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Child Care Management from The Point Of View Of The Book Of Ihya' 'Ulūm Al-Dīn In Malaysia

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Abstract

This research investigates the management of child care from the perspective of the Book of Ihya' 'Ulūm al-Dīn in Malaysia. Against the backdrop of a country rich in Islamic heritage and cultural diversity, this study explores the relevance of the concepts in the Book of Ihya' 'Ulūm al-Dīn in the context of childcare in Malaysia. The library research research method is used to collect, evaluate and analyze related literature, including relevant primary and secondary sources. The results of the analysis show that concepts such as religious education, character formation, and the development of moral values in the Book of Ihya' 'Ulūm al-Dīn have a strong suitability to the life of Malaysian society. This research also highlights the important role of parents, teachers and society in implementing Islamic principles in child care management practices. The implications of the findings of this research include the need to integrate the values of the Book of Ihya' 'Ulūm al-Dīn in educational policies and community development programs to form a generation with noble and responsible morals. In conclusion, this research provides an in-depth understanding of

the contribution of Islamic teachings in the management of child care in Malaysia and paves the way for further research in understanding the practical application of these values in society.

Keywords: management, education, child care, Ihya' 'Ulūm al-Dīn

Introduction

Managing child care is an integral part of the formation of healthy individuals and communities in every culture and religion, including in Malaysia, where the majority of the population adheres to Islam.¹ In this context, the Book of Ihya' 'Ulūm al-Dīn by Imam al-Ghazali is an important reference source that provides guidance in various aspects of life, including managing child care.² Malaysia is a country rich in cultural and religious diversity. With a population consisting of various ethnicities such as Malay, Chinese, Indian, and various other ethnic groups, as well as diverse religions including Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, and Christianity, Malaysia is a unique reflection of diversity in Southeast Asia.³ Amidst this diversity, Islam plays a central role in Malaysia's social, cultural and political life.⁴

Islam has become the majority religion in Malaysia.⁵ The presence of Islam in Malaysia is not only limited to religious

¹Department of Statistics Malaysia. (2022). Current Population Estimates, Malaysia, 2022. Accessed from: https://www.dosm.gov.my/v1/index.php?r=column/cthemByCat&cat=155&bul_id=MDMxdH_ZjWtk1SjFzTzNkRXYzeVZjdz09

²Al-Ghazali. Ihya' 'Ulūm al-Dīn. English translation by Maulana Fazlul Karim. Lahore: Kazi Publications, 1982

³Azra, A. (2006). Indonesia, Islam, and Democracy: Dynamics of Islamic Civil Society. Jakarta: Kompas.

⁴Fathurrahman, O. (2020). Islam and Cultural Diversity in Indonesia. Contemporary Islam, 14(2), 169-187.

⁵Chee, K. (2012). Religion and Conflict in Malaysia: A Test of the Religious Tension Thesis. Asian Survey, 52(4), 691-713

practices, but also influences various aspects of people's daily lives, including value systems, customs, and political policies.⁶ Islam is not only a religion, but also a deep national identity in Malaysia.⁷ Managing child care in accordance with Islamic teachings is a major concern in the formation of Malaysia's future generation.⁸ Families and communities in Malaysia play an important role in shaping the character and morals of children, by integrating Islamic values in their upbringing and education.⁹

This includes aspects such as religious education, manners and morals, as well as worship practices taught in Islam.¹⁰ Formal education in Malaysia also reflects Islamic influences. Religious schools and lessons on Islamic values are an important part of the national education curriculum. Likewise, Islamic educational institutions and higher education institutions that offer Islamic religious studies are an important means of strengthening Islamic understanding and practice among the younger generation.

The book *Ihya' 'Ulūm al-Dīn*, which is Imam al-Ghazali's monumental work, has become one of the main references in the Islamic intellectual tradition.¹¹ This book is renowned for not only teaching the practical aspects of worship, but also providing an in-depth look at ethics, morality and good living

⁶Ariffin, SRS, & Baharudin, MH (2011). *Islam and Politics in Malaysia: The Role of the Islamic Party*. Springer.

