

Improving Reading and Writing Skills of the Quran During the Month of Ramadan at PPWNI Klang

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Abstract. This research aims to improve the reading, writing, and memorization skills of the students of PPWNI Klang in the Quran, as well as motivate them to utilize the fasting month as an opportunity to delve into the meaning of the verses they read. This research involves four programs, namely: 1) Recycling Craft Making Practice, which teaches students to transform waste into useful items. 2) English Daily Class Program, which helps students enhance their English language proficiency. 3) Indonesian Cultural Literacy Program, introducing students to the richness of Indonesian culture. 4) Short Lecture Program, providing information on various Islamic topics. All programs utilize audiovisual media as effective and engaging learning tools. Before entering the fasting month, students have also received training in reading and writing the Quran, starting from daily prayers to Juz Amma. The methods used in this research include regular memorization every morning, memorization of daily prayers, memorization of prayer intentions for Salah, and an introduction to the fasting month. This research is expected to benefit students in terms of reading, writing, and understanding the Quran, as well as enhancing their understanding of Islamic teachings.

Keywords: improve skills, memorize the Qur'an, Ramadan, read and write the Qur'an.

1. Introduction

Ramadan is the sacred month that is obligatory for Muslims to observe fasting. This month is special because it contains the night of Lailatulqadar, which is better than a thousand months (Umam, 2019). Additionally, Ramadan is also known as the month of the Quran, the month when the holy book of Islam was revealed (Irham, 2020). Therefore, Muslims are encouraged to increase their recitation of the Quran and study its meaning and wisdom (Nursyamsu, 2019). By doing so, it can enhance our piety and faith in Allah SWT.

To prepare for the holy month of Ramadan, we have provided important materials related to fasting rituals to students at PPWNI Klang. These materials include daily prayers, recitations and procedures for prayer, fasting intentions, regular memorization of Juz Amma, and the virtues of Ramadan. We are aware that many students need to improve their ability to read Quranic verses. Therefore, we offer guidance and exercises for writing and memorizing the sacred verses of the Quran using effective and enjoyable methods (Idris, 2020). We greatly appreciate the enthusiasm of

the children for reading, writing, and memorizing Quranic verses diligently and enthusiastically, even though we start with memorizing three verses from Juz Amma each day and gradually increase the memorization for the following days.

The objectives of this activity include: 1) improving the reading, writing, and memorization skills of students at PPWNI Klang; 2) encouraging students to engage in good deeds by reciting Quranic verses extensively during this fasting month; 3) providing students with an understanding that it is important to comprehend the meanings and content of the Quranic verses they recite. All of this aims to bring students closer to the teachings of the Quran and to apply them in their daily lives.

2. Method

The descriptive approach used in this writing aims to detail and systematically describe the issues faced by the students of PPWNI Klang in learning the Quran. The author conducted direct field observations to obtain accurate and valid data. The identified problems include a lack of motivation, facilities, and adequate guidance for the students in mastering the Quran. One of the solutions that can be applied is using the Iqra method, which has been proven effective in improving Quran reading competence (Zulfitria & Arif, 2022). This method teaches students to gradually and systematically recognize Arabic letters, diacritics, punctuation marks, and Tajweed. In implementing this program, the author applies several relevant methods, including:

a. Daily Memorization in the Morning

Memorizing sessions of Juz Amma become a routine activity carried out by students in grades 1-4 every morning before starting the learning process. This activity aims to train their abilities in reading and memorizing verses from the Quran. Students are given the opportunity to choose any surah from Juz Amma that they want to memorize for that day. They then memorize their chosen surah independently, with a teacher listening and providing corrections if there are any mistakes. This memorization doesn't stop on that day alone but continues the next day until the surah is successfully memorized. This way, students can memorize more surahs from Juz Amma accurately and effectively (ITB, 2014).

