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Philosophy of Early Childhood Education in Kindergarten Khalifah Purwokerto

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Abstract: This article examines the philosophy of early childhood education at Khalifah Kindergarten Purwokerto. The research method used was qualitative with a phenomenological approach. Data collection techniques used were observation, interviews, and documentation. The conclusion of this article shows that the educational philosophy of Khalifah Kindergarten Purwokerto is an ideological representation of the hijrah community, which carries the theme of "religious entrepreneurship". The construction of the educational philosophy of Khalifah Kindergarten Purwokerto is pragmatic-instrumental, emphasizing the religious-entrepreneurship. This construction is based on the religious interpretation of the Prophet and his companions' life. Most of them were entrepreneurs.

Keywords: educational philosophy; Khalifah Kindergarten; pragmatic-instrumental.

A. Introduction

After the reformation, the educational institutions in Purwokerto were rapidly developed. It can be seen from the establishment many educational institutions from the early childhood, elementary, and middle level (Askuri and Kuiper: 2008). The development of educational institutions in Purwokerto aligns with the development of the religious community. Besides Community organizations like Muhammadiyah, Nahdlatul Ulama (NU), and Al Irsyad, it also has various relatively large religious communities (Burhani: 2017) such as Salafi, tarbiyah, and hijrah (Hashiim: 2008).

These community organizations have educational institutions at various levels (Hassan: 2012). The Salafi in Purwokerto has Islamic boarding schools and *kuttab*. The tarbiyah has integrated Islamic schools (Mahmudi: 2008), while the hijrah in Purwokerto has a school at the Early Childhood level, namely Khalifah Kindergarten.

Khalifah Kindergarten in Purwokerto is one of the kindergarten branches established in various cities in Indonesia. Khalifah Kindergarten is an Early Childhood Education level with a concept and educational strategy different from other kindergartens. Even it is also under the Office of Education and Culture. The Khalifah Kindergarten curriculum was developed independently by prioritizing existing specialties.

Kindergarten Khalifah is an ideological representation of the hijrah community in Purwokerto. This article will examine the educational philosophy developed by Khalifah Kindergarten Purwokerto from the concepts, vision, mission, and activities implemented in the kindergarten.

B. Methods

This article uses a qualitative method with a phenomenological approach. Phenomenology attempts to describe a phenomenon as reality following the object's meaning. The phenomenological approach in this article is used to understand the construction of educational philosophy. It becomes the conceptual basis for developing the Khalifah Kindergarten in Purwokerto. For this reason, data was collected using observation, interview, and documentation techniques at the research site.

C. Results and Discussion

Khalifah Kindergarten Purwokerto is an elementary preschool-level educational institution established in Purwokerto in 2013. The founder of Khalifah Kindergarten Purwokerto is Wahyu Adi Wijaya, a businessman and spiritual entrepreneur practitioner who often participates in Islamic activities. Khalifah Kindergarten builds on about 250 square meters of land in the middle of the Sapphire Residence Housing Complex in Karangwangkal village, Kembaran District, Banyumas Regency. Sapphire Residence Housing is a fairly exclusive housing in Purwokerto City.

Even though it was only founded in 2013, Khalifah Kindergarten Purwokerto is a franchise of Khalifah Kindergarten founded by Ippo Santoso, a national businessman who actively gives Islamic and entrepreneurship lectures in national seminars. Ippo Santoso established an elementary preschool educational institution called Khalifah Kindergarten in 2007 in Batam. The establishment of the Khalifah Kindergarten in Purwokerto fully adopted the Central Khalifah Kindergarten curriculum. Due to using a franchise system, the owner of the Kindergarten Khalifah Purwokerto is Wahyu Adi Wijaya.

Khalifah Kindergarten Purwokerto has a vision and mission as a guide in operationalizing education and learning and realizing its goals. The vision of Khalifah Kindergarten Purwokerto is "To become one of the favorite kindergartens and PGs in Indonesia, especially in Purwokerto City". Khalifah Kindergarten Purwokerto operates this kindergarten with a mission to achieve this vision: "Ensuring that children aspire to become Muslim entrepreneurs following the example of the Prophet Muhammad" (Documentation: 2021).

The meaning of *tauhid* is then constructed into a curriculum in Kindergarten Khalifah Purwokerto, translated into achievements and indicators (Documentation: 2021).