⁷Abdullah, A. (2014). Islamic Education in Malaysia: An Insight. *International Journal of Humanities and Social Science*, 4(3), 238-243

⁸Ismail, NA, & Rahim, AA (2018). Islamic Education in Malaysia: Its Development and Challenges. *International Journal of Academic Research in Business and Social Sciences*, 8(10), 394-401

⁹Ahmad Fauzi, MN (2005). *Islamic Education in Malaysia: A Study of Its History, Development, and Future Challenges*. *Intellectual Discourse*, 13(2), 221-241

¹⁰Musyafa, AY, & Maunah, B. (2022). Leadership in an Islamic Perspective. *Tarbawi Ngabar: Journal of Education*, 3 (2), 156-175.

¹¹Haridi, NHM (2016). *Religious programs at the moral restoration center of the Department of Community Virtue (JKM): Study from aspects of implementation and effectiveness*. University of Malaya (Malaysia).

in Islam.¹² This work highlights the principles that underlie a Muslim's life as a whole, including in the context of managing child care.

Understanding the views of the Book of Ihya' 'Ulūm al-Dīn regarding the management of child care is important because it can provide in-depth insight into how Islamic values and principles are applied in everyday life in Malaysia. The book presents a comprehensive view of how child care should be carried out in accordance with Islamic teachings, which covers various aspects, ranging from religious education, character development, to procedures for interacting with the social environment.¹³

Understanding the views of the Book of Ihya' 'Ulūm al-Dīn can help form a strong foundation for child care management practices that are in accordance with Islamic values.¹⁴ This can affect various aspects of daily life, including education, family upbringing, and relationships between individuals in society. Thus, a deep understanding of the views of this book provides a solid foundation for the formation of a society with noble and responsible morals, as well as strengthening the position of Islam in everyday life in Malaysia.¹⁵

In the midst of rapid social, technological and cultural changes, managing child care is becoming increasingly complex and challenging. These changes have a major impact

¹² Setiadi, I. (2018). *Characteristics of Yellow Book Learning at the Al Ihya 'Ulumaddin Kesugihan Islamic Boarding School, Cilacap* (Doctoral dissertation, thesis).

¹³ Suheili, A. (2017). *Character education methods in the family according to Abdullah Nashih Uthman in the Book of Tarbiyah Al Aula' fi Al-Islam* (Doctoral dissertation, IAIN Padangsidimpuan).

¹⁴ Waryanto, M. (2018). *The Influence of Imam Al-Ghazali's Thoughts on Umar Ibnu Ahmad Baraja's Thoughts Regarding Children's Moral Education Materials* (Doctoral dissertation, UIN Raden Intan Lampung).

¹⁵ Watimin, HNB (2020). *The Position of the Fatwa of the Selangor Malaysia Islamic Religious Council Concerning the Determination of Riqāb Groups According to the Koran* (Doctoral dissertation, Ar-Raniry State Islamic University).

on the environment in which children grow and develop.¹⁶ Challenges such as the influence of social media, cultural globalization, lifestyle changes, and shifts in traditional values affect the way parents and society manage children's upbringing.

In facing this complex challenge, it is important to return to classical views such as those contained in the Book of Ihya' 'Ulūm al-Dīn. Classic works like these offer a solid framework rooted in values that have been tested and proven to be relevant throughout the ages.¹⁷ The classical view of managing children's care emphasizes fundamental moral, ethical and spiritual values, which are a strong foundation for the formation of children's character and personality.¹⁸

By revisiting this classic view, parents, educators, and society can gain deep insight into how to respond to modern challenges in managing children's care. The Book of Ihya' 'Ulūm al-Dīn, as one of the most highly regarded classical works in the Islamic intellectual tradition, provides a valuable resource to guide parents and educators in understanding the true nature and purpose of child rearing.¹⁹

Malaysia as a Muslim-populated country has a responsibility to integrate Islamic values in the management of child care. The book Ihya' 'Ulūm al-Dīn offers a deep understanding of the moral and spiritual values in Islam that can be applied in childcare practices. Through an in-depth understanding of the Book of Ihya' 'Ulūm al-Dīn, it is hoped

¹⁶Noer, S., & SAP, R. S. (2023). Government Policy in Improving the Quality of Islamic Religious Education Teachers; Systematic Analysis of Literature Review. *Tarbawi Ngabar: Journal of Education* , 4 (2), 165-195. <https://doi.org/10.55380/tarbawi.v4i2.520>

¹⁷Purwanto, Y. (2008). The concept of 'Aqabah in Taṣawwuf Al-ghazālī: Study of the Book of Minhāj Al-'ābidīn. *Journal of Sociotechnology* , 7 (14), 424-433.