b. Daily Prayer Memorization

One of the activities carried out in religious studies is memorizing daily prayers. This activity is beneficial for sharpening students' memorization skills and their reading and writing abilities while instilling religious values. In this activity, students receive guidance and instructions on writing verses from the Quran that serve as the source of daily prayers. Students are asked to write daily prayers in notebooks, then read them aloud clearly and correctly, as well as memorize them either in groups or individually. The aim of this activity is to make students more confident in reciting daily prayers and able to memorize them effectively (Rasyid & El-Sutha, 2016).

c. Reading, Writing, and Memorizing Prayers during the Month of Ramadhan

The author provides material about the month of Ramadan with the aim of enabling students to understand the meaning and wisdom of fasting more deeply. Fasting is not just about restraining hunger and thirst but also about controlling one's desires and increasing devotion to Allah SWT. Furthermore, fasting has health, social, and psychological benefits (Subrata & Dewi, 2017). In this material, the author explains various aspects related to fasting, such as its conditions, pillars, recommended acts, things that invalidate the fast, and the rules that apply to those who do not fast. The author also provides examples of the fasting intention prayer, the prayer for breaking the fast, and the intention prayer for Tarawih prayer that students should know and practice. In this way, students can observe fasting rituals properly and in accordance with the guidance of the Quran and the Sunnah of the Prophet Muhammad SAW. The determination of the beginning of Ramadan fasting can be done in two ways, namely through the method of moon sighting (rukyat) and the calculation method (hisab), both of which are based on the hadiths of the Prophet Muhammad SAW (Istianah, 2021).

d. Reading, Writing, and Memorizing Prayer Intentions

To ensure that students can read and memorize prayer recitations effectively, we provide intensive teaching and guidance. We teach students how to write and memorize prayer intentions for each prayer time, namely dawn (subuh), noon (zuhur), afternoon (asar), evening (magrib), and night (isya). We also explain to students the meaning and wisdom behind prayer intentions and the number of cycles (rakaat) to be performed. Therefore, students not only recite prayer recitations orally but also understand their meaning spiritually (Aflah et al., 2022).

We hope that through the methods we implement, we can assist students in better understanding and appreciating the teachings of the Quran and the practices of the Islamic religion. We aim to make a positive contribution to strengthening students' overall relationship with the Quran and their religion. We believe that these programs will provide long-term benefits for students in living as devout and virtuous Muslims.

3. Result and Discussion

In an effort to enhance the reading and writing abilities of the Quran, there are several important aspects that need to be considered to provide a strong foundation for students in understanding and practicing the teachings of the Holy Quran. The steps we take in this program include:

a. Introduction to Arabic Letters

The initial step taken is to introduce Arabic letters, known as Hijaiah letters, to the students. This serves as a crucial foundation for students to understand and recognize the letters found in the Quran accurately. Knowledge of these letters aids students in reading and writing Quranic texts with precision. Moreover, this initial step aims to cultivate students' interest and enthusiasm in learning the Quran as a source of Islamic teachings (Komariyah et al., 2021). Teachers can employ various engaging and interactive methods and media to introduce Hijaiah letters, such as songs, flashcards, games, or digital applications (Yasmin et al., 2022). Consequently, students can learn in an enjoyable manner and easily memorize these letters.

b. Quran Reading Practice

To train the ability to read the Quran, students need to follow a systematic and planned process. This process begins with recognizing the Arabic letters, both those that stand alone and those that connect with other letters. Then, students are introduced to diacritical marks or punctuation marks that indicate vowels on these letters. Afterward, students are taught to read words consisting of multiple letters with different diacritical marks. Subsequently, students are trained to read short sentences containing words they have previously learned. The final stage involves reading longer and more complex Quranic verses while paying attention to proper pronunciation rules (Tajwid) (Winata et al., 2020). This way, students can gradually and effectively enhance their Quran reading skills.

c. Writing Practice of the Qur'an

The skill of writing the Qur'an is equally important as the skill of reading it. Students should be able to write the letters of the Qur'an correctly and accurately, following the established rules (Sugiyanto et al., 2020). In doing so, they can master the form and structure of the Qur'anic text in a deeper way (Hasan, 2020). This writing skill can also enhance their love and admiration for the Qur'an as the sacred book of Islam (Shobron et al., 2019).

