



Implementation of Baitul Arqam to improve Islamic values for teachers at MTs Muhammadiyah 1 Sukabumi

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Abstract:

Purpose: The Baitul Arqam activity is designed to instill the ideology of *Al-Islam Kemuhammadiyahan*, strengthen educators' self-identity at MTs Muhammadiyah, enhance commitment and integrity, and foster superior Islamic moral values.

Methods: The Baitul Arqam activity took place on April 22-23, 2024, and was attended by seven MTs Muhammadiyah teachers in Sukabumi City. The methods used in this community service activity included a variety of lectures, demonstrations, simulations, and discussions.

Results: The results of the community service showed an average post-test score of 80.46 (good). The responses to the implementation of Baitul Arqam activities were as follows: 1) Quality of resource persons: 96.43 (very good), 2) Relevance of material to the interests of teachers: 92.86 (very good), 3) Usefulness of activities: 96.43 (very good), 4) Activity facilities: 100 (very good), 5) Activity satisfaction: 96.43 (very good).

Conclusions: The implementation of activities was categorized as good, indicating that the program was effectively executed and produced satisfactory results for teachers and employees at MTs Muhammadiyah 1 Sukabumi.

Keywords:

Baitul Arqam, Muhammadiyah

1. Introduction

MTs Muhammadiyah 1 Sukabumi, is the only Madrasah Tsanawiyah Amal Usaha Muhammadiyah Pendidikan in Sukabumi, Jawa Barat, Indonesia. Which is under the auspices of the Pimpinan Daerah Muhammadiyah of Sukabumi. MTs Muhammadiyah 1 Sukabumi was established in 1981, with a vision of "Realizing a Religious and Achieving Madrasah". MTs Muhammadiyah 1 Sukabumi has a building with an area of 1086 m², consisting of 3 classrooms, 1 teacher's room, 1 principal's room, 1 computer laboratory, 1 library room, 1 science laboratory room, 1 sports field and 1 mosque.

In the last three years the number of students at MTs Muhammadiyah 1 Sukabumi has decreased significantly. Currently, the number of students at MTs Muhammadiyah is 29 people, with details of the number of students in grade VII: 6 people, grade 8: 9 people



and grade 9: 14 people. The number of teachers at MTs Muhammadiyah is 7 teachers. Based on the results of observations and interviews with the Head of MTs Muhammadiyah, information was obtained that the teachers who teach at MTs Muhammadiyah are mostly not Muhammadiyah members so they do not understand how Muhammadiyah ideology, strengthen their identity as members of the Muhammadiyah organization, and commitment and integrity in developing charitable efforts and the Muhammadiyah organization. On the other hand, the motivation of teachers in teaching is very low which will directly impact the learning of students at MTs Muhammadiyah.

From the analysis of the situation above, it can be concluded that the main problem faced by partners is the problem of lack of teacher motivation and lack of understanding of Muhammadiyah ideology. This can be caused because most teachers are not from Muhammadiyah members, as well as low motivation which has an impact on the learning carried out by teachers.

In MTs Muhammadiyah, it is necessary to hold Baitul Arqam (BA) activities, in order to strengthen the quality of human resources and to improve understanding of Islam, create similarities and unity of attitude, honesty, vision and way of thinking among members of the organization in realizing the mission of Muhammadiyah. Baitul Arqam activities are held to better understand the nature of Muhammadiyah. When we work in Muhammadiyah's Amal Usaha, we will learn and understand what Muhammadiyah is.

One of the things learned in Baitul Arqam is the understanding of religion in Muhammadiyah, which explains the principles of true worship. Muhammadiyah is an Islamic movement that carries out *da'wah* and *tajdid* to realize a truly Islamic society. Baitul Arqam has been contributes to the professional development teachers by providing training and guidance that align with Muhammadiyah's educational values and objectives (Kartini et al., 2023). Furthermore, according to Ilham et al., (2019) the implementation of Baitul Arqam is recognized as a crucial solution for unifying vision, building commitment and integrity, and enhancing collective

Based on the background that has been stated, the aims of this community service activity are: 1) to increase the understanding of MTs Muhammadiyah teachers regarding the nature of being Muhammadiyah in Muhammadiyah Charity Business, 2) growing the motivation of MTs teachers in carrying out their responsibilities as educators in the Muhammadiyah Business Charity.

2. Methods

The method of implementing this community service activity is a presentation by providing material to participants who in this case are teachers at partner schools, discussions with participants, conducting question and answer sessions and evaluating activities through questionnaires. The implementation of this community service activity includes three stages, namely the preparation stage, the implementation stage and the evaluation stage of the community service activity.

The preparation stage includes coordination with partner schools to discuss the conditions and needs of partners, and determine the activity schedule and prepare community service materials and instruments. While the implementation stage provides

material on: 1) Progressive Islam, 2) Practical Knowledge of Scientific Practices, 3) Worship According to the Guidance of the Prophet, 4) Profile of Muhammadiyah Figures.