¹⁸Awwaliyah, NMA (2019). Islamic Boarding School as a Place for Islamic Moderation in the Era of the Millennial Generation. *Islamic Review: Journal of Islamic Research and Studies* , 8 (1), 36-62.

¹⁹Sholeh, MI (2023). Effective Strategies in Educational Management to Improve the Quality of Learning. *Tarbawi Ngabar: Journal of Education* , 4 (2), 139-164.

that the management of child care in Malaysia can be improved, making a positive contribution to the formation of individuals with noble and responsible character, as well as strengthening the foundation of Islamic values in society.

Research Method

This research uses a library research approach.²⁰ By analyzing literature studies related to child care management from the perspective of the Book of Ihya' 'Ulūm al-Dīn in Malaysia. Literature sources were obtained from various sources such as scientific journals, books, seminar papers, and other relevant publications with keywords such as "management", "child care", and "Kitab Ihya' 'Ulūm al-Dīn". Researchers use online databases such as Google Scholar, ResearchGate, Publish or Perish, WOS, Beliefe search engine, and JSTOR to search for relevant literature sources.

After obtaining relevant literature sources, the researcher carried out a selection using certain inclusion and exclusion criteria. Relevant and good quality literature sources are then further analyzed and synthesized. Data from the literature study was analyzed descriptively by grouping main themes and sub-themes related to the management of child care from the perspective of the Book of Ihya' 'Ulūm al-Dīn in Malaysia. The data analysis method uses an interactive qualitative model, which includes data collection, reduction, presentation and drawing conclusions.²¹

²⁰Creswell, John W. 2017. *Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methods Approaches*. Yogya: Student Library

²¹Miles, M. B., Huberman, A. M., & Saldana, J. (2014). *Qualitative Data Analysis, A Methods Sourcebook*, Edition 3. USA: Sage Publications. Translated by Tjetjep Rohindi Rohidi, UI-Press

Research Results

The Importance of Parental Approaches in Children's Education

Children's education is not only the responsibility of formal educational institutions, but is also the main role played by parents.²² Parents' approach to educating children has a significant impact on the child's development and character.²³ Here are some important points that highlight the meaningfulness of parents' approach to children's education:

1. Forming a Moral and Ethical Basis

The parent's approach forms the moral and ethical basis of the child. Parents have a key role in conveying the values that shape children's character and morals. By providing appropriate examples and direction, parents help children understand the moral and ethical principles that form the basis of their behavior.

2. Instilling Religious Values

Parents have the responsibility to introduce and instill religious values in their children. Religious education applied in everyday life helps shape children's religious identity and provides a strong spiritual foundation.

3. Social Skills Development

Parental approach also plays a role in developing children's social skills. Through good interaction and communication, children learn to adapt to their social environment, build healthy relationships, and develop effective communication skills.

²² Tanu, I.K. (2017). The importance of early childhood education so that they can grow and develop as a nation of hope in the future. *Adi Widya: Journal of Basic Education* , 2 (2), 19-29.

²³ KAMAR, Karnawi, et al. Building the Character of Elementary School Students through Parenting Practices Based on Genetic Personality. *JINoP (Journal of Learning Innovation)* , 2020, 6.1: 75-86.

4. Encouraging Motivation and Independence

Parents have a role as a driver of children's motivation and independence. By providing positive support and letting children know they are appreciated, parents can increase children's motivation to learn and achieve their goals.

5. Provide a Positive Learning Environment

The parental approach creates a positive learning environment at home. By providing support, guidance and facilities for learning, parents create conditions that allow children to grow and develop optimally.

6. Teaches Life Skills

Parents have the responsibility to teach practical life skills to children. This includes skills such as time management, finances, and household tasks. A purposeful parental approach helps children prepare for future tasks and responsibilities.

