

THE VALUE OF HONESTY IN ISLAM AS THE BASIS OF MORALITY ANTI-CORRUPTION EDUCATION

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Abstract

One of the major problems that hinders progress and damages the social, economic, and moral structure of a country is corruption. To combat corruption, law enforcement is not enough; prevention through education is also important. Anti-corruption education is used strategically to instill values of honesty, trustworthiness, and responsibility from an early age. Because Islam is a broad religion, many legal and moral values prohibit all forms of corruption. The purpose of this article is to investigate ideas about anti-corruption education based on Islamic legal principles, as well as how these apply in the education system. Sources of Islamic law such as the Qur'an, Hadith, and the opinions of scholars are used to conduct a normative literature review. The study shows that Islamic legal values, namely honesty (ṣidq), are very important as the foundation of anti-corruption education. It is hoped that the application of these values in education can shape the character of an honest and noble society.

Keywords: Anti-Corruption Education, Islam, Honesty

A. Introduction

Corruption, a phenomenon with many aspects, hinders economic progress and damages the social order. Corruption is considered an “extraordinary crime” throughout the world. This phenomenon occurs not only in government but also in the private sector. To create an effective anti-corruption strategy, it is very important to thoroughly understand what corruption is.

“Corruption” comes from the Latin word ‘*corruptio*’ (in English) and “*corruptie*” (in Dutch), which literally means damaged, rotten, or dishonest acts related to finances. According to Black's Law Dictionary, corruption is an act committed with the intent to obtain unauthorized benefits from other parties by misusing one's position or character to gain advantages for oneself or others, contrary to the obligations and rights of other parties (Pasmatusi 2019).

Repressive methods are applied through strict law enforcement against those who

commit corruption. However, this method will only be sufficient if it is not combined with continuous preventive measures. Anti-corruption education is an important tool for preventing corruption. Education can shape the character of a moral generation by instilling anti-corruption principles from an early age. Anti-corruption education is an effort to increase people's understanding, awareness, and attitude towards rejecting corruption through the application of values such as justice, integrity, honesty, and discipline. This education not only pays attention to cognitive aspects, but also how students develop their own attitudes and behaviors.

Anti-corruption education can be defined as a systematic and conscious effort to provide knowledge, values, attitudes, and skills to students so that they are prepared and capable of preventing or eliminating opportunities for corruption. The main objective is not only to weed out selfish students, but also to increase students' resistance to influences that encourage bad behavior (Suhandi 2023).

Corruption is a social phenomenon that has spread throughout the public and private sectors. State finances, public trust, the rule of law, and social justice are all undermined by corruption. As a result, the eradication of corruption must be carried out comprehensively and continuously. One strategic approach to preventing corruption is anti-corruption education. Education greatly influences a person's character and beliefs. Anti-corruption education in Muslim communities can be developed using Islamic legal principles derived from the Qur'an and Hadith. Fraud, betrayal of trust, and unlawful seizure of other people's rights are all prohibited by Islam.

Islamic education aims to make students happy individuals both in this world and in the hereafter. To achieve this goal, general education is necessary in addition to instilling Islamic values in students, so that they can control all their actions (Imelda 2017). As a component of education in Indonesia, it is hoped that Islamic education can help prevent corruption. Corruption clearly does not exist in Islam. The penalties imposed on corruptors under Islamic law can be harsher than those currently imposed in Indonesia. Islam highly praises honesty and responsibility towards one's duties, which prevents corruption. Islamic education serves as a tool to instill such behavior in its followers (Hasan 2019).

B. Discussion

A. Anti-Corruption Values as the Main Pillars of Anti-Corruption Education

Corruption often stems from weak moral and ethical values, making anti-corruption education very important. Formal education plays a strategic role in shaping students' personalities and characters. Therefore, anti-corruption education is useful for raising legal and moral awareness from an early age. Anti-corruption education also helps prevent corruption in the long term. Continuous education will produce a generation that is moral and brave enough to reject and oppose corruption in various areas of life.

