

# The Islamic Boarding School Education System in Improving the Life Skills of Students at the Darul Ihsan Islamic Boarding School

Putri Ayu Munawaroh Nasution<sup>1)</sup>, Alimuddin Siregar<sup>2)</sup>, Dewi Sundari<sup>3)</sup>

<sup>1234)</sup> Al Washliyah University Medan, Indonesia

e-mail Correspondent: [putriayumunawarohnasution@gmail.com](mailto:putriayumunawarohnasution@gmail.com)

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## Info Artikel

## Abstract

This study aims to analyze the education system at the Darul Ihsan Islamic boarding school in improving the life skills of students. The research method used is qualitative with a descriptive approach. Data collection techniques use observation, interviews, and documentation. Data analysis techniques through the stages: data condensation, data presentation, and drawing conclusions and verification. The results of the study indicate that the Darul Ihsan Islamic boarding school creates a modern education model, where teaching techniques, subject matter, and facilities and infrastructure are designed in accordance with contemporary educational principles. Efforts to improve the life skills of students, the management of the Islamic boarding school involves several strategic areas, including Madrasah Diniyah, routine religious studies, student organizations, curriculum, and facilities and infrastructure. This life skills development is an integral part of the entire education system at the Darul Ihsan Islamic Boarding School, which aims to equip students with balanced academic and practical skills.

## Keywords:

Learning, Islamic Boarding School, Life Skill

## Kata kunci:

### Abstrak.

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis sistem pendidikan di pondok pesantren Darul Ihsan dalam meningkatkan *life skill* santri. Metode penelitian yang digunakan adalah kualitatif dengan pendekatan deskriptif. Teknik Pengumpulan data menggunakan observasi, wawancara, dan dokumentasi. Teknik analisis data melalui tahapan: kondensasi data, penyajian data, dan penarikan kesimpulan dan verifikasi. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa pondok pesantren Darul Ihsan menciptakan model pendidikan yang modern, dimana teknik pengajaran, materi pelajaran, serta sarana dan prasarana didesain sesuai dengan prinsip-prinsip pendidikan kontemporer. Upaya meningkatkan *life skills* santri, pengelolaan pondok pesantren melibatkan beberapa bidang strategis, termasuk Madrasah Diniyah, pengajian rutin, organisasi santri, kurikulum, serta sarana dan prasarana. Pembinaan keterampilan hidup ini menjadi bagian integral dari keseluruhan sistem pendidikan di Pondok Pesantren Darul Ihsan, yang bertujuan untuk membekali santri dengan kemampuan akademis dan praktis yang seimbang.

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## INTRODUCTION

Islamic boarding schools as Islamic educational institutions in Indonesia have a significant role in forming the character, morals and religious knowledge of their students (Siti Maesaroh, 2022). In addition to providing religious education, Islamic boarding schools are also required to provide life skills that are relevant to the needs of the times. These life skills are important to face

various challenges in everyday life, such as communication skills, leadership, cooperation, and the ability to make good decisions (Muhammad Syahrendi et al, 2024). With the increasing dynamics of globalization and technological developments, Islamic boarding schools need to adjust their education systems so that students have adequate provisions to enter a more complex and competitive world.

Darul Ihsan Islamic Boarding School as one of the Islamic educational institutions tries to open global discourse that occurs in the community around the Islamic boarding school and the general public and various problems that arise among students after leaving the Islamic boarding school, such as the lack of creativity of students after graduating in the sense that students do not know what to do, so it is said that students are less capable of solving their life problems, for that Darul Ihsan Islamic Boarding School interrogates its education pattern through various exercises and patterns of independent living habits that are inherent in the daily lives of students which lead to the provision of life skills. Life skill activities that have developed such as regular religious studies (after dawn and maghrib).

