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Cite this article: Hanifudin, H., & Idawati, K. (2024). Strategy for Improving the Quality of Al-Qur'an Learning Using the WAFA Method in Integrated Islamic Elementary Schools. Global International Journal of Innovative Research, 2(3). <https://doi.org/10.59613/global.v2i3.123>

Received: February, 2024

Accepted: March, 2024

### Keywords:

strategy, quality of learning, wafa method, integrated Islamic schools

Author for correspondence:

Hanifudin

e-mail: [hanifuddin.mahadun23@gmail.com](mailto:hanifuddin.mahadun23@gmail.com)

Published by:

GLOBAL SOCIETY  
PUBLISHING

# Strategy for Improving the Quality of Al-Qur'an Learning Using the WAFA Method in Integrated Islamic Elementary Schools

<sup>1</sup>Hanifudin, <sup>2</sup>Khairtul Idawati

<sup>12</sup>Universitas Hasyim Asy'ari Tebuireng Jombang, Indonesia

The purpose of this article is to find out the strategies carried out by teachers in improving the quality of Qur'an learning using the Wafa method at the Ar Ruhul Jadid Integrated Islamic School. The Wafa method is a method of learning the Qur'an by maximizing the function of the right brain without ruling out the left brain combined in an interesting and fun way. The characteristic of the Wafa method is to read the Qur'an with the strains of the Hijaz tone and the learning program uses movements according to the translation of the verse. Integrated Islamic School is a school that uses the Wafa method. The approach used in this research is qualitative and the type of research is a case study model. Data collection techniques include observation, interviews, and documentation. Data analysis techniques are used since formulating data, explaining problems before going to the field and lasting until writing research results. Data validity techniques use triangulation techniques. The results showed that the strategies used in learning the Wafa method used the 5Ps, namely Opening, Experience, Teaching, Assessment, and Closing. The 5P steps are applied gradually and repeatedly in their learning

# 1. Introduction

Education is one of the important instruments for humans to fulfill the essence and dignity of humanity as the basic idea of its creation. In the perspective of the Qur'an, education is an effort that aims to form a complete human being (Insan Kamil). Insan Kamil is used to describe humans who can develop optimally in accordance with their human nature. According to Hasan (2005) macro objectives of Islamic education are: (1) Saving human nature with all its katauhidan commitments and loyalty to Allah SWT, (2) Developing the potentials of human nature (aqliyah, qolbiyah, and jismiyah) so that they are able and competent in carrying out the duties of the Caliphate on earth, with all its dimensions, and (3) Aligning the steps of the journey of human mukhallaqah fitrah with the munazzalah nature (as-shirath al-mustaqim).

According to Nata (2013) a Muslim is important to obtain Religious Education. Islamic Religious Education is the process of inheritance and development of human culture that originates and is guided by the Qur'an and the Sunnah. Islamic education refers to efforts to guide, direct, and nurture students carried out consciously and planned in order to build a main personality in accordance with the values of Islamic teachings. Qur'anic education is an important foundation that parents should teach their children. This is one of the foundations of Islam to develop Islam in accordance with its nature. The education of the Qur'an in the early stages is carried out by reading, as in the meaning of the first verse of Surah Al Alaq which is, "Read in the name of your Lord who has created". (Qur'an Translation Improvement Team, 2019)

Educating children to love the Qur'an begins with the love of reading it, the love of memorizing, and repeating it, then understanding His verses, to the love to practice and preach to him. Teaching to read the Qur'an should start early, whether in the family, school, or community. However, the reality is that there are still many children who are not interested in learning to read the Qur'an, their disinterest considers that learning to read the Qur'an is boring. They prefer to watch cartoons, play their gadgets because it is more interesting. According to the Central Bureau of Statistics, there are approximately 87.2 percent of Muslims in Indonesia. However, of the many Muslims in Indonesia, about 54 percent cannot read the Qur'an (BPS, 2015). This shows that there are still many Muslims in Indonesia who are unable or unable to read the Qur'an, indirectly there are still many children who cannot read the Qur'an. For this reason, an educator must be good at applying methods or ways of learning that are more interesting and in accordance with child psychology. (Riyadh, 2007)