Through a caring approach accompanied by positive values, parents not only provide in-depth education to their children, but also help shape their character. Thus, the importance of parental approaches in children's education has a long-term impact on children's personal and social development.

Values Emphasized by the Book of Ihya' 'Ulūm al-Dīn in the Formation of Children's Character

The book Ihya' 'Ulūm al-Dīn places a strong emphasis on the formation of children's character in Islamic teachings.²⁴ The values emphasized in this book are the foundation for the

²⁴ Harith, A. (2021). *Imam Al-Ghazali's Moral Education Method (Analytical Study of the Book of Ihya Ulum ad-Din)* (Master's thesis, Jakarta: FITK UIN Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta).

formation of children's personality and morals.²⁵ The following are some of the main values emphasized by the Book of Ihya' 'Ulūm al-Dīn in the formation of children's character:

1. Devotion to Allah (Taqwa)

The book Ihya' 'Ulūm al-Dīn emphasizes the importance of devotion to Allah as the main foundation in children's lives. Taqwa refers to awareness and fear of Allah and avoiding sinful acts. By internalizing the value of piety, children learn to live according to religious teachings and live responsible lives before Allah.

2. Honesty (Sidq)

Honesty is a value that is highly emphasized in the Book of Ihya' 'Ulūm al-Dīn. Children are taught to always speak honestly and respect the truth. By internalizing the value of honesty, children develop strong personal integrity and are respected by society.

3. Justice ('Adl)

The book Ihya' 'Ulūm al-Dīn emphasizes the importance of justice in all aspects of life, including in social relationships and interactions with others. Children are taught to be fair and respect the rights of others. By practicing the value of justice, children learn to become responsible citizens of society and contribute positively to life together.

4. Patience (Sabr)

The value of patience is also emphasized in the Book of Ihya' 'Ulūm al-Dīn as an important part of forming a child's character. Children are taught to be patient in facing life's trials and challenges. By developing patience, children learn to control their emotions and remain steadfast in facing various situations.

²⁵ Noviyanty, E. (2011). *Method E in Islamic Education (Comparative Analysis of the Thoughts of Al-Ghazali and Abdurrahman al-Nahlawi)* (Doctoral dissertation, Sultan Syarif Kasim State Islamic University, Riau).

5. Sense of Empathy and Compassion (Ihsan)

The book *Ihya' 'Ulūm al-Dīn* encourages children to have a sense of empathy and compassion towards fellow creatures of Allah. Children are taught to help others, love others, and pay attention to other people's needs. By internalizing the value of ihsan, children learn to become individuals who care and empathize with the environment around them.

By teaching and practicing these values, the Book of *Ihya' 'Ulūm al-Dīn* helps shape children's character in accordance with Islamic teachings. These values not only guide children in moral and spiritual aspects, but also form a solid foundation for their personality. Therefore, the values emphasized in the Book of *Ihya' 'Ulūm al-Dīn* have an important role in forming the character of children who have noble and responsible morals.

The Influence of Parents in the Development of Children's Emotional and Spiritual Intelligence

The development of children's emotional and spiritual intelligence is an important aspect in children's education which is the main role of parents.²⁶ Parents have a big influence in shaping these two aspects.²⁷ The following is the influence of parents in the development of children's emotional and spiritual intelligence:

1. Model Behavior

Parents serve as models of behavior for their children. The way parents manage their emotions and live their spiritual lives will influence the way their children react to similar

²⁶ Badiah, Z. (2016). The Role of Parents in Developing Children's Emotional and Spiritual Intelligence (ESQ) from an Islamic Perspective. *MUDARRISA: Journal of Islamic Education Studies*, 8 (2), 229-254.

²⁷ Sari, DR, & Rasyidah, AZ (2019). The Role of Parents in Early Childhood Independence. *Early Childhood: Journal of Education*, 3 (1), 45-57.

situations. By demonstrating a positive and healthy attitude towards emotions and spirituality, parents set a good example for their children to follow.

2. Encourages Healthy Emotional Expression

Parents have a role in supporting healthy emotional expression in their children. By providing a safe and supportive environment, parents enable children to express their feelings honestly and without fear. This helps children develop a better understanding of their own emotions and learn how to manage them effectively.