Activities of the santri organization, by having several programs (security, education, cleanliness, secretariat and activities), diniyyah education and santri scientific forums. Especially in vocational skills such as entrepreneurship learning, Agribusiness which includes Agriculture, Food Crops, Fisheries, industrial development and so on. Even the Darul Ihsan Islamic Boarding School has several business units as a means of learning skills such as the Cooperative Business Unit and the Warung Serba ada. Through these skills activities, the students' interest in entrepreneurship is raised, to then be directed towards developing the management of economic businesses when the students return to society. With the aim of output not only mastering the fields of religion or the afterlife but how output can also survive the life with the various skills they have, one way is through education that is oriented towards life skills.

In addition, the Darul Ihsan Islamic boarding school is recognized as having a significant role in raising and developing the world of education. Islamic boarding schools are also believed to be an alternative for solving various educational problems that occur at this time must be open to reading various discourses on various life problems so that the results are intelligent, productive, creative, religious outcomes, because society will be disappointed when the world of education produces lazy, traditional, insensitive and consumptive people. As an educational institution, Islamic boarding schools thus not only function as institutions that produce kyai or religious leaders but also produce pious national leaders and professional workers in certain fields who are inspired by the spirit of religious morals as aspired by national education.

Therefore, research is important to be conducted, because this research has important significance in the realm of Islamic boarding school education, especially in providing practical recommendations for the development of an education system that is more relevant to the demands of the times. The results of this study are expected to contribute to optimizing the role of Islamic boarding schools as educational institutions that are not only superior in religious education, but also able to equip students with essential life skills. The findings of this study are also expected to be a reference for other Islamic boarding schools that want to develop a similar approach to improving the quality of education and life skills of students.

## **RESEARCH METHODS**

The method applied in this study is a qualitative method, which specifically investigates phenomena related to natural objects (non-directive), with researchers as the main instrument.

Qualitative research is descriptive, qualitative research aims to investigate the significance of information collected for research. This approach is usually applied in social and cultural research, where a thorough understanding of context and meaning is considered very important (Hardani, 2020). This study uses phenomenological methodology, which is a qualitative research method that focuses on the subjective experience of individuals towards a phenomenon. The goal is to understand the meaning given by individuals to their experiences. After that, this data is examined to better understand the existing problem and identify appropriate solutions (Sugiyono, 2020).

This research was conducted at the Darul Ihsan Islamic Boarding School, Hamparan Perak District, Deli Serdang Regency, North Sumatra Province. The time of this research was carried out from February 2024 to May 2024.

Data collection is done through observation, interviews and notes. One technique to clarify the meaning or communicative message of a text, both in written and oral form, is discourse analysis. By using this method, one can find hidden or implied meanings hidden from the words used in the text. The data analysis process in this approach adopts and develops the interaction model proposed by Miles and Huberman. According to them, qualitative data analysis is carried out interactively and continuously until completion. This means that the data is analyzed in depth and continuously, using techniques such as data reduction, data visualization, and drawing conclusions or verification. With this approach, researchers can explore deeper meanings from the text or communication message being studied (Sugiyono, 2019).

In addition to the various methods of data collection and analysis that have been discussed, researchers use two triangulation approaches to assess the validity of the data. The first step is source triangulation, which is the act of cross-referencing interview findings using multiple data collection methods from the same source. The second method is technical triangulation, which involves cross-referencing interview findings with multiple sources while maintaining the same data collection method. By using these two triangulation methods, researchers can ensure the reliability and validity of the data obtained in the study.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **The Darul Ihsan Islamic Boarding School Education Program in Improving the Life Skills of Students**

Life skills encompass a broader range of abilities than just technical or job skills (Normawati & Gaguk Margono, 2016). In essence, life skills are an individual's ability to face and overcome the challenges of everyday life effectively and independently (Dumilah & Rahayu, 2020). Developing life skills requires education and training that focuses on basic understanding that is the foundation for dealing with various situations. Without mastery of these basic skills, a person will have difficulty developing the skills needed to live life and interact with the surrounding environment (Nur, 2015).