Ideally, the teaching of the Qur'an, especially in the aspect of reading the Qur'anic script, has

certain methods and strategies. In the manual for Qur'an recitation published by the Ministry of Religious Affairs, it mentions four methods used by some teachers in teaching Qur'anic script, namely: (1) Tarkibiyah Method (Synertic Method); (2) Sautiyyah Method (Sound Method); (3) Deliberation Method (Imitation Method); (4) Jami'ah Method (Mixed Method) (Ash'ari, 1997; Maqsuri, 2018). According to Janawi (2013) there are several factors that can influence the selection of learning methods. These factors are among others related to the objectives, abilities of students, conditions of infrastructure, teacher abilities, and learning materials. Here are some learning methods to read the Qur'an as explained by Anggranti (2016), namely: (1) Al-Barqy Method; Qiroati method; (3) Al-Baghdadi's method; (4) Tilawati Method; (5) Iqro Method'; and (6) the Wafa Method.

The Wafa method is one method that appears among other methods in order to contribute science to the audience. The name Wafa comes from Arabic which means faithful, right promise. The Wafa method is a right-brain-based learning of the Qur'an. This method teaches children to be able to read and memorize the Qur'an by maximizing the right side of the brain. This method is classified as a new method, but it is quite practical and fun in the learning process, which can foster a love for the Qur'an by presenting exciting learning, not boring, even making students addicted to continue learning and continue learning. The method of learning the Qur'an using the right brain approach as a comprehensive, easy and fun learning system and method. In addition, the Wafa method stimulates students to recognize letters through imagination or commonly called contextual learning so that students are not easily bisan. (Maqsuri, 2018)

The concept of comprehensive learning meets the needs of a Muslim in interacting with the Qur'an as a companion of the Prophet SAW who is able to read, understand, practice and memorize the Qur'an. The four interactions are presented in the Qur'an education curriculum with the 5T concept, namely: Tilawah, Tahfidz, Tarjamah, Tafhim, and Tafsir. The Wafa method is also often referred to as the right-brain method which in learning uses multisensory aspects or a combination of various senses, such as visual, auditorial and kinesthetic.

Nalysta & Kosasih (2021) argue that, there are factors that trigger problems with students' ability to read the Qur'an, including: (a) Not knowing and knowing hijaiyah letters, (b) Not knowing the science of tajweed, (c) Stammering and hesitating in reading the Qur'an, (d) Not confident in reading the Qur'an, (e) Family background, (f) Lack of motivation, (g) Playmates, (h) Different abilities of students, (i) Laziness (j) Trends in Islamic educational institutions, (k) Qur'an trends are at the peak of interest among parents, (l) Muslim people's awareness to learn the Qur'an continues to increase, and (m) Surely what they think is education that

provides the best quality of the Qur'an for their children.

The advantages and differentiators of the Wafa Method are as follows: (1) Quality Management System. To achieve the Qur'an learning target, Wafa prepared a quality management system in the form of stages 7M and administrative tools that make it easier to evaluate and supervise; (2) Right Brain Method. One of the main causes of students being lazy or not eager to learn the Qur'an is the learning material that is difficult for students to accept and the way teachers teach boring. Wafa has compiled a gradual Qur'an learning material so that it is easy for students to master, and how to teach teachers that are fun with the right brain so that teachers are always missed by their presence; (3) Recitation of Shahdu with Hijaz Rhythm. One of the challenges of teachers in learning the Qur'an is the rhythm of reading the Qur'an that is not serene to enjoy. Wafa has the characteristics of a 3-tone Hijaz song that is easily imitated by teachers and students and is serene to hear; (4) All Age Program. Wafa facilitates the establishment of Wafa QC (Qur'anic Center) in various regions that provide Qur'an learning programs for all ages (covering recitation, tahfidz and tertouchah). Wafa also carried out a movement to ground the Qur'an with Rumah Tahfidz al-Qur'an Wafa (R-TAQWA) for all levels of society; and (5) Comprehensive Learning. The concept of learning that meets the needs of a Muslim in interacting with the Qur'an as the companions of the Prophet who are able to read, understand, practice, and memorize the Qur'an. We present these four interactions into the Qur'an education curriculum with the 5T concept.

Methods have an important role in a learning process. According to Sudjana in Sunardi (2014), method is a comprehensive planning based on a certain approach using regular language and no conflicting parts. Seeing the understanding of this method, the teaching and learning process can make it easier for teachers to deliver material so that it is easily absorbed by children. It also helps in learning the Qur'an so as not to get bored easily and lose concentration.