3. Providing Religious and Spirituality Education

Parents are responsible for providing religious and spiritual education to their children. Through religious study and regular religious practices, parents help children develop a strong relationship with their God and understand fundamental spiritual values. This provides a solid foundation for the development of children's spiritual intelligence.

4. Building Open Communication

Open communication between parents and children is also important in developing children's emotional and spiritual intelligence. Parents who listen attentively and respect their children's feelings help create strong emotional bonds and strengthen children's emotional intelligence.

5. Provide Support and Guidance

Parents are also responsible for providing support and guidance to children in dealing with emotional challenges and spiritual questions. By being a safe and stable source of support, parents help children feel heard, understood, and loved.

Thus, the influence of parents in developing children's emotional and spiritual intelligence is very important. Through

positive behavioral modeling, emotional support, and spiritual guidance, parents provide a strong foundation for children to grow and develop holistically.

The Role of Religious Education in Forming Children's Islamic Identity

Religious education has a very important role in forming children's Islamic identity.²⁸ Through this process, children are introduced to Islamic values, beliefs and practices that form the basis of their religious identity. Religious education helps children understand the principles underlying the Islamic religion, such as belief in Allah, His messenger, and the religious laws that govern daily life. With this understanding, children can develop an awareness of their Islamic identity and strengthen their attachment to the Muslim community.

Religious education helps children understand the moral and ethical values enjoined in Islam.²⁹ They are taught the importance of honesty, fairness and compassion, as well as respecting the rights of fellow human beings. Thus, religious education not only shapes children's Islamic identity, but also provides a strong moral foundation for their behavior in everyday life.

Religious education also helps strengthen children's spiritual connection to God. Through learning about worship, prayer, and a personal relationship with God, children learn to develop a meaningful relationship with the Creator. This helps them find meaning in their lives and strengthens their confidence in facing challenges and trials. The role of religious

²⁸ Sastraatmadja, AHM, Nurhasanah, DP, Priyana, Y., & Supriandi, S. (2023). The Role of the Family in Islamic Education to Form a Quality Islamic Generation in Central Java. *West Science Journal of Education* , 1 (10), 632-643.

²⁹ Fathurrochman, I., & Apriani, E. (2017). Character Education from the Perspective of Islamic Education in Efforts to Deradicalize Radicalism. *Potentia: Journal of Islamic Education* , 3 (1), 122-142.

education in forming children's Islamic identity is very important.

Through religious education, children not only learn about Islamic teachings, but also internalize the values and principles that are at the core of their religious identity. This helps them grow into spiritually and morally strong individuals, ready to face their role in Muslim society and the wider world.

The Approach of the Book of Ihya' 'Ulūm al-Dīn to Religious Education at Home

The approach of the Book of Ihya' 'Ulūm al-Dīn to religious education at home is very holistic and detailed. This book emphasizes the importance of the family as the main environment for children's religious education. In this context, religious education at home includes not only teaching about religious rituals, but also the formation of character and strong moral values. The book Ihya' 'Ulūm al-Dīn suggests that parents should be good examples in implementing Islamic teachings in everyday life. Parents are expected to demonstrate religious practices, such as prayer, fasting, and giving alms, so that children can see and imitate these behaviors. This helps shape children's religious identity from an early age.

The book of Ihya' 'Ulūm al-Dīn encourages parents to introduce children to fundamental Islamic religious texts and teachings.³⁰ This includes reading and understanding the Koran, hadiths of the Prophet Muhammad, as well as stories of other prophets and religious figures. Through this teaching, children are given a strong foundation of knowledge about the teachings of their religion. Religious education at home according to the Book of Ihya' 'Ulūm al-Dīn also involves the formation of moral and ethical values. Parents are asked to

³⁰ Aufi, AU (2023). *Exploring How Sufis Educate: Kiai Sholeh Darat's Sufistic Education*. Lawwana Publishers.

guide children in understanding concepts such as honesty, patience, compassion and tolerance. This is done through discussions, stories and examples from everyday life that emphasize the importance of good behavior and noble character.