Table 1. The *Tauhid* Curriculum of Kindergarten Khalifah Purwokerto

<i>TAUHID</i>	Achievement Indicator
1 Memorize surahs with a short verse	Students can memorize QS Al-Maun, QS Al-Quraisy, QS Al-Fiil, QS Al-Humazah, QS Al-Ashr, and QS Al-Qadr.
2 Memorize daily prayers	Students can memorize the prayer for closing <i>majelis</i> , the prayer before and after eating, the prayer for leaving the house, the prayer for removing and wearing clothes, the prayer for mirroring, the prayer for sneezing, the prayer before and after bathing, the prayer before and after waking up.
3 <i>Taharah</i> and prayer reading	a. Students can demonstrate and memorize prayer from ablution, <i>takbiratulihram</i> , to the final <i>tahiyat</i> and

4	Hadith	<i>salam</i> ; b. students can practice and read the remembrance of the Duha prayer. Students can understand and memorize hadiths about charity, maintaining cleanliness, and smiling.
5	Memorize and understand <i>asmaulhusna</i>	Students can memorize <i>asmaulhusna</i>
6	Story	Students understand and can take inspiration from stories of the Prophet Muhammad, friends, famous figures, and moral stories.
7	Caliph's songs	Students can memorize and sing the song "I am the son of the caliph, the pillars of Islam and the pillars of faith".

In general, the *tauhid* curriculum in the Kindergarten of Khalifah Purwokerto is similar to Islamic religious education lessons. However, the emphasis on the hadiths about giving and the habit of praying the Duha prayer distinguishes the concept of *tauhid* in this kindergarten from PAI in general (Al-Hazimi: 2000). Duha prayer is taught not only as an ordinary ritual worship but also as a special worship to ease sustenance.

The Islamic education curriculum at Kindergarten Khalifah Purwokerto, which includes *tauhid* and entrepreneurship, is taught in an integrated and thematic manner. The themes taught are themes that display an Islamic orientation.

Table 2. Integrative-Thematic Curriculum of Kindergarten Khalifah Purwokerto

Class A	Class B
Ramadan is a month of blessings for worship and being an entrepreneur	Ramadan is a month of blessings to become entrepreneurs and worship
The school where I study and play is a gift from God	My school, where learning and playing is God's gift
I am a pious and independent servant of Allah and a creation of Allah	I am a pious and independent servant of Allah's creation
Livestock has many benefits are God's creation	Livestock many has benefits are God's creation
My family is polite, and helping each other is a gift from God	My family is polite, and helping each other is a gift from God
Recreation is a blessing for entertainment, and entrepreneurship is God's gift.	Recreation is a blessing for entertainment, and entrepreneurship is God's gift.
Water, air, and fires are the blessings and gifts of Allah's creation	Water, air, and fires are blessings and bounties of Allah
Vegetable plants are a blessing for the body and creation of Allah	Vegetable plants are a blessing for the body and creation of Allah
My food is good, and halal is a blessing for the body and creation of Allah.	My food is good, and halal is a blessing for the body and creation of Allah.
Television is one of the communication media that can damage my intelligence.	Internet technology is a means of communication, and entrepreneurial intelligence is God's gift.
The market is a means of buying and selling a means of coming sustenance from Allah.	A market is a place for buying and selling to seek God's sustenance.
Allah guides my dream of becoming an entrepreneur	Allah guides my dream of becoming an entrepreneur

The earth where I live is a place of worship and seeking God's sustenance	The earth where I live and worship seeks God's sustenance
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These curriculum themes are taught to Kindergarten students at Khalifah Purwokerto with a thematic-integrative approach. As for the learning process, some values are integrated with these themes, namely tauhid, tauhid habituation, entrepreneur values, behavioral/social-emotional morals, skills, language and English lessons, cognitive (general knowledge and science), and physique.

The Duha prayer is one of the routine activities at the Khalifah Kindergarten in Purwokerto, which must be carried out together by teachers and students. This activity is carried out before students start learning activities in the morning (Observation: 2021). Duha prayer activities are obligatory because Duha prayer is considered worship that opens the doors of sustenance. After completing the Duha prayer activities, before the lesson begins, the students are accustomed to singing the songs typical of the Khalifah Kindergarten, one of which is the song "I am a businessman" (Interview: 2021)

Fatihah Hasan Sulaiman stated four main characteristics of the pragmatic-instrumental philosophy of education according to the theory of M. Jawwad Ridla (Ridla: 1998). First, the perspective that does not separate theory, science, and practice. Second, the perspective to balance religion with general knowledge (*al-'ulūm-'aqliyah*). Third, the perspective that studying is an effort to earn sustenance. This third view is the original thought of Ibn Khaldun (Dajani: 2015), which distinguishes him from previous Muslim thinkers and philosophers, such as Al Ghazali, who positioned knowledge as part of seeking the hereafter.

The educational philosophy of Khalifah Kindergarten is categorized as a pragmatic-instrumental school because it is oriented towards entrepreneurship. The concept of entrepreneurship is a core value developed in the educational philosophy of Kindergarten Khalifah Purwokerto. The pragmatic-instrumental educational philosophy implemented in Khalifah Kindergarten can be seen through the educational objectives, curriculum, and learning process. The vision of Khalifah Kindergarten Purwokerto is "To become one of the favorite kindergartens and PGs in Indonesia, especially in Purwokerto City". Khalifah Kindergarten Purwokerto operates this kindergarten to achieve this vision: "Ensuring children aspire to become Muslim entrepreneurs following the example of the Prophet Muhammad".

The mission to ensure that children aspire to become Muslim entrepreneurs formulated by Khalifah Kindergarten Purwokerto is based on the religious interpretation that most of the Prophet Muhammad's companions and Prophet Muhammad are entrepreneurs. The founder of Kindergarten Khalifah Purwokerto, namely Nur Wahyu Adi Wijaya, is also an entrepreneur. The meaning of "Khalifah," which is the official name of kindergarten, is based on two things: first, from the mention of the caliph in QS Al-Baqarah verse 31 and second, from the position of caliph held by the four companions of the Prophet who continued the leadership of the Prophet. In the meaning of Kindergarten Khalifah Purwokerto, the substance of the caliph, is a leader who provides prosperity to the people he leads. In addition, early Islamic leaders with the title of caliph also worked as traders and business people before serving as caliphs.

In addition, the meaning of "khalifah" in the Kindergarten of Khalifah Purwokerto is based on the caliph being formulated in two keywords: *tauhid* and entrepreneurship. Tauhid as an orientation and entrepreneurship is a means to achieve this orientation optimally. The name

"khalifah" is taken from the terminology of the Al-Qur'an surah Al-Baqarah verse 31. Symbolically, the Khalifah Kindergarten institution poses as an educational institution that develops the ideology of Islamic education.

The philosophy of education developed by Kindergarten Khalifah Purwokerto emphasizes two main keywords, *tauhid* and entrepreneurship. The principles of *tauhid* that guide curriculum development in Kindergarten Khalifah Purwokerto are surah Luqman verses 13-20 which can be focused into eight aspects, namely not committing acts of shirk (*la tusyrik billah*); do good to both parents (*wa bil walidaini ihsana*); not being rude to both parents (*wa la taqul lahuma uffin*); perform prayers; not arrogant; humble; and knowledgeable. The eight aspects of *tauhid* are related to how easy for someone to get sustenance (Yuanda: 2020).

The act of shirk is considered as closing the door of sustenance. Likewise, other bad behaviors are obstacles to one's success. According to Ippho, when someone does good to their parents, God will give them life convenience, including financially.

Suppose you look at the world's orientation towards finance, independence, and usefulness. In that case, it is clear that the orientation towards pragmatic-instrumental (*až-zarā'i'ī*) with the religious-entrepreneurship school, which, apart from teaching the value of *tauhid*, the classification of knowledge is not based on a religious-non-religious dichotomy, but rather looks at the pragmatic need to face real life (Dardiri: 2007).

The educational philosophy of Kindergarten Khalifah Purwokerto is reflected at a more operational level, namely the learning process. In the opening activities, learning included marching, reading pledges and prayers, singing songs, praying Duha together, and reading stories. Learning is carried out in the morning material activities according to the scheduled theme. In center activities, learning is more directed at educational games that stimulate students' physical and motor development. The closing cycle activities contain reflections and *murajaah* memorizing daily prayers (Documentation: 2021). The lyrics of the songs also clearly describe the vision and mission of the Khalifah Kindergarten Purwokerto, which wants to create Muslim entrepreneurs as personalities. One of the lyrics is

I am the caliph's student.

Want to be Entrepreneur

Diligent prayer, diligent recitation

Every day, Duha prayer

God willing, you can do it. God willing, you can do it.

Learning *tauhid* in Kindergarten Khalifah Purwokerto has several indicators, namely mentioning the sentence of *tauhid*; telling the content of surah Al-Ikhlās; saying the obligatory attributes of Allah; mentioning some of Allah's creations; mentioning names of the Prophet of Allah; mentioning the miracles of the prophets and messengers of God; mention the names of the holy books and prophets given the holy book; believe qadha and qadar in the example of poor and rich; tells about the enormity of the Day of Judgment; mention some of the signs of the Day of Judgment; say monotheistic sentences; mentioning the obligation to pray five times a day; mentioning places of worship of Muslims and members of other religions in Indonesia; reciting the *azan* and *iqamah*; differentiate the *azan* and *iqamah*; cover intimate part (*awrat*);

mention the meaning of fasting; make a habit of fasting on Mondays and Thursdays; and mention the meaning of zakat and alms and practice it.

D. Conclusion

The philosophy of early childhood education at Khalifah Kindergarten Purwokerto represents the hijrah community's religious ideology. In the operational realm, the religious ideology of the hijrah community is thematic. Therefore, members of this community can come from various Islamic organizations and communities because the hijrah community is united in specific thematic themes.

The philosophy of early childhood education at Khalifah Kindergarten Purwokerto is a pragmatic-instrumental educational philosophy emphasizing religious entrepreneurship. Orientation on religious-entrepreneurship Kindergarten Khalifah is based on the religious interpretation that the Prophet's companions are entrepreneurs. Therefore, the construction of the educational philosophy of the Khalifah Kindergarten is oriented towards producing religious entrepreneurs.

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