

# Urgency of Qur'an literacy for early childhood education in society 5.0

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## ABSTRACT

This research is qualitative descriptive study conducted with purpose of studying further about the importance of Qur'an literacy in early childhood and the efforts that can be made to improve Qur'an literacy skills in the society 5.0. Data analysis was carried out descriptively through literature review analysis. The results show that (1) Qur'an literacy in Indonesia is still relatively low compared to the entire Muslim population with percentage of approximately 65%, (2) a fun learning strategy according to the characteristics and conditions of children is one of the efforts to improve Qur'an literacy in early childhood, (3) Qur'an literacy needs to be introduced to early childhood as a way of life to become the next generation of nation with character and dignity in dealing with and adapting in the society 5.0.

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## INTRODUCTION

The presence of new generation as the nation's successor is something that needs to be guided as effort to prepare for the challenge new era in life. Currently, the world has entered the era of society 5.0 which is a complement to the industrial revolution 4.0 (Suherman, Musnaini, Wijoyo, H., & Indrawan, 2020) where everyone at all generations will experience changes and increasingly complex problems in terms of education, religion, culture, politics and so on. In facing these challenges, every nation really hopes for a generation of good quality in terms of religion (*aqidah*, morals, *syari'ah*), education, civility (culture), welfare and social aspects.

Early childhood education is the starting point for children's progress as future generations to prepare quality human resources, so character education is needed as effort to build self-control in children (Fakhriyani, 2017). A quality generation must be prepared, one of which is by instilling elements of *aqidah*, morals and *syari'ah* strongly so the intelligent, patient and pious generation will be produced. In addition, it is necessary to provide aspects of skills that must be possessed and able to encourage birth the character, integrity and *istiqomah* generation.

Literacy is indispensable skill in welcoming education era 5.0 (Muliastri, N.K.E., & Handayani, 2021), by definition it involves mastering writing systems and accompanying conventions (Kern, 2000). Literacy is not just skill in terms of reading and writing, but also includes communication in society (Septiani, N., & Syaodih, 2020). There are many kinds of literacy that need to be mastered by early childhood as the next generation, one of which is Qur'an literacy. The definition of Qur'an literacy is literacy movement in studying the Qur'an through reading, writing and understanding it (Syarifuddin, U.H., Munir, Haddade, 2021). Teachings in Qur'an are guidelines of the universe. If practiced, it will form a character that is *sakinah, mawaddah wa rahmah*. That character is called moderate behavior (Supriadi, U., Supriyadi, T., & Abdussalam, 2022) and must be possessed by future generations in welcoming the era of society 5.0. Therefore, Qur'an literacy needs to be taught from an early age as guide for children in facing increasingly complex challenges in the future.

Based on this background, this study was conducted with purpose of studying further about the importance of Qur'an literacy skills in early childhood in enter the society 5.0 era through various literature studies. To support the research objectives, the following research questions were asked:

- 1) What are the problems in increasing Qur'an literacy in early childhood?
- 2) What efforts can be made to improve Quran literacy skills in the era of society 5.0?
- 3) What is the urgency of Quran literacy for early childhood in the era of society 5.0?

### METHOD

This research is descriptive study using qualitative approach to investigate the background of importance Qur'an literacy for early childhood in society 5.0 which is full of increasingly complex challenges and demands.

Data in this study consisted of primary data obtained through analysis the literature review of journals, books, and so on. Furthermore, the data were analyzed descriptively to examine more deeply about the importance of Qur'an literacy in early childhood including various problems and challenges in improving the culture of Qur'an literacy in early childhood as well as efforts or strategies that can be done to improve Qur'an literacy skills in era of society 5.0.

### FINDINGS

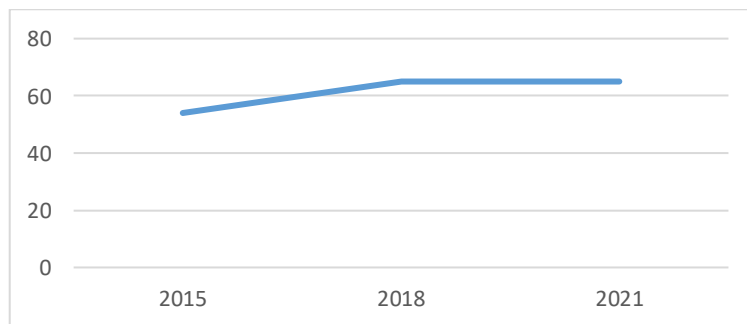


Figure 1. Graph of Indonesian people's Qur'an literacy skills

Table 1. List of articles on the effectiveness strategy in improving Qur'an literacy

Year	Author	Strategy/techniques	Result of the study
2019	Imam Mashudi Latif	Qira'ati	Qira'ati effectively used in improving Qur'an literacy for early childhood because the learning process is easy for children to understand
2019	Eti Nurhayati	Reading aloud	Reading aloud technique effective use in improving Qur'an literacy for early childhood because it's efficient, easy, cheap, simple and flexible used also fun for early childhood