Ar Ruhul Jadid Integrated Islamic School is an educational institution in the process of learning the Qur'an using the Wafa method (Learning the Qur'an Right Brain Method). Ar Ruhul Jadid Integrated Islamic School has been using the Wafa method for a long time, namely after previously using the UMMI method in learning the Qur'an. The school consists of nine classes i.e. each class consists of three rombels. Learning the Qur'an with the Wafa method is carried out for one hour every day learning face to face with students. The characteristic of the Wafa method is the strains of Hijaz and using movements in every memorization material, thus helping children absorb the information received because the involvement of all senses in the process of receiving information will be embedded in the child's brain. The Wafa

method has developed Qur'an learning methods to various regions in Indonesia and abroad including the Netherlands, Singapore, Italy, Hong Kong, and also 27 Provinces in Indonesia with 454 user institutions (Wafa Indonesia, 2018; Sari & Wirman, 2019)

Research on the use of the Wafa method in learning the Qur'an has been carried out by several researchers including research on the Implementation of the Wafa method in elementary schools (Wajihah, 2020; Innayah, 2022), implementation of the Wafa method in Junior High Schools (Choiriyah, 2018; Habibi, 2018), and the implementation of the Wafa method in Senior High Schools (Singgarani, Arifin, and Fathurrohman, 2021; Nursyafitri, 2023;).

Research related to the strategy of implementing the Wafa method in learning the Qur'am is still very rarely carried out. Therefore, the results of this study try to explain how the strategy carried out by educational institutions in this case is the Ar Ruhul Jadid Integrated Islamic Elementary School to improve the achievement of the quality of Qur'an learning by using the Wafa method in the learning process.

## 2. Research Method

This research uses a qualitative approach with a type of field research, namely case studies. In this case, researchers want to get information or a complete and comprehensive picture related to the implementation of Wafa method learning at Ar Ruhul Jadid Integrated Islamic Elementary School.

Descriptive research methods are carried out by researchers for two reasons, namely: First, from empirical observations it is obtained that most research reports are carried out in descriptive form. Second, the descriptive method is very useful to obtain a variety of problems related to the field of education and human behavior (Darmadi, 2011). The subjects in this study were determined using purposive sampling techniques, namely sampling techniques of data sources with certain considerations. (Sugiyono, 2016).

The consideration of researchers in this study is the person who is considered the researcher knows best about the object of research studied, which is related to the implementation of learning the Qur'an Wafa method at the Ar Ruhul Jadid Integrated Islamic Elementary School. The sources of data in this study are the Principal, Coordinator/Person in Charge of the Qur'an Program, and Qur'an Teachers. The data collection techniques used in this study were interviews, observation, and documentation. The results of the study were analyzed using techniques as described by Miles and Huberman, namely through the following activities or

stages: Data collection, data reduction, data presentation, and conclusions.

### 3. Result and Discussion

#### 1. Comprehensive Qur'an Learning

Learning is a process of a group that has been planned and organized to ensure that a person participates in certain activities in a particular atmosphere and makes a response to a certain atmosphere (Sagala, 2003). The Qur'an learning method using the Wafa method at Ar Ruhul Jadid Integrated Islamic Elementary School has five excellent programs or commonly referred to as 5T, namely Tilawah, Tahfidz, Tarjamah, Tafhim, and Tafsir. The Wafa method teaches students to be able to read and memorize the Qur'an by maximizing the right side of the brain. This method is classified as a new method, but it is quite practical and fun in the learning process. The Wafa method itself refers to the concept of Quantum Teaching with a right-brain approach (associative, imaginative, and others). Quantum Teaching is defined as a teaching method that guides students to want to learn, making it a necessity, a motivating and inspiring activity. In the learning process, the Wafa method uses the 5 P's method, namely Opening, Experience, Teaching, Assessment, and Closing. (Qisom, 2019).