The book of Ihya' 'Ulūm al-Dīn emphasizes the importance of a home atmosphere full of love, support and a sense of security as an environment conducive to religious education.³¹ Parents are asked to create a close and open relationship with their children, so that they feel comfortable asking questions, discussing and learning about the Islamic religion. The book of Ihya' 'Ulūm al-Dīn's approach to religious education at home emphasizes the importance of integration between teaching, practice, and character formation in the family environment. This helps create a generation that has a strong understanding of the Islamic religion and is able to live a life based on the values of that religion.

Discussion

Moral Principles Taught in the Book of Ihya' 'Ulūm al-Dīn

The moral principles taught in the Book of Ihya' 'Ulūm al-Dīn include a number of values that are at the core of Islamic teachings.³² This book teaches moral principles that apply not only in an individual's relationship with God, but also in social interactions and everyday behavior.³³ The following are some of the moral principles taught in the Book of Ihya' 'Ulūm al-Dīn:

³¹ Harith, A. (2021). *Imam Al-Ghazali's Moral Education Method (Analytical Study of the Book of Ihya Ulum ad-Din)* (Master's thesis, Jakarta: FITK UIN Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta).

³² Setiadi, I. (2018). *Characteristics of Yellow Book Learning at the Al Ihya 'Ulumaddin Kesugihan Islamic Boarding School, Cilacap* (Doctoral dissertation, thesis).

³³ Habibah, N., Efendi, M., Cholifah, S., Aisyah, N., & Nursalim, E. (2023). Application of Moral Values in the Bidayatul Hidayah Book. *An-Nafis: Scientific Journal of Islam and Society*, 115-126.

1. Taqwaan (Taqwa): The book of Ihya' 'Ulūm al-Dīn emphasizes the importance of devotion to Allah as the basis of all human behavior. Taqwa includes awareness of God's presence in every action and obedience to His teachings.
2. Justice ('Adl): The principle of justice is an important aspect of Islamic teachings which is also emphasized in the Book of Ihya' 'Ulūm al-Dīn. Justice includes fair treatment of all people without discrimination, as well as upholding individual rights by adhering to the truth.
3. Compassion (Rahmah): The Book of Ihya' 'Ulūm al-Dīn teaches the importance of having compassion and empathy towards others. Compassion is a characteristic of Islamic teachings which teaches to care about the needs and suffering of others.
4. Honesty (Sidq): The principle of honesty is an important basis for moral behavior in Islam. The book Ihya' 'Ulūm al-Dīn encourages Muslims to be honest in all aspects of life, both in words and deeds.
5. Patience (Sabr): Patience is a moral principle taught in the Book of Ihya' 'Ulūm al-Dīn as a necessary attitude in facing the trials and tests of life. Patience helps individuals maintain calm and face challenges with fortitude.
6. Tolerance (Tasamuh): The Book of Ihya' 'Ulūm al-Dīn also teaches the importance of tolerance and respect for differences. Tolerance includes respect for other people's beliefs and cultures, as well as prioritizing dialogue and cooperation in building human relationships.

By practicing these moral principles, Muslims are expected to live a life in accordance with religious teachings and make a positive contribution to society. The book Ihya' 'Ulūm al-Dīn provides strong guidelines to guide Muslims in developing strong moral character and noble character.

Implementation of Character Formation in Child Care

The implementation of character formation in child care is a process that involves various strategies and approaches to form the desired values, attitudes and behavior in children.³⁴ Some steps that can be taken in implementing this include:

1. Values Education: Parents need to consistently communicate and teach desired moral values to children. This can be done through stories, examples and discussions about everyday life situations that give rise to certain values.
2. Consistency in Application: Consistency in the application of important rules and values in parenting. Children need to know what is expected of them and the consequences of behavior that goes against the values they are taught.
3. Creation of a Supportive Environment: The environment at home should support the development of children's character. This includes praising positive behavior, providing emotional support, and creating a climate where children feel safe to express themselves and take risks in learning.
4. Real Experience: Children also need to be given the opportunity to experience the values taught in a real life context. This could be through volunteer experience, participation in social activities, or situations where they have to make moral decisions.