d. Tajweed Learning

One way to enhance our understanding of the Qur'an is by studying tajweed. Tajweed is the science that teaches how to recite the Qur'an in a manner consistent with the rules of the Arabic language, so that there are no errors in pronunciation and interpretation of the Qur'anic verses. By studying tajweed, we can produce a beautiful and melodious sound when reciting the Qur'an, as well as show respect for the magnificence and richness of the meanings of Allah's words. Therefore, the learning of tajweed becomes something very important for every Muslim who wishes to deepen their understanding of the Qur'an (Rahmawati, 2019).

e. Reading the Quran Regularly every Sunday

One of the routine activities carried out in our school is reading the Quran together. This activity involves students from various grades and levels participating in group Quran reading. This activity is not only conducted during Islamic religious lessons but also outside of class hours, specifically after the Maghrib prayer. The purpose of this activity is to assist students in maintaining and improving their ability to read and write the Quran consistently (Widiarti, 2019). Additionally, this activity is also beneficial for sharpening memorization, deepening understanding, and practicing the teachings of the Quran in everyday life (Suryono et al., 2017).

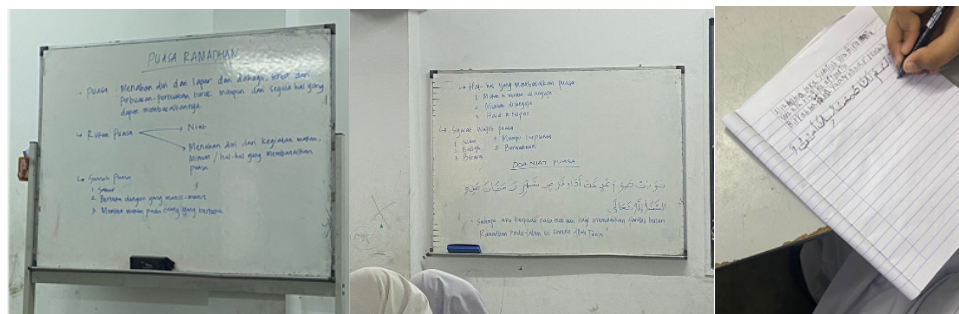


Figure 1. The Material about Ramadan Fasting



Figure 2. Read, Write, and Memorize the Prayer Intention for Prayer

One of the flagship programs of PPWNI Klang is the Quran Reading and Writing Program (PBTQ), which aims to enhance students' ability to read and write the Quran correctly and proficiently. This program has successfully achieved its set target, which is that 80% of the students are capable of reading and writing the Quran fluently. The accomplishment of this program has had a significant impact on teaching at PPWNI Klang. Students' proficiency in reading and writing the Quran not only influences their religious knowledge but also shapes their character and morality positively. However, the implementation of this program faces challenges related to the varying abilities of students. To address this, PPWNI Klang employs a learning system based on students' proficiency levels, including the initial stage, advanced stage, and proficient stage. Additionally, PPWNI Klang offers specialized guidance to students who encounter difficulties or delays in

mastering the material. Thus, this program can provide optimal benefits to all students at PPWNI Klang.



Figure 3. Guidance for Reading the Qur'an after Maghrib



Figure 4. Memorizing Juz Amma Routinely Every Morning

This program has had a positive impact on students in improving their ability to learn the Quran (Sholihah & Hasan, 2020). They are not only able to memorize but also write the holy verses well (Nurrohman & Sidik, 2020). They feel grateful for the opportunity to receive quality Islamic religious education, even though it is not every day. In addition, they have also strengthened their commitment to performing prayers and fasting by memorizing the appropriate recitations and intentions. This indicates that the program has achieved the expected goals.