Based on the findings in the field, Darul Ihsan Islamic Boarding School has succeeded in implementing an education system that integrates classical and modern teaching methods in an effort to improve the life skills of students. This system includes teaching based on yellow books, which is a characteristic of traditional Islamic boarding school education, with a modern education approach designed to equip students with practical skills that are relevant to everyday life.

As a modern-based religious education institution, the Darul Ihsan Modern Islamic Boarding School has 5 targets and superior programs, namely Adab and Akhlak, Worship, Tahfidzul Quran, & Hadith, Arabic and English, Science, Technology & Graduate from State

Universities, These targets and programs will be instilled in children in the Islamic boarding school, where in addition to focusing on studying religion at the Darul Ihsan Modern Islamic Boarding School, male or female students are also required to understand the progress of technology and the times. The following is an explanation of the five, namely::

1. Strengthening Adab and Morals

Manners and morals are very important in seeking knowledge because they maintain the blessings and benefits of the knowledge obtained (Rakhay Pradana Ipmawanputra et al, 2021). Knowledge accompanied by good morals will be used for good, improving character, and bringing oneself closer to Allah (Basri, 2023). A person who has good manners in the learning process will respect the teacher, be humble, and be open to criticism, which allows the knowledge gained to be more useful. As in the Darul Ihsan Islamic boarding school emphasizes the importance of developing good morals and behavior, in accordance with Islamic teachings. Students are taught manners, ethics, and manners in everyday life, both towards fellow human beings and towards God.

2. Worship Habits

The habit of worship refers to the routine and ongoing process of carrying out worship as part of daily life, with the aim of forming good habits and strengthening the spiritual relationship with Allah (Husna & Arif, 2021). In the context of religious education, the habituation of worship is carried out by teaching and encouraging someone to consistently carry out obligatory and sunnah worship, so that it becomes a habit that sticks in themselves. As students at the Darul Ihsan Islamic boarding school are encouraged to strengthen their worship, both obligatory and sunnah, in order to have a strong relationship with Allah. Worship education at this Islamic boarding school aims to form a personality that is obedient and disciplined in carrying out religious teachings.

3. Strengthening the memorization of the Qur'an and Hadith

Strengthening the Tahfidzul Qur'an and Hadith refers to a systematic effort to improve the ability of students to memorize and understand the Qur'an and the hadith of the Prophet Muhammad SAW. Tahfidzul Qur'an means the process of memorizing the verses of the Qur'an with the aim that students can remember and recite them correctly (Aini et al., 2023). Meanwhile, memorizing Hadith focuses on memorizing the Hadith of the Prophet which serve as a guideline for living life according to Islamic teachings (Siregar & Aisyah, 2024). This program implemented in the Darul Ihsan Islamic boarding school focuses on memorizing the Qur'an and Hadith, as an effort to equip students with in-depth religious knowledge. Students are encouraged to not only understand the text, but also apply it in everyday life. Therefore, this program has produced many hafidz and hafidzah who can memorize the 30 juz of the Qur'an, even not only the Qur'an, the hafidz and hafidzah in the modern Darul Ihsan Islamic boarding school also memorize many hadiths.

4. Arabic and English Improvement

Arabic and English language development is very important in the context of education, especially in Islamic boarding schools, because both have a big role in expanding intellectual insight and deepening religious understanding and facing global challenges. Arabic is the main language of the Qur'an and hadith, so mastery of this language is very important for students to understand religious texts more deeply and correctly (Aman, 2021). Mastery of these two international languages is a priority in modern Islamic boarding schools, especially in Darul Ihsan Islamic boarding schools, considering the

importance of Arabic as the main language of Islam and English as a global language that supports the development of science and technology. In the process of implementing this program, the language section will always provide vocabulary used in everyday life.