Role models, including parents, other family members, teachers, and community leaders, have a very important role in forming children's morals.³⁵ Some aspects to consider in the role model role are:

³⁴ Elihami, E., & Syahid, A. (2018). Application of Islamic religious education learning in forming Islamic personal character. *Edumaspul: Journal of Education* , 2 (1), 79-96.

³⁵ Ayun, Q. (2017). Parenting patterns and parenting methods in shaping children's personalities. *ThufuLA: Journal of Teacher Education Innovation Raudhatul Athfal* , 5 (1), 102-122.

1. Consistency between Words and Deeds: Models must be consistent between what they say and do. Children tend to learn more from what they see than what they hear, therefore consistency between words and actions is very important.
2. Openness and Communication: Role models need to open channels of communication with children to guide them in understanding moral and ethical values. This creates an environment where children feel comfortable to ask questions, raise concerns, and discuss moral issues.
3. Setting a Good Example: A role model must actively demonstrate a good example in everyday behavior. They can take advantage of real-life situations to teach children how to handle conflict, interact well with others, and make moral decisions.
4. Admitting Mistakes and Taking Responsibility: Role models must also be willing to admit their mistakes and take responsibility for their actions. This helps teach children that no one is perfect and that it is important to learn from mistakes.

By involving good role models in children's lives, we can help shape strong morals and character in them, which are important foundations for becoming responsible and ethical individuals in society.

The Relevance of Child Care Management According to the Book of Ihya' 'Ulūm al-Dīn to the Malaysian Context

The relevance of child care management according to the Book of Ihya' 'Ulūm al-Dīn in Malaysia reflects the importance of combining Islamic religious teachings with social, cultural and political realities in Malaysia.³⁶ Here are some points that show this relevance:

³⁶ Imroatus, S. (2017). *Study of al-Ghazali's thoughts on market mechanisms in Islam using the Maslahah approach* (Doctoral dissertation, IAIN Ponorogo).

1. Religious Context: Malaysia is a Muslim-majority country, and Islam is the official state religion. Therefore, child care management based on Islamic teachings, as contained in the Book of Ihya' 'Ulūm al-Dīn, has direct relevance to the Malaysian religious and cultural context.
2. Importance of Religious Education: Islamic religious education is an integral part of the education system in Malaysia. The book of Ihya' 'Ulūm al-Dīn provides a solid foundation for religious education that includes aspects of morals, ethics and spirituality, which is in line with the needs of religious education in Malaysia.
3. Character Formation: One of the main focuses of the Book of Ihya' 'Ulūm al-Dīn is the formation of strong character in accordance with Islamic teachings. This is consistent with the Malaysian government's efforts to develop a generation with noble and responsible morals.
4. Modern Challenges: Even though the Book of Ihya' 'Ulūm al-Dīn was written in a different era, the principles contained in it remain relevant in facing modern challenges such as globalization, technology and social change. This book can provide moral and ethical guidance that is relevant for Malaysian society in a modern context.
5. Openness to Diversity: The Book of Ihya' 'Ulūm al-Dīn contains the principles of tolerance, compassion and justice that can help Malaysian society appreciate and respect the religious and cultural diversity that exists in the country.

By understanding and applying the principles of child care management contained in the Book of Ihya' 'Ulūm al-Dīn, Malaysian society can build a strong foundation for children's education in accordance with Islamic values and face the changing times wisely.

Cultural and Social Factors Influencing Child Care Management in Malaysia

Child care management in Malaysia is influenced by a number of cultural and social factors that reflect the complexity of the society.³⁷ Some factors that influence the management of child care in Malaysia include:

1. **Ethnic and Cultural Diversity:** Malaysia is known for its ethnic and cultural diversity. Each ethnic group has unique traditions, values, and parenting practices. These factors influence the way parents educate their children, including methods of religious education, involvement in community activities, and understanding of family obligations.
2. **Influence of Religion:** Islam is the majority religion in Malaysia, and its influence is very strong in the management of children's upbringing. Religious principles, such as Islamic religious education, religious rituals, and Islamic morality, often form the basis of child rearing in Malaysian society. Minority religious groups, such as Buddhists, Hindus and Christians, also have different parenting practices according to their religious teachings.
3. **Changing Gender Roles:** Changes in gender roles, including increased participation of women in the workforce and changes in family dynamics, have influenced the way child care is managed in Malaysia. Women may face challenges in achieving a balance between work and family responsibilities, which can impact the management of child care.
4. **Influence of Globalization:** Globalization has brought about major changes in the way Malaysian society views education and child care management. The influence of mass media,

³⁷ HOBIR, A. (2011). *The influence of al-Ghazālī's Sufism on education at the Miftahul Huda Islamic Boarding School (PPMH) Gading, Malang City* (Doctoral dissertation, Maulana Malik Ibrahim State Islamic University).

technology and popular culture from abroad can influence parenting values and practices at home.