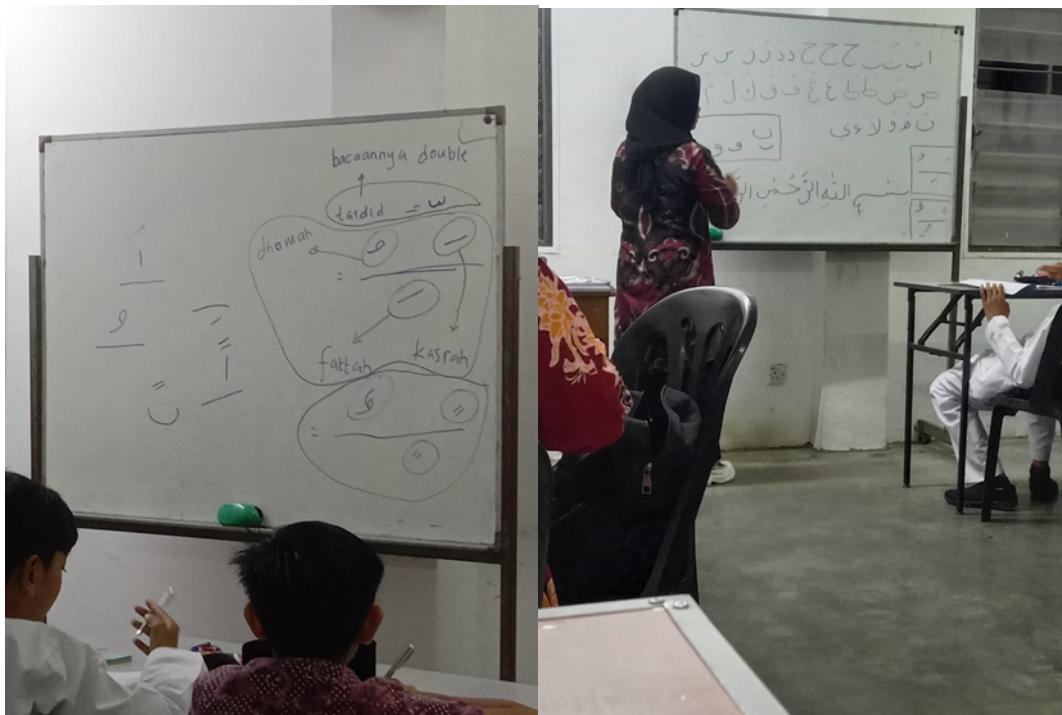


Figure 5. Introduction to Arabic Letters and Quranic Punctuation



Figure 6. Memorizing Daily Prayers and Iftar (Breaking Fast) Duas

We hope that this program not only runs as a routine activity but also makes a meaningful contribution to the students in their educational journey and in living their lives. The Quran is a source of knowledge and values that not only serves as a guide in education but also shapes character that is beneficial to society. We appreciate the students' enthusiasm in understanding, practicing, and teaching the Quran better, making a positive impact on this world and the hereafter. We are committed to continuing this program as an investment for future generations.

4. Conclusion

The program implemented at PPWNI Klang is a successful program that has enhanced students' abilities in reading, writing, and memorizing the Quran. The goal of this program is to bring students closer to the teachings of the Quran and apply them in their daily lives. Through the implementation methods that include introducing Arabic script, reading and writing exercises, learning Tajweed (rules of Quranic recitation), and regular Quranic recitation sessions every week, this program has had a positive impact on strengthening students' connection with the Quran and the Islamic faith. Additionally, the program provides valuable knowledge in Islamic education, even though it is not conducted every day.

The success of this program is evident in the significant progress shown by students in their ability to read, write, and memorize the Quran. Despite facing challenges due to varying levels of student abilities, the guidance and teaching provided by teachers and facilitators have yielded positive results. Students appreciate this program and feel a closer connection to the Quran and Islam.

The hope for this program is that students will continue to strengthen their relationship with the Quran and further enhance their understanding and practice of Islamic teachings. It is expected that this program will have a broader impact in shaping students' character and morals, as well as providing them with meaningful skills for their future lives and education. Therefore, this program is highly beneficial and deserving of continuation and further development.

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