#### 5. Science, Technology and PTN Graduates

In the midst of today's developments, male and female students are also required to understand science and technology, therefore the Modern Darul Ihsan Islamic Boarding School does not only focus on male and female students to study religion but also science and technology, the Modern Darul Ihsan Islamic Boarding School provides many science and technology facilities that can be used for teaching and learning needs such as computer labs and science labs, in addition for male and female students in grade 6 there is also a program to graduate from state universities by taking tutoring and other additional studies.

Therefore, the management system of the pondok holds firmly to the principle that students not only know something, but can also teach it, meaning that students do not only prioritize cognitive aspects, but also psychomotor and affective aspects. The learning program is expected to be a provision of student skills so that they can have high competitiveness in entering the world of work in the globalization era. The life skills program is not only vocational skills but also personal skills and social skills.

### Forms of Implementation in Improving Life Skills at Darul Ihsan Islamic Boarding School

There are several forms of programs at the Darul Ihsan Islamic boarding school to improve life skills, namely:

#### 1. Improving Personal Skills

Self-awareness skills are basically the appreciation of oneself as a creature of God, a social creature, a part of the environment, and being aware of and being grateful for the strengths and weaknesses that one has, while simultaneously improving oneself to be useful for oneself and one's environment (Sucilestari & Arizona, 2018). The education system at the Darul Ihsan Islamic Boarding School that is relevant to personal skills is routine religious studies, this activity is carried out every after Maghrib and Subuh prayers led by a ustadz or ustadzah so that this activity is well monitored. In addition to this activity, students also have routine activities every after Isya, namely studying the yellow book to increase the students' knowledge. This activity is to balance the consumption of religious knowledge and general knowledge so that there is harmony, it would be good for students before their bodies are fed, their hearts are fed first such as; dhikr, studying and sunnah prayers so that their lives are calm and blessed.

#### 2. Improving Social Skills

Humans as social beings must interact with each other in community life (Yasni, 2022). That is why Islam teaches about equality, brotherhood, mutual cooperation and deliberation as an effort to form society into a complete community. As the word of Allah SWT. in Surah Al-Hujarat verse 10, as follows:

إِنَّمَا الْمُؤْمِنُونَ إِخْوَةٌ فَأَصْلِحُوا بَيْنَ أَخَوَيْكُمْ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُرْحَمُونَ ۝

It means; Believers are actually brothers, therefore reconcile (improve relations) between your two brothers and fear Allah, so that you may receive mercy (QS.Al-Hujarat: 10).

Based on the results of the study that the Darul Ihsan Islamic Boarding School, the students have a place to actualize themselves towards social skills with an organizational forum. The organizational system at the Darul Ihsan Islamic Boarding School provides convenience to almost all learning processes because through careful planning and strict standards, which are a common foothold in carrying out teaching and learning activities. Therefore, at the Darul Ihsan Islamic Boarding School, unilateral decisions are not known, there are joint decisions.

Darul Ihsan Islamic Boarding School formed an organization for the santri level named the management of Darul Ihsan Islamic Boarding School, all of whose members are students of Darul Ihsan Islamic Boarding School. This organization oversees various organizations under it, such as the Ubudiyah Field Coordinator, Security Field, Cleanliness Field, Education Field and others to the smallest organization such as the head of the room. All activities of this organization are monitored by the council of ustadzah and caretakers. The existence of this organization indirectly makes leadership a habit.

### 3. Improving Academic Skills

Academic skills are also called intellectual skills or scientific thinking skills and are the ability to develop one's thinking skills (Salahuddin & Asroriyah, 2019). Academic skills are directed towards academic or scientific activities (Rahmadani et al., 2022). This skill is important for people who are engaged in a field of work that emphasizes thinking skills. In the implementation of the education system at the Darul Ihsan Islamic Boarding School, this academic skill is applied to religious education activities or commonly called diniyah schools, this activity is carried out by the Darul Ihsan Islamic Boarding School except Fridays. The religious education program (diniyah) at the Darul Ihsan Islamic Boarding School is carried out after the Ashar prayer and after the Isha prayer with lesson materials using Mu'tanaroh books that adhere to the Ahlusunah Wal Jama'ah ideology. The educators or ustadz who teach at the Darul Ihsan Islamic Boarding School are some who are alumni of the Darul Ihsan Islamic Boarding School itself and some who are graduates of Javanese Islamic Boarding Schools, in this case the teachers are required to adhere to the Ahlusunah Wal Jamaah ideology so that the ideology that is inherent in the Darul Ihsan Islamic Boarding School is not contaminated by ideologies that are considered inappropriate. The educational program at the Darul Ihsan Islamic Boarding School is supported by a language laboratory with a capacity of 25 students, in addition, the study level is taken for 6 years, namely 2 years of the awaliyah level, 2 years of the wustho level, 2 years of the ulya level.