5. Government Policies: Government policies, including those regarding education, family welfare, and employment, also play an important role in the management of child care in Malaysia. Government programs, such as child education assistance, flexible parental leave, and child care services, can affect parents' ability to provide good care for their children.

Understanding the cultural and social factors that influence the management of child care in Malaysia is important to develop a holistic and culture-based approach to providing appropriate and effective care for children in this country.

Challenges and Opportunities in Implementing the Principles of the Book of Ihya' 'Ulūm al-Dīn in Malaysia

Implementing the principles of the Book of Ihya' 'Ulūm al-Dīn in Malaysia faces a number of challenges and opportunities that need to be carefully considered.³⁸ Here are some of the associated challenges and opportunities:

1. Challenge:
 - a. Religious and Cultural Plurality: Malaysia is known for its religious and cultural diversity. The main challenge is how to integrate the Islamic principles contained in the Book of Ihya' 'Ulūm al-Dīn with the religious and cultural diversity that exists in Malaysia without sacrificing the principles of justice and equality.
 - b. Social and Technological Changes: Rapid social changes and technological developments have brought new

³⁸ Yasin, M. (2020). *"Interpretation of the Meaning of Bahrain in the Al-Qur'an (Comparative Study of Approaches to Tafṣīr 'Ilmī and Tafṣīr Isyārī)"* (Doctoral dissertation, UIN Raden Intan Lampung).

challenges in managing child care. How to combine the traditional teachings of the Book of Ihya' 'Ulūm al-Dīn with the fast-paced realities of modern times is a challenge in itself.³⁹

- c. Changing Family Patterns: Changing family patterns, including an increase in the number of working one-parent or two-parent families, may impact the time and attention available to provide care consistent with the teachings of the Book of Ihya' 'Ulūm al-Dīn.
2. Opportunity:
- a. Religious Education Policy: Malaysia has a strong religious education policy. This is an opportunity to integrate the principles of the Book of Ihya' 'Ulūm al-Dīn into the religious education curriculum taught in schools.
 - b. Use of Social Media: Social media can be an effective tool to spread and promote the principles of the Book of Ihya' 'Ulūm al-Dīn to the Malaysian public. Through this platform, religious and moral messages can be conveyed to a wider audience.
 - c. Cooperation between Government and Society: Cooperation between government and civil society in supporting the implementation of the principles of the Book of Ihya' 'Ulūm al-Dīn can create a conducive environment for the formation of strong character and morals in Malaysian society.

By understanding these challenges and opportunities, we can develop effective strategies to apply the principles of the Book of Ihya' 'Ulūm al-Dīn in the Malaysian context in a sustainable and effective manner for the character and moral formation of children and society as a whole.

³⁹ Sutrisno, H. (2015). *Islamic education in the era of modern civilization* . Prenada Media.

Conclusion

This research confirms the relevance and importance of Islamic teachings, as contained in the Book of Ihya' 'Ulūm al-Dīn, in the context of child care management in Malaysia. The findings show that concepts such as religious education, character formation, and the development of moral values contained in the book have a strong conformity with social, cultural and religious life in Malaysia. The role of parents, teachers and society in implementing these principles is very important in forming a generation with noble and responsible morals.

The implications of this research highlight the need for integration of the principles of the Book of Ihya' 'Ulūm al-Dīn in education policies, school curricula, and community development programs to ensure that Islamic values are appropriately implemented in children's daily lives. This conclusion offers an in-depth look at how Islamic teachings can become a solid guide in child care management practices in Malaysia, while providing opportunities for further, more in-depth research into the impact and practical application of these values in society.

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