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Campus Mosque Management As A Character Education Laboratory

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Abstract. Today, character education is an urgent need for the Indonesian nation due to the moral degradation that has infected the community even among students. The campus mosque is a place to foster strategic quality people in the formation of student character. The purpose of this study was to determine the management and role of campus mosques in shaping student character at Duta Bangsa University Surakarta. This research uses descriptive qualitative research with data collection techniques using observation, interviews and documentation. The results of this study are First, forming a mosque board. Second, formulating the vision, mission, values and goals of the mosque as a character education laboratory. Third, compiling a mosque activity program as a character education laboratory. Fourth, implementing the mosque activity program as a character education laboratory. Fifth, assessing the success of the mosque activity program as a character education laboratory. Campus mosques at Duta Bangsa University Surakarta, which are currently spread across three locations and have various programs and activities that have been recognized for their benefits, can take on the role of a character education laboratory.

Keywords: Mosque, education, character

1. INTRODUCTION

Like mushrooms growing in the rainy season, mosques are growing very rapidly in Indonesia. In 2021, there were 272,448 mosques registered with the Ministry of Religious Affairs throughout Indonesia. West Java is the province with the largest number of mosques with 54,275 mosques. With so many mosques registered at the Ministry of Religion, it is hoped that it can become the center of all community activities, both formal and informal activities. Mosques can be used as a means to improve the welfare of the community or people in achieving Indonesia's development goals, namely a just, prosperous, and physically and mentally prosperous society (Najmudin and Bayinah, 2022).

Campus Mosque is a mosque that is built and placed in the college area as a supporting facility for the Muslim academic community to carry out worship, especially fardu prayers on lecture days. In the campus mosque, leaders, lecturers, students, education staff and others can perform fardu prayers in congregation. Thus every day, at least at every Dzuhur and Asr prayer time, there are meetings, interactions, and friendship between the academic community. Meetings and interactions that were originally more in the nature of hablummunnallah worship have the potential to be developed into various other positive interactions that are beneficial such as academic interactions, social interactions, and cultural interactions.

This will give color and weight to the campus as an institution and community that transforms science and technology as well as moral and cultural values to improve the quality of human resources and advance civilization. Such religious and intellectual interaction is one of the goals and strategies of Rasulullah SAW to build the first and second mosques, namely the Quba mosque and the Nabawi mosque in the city of Medina in 622 AD. From the description above, it is illustrated that the mosque has multifunctions. The function of the mosque is not only to carry out vertical worship or *hablumminallah*, but also for various horizontal programs that support the prophetic and apostolic mission, namely *muamalah*, *hablumminannaas*. In the context of present and Indonesia, the concept and functionalization of the mosque in the era of the Prophet Muhammad, the companions and the next generation can be applied and developed in accordance with the potential, opportunities and challenges faced by the Indonesian nation today and in the future (Maisaroh and Ngulwiyah, 2023).

As Muslims, the rapid growth of mosques is certainly a proud achievement. However, it is unfortunate that the existence of mosques in the community, offices, factories and especially on campuses is mostly only functioned as a place of worship. Very rarely does the mosque function as it should, namely as a place of human character building activities as exemplified by the Prophet Muhammad. Thus, the mosque on campus can be used as a medium in shaping student character. History records that the first step taken by the Prophet Muhammad when he first arrived in Medina on the hijrah was to build a mosque which not only functioned as a place to worship God, but also served as a meeting place and gathering place for Muslims to receive the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad.

In the formation of the character of Muslims, the Prophet Muhammad acted as an educator who used the mosque as a place to teach Islam and improve the morals of the companions. This role is carried out after congregational prayers and is also carried out other than that time. It turns out that the Prophet Muhammad's efforts to realize his prophetic mission were pursued by building a mosque that not only functions as a place of worship, but also functions as a place of character building for Muslims. The spirit of the Prophet Muhammad's example is then used by campus managers in managing campus mosques as character education laboratories for students.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

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Managing a mosque today requires knowledge and management skills. Mosque administrators must be able to adapt to the times. The methods or approaches, planning, strategies, and evaluation models used in modern management are tools that are also needed in modern mosque management. Prospering the mosque cannot ignore the human factor. Thus, the notion of prospering the mosque also means efforts to foster worshipers to have a better quality of life. The understanding of prospering the mosque develops from the paradigm of the congregation prospering the mosque to the mosque prospering the congregation (Wiyani 2013).