### 4. Improving Vocational Skills

Vocational skills are often also called vocational skills, meaning skills that are associated with certain fields of work that exist in society (Darmawan, 2016). Vocational skills are the main research of researchers at the Darul Ihsan Islamic Boarding School. Vocational skills are more suitable for students who are engaged in jobs that rely more on psychomotor skills than scientific thinking skills. However, it is also necessary to realize that vocational skills and other skills do not function separately, inclusively or exclusively. But all of them occur by merging and uniting and finally becoming an individual action that involves physical, mental, emotional, intellectual and spiritual aspects.

Based on the findings, that the Darul Ihsan Islamic Boarding School has vocational skills outside the religious field which are the focus of researchers in this study, namely in the fields of agriculture and freshwater fish farming. With the availability of large land, it is not difficult for the Islamic boarding school to develop life skills in the field of agriculture and has 3 fairly

large fish ponds to support the development of vocational skills in the Islamic boarding school. In practice, skills in the field of agriculture and freshwater fish farming are carried out 6 times a week except Fridays with a division of 3 days for agriculture and 3 days for fisheries, guided by ustadz who are experts in their fields.

In the field of agriculture, students are given material and practice on how to plant, care for, manage, fertilize plants so that they grow well and have good results and how to sell them so that they have good value. The types of agriculture available are: cocoa, coffee, pepper and vegetables. The results will later be put into the Islamic boarding school treasury. In the field of freshwater fish farming, students are also previously provided with material and then continue to practice. The types of fish available are: Gurame Fish, Carp, and Tilapia Fish. The ponds are separate because this Islamic boarding school has 3 large fish ponds and 1 small fish pond. Here students are taught how to raise fish from small to ready for harvest. Fish are harvested around the age of 4-5 months for maximum results. After the harvest period, the pond is not immediately planted with fish again but is left empty or dried for a month or more. Then new fish seeds are put back in. These skills are taught to students so that students not only know about religious knowledge but also have skills that can be developed later in society outside of religious skills.

Therefore, the education system at the Darul Ihsan Islamic Boarding School in improving the life skills of students is to create a model of Islamic boarding school education that integrates its system with various life skills models and tries to improve them, be it personal skills, social skills, academic skills, or vocational skills.

## **CONCLUSION**

Based on the results of the research data analysis conducted, it can be concluded that the education system at the Darul Ihsan Islamic Boarding School has a very important role in improving the life skills of students. This education system includes various elements that work in an integrated manner, starting from religious teaching, developing personal, social, academic, and vocational skills. All of these aspects are designed to provide opportunities for students to develop the skills needed in everyday life, so that they are ready to face various challenges and demands in society.

The programs implemented at the Darul Ihsan Islamic Boarding School, such as regular religious studies, organizations, religious education, and extracurricular activities, effectively support the development of students' life skills. Personal skills are acquired through routine activities such as religious studies, social skills are strengthened through organizations, academic skills are encouraged through religious education and scientific forums, while vocational skills are developed through extracurricular activities that include practical skills such as agriculture, fisheries, foreign languages, computers, sports, and arts. With this comprehensive approach, the Darul Ihsan Islamic Boarding School has succeeded in producing students who are not only knowledgeable in religion, but also have skills that can be applied in everyday life.

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