<i>Year</i>	<i>Author</i>	<i>Strategy/techniques</i>	<i>Result of the study</i>
2019	Muhammad Imam Pamungkas, Dewi Mulyani, Dinar Nur Inten	Playing techniques	Playing techniques effectively improving Qur'an literacy in early childhood because provide opportunities for children to explore
2018	Dewi Mulyani, Imam Pamungkas, Dinar Nur Inten	Storytelling	Improving Qur'an literacy through storytelling techniques has positive impact because it's fun and meaningful
2018	Yuanda Kusuma	Yanbu'a	Yanbu'a effectively used for nearly childhood in improving Qur'an literacy because the learning system is structured so children's reading and writing skills of Qur'an gradually increase
2017	Alucyana	Muyassar	Muyassar is practical to use because it's taught using rhythm and props. Taking account principles of learning in early childhood, using props by Muyassar method is well used to improve Qur'an literacy in children

## DISCUSSION

The Qur'an literacy movement in broader context is part of efforts to strengthen children's character (R. A. Hidayat, 2018). In Indonesia, with majority Muslim population globally Qur'an literacy skills can still be said to be low. Research conducted by (Supriadi, U., Supriyadi, T., & Abdussalam, 2022) states that of the 227 million Muslims in Indonesia, 35% of them can read Qur'an while the remaining 65% are categorized as not being able to read Qur'an. Figure 1 showed that Indonesian people's Qur'an literacy skills have increased about 11% from 2015 to 2018 and not increase until 2021. Based on these results, considering that reading is part of literacy skills, it can be said that the Indonesian people's Qur'an literacy is still low and it more research needed to determine the level of Qur'an literacy skills in Indonesia.

Currently, the policy on strengthening Qur'an literacy is still sectoral and not comprehensive. Therefore, policies regarding strengthening Qur'an literacy as part of improving the quality Islamic religious education need to be supported and developed to be more effective. The efforts that can be made are by developing integrated and systematic Qur'an literacy culture (Hatika, Nawas, M.Z.A., Takwim, M., & Riawarda, 2021) which involves various sectors.

Previous research has studied many effective strategies in improving Qur'an literacy skills, especially in early childhood. Based on table 1, it can be seen there are many strategies that can be done to improve Qur'an literacy skills in early childhood and their level of effectiveness. Each strategy certainly has its own advantages and disadvantages therefore educators' creativity is needed in developing strategies to optimize Qur'an literacy in early childhood. These strategies can be applied according to the conditions and needs of students or can be combined between strategies to increase children's enthusiasm in improving their Qur'an literacy abilities. Things that need to be considered in choosing strategy to improve Qur'an literacy in early childhood are the characteristics of early childhood who still like to play (Fahmiyati, 2020), the level of difficulty of the material being taught and the condition of the students themselves.

To improve Qur'an literacy skills, educators must be able to motivate children that its application not only at school but continues when they are at home or through Al-Qur'an education park (TPA) activities and so on. Such habits will indirectly improve children's Qur'an literacy skills and have positive impact on their daily lives. Al-Qur'an education park is an informal education that also can help students improve their Qur'an literacy beside in school. These skills will not increase if religious education about Al-Qur'an reading and writing is not taught at school and home. There are several ways that can be done to improve Qur'an literacy in early childhood:

1. the habit of reading Al-Qur'an like short verse before learning activities at school begin
2. the habit of writing *hijaiyah* letters as form introduction how to write Arabic language
3. introduction reading and writing Al-Qur'an through props such as *Smart Hafiz* or others

#### 4. introduction reading ad writing Al-Qur'an through media based digital learning such as *Youtube*

The urgency of Qur'an literacy from early age has positive impact in the form of children's love for the values of the Qur'an (B. Hidayat, 2017). The existence of habituation to the Qur'an from early age can shape children's behavior. Many influences of outside culture that enter without any limitations make everything both positive and negative easy to adopt in everyday life. Therefore, knowledge about the teachings of the faith that should have been imprinted from an early age is needed. One of these introductions is through Qur'an literacy as the basis for inculcating religious characters which are needed as the initial foundation for the achievement of a dignified nation generation (Maharani, S., 2020).

Al-Qur'an basic education is the most important part in inculcating religious and moral values for early childhood considering that Al-Qur'an is the main guide and basis for learning other sciences. In line, (Khaerul & Haramain, 2018) argue that considering the importance of Al-Qur'an education in human life, it is important to give Al-Qur'an learning to early childhood as the nation's next generation. Introducing Al-Qur'an learning to children from early age will certainly be very beneficial for children's education, because it will eliminate fear and provide peace of mind, cognitively will increase concentration of mind and increase intellectual abilities as well as from religious and moral aspects will form good character. noble character in children (Kertamuda, Mifthul, 2015). These skills will certainly be needed in facing the era of society 5.0 which is full of demands and increasingly complex problems. So that literacy of the Qur'an really needs to be improved in children from early age as a guide for their life in the future as individuals with character and noble character so that they can adapt in an era full of modernization.

### CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis has been carried out through literature review, the conclusion in this study is that the Qur'an literacy of the people in Indonesia is still relatively low compared to the entire Muslim population with percentage of approximately 65%. In addition, the current policy on strengthening Qur'an literacy is still sectoral, so it is necessary to develop an integrated and systematic Qur'an literacy culture. Furthermore, in effort to improve early childhood literacy skills, there are several strategies that can be used, including the Qira'ati, Yanbu'a, and Muyassar method, storytelling, playing, and reading aloud. The strategy can be applied according to the conditions and needs of the child. The existence of habituation to the Qur'an from early age can shape children's behavior so it will have influence on increasing children's Qur'an literacy as way of life to adapt human beings with character in facing the era of society 5.0 which is full of increasingly complex problems.

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