A culture of integrity is when the principles of honesty, responsibility, and fairness form the basis for all actions of individuals and organizations. Anti-corruption education plays an important role in building this culture by consistently instilling these values. Through anti-corruption education, students are not only taught about the negative impacts of corruption, but are also encouraged to internalize positive values that are contrary to corrupt behavior. Therefore, anti-corruption education can serve as the foundation for building a just and ethical society.

Educational strategies to build integrity, anti-corruption, and character building for the nation's future generations demonstrate the importance of using a humanistic approach that prioritizes moral principles, cooperation, honesty, and responsibility. Humanistic education equips the younger generation with a strong foundation to become agents of change who help advance the nation and state. Anti-corruption education is also very important for building honest attitudes and character in society so that they can become a strong pillar for preventing corruption in the future (Hasan dkk. 2024).

Anti-corruption values, such as honesty, caring, independence, discipline, responsibility, hard work, simplicity, courage, and fairness, must be applied by everyone so that they can overcome the factors that cause corruption. In addition, everyone must understand anti-corruption principles, such as accountability, responsibility, and fairness (Karsona. 2018).

a. Honesty

Honesty is an attitude and behavior that is not influenced by manipulation, lies, or abuse of authority, and which shows consistency between what is said and

what is done. Honesty is the basis of anti-corruption education. Education not only provides knowledge, but also shapes character so that the younger generation becomes honest and opposes all forms of corruption.

People who have instilled honesty will avoid corruption. They are afraid of deceiving others. Not only does it harm others, but dishonest acts also cause prolonged mental distress (Burhanuddin 2021).

b. Concern

Caring can be defined as concern, compassion, or empathy. Social awareness makes a person compassionate. Socially conscious individuals will pay attention to their environment where many people are suffering, unable to help themselves, and in need of a helping hand (Taja dan Aziz 2016).

The value of caring in anti-corruption education shapes individuals who are aware that every action has a social impact. Caring is an attitude of paying attention to, respecting, and considering the interests and welfare of others and the surrounding environment, not just personal or group interests. Caring makes a person unwilling to commit corruption because they know that it harms society at large.

c. Independence

Independence can be defined as the process of maturing, which means not depending on others to carry out one's duties and responsibilities (Salahudin. 2018). In anti-corruption education, independence is a value that emphasizes that everyone has the ability to act, make decisions, and complete tasks on their own without relying on assistance or intervention from other parties that could give rise to conflicts of interest or opportunities for misconduct.

d. Discipline

Living a disciplined life does not mean having to live like a soldier, but rather being able to organize and manage your time as best as possible (Salahudin. 2018). Discipline in anti-corruption education is intended to prevent the development of corrupt behavior from an early age by building individuals who are obedient, responsible, and consistent in carrying out their duties properly.

In anti-corruption education, discipline is a value that emphasizes that everyone must consistently and responsibly comply with applicable rules, procedures, and norms. This view is very important in preventing corrupt behavior because corruption often begins with violations of rules that are considered minor or trivial.

e. Responsibility

Responsibility is accepting everything from wrongdoings, whether intentional or unintentional. This responsibility takes the form of an awareness of the obligation to accept and resolve all problems that have been caused (Salahudin, 2018).

Responsibility in anti-corruption education is a value that emphasizes individual awareness to carry out tasks, obligations, and mandates honestly and be prepared to bear the consequences of every action taken. This value is important because corruption often occurs when someone neglects their responsibilities. The goal of anti-corruption education is to produce trustworthy individuals who can be relied upon and who carry out their duties with integrity so that corrupt behavior can be avoided from the outset.

f. Hard Work

In anti-corruption education, hard work is a value that emphasizes sincerity, perseverance, and maximum effort to achieve goals honestly and legitimately without taking shortcuts that violate the rules. This value is important because corrupt practices often arise from the desire to obtain instant results without making a reasonable effort.

g. Simple

A simple lifestyle teaches everyone not to live extravagantly, to live within their means, and to be able to fulfill all their needs. Needs are often associated with mere desires; however, needs do not always follow desires and vice versa. People are taught to prioritize needs over desires by applying the principle of simple living (Burhanuddin 2021).