The last stage is the evaluation with reflection on activities and providing response questionnaires to evaluate community service activities related to several indicators including: the suitability of community service activities with partner needs, the suitability of materials with training objectives, benefits obtained by participants, and several other points that state the participants' responses after participating in the community service activity. This evaluation is also used to determine the extent of the results of the implementation of community service activities and to be used as material for improvement for the next community service activity.

3. Results and Discussion

The implementation of this community service activity includes three stages, namely the preparation stage, the implementation stage and the evaluation stage of the community service activity. The preparation stage was carried out on March 5, involving the community service team and MTs Muhammadiyah. The aspects discussed included the time, place and material of the activity. The results agreed upon for the period April 22-23, 2024 at the Sukabumi Indah Hotel.

The implementation stage of the Community Service Activity was carried out on April 22-23, 2024, at the Sukabumi Indah Hotel with 5 teachers participating in the activity. At this stage, there were 7 materials presented about: 1) Islam as a Comprehensive Religion 2) Muhammadiyah Ideology, 3) Work in Muhammadiyah with integrity and professionalism, 4) Muhammadiyah as a Charity Movement delivered, 5) Religious Understanding in Muhammadiyah, 6) Muhammadiyah Cadre Profile, and 7) *Thaharah* and Prayer.

In this Baitul Arqam activity, participants are also required to pray 5 times a day congregation, take turns giving 7 minutes preach (*kuliah tujuh menit*) after prayers, and night prayer (*tahajjud*). In the morning, they do sports together and there are games to improve cooperation and collaboration. The documentation of Baitul Arqam activities are depicted in Figure 1.



(a) Providing material in class



(b) *Kuliah tujuh menit* after prayer

Figure 1: Baitul Arqam activities



The next stage is the evaluation stage by giving post test questions and providing response questionnaires to evaluate community service activities related to several indicators, including: the suitability of community service, activities with partner needs, the suitability of materials with training objectives, benefits obtained by participants, and several other points that state the participants' responses after participating in community service activities. This evaluation is used to determine the extent of the result of the implementation of community service activities and to be used as material for improvement for the next community service activities. The post test results for each material are shown in Table 1.

Table 1: A Post test result per material

No	Material	Score	Category
1	Islam as a comprehensive Religion	81.25	Good
2	Muhammadiyah Ideology	84.37	Good
3	Work in Muhammadiyah with Integrity and Professionalism	81.25	Good
4	Muhammadiyah as a Charity Movement delivered	81.25	Good
5	Religious Understanding in Muhammadiyah	80	Marginal
6	Muhammadiyah Cadre Profile	75.75	Marginal
7	Thaharah and Prayer	79.37	Marginal
Average		80.46	Good

The representation data in table 1 with the passing line is illustrated in Figure 2. If the score is above 80, the category is considered as Good.

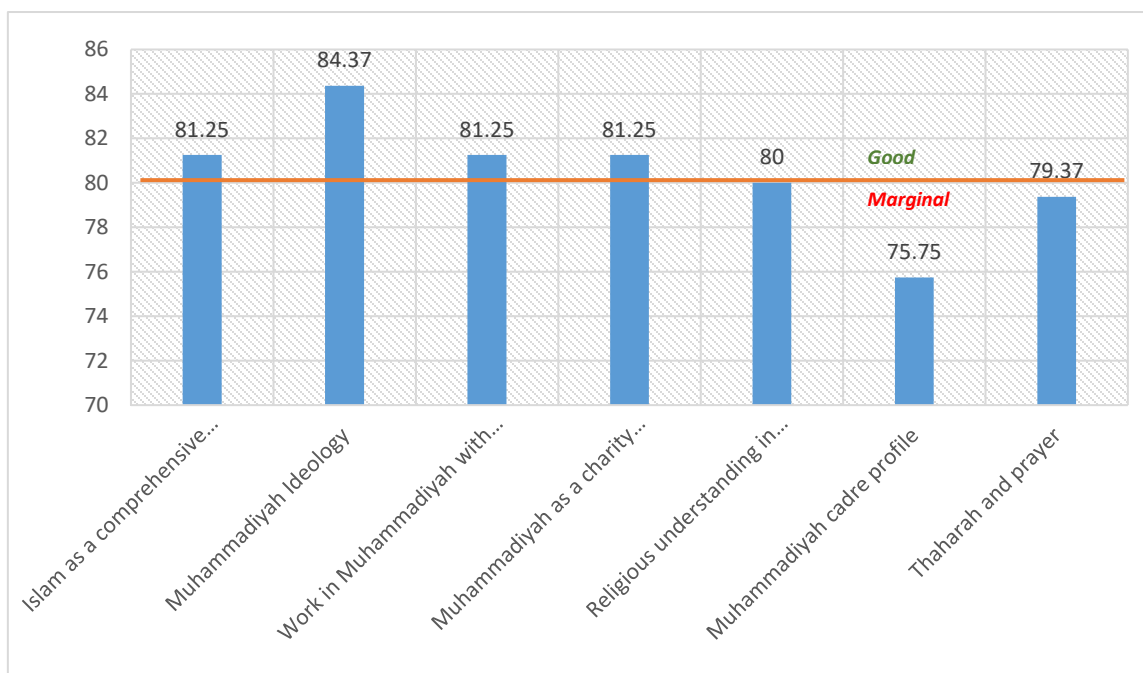


Figure 2: Post test result per material



The data from the participants' responses are presented in Table 2. The responses show that all under category Very Good (above score 90).