The existence of a mosque in a place should not be a burden for the people who live around it. The programs managed by the mosque management should not burden the congregation living around the mosque, such as infaqs withdrawn from the congregation for activities that are merely ceremonial in nature. The mosque in the Industrial Revolution 4.0 era is time to prosper its congregation with programs that really touch the needs of the congregation both materially and non-materially such as economic empowerment of the congregation through cooperatives, health counseling for the congregation, mosque management workshops, and so on (Untung 2019).

Based on PDDikti data, there are 4,523 universities in Indonesia in 2023, including 31,399 study programs, 326,554 lecturers, and 9,320,410 students. Of the 4,523, about 3,000 are under the Ministry of Education and Culture, and the others are under the Ministry of Religious Affairs and other ministries. Universities must be able to meet the needs of employment. This is because in the next 10 years it is estimated that in Indonesia there will be around 23 million jobs lost and new jobs that will arise due to the loss of jobs are not yet clearly known. Therefore, universities must be able to predict, anticipate and prepare various programs and human resource competencies to be able to answer these extraordinary future challenges. Otherwise, universities will only graduate graduates with past competencies that are no longer needed in the future.

3. METHODS

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Researchers focused this research on the role of the campus mosque as an Islamic education center in shaping student character at Duta Bangsa University in Surakarta. Using a qualitative approach with a descriptive type of research which in this case tends to use inductive analysis. This type of research, from the subject's perspective, emphasizes process

and meaning. The researcher is an instrument that is directly ⁸ present in the field to collect data, process data and check the validity of the data obtained.

Researchers conducted interviews with the takmir of the campus mosque as well as several individual students and students involved in the Student Activity Unit (UKM) at Duta Bangsa University Surakarta. Researchers also made direct observations and explorations to find the necessary data. This descriptive research is used because it is flexible and prioritizes process over results. The research design can be modified again while the research is in progress. The main key instrument is the researcher himself who communicates directly to respondents. Inductive research means that there are no restrictions on researchers in an effort to accept or reject conjectures and try to understand every situation that exists. Meanwhile, the holistic perspective means that the research is intact and comprehensive in every phenomenon found. Primary data and secondary data are indispensable in this research. Primary sources are data collectors given directly to the source, while secondary data is data collected through second parties, usually obtained through agencies from data collection (Muftiyanto, 2024).

4. RESULTS

The programs in the big program of Kampus Merdeka were formed. The programs in Kampus Merdeka are really made to anticipate the disruption that is happening all over the world today. With this program, universities are expected to precede the existing changes. That is, by changing the descriptive and narrow pattern of education. Namely, from students who can only research one science to a flexible and rich system. That universities must not only be able to produce graduates who are able to fill employment opportunities, but at the same time it is also hoped that these graduates will be able to create jobs according to the opportunities and opportunities that exist by utilizing the various competencies they learn on campus.

If it is assumed that each university has 1 (one) mosque, then in 2023 there will be around 4,523 campus mosques. This large number is certainly an extraordinary institutional and community potential if the function, role and utilization of campus mosques are optimized as in the era of the Prophet Muhammad. With the Independent Campus program, universities are free to innovate in implementing the Tri Dharma of Higher Education by making campus mosques an incubator so that the college graduates concerned have the characteristics and competencies of superior human resources (Belawati and Nizam 2020).

In science education, laboratory activities are an integral part of teaching and learning activities, especially chemistry. This shows how important the role of laboratory activities is to achieve educational goals. Activities in the laboratory make it easy for participants to understand what they are learning material through a scientific work approach (Emda 2014). The term laboratory comes from the Latin labora which means work. In its development, the word laboratory retains its original meaning, namely a place to work specifically for the purposes of scientific research. A laboratory is a room or place to conduct practical activities or scientific research (Gunawan 2019).