The concept of learning the Qur'an Wafa method according to Ubaidillah is a strategy used in learning the Qur'an Wafa method relies on the principle of "Bring our world to their world and deliver their world to ours". This method is in line with the approach mentioned by Bobby de Porter in the book Quantum Teaching, it is stated that in order for the learning process to take place dynamically consistently, it is necessary to have a teaching planning framework for the Quantum Teaching pattern. The learning model based on Quantum Teaching is Grow, Natural, Name, Demonstrate, Repeat, and Celebrate or abbreviated as TANDUR. (Tim Wafa, 2014; Dwiyantri, et al, 2016).

The Wafa method using the 5T stage is a stage in Qur'anic education that is the hallmark of the Wafa method, which is a method that includes five skills in the field of the Qur'an. In the learning process using the Wafa method, students are not only able to recite, but are able to live and ground the Qur'an. The 5T stages in learning the Qur'an at Ar Ruhul Jadid Integrated Islamic Elementary School are as follows: (1) Tilawah (Reading & Writing the Qur'an), (2) Tahfidz (Memorizing verses of the Qur'an), (3) Tarjamah (Translating verses of the Qur'an), (4) Tafhim (Understanding the meaning of verses of the Qur'an), and (5) Tafsir (Interpreting the meaning of verses of the Qur'an).

## **2. Quality Management System of Qur'an Learning Wafa Method**

The quality of learning in educational institutions is an effort to evaluate the success of an institution in achieving learning objectives. Indeed, basically the quality of learning is the main goal in every implementation of education (Suhadi, et al., 2014). Learning quality is a combination of learning processes and outcomes achieved by students with the support of teachers, and other educational staff. Learning will be of quality if all components including students, teachers, and educational staff can prove the best role of each component in carrying out their obligations and trusts. Quality education will grow from a good planning system with good material and management systems and transferred by good educators with quality components, especially educator factors. (Mulyasana, 2011).

Partner institutions in Qur'an learning at Ar Ruhul Jadid Integrated Islamic Elementary School build a quality management system for Qur'an learning using a quality management system that has been built with the aim of maintaining quality standards of reading and memorization of the Qur'an in students. Each Wafa partner institution implements the 7M stage, including in this case the Ar Ruhul Jadid Integrated Islamic School. The following are the stages in building a quality assurance system for the Wafa Method applied to each partner institution, namely:

### **a. Mapping (Tashnif)**

Mapping the competence of Qur'an teachers. Tashnif is a Qur'an recitation test to map the quality and level of the teacher's Qur'an recitation so that it is easy for further improvement.

### **b. Fixing (Tahsin)**

Standardization of teacher competence. Tahsin is a remedial program for teachers who have not passed Tashnif.

### **c. Standardize**

Basic standardization of classroom methodology & management. The standardizing stage is a training program to standardize learning methodologies, classroom management, and student administration. How to teach effectively: recitation, tahfidz, writing, love to recite, and application of Qur'anic characters in one lesson.

### **d. Accompany**

Guide the implementation process. It is a follow-up activity to accompany the implementation of Wafa by directly guiding how Qur'an teachers apply the 7M Wafa methodology and quality management system.

#### **e. Supervise & Monitoring**

Quality maintenance & evaluation of learning. Supervision is the quality maintenance and evaluation of Qur'an teachers and Wafa partner institutions by visiting directly to partner locations. The Wafa team sees firsthand classroom learning to ensure institutions and teachers have implemented Wafa quality standards.

#### **f. Munaqosyah (Final Test)**

Final examination of Tahsin-Tahfidz learners from Wafa. Munaqosyah is the final evaluation of students to ensure each learner's recitation and memorization are standardized. Students are tested for recitation, writing and tahfidz and those who pass will get a certificate of completion from Wafa.

#### **g. Strengthen**

Public test of learners' abilities. Inauguration is a public test of the ability of students who have passed munaqosyah in front of parents and invitations. In the event, students will demonstrate their ability to read the Qur'an, the ability to understand tajweed, ghorib and memorize the Qur'an.

### **3. Qur'an Learning Strategy Using Wafa Method**

Success in learning the Qur'an in educational institutions is one of the paths to the success of the quality of an educational institution. Therefore, the success of the program is one of the important things in the implementation of every program that runs. Therefore, success in running each program certainly requires a strategy which in this case is a strategy in learning the Qur'an using the Wafa method.

