

**Research article**

# The Role of Parents on Children Related to Cleanliness in Facing Covid-19 in Islamic Education Psychology

Nur Zaytun Hasanah<sup>1</sup>, Nurafni<sup>2</sup>, Hilda<sup>3</sup>, M. Hajar Dewantoro<sup>4</sup>, Mizan Habibi<sup>5</sup>

Universitas Islam Indonesia, Kaliurang Street Km. 14.5 Sleman Yogyakarta 55584 Indonesia

**ORCID**

Nur Zaytun Hasanah: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5274-690X>

**Abstract.**

Parents are the determinants of children's health at home. Their role is crucial particularly during the current Covid-19 pandemic in which the virus is getting very out of control. Due to the high number of cases of the spread of Covid-19, parents have to double their children's hygiene considering that children are susceptible to the virus. However, the role of parents is not simply to remind people to keep their distance, wash their hands, and wear mask; parents also have an important obligation, apart from complying with health protocols, to carry out their obligations as a Muslim to obey Allah's commands. The purpose of this study is to interpret the role of parents towards children regarding cleanliness in dealing with Covid-19 in the psychology of Islamic education. This is a qualitative research using a qualitative-descriptive approach. The data were collected through observation, documentation and interview. Meanwhile, the data analysis was done by means of Miles, Huberman and Saldana with the stages of data collection, data condensation, data presentation and drawing conclusions. Thus, the role of parents is crucial to seek the cleanliness of children. However, it must still be balanced with the morals of children who must also be given religious knowledge, and more time given for children as stress is not merely felt by adults, but children can also feel it but with a different implementation.

**Keywords:** Education; Islam; Islamic Education

Corresponding Author: Nur  
 Zaytun Hasanah; email:  
 18422098@students.uii.ac.id

**Published** 5 July 2022

**Publishing services provided by**  
**Knowledge E**

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Selection and Peer-review under the responsibility of the ICASI Conference Committee.

## 1. Introduction

Since December 2019, all dimensions of human life have been experiencing turbulence due to the disease caused by the Corona Virus (Rahman & Bahar, 2020). The spread of this virus is highly fast in which it started from Wuhan city in China and then has been spreading to all parts of the world with a very large potential death rate. The whole world is panicking and trying to terminate the spread of this virus (Nadeem, 2020). With a very fast spread, COVID-19 that leads to transmission from case to case has a shorter serial interval compared to SARS (Severe acute respiratory syndrome) (Nishiura et al., 2020) The role of parents to their children then becomes a priority during the

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emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the spread of this virus is very easy, it requires the awareness and compliance with health protocols. Unconsciously or not, parental care has tended to focus on care, guidance and skills, such as obeying religious orders and demands for good behavior based upon customary norms. Most parents tend to only focus on the completeness of facilities and when their children have been sent to educational institution feel, the parents no longer feel to have responsibility in educating their children. In fact, the implementation of education is the responsibility of both the institution and parents. The COVID-19 pandemic has changed many things and today the role of parents really becomes the major thing in creating happiness and success of a child. Various forms of parenting will certainly have the implications for the children's character building. For becoming the closest environment for children, all of behavior of parents will then be seen and even imitated by the children. Also, the way of parenting and communication in family might bring a negative or positive impact on children's development. If the child is often criticized, the child then will learn to blame other people easily; if children are accustomed to wash their hands, wear the masks, and keep a distance, children will become accustomed to comply with the health protocol (Kuswanti et al, 2020).

Additionally, teaching children about Islamic religious knowledge is not only as an obligation but also as the provision of an understanding to children that beside the efforts they have made, it also needs the effort for the afterlife. Being too focused on the pandemic is also not very good even by overlooking that the one giving the condition of the earth certainly is Allah SWT. Hence, it is important to always maintain a relation with Allah. In fact, it is the most basic step for the parents to teach children. Everything must be on balance to prevent any inequality in the future. Indeed, parents must be able to do so as the impact will definitely return to the parents. One aspect that is very important and prominent in facing Covid-19 pandemic is the religious aspect. Religion is a sacred canopy that can make humans free from all forms of chaos in life (Cadge, 2017). Qur'an also discusses how important it is to maintain cleanliness particularly for personal hygiene, and then followed by the family hygiene. Thus, maintaining cleanliness is not only what human want to do, but Allah SWT also notifies this to humans. Allah says in QS. Al-Anfal verse 11 meaning, "(Remember), when Allah makes you sleepy as a comfort from Him, and Allah sends the rain from the sky to purify you with it and remove the disturbances of the devil from you and strengthen your heart and strengthen with it the soles of (your) feet."

## 2. Research Methodology

### 2.1. Research Type

This is a qualitative research in which the researchers used it with a consideration that the researchers are able to emphasize many aspects from one variable and, if possible, the problems could be more deeply studied and closer to