In facing the dynamics of global competition, efforts to obtain the benefits and advantages of the demographic bonus, and welcoming the Golden Indonesia Vision 2045, human resources with superior characteristics and multi-competencies are needed. One of the main competencies needed is in leadership. The availability of such human resources certainly requires the involvement and role of all parties, both government and private, by utilizing existing infrastructure and available resources, one of which is the Campus Mosque. Currently, Duta Bangsa University Surakarta has three campus mosques spread across three campus locations, namely (1) Al-Iman Mosque in Cemani Sukoharjo, (2) At-Taqwa Mosque in Tipes Surakarta, (3) Al-Mukminun Mosque in Nusukan Surakarta.

With various resources owned by Duta Bangsa University Surakarta, it can increase its role and contribution to the preparation and provision of future leaders with superior character, namely by improving services in the three mosques to be more optimal as a laboratory for prospective leaders with superior character. The vast campus land in the three locations, the existence of various campus institutions available and the diverse competencies of human resources owned in collaboration with the existence of the three mosques will be a very possible carrying capacity.

5. DISCUSSION

Campus mosques as character education laboratories can explore the concept of spiritual centered leadership, which highlights the importance of spiritual values in student character education (Muftiyanto, 2023). Building character from the mosque can be done by fostering a personality capable of creating a sense of security for anyone, being reasonable, doing righteous deeds, behaving clean life, having fear of God, piety and submission (Rachman and Haromaini 2019). There are five efforts made in functionalizing the mosque as a character education laboratory at Duta Bangsa University Surakarta. First, forming a mosque board. Second, formulating the vision, mission, values and goals of the

mosque as a character education laboratory. Third, compiling a mosque activity program as a character education laboratory. Fourth, implementing the mosque activity program as a character education laboratory. Fifth, assessing the success of the mosque activity program as a character education laboratory.

First, forming a mosque board. When the mosque board is formed, at that time a new organization appears on campus. As a new organizational unit, in the mosque there are various collaborations between mosque administrators to achieve certain results or goals. This cooperation is carried out by organizing the work of the mosque administrators according to their position in the mosque's organizational structure. In order to make the mosque a laboratory for student character education, the mosque management formed Fokam (Muslim Student Communication Forum) Universitas Duta Bangsa Surakarta.

Second, formulating the vision, mission, values and goals of the mosque as a character education laboratory. The vision of Al-Mukminun Mosque of Duta Bangsa University Surakarta is to make the campus mosque a center for character education for prospective national leaders in order to create a strong, dignified nation-state and become a blessing for the universe. The mission of Al-Mukminun Mosque, Duta Bangsa University Surakarta is 1) Increasing the role and contribution of campus mosques in community empowerment and the development of Islamic civilization. 2) Building a network of cooperation in character education for campus mosque activists as prospective leaders of the nation with berakhlakul-karimah. 3) Building strategic partnerships with all the potential of Muslims and all the potential of the nation's citizens. 4) Establishing global partnerships to realize rahmatan lil 'alamin.

Third, developing a mosque activity program as a character education laboratory. The program is 1) Thaharah assistance 2) Adhan and iqamah 3) Prayer assistance 4) Dhikr and prayer assistance 5) Kultum 6) Qur'an tadarus assistance 7) Tahfidz Qur'an 8) Subuh Call 9) CANTIK is an acronym for Capable, noble character, sincere intention, responsibility, and strong faith.

Fourth, implementing the mosque activity program as a character education laboratory. The program is 1) Tadabur alam 2) Social media team 3) Mading 4) Foster friends 5) Studies and discussions on thematic topics with various speakers.

Fifth, assessing the success of the mosque activity program as a character education laboratory. In assessment activities, assessment instruments are used, the assessment instruments used are monitoring sheets and liaison books. The monitoring sheets used are daily worship monitoring sheets, menstrual period monitoring sheets, prayer order

monitoring sheets, Monday apple discipline monitoring sheets, cultum monitoring sheets, and moral monitoring sheets.

CONCLUSION

Indonesia has the opportunity to get a demographic bonus because of the large number of young people in the population. This relatively large number of young people will make a very useful contribution in the effort to realize the Golden Indonesia Vision 2045. To realize this, the involvement and contribution of all parties is needed. With the implementation and innovation of the Tri dharma of Higher Education and the Independent Campus Program, Duta Bangsa University Surakarta can be involved in taking a role with the campus mosque. The campus mosque at Duta Bangsa University Surakarta, which is currently spread across three locations and has various programs and activities that have been recognized for their benefits, can take on the role of a character education laboratory

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