The use of strategies in learning the Qur'an at Ar Ruhul Jadid Integrated Islamic Elementary School is carried out because it is considered very important because so far the Qur'an learning system is still considered imperfect or entered only in the learning process which does not touch on learning quality management and quality management management. Therefore, institutions choose alternatives as an effort to improve quality, both related to education and from the aspect of student quality.

The efforts made by the institution so far as a way to overcome problems related to learning the Qur'an are still considered less comprehensive. Therefore, the Wafa method is applied at the Ar Ruhul Jadid Integrated Islamic Elementary School because as one of the efforts to overcome problems surrounding learning the Qur'an include: (a) Children graduate from



school but do not complete the target of the Qur'an, (b) Graduates can only read the Qur'an but cannot write Arabic, (c) The number of memorization but forget or just memorize, (d) Children do not like to recite outside of school, (e) Many Qur'an teachers do not have standard recitations, (f) The way teachers teach the Qur'an tends to be boring, (g) Children are difficult to manage when studying, and (h) The principal does not know the progress of his students.

The Qur'an learning strategy applied at Ar Ruhul Jadid Integrated Islamic Elementary School is to use the Wafa Method. The stages of learning the Qur'an Wafa Method are carried out using the term 5P, namely:

#### **a. Unveiling**

The purpose of the opening stage is to provide allure to students to be ready to learn and have fun. The way to do this is to activate the right brain and accommodate learning modalities. The activity is to do: (1) Greetings, Greetings, Prayers; (2) Absence likes to recite; (3) Review of Previous Materials.

Conditioning moves or strategies that can be done are as follows: (1) Ask how you are; (2) Challenging questions; (3) Motivational films or videos; (4) Stories of wisdom; (5) Nasyid encouragement; (6) Foreign displays; and (7) Charades.

#### **b. Experience**

The goal of the experience stage is to deliver it to the material so that it is quickly and easily absorbed. The activities that can be carried out are as follows: (1) Structured statements; (2) Demonstration or simulation; (3) Nasyid or analogical stories.

#### **c. Teaching**

The purpose of the teaching stage is to deliver material so that students understand and are skilled. The activities that can be carried out are as follows: (1) Planting concepts; and (2) Expand exercise.

Activities in the first stage, namely planting concepts, are carried out in several steps, namely: (1) Explanation of the subject matter including errors that occur; (2) Repetition and followed by variations of examples; (3) The teacher reads line 1, the student imitates; (4) The teacher ensures that at least 50% of students have read with line 1 line, one by one imitated by other students; (5) The teacher reads line 2, the student imitates; and (6) The teacher ensures that at least 50% of students have read with line 2 lancer, one by one imitated by other students.

While the activity in the second stage, namely multiplying exercises, is carried out in several steps, namely: (1) Students read line 3, imitated by other students, if there is a reading error, the teacher confirms and offers to other students to correct. If no one can correct then talaqqi again by the teacher; (2) The teacher ensures that at least 50% of students have read fluently line 3 one by one imitated by other students; (3) Do the same as in line 3 until all lines are completed; and (4) Read the classics, 1 student reads 1 line, the other students listen. If there is a student who does not listen, then the student must repeat the lines that his friend has read.

#### **d. Valuation**

The purpose of the assessment stage is to measure student achievement. However, the requirement is that students have mastered the material provided. The activities that can be done are as follows: (1) BSK (Read and Listen to Classics). One student reads 4 lines the other listens, the teacher assesses; and (2) BSP (Read Private). One student reads 4 lines the teacher assesses, the other student has an assignment.

#### **e. Closure**

The purpose of the closing stage is to present a deep impression to the students. The activities that can be carried out are as follows: (1) Material review; (2) Message/Reflection; (3) Prayer; (4) Assignment. The moves or strategies carried out at this stage are as follows: (1) Islamic character message; (2) Praise; (3) Stories; (4) Nasyyid; (5) yelling; and (6) Pantun.

## **4. Conclusion**

Based on the results of research that has been conducted on strategies in improving the quality of Qur'an learning using the Wafa method, it can be concluded that the strategy in learning using the Wafa method uses 5P steps, namely opening, experience, teaching, assessment, and closing. This can be seen from the results of observations in the field and the results of interviews conducted with informants. Learning the Wafa method is carried out face to face for about 60 minutes every day in accordance with the mastery of ustazah in the classroom. The 5P steps are applied gradually and repeatedly in their learning.

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