are replaced by workers from other countries 7) inefficiency education finance.

In social life, especially in Indonesia, there are customs and traditions that actually have the power to bind someone from acts that deviate from the prevailing norms. People who uphold the customs and traditions will avoid the deviation of the norm. Indeed, a person should have self-control, he must also have self-intellectual and moral intelligence, so that crimes will not happen in this surrounding environment.

Islamic Values-Based Learning

Since the beginning of time, the Prophet AdamA.S taught Islam to his people, but they were still deviant. Until the end-coming of the Prophet Muhammad SAW who served as themost perfect and willing to improve the morals of human beings who increasingly distorted, some of them still did not acknowledge the existence of Allah SWT. Many human beings are obedient to worship and many are increasingly distorted. These irregularities are causing people's moral life to decline.Thus, Islamic-based education reinforces moral foundation of the learners so that people become not only intellectually intelligent, but also emotionally and spiritually strong. According toMuhsinin (2013: 216-222), Islamic character education includes:

a. *Aqidah, Worship, Sharia and Morals*

The essence of aqidah is the form of human belief in Allah SWT which is realized by running the commands and staying away from His prohibitions. Worshipping is the embodiment of aqidah. Someone who believes the existence of Allah SWT then he will obey the command and stay away from the prohibition of Allah SWT. Meanwhile sharia is a fiqihwith the provisions of Allah SWT and the word of Prophet Muhammad SAW. Moral is the embodiment of aqidah, worship and sharia. A person who has a strongaqidah, based on shari'a and worships well, will form akhlakulkarimah or morals that are commendable. This proves his commandment to Allah SWT.

Islamteaches the form of worship to improve the relationship between human beings and Allah SWT and human beings with fellow human beings known as *hablumminallah* and *hablumminannas*. The concept is very good when applied to the teaching and learning process. This means that character learning based on the concept of *hablumminallah* and *hablumminannas* will create a balance of intellectual intelligence, spiritual intelligence and emotional intelligence. The concept of *hablumminallah* teaches humans to obey Allah's commands (religious), tawaqal, istiqomah, and so on. Meanwhile the concept of *Hablumminannas* teaches us to do good with others, such as tolerance, cooperation, respect, respect, and so on.

b. *InsanKamil, and UlulAlbab*

The essence of human beings is to be a perfect human beings in the sense of good character. Islam teaches mankind to be human beings who can rule the worldand good role models. Someone who has the nature of *kamil*can be seen with the the following characteristics: 1) sensible and noble character, 2) having intuition towards Allah SWT, 3) able to civilize nature and noble character, 4) having a nature associated with Islam. According to Muhsinin (2013: 218), *ululalbab* is the attitude of contemplating ourselves as the creation of Allah SWT and trying to develop the science associated with the creation of Allah SWT.Both concepts should be implemented in learning all learning. Therefore, learning can run well and be balanced with the application of the concept of learning based on InsanKamil and UlulAlbab.

c. Moral Education based on Islam

The increasingly widespread moral degradation occur in today's society because of their low religious knowledge. Islam is a religion that brings peace and tranquility for Muslims who are pious because it is clear in the Quran that is on Q.S. Al-Imran verse 105 that "And let there be among you a people who call upon good, tell the *ma'ruf* and prevent from the unjust, they are the lucky ones." It is clear in the verse that the devotingMuslim is a lucky person because he creates peace and tranquility.

Noble traits that can be imitated as character education are the traits possessed by Prophet Muhammad SAW among others: 1) *shiddiq*which can be interpreted to bring the truth, 2) *amanah* which means can be trusted in conveying the revelation and the words of Allah SWT, 3) *fathonah* which means wise in conveying the revelation and the words of Allah SWT, and 4) *tabligh* interpreted as the Prophet always conveyed what was revealed by Allah SWT. In addition to these traits, other traits that can be emulated are:

1) Honest. The honest nature of Prophet Muhammad SAW is worth exemplifying, because without honesty someone can lose other people's trust. Lies are very bad and can harm others.

2) Good Heart. The very nature of the Prophet is the goodness of his heart. This trait amazed all humanity. The cruel treatment of the infidels against the Prophet was reciprocated with kindness and not the slightest bit of resentment. This trait should be emulated by humankind so that peace can be created on earth.

3) Self-Awareness. Prophet Muhammad SAW had an attitude of shame in immorality so that he never committed immorality or sin. So, if all human beings can imitate this attitude of shame, it will create a better living.

4) Gentle and affectionate. The gentle and affectionate attitude of Prophet Muhammad SAW is greatly admired. He is always gentle and affectionate to anyone including other believers. This attitude should be imitated by the community to create peace.

5) Life is simple. Glamor and dissipation can cause arrogance and arrogance can be self-defeating because it can trigger crime. Therefore, the human race is expected to emulate the nature of this Prophet.

6) Humble. Humble nature is a praiseworthy property of *Rasulullah*, although one of the wives of *Rasulullah* is a rich woman but this humble attitude should be emulated by mankind.

7) Forgiving. In addition to gentle and affectionate attitude, *Rasulullah* has a wonderful attitude of forgiveness. Therefore, the Prophet who has experienced many insults by the infidels, he did not do any revenge; he just forgave the behavior of the infidels and invites them to embrace Islam.

Conclusion

Religious values and moral values have a very close relationship since moral values are in religious values and religious values are also found in moral values. Within that religion there are also essential values that need to be possessed and transformed into human beings. In an effort to improve the nation's morals through education, it is necessary to hold additional education in the form of Islamic-based education. Islamic-based education will reinforce moral foundation of the students so that people become not only intellectually intelligent, but also emotionally and spiritually wise.

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