Table 2: Participant Respond Data

No	Material	Score	Category
1	Quality of sources	96.43	Very Good
2	Relevance of the material provided in the activity	92.86	Very Good
3	Benefit of activity	96.43	Very Good
4	Facilities and accommodation provided	100	Very Good
5	Level of satisfaction with activities	96.43	Very Good
Average		96.43	Very Good

In addition, participants were also asked for the opinion regarding activities and the responses given included the subjective questions:

- It is very encouraging, hopefully it will continue*
- With this event. It will broaden your horizons and increase your enthusiasm as an educator in Amal Usaha Muhammadiyah.*
- This activity is very good, especially in establishing chemistry between teachers at MTs. Muhammadiyah*

The average response given for the subjective questions was very positive and expected to continue the activities.

This community service activity was carried out at MTs Muhammadiyah 1, based on the result of the analysis that this school faces challenges in the form of minimal understanding of Muhammadiyah ideology and teacher motivation to teach. This condition affects the quality of learning and the existence of the institution. To overcome this, the Baitul Arqam activity was designed as a strategic solution to improve the values of Al-Islam and Muhammadiyah among teachers.

Baitul Arqam serves as the main cadre activity, uniting participants under a shared vision and understanding of Muhammadiyah's ideology and system. This is essential to developing a committed and ideologically aligned membership base (Rahim et al., 2022).

Following *Baitul Arqam* according to Nashir (2012) will be able to play a role in charitable efforts: 1) As part of worship/*sabulullah* through Muhammadiyah, 2) Raising and improving the quality of AUM as a form of commitment/self-loyalty, 3) Realizing and Islamic life in managing AUM, 4) Building brotherhood and raising AUM towards excellence, 5) Active in the Muhammadiyah organization in their respective places of residence.

Initially, Baitul Arqam participants only knew MTs. Muhammadiyah as an educational institution. This mean working at the Muhammadiyah Charity to earn some sustenance and earn a living. After participating in Baitul Arqam, participants have become familiar with the vision and direction of the Muhammadiyah charity movement, which is not only an educational institution, but also an institution for preaching and cadre formation of the Muhammadiyah organization (Suardin et al., 2022). This means that charity is also a place of devotion in order to seek Allah's pleasure. In addition, participant have



understood the ideological values, understanding and practice of Islam, and the Islamic life of Muhammadiyah citizens. Participants have learned the perspective and methods of Muhammadiyah citizens in understanding Islam as a religion, such as procedure for ablution that is accordance with the message of the Qur'an and Sunnah.

This community service activity evaluation showed that the program was generally successful, with recommendations for ongoing improvement to maintain its impact. The spirit of learning and togetherness obtained from the implementation of Baitul Arqam, as seen from the results of interviews with participants, is expected to be a motivator for teachers to teach with more commitment and improve their performance at school. In the long term, this increase in motivation and performance not only supports improving the quality of learning but also allows teachers to be more creative in their teaching methods (Kartini, 2023). This creativity is expected to have an impact on the attractiveness of the school to prospective new students, thereby gradually increasing the number of students at MTs Muhammadiyah 1 Sukabumi.

This theoretical and practical support is in line with research by Fanani (2022), which shows that Baitul Arqam training is effective in strengthening Islamic and Muhammadiyah values among educators, which ultimately has an impact on improving the quality of education in Muhammadiyah institutions. In addition, a study by Ilham et al., (2019); Syahrir et al., (2022), emphasized that structured training with a spiritual approach is able to strengthen the motivation of educators in carrying out their duties with full responsibility, which has a positive impact on the development of Muhammadiyah charitable efforts as a whole.

4. Conclusion

The implementation of Baitul Arqam for teachers at MTs Muhammadiyah 1 Sukabumi has proven effective in enhancing their understanding of Al-Islam and Muhammadiyah values. This program not only reinforces ideological comprehension but also instils a sense of belonging and commitment among educators. The average post-test score of 80.46 and overwhelmingly positive participant feedback highlight the program's success in motivating teachers to improve their teaching performance.

Furthermore, the emphasis on collaborative learning and spiritual enrichment fostered during the program is expected to inspire creativity and dedication among the teachers, enabling them to adopt innovative teaching methods. Over time, this renewed enthusiasm and improved instructional quality could help increase student enrolment at MTs Muhammadiyah 1, addressing one of the institution's critical challenges.

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