In anti-corruption education, the basic principles emphasized are a

lifestyle that is not excessive or consumptive, and the ability to meet one's needs according to one's means. Simplicity is very important in preventing corruption because an excessive lifestyle often encourages people to seek additional income through illegal means. Simplicity in anti-corruption education aims to shape individuals who are not interested in excessive luxury, but rather prioritize honesty, sufficiency, and responsibility in their daily lives.

h. Courage

In anti-corruption education, courage is a value that emphasizes the ability of every person to act decisively and not be afraid to reject, resist, or report any form of fraud, corruption, or abuse of authority. This value is important because corruption often occurs not only because the perpetrators do it, but also because those around them choose to remain silent or are afraid to act.

Being honest, speaking the truth, refusing gratuities or unnecessary gifts, and reporting violations in situations of social pressure, risk, or interest are all examples of courage in education. Students are taught that maintaining integrity requires the moral courage to speak the truth.

By instilling the value of courage, it is hoped that a generation will emerge that understands the dangers of corruption and has the courage to reject and prevent it in their daily lives, at work, and in society.

i. Justice

One of the nine principles of integrity taught in anti-corruption education is the concept of fairness. Inequality will arise without a sense of fairness, and this is where corruption usually begins. Simply put, fairness means not being arbitrary, not being biased, and giving someone something according to their rights. Fairness in anti-corruption education does not always mean "equal"; rather, it means giving the right amount. Justice in anti-corruption education is a principle that emphasizes the importance of treating everyone fairly, granting them their rights in accordance with the rules, and avoiding the abuse of authority or position for personal or group gain. Essentially, corruption undermines the principle of justice by taking or granting people's rights unlawfully. In education, justice is instilled by being

honest, impartial, respecting the rights of others, and becoming accustomed to the fair distribution of tasks, opportunities, and rewards. In addition, students are taught to oppose all forms of preferential treatment obtained through illegal acts, such as bribery, nepotism, or abuse of authority. Education based on needs and objective rules.

B. The Value of Honesty in Islam as the Moral Basis for Anti-Corruption Education

Islam provides clear standards of living regarding honesty, trustworthiness, and social responsibility. Therefore, anti-corruption education that incorporates Islamic values is very important, especially in Indonesia, where the majority of people are Muslim. Education based on Islamic values is expected to shape students who not only obey the law but also have the moral and spiritual awareness to oppose all forms of corruption.

According to Islam, corruption is a form of destruction, not just a violation of state law. Conventional anti-corruption education often focuses only on legal sanctions and cognitive aspects. However, to eliminate the roots of corruption, a values-based approach involving spiritual aspects is necessary. This is where Islamic values serve as universal moral standards to improve student integrity.

The goal of education in Islam is to produce people who are faithful, pious, and have noble character. Because it emphasizes the formation of fair and responsible character, this goal is in line with anti-corruption education. Corruption is considered haram in Islam because it involves *ghulul* (embezzlement), *risywah* (bribery), and *khianat* (betrayal of promises). Therefore, the goal of Islamic anti-corruption education is to instill moral values and spiritual awareness that every action will be accounted for before Allah SWT.

Honesty is a moral pillar in Islam. Prophet Muhammad was called *Al-Amin*, which means trustworthy. If someone is honest, they will not manipulate, cheat, or abuse their authority. Anti-corruption education must instill the idea that honesty is not only a moral value but also a form of worship to Allah SWT. In the educational environment, this is manifested through a culture of not cheating, transparent financial reports, and the courage to admit mistakes.

Every action taken by someone with sincerity in a monastery is known as honesty itself.

They do not intend to lie or cheat anyone, anytime, anywhere, and they do everything with sincerity. Honesty is a universal value of life that encompasses honesty in all things, not only honesty in speech, but also honesty in all things that are visible, both beneficial and detrimental. This is because Islam teaches everyone to be honest in all situations. One way to incorporate Islamic values into Anti-Corruption Education materials is to include them in the curriculum (Mulianah dan Taquiuddin 2023).

In Surah At-Taubah verse 119, Allah says: "O you who believe, fear Allah and remain with those who are true." Allah shows His call and guidance to those who believe in Him and His Messenger, so that they may remain in piety and seek His pleasure, by fulfilling all the obligations He has prescribed and avoiding all the prohibitions He has decreed, and let them always be with the righteous and truthful, following their piety, truthfulness, and honesty (<https://quran.nu.or.id/at-taubah/119>).

Verse 8 of Surat al-Maidah commands believers to perform their deeds and work diligently, honestly, and sincerely for the sake of Allah, whether related to religious or worldly matters. For deeds that are diligent, honest, and sincere solely for the sake of Allah can bring success and achieve the desired results. In their testimony, they must be fair in explaining what is true without regard to who the person is, even if the testimony could benefit or harm their family, relatives, or even friends. Surah An-Nisa verse 135 states that one should not harm oneself, one's mother, or one's relatives, and explains that hatred towards a group of people is not justified (Mualif 2022).

Al-Baihaqi narrated a hadith from the Messenger of Allah, peace be upon him, who said: "Truthfulness leads to righteousness, and righteousness leads to Paradise." Indeed, a person will be truthful until he is recorded with Allah as truthful. And indeed, falsehood leads to evil, and evil leads to Hell. Indeed, a person will be false until he is recorded with Allah as a liar (<https://quran.nu.or.id/at-taubah/119>).

The teachings of the Qur'an and Hadith reflect the fundamental value of honesty, emphasizing that acting honestly and speaking truthfully are highly valued virtues. There are three main aspects of honesty according to the Islamic perspective: First: Honesty towards Allah is believing in and worshipping Allah sincerely and truthfully, without showing off or expecting praise from others. This includes all aspects of worship, both visible

(such as prayer) and invisible (such as intentions and supplications). Second: Honesty towards fellow human beings: Keeping entrusted responsibilities and always communicating honestly with others also includes speaking and acting in accordance with the truth, not lying or deceiving. Third: Honesty towards oneself: Recognizing and accepting one's own shortcomings and striving to improve them. This means not hiding your mistakes or shortcomings, but striving to continuously change and improve yourself (Ramadani dan Sofa 2025).

Honesty is the core of integrity. Honest people are not easily tempted by opportunities to abuse their position or authority. Honesty must be incorporated into the curriculum through teacher examples, school culture, and fair assessment systems. Corruption destroys social trust, while honesty strengthens social cohesion. Therefore, anti-corruption education based on the value of honesty helps build a culture of collective integrity.

To build an anti-corruption generation in Indonesia, it is important to strengthen the principle of honesty in education because Indonesia is a country with a Muslim majority. Islamic values-based education can be an effective long-term preventive strategy to support the legal system and the eradication of corruption. The Corruption Eradication Commission can use this approach to achieve this. By building honest character from an early age, the younger generation is expected not only to fear punishment, but also to have the moral and spiritual awareness to reject all forms of corruption.

C. Conclusion

In Islam, honesty (*ṣidq*) is a core value that encompasses spiritual, moral, and social aspects. Essentially, corruption is a manifestation of dishonesty and betrayal of trust. Therefore, the principle of honesty in Islam is very important and is used strategically as the basis for anti-corruption education. Education that systematically and continuously instills honesty will produce a moral generation that will be able to build a clean, just, and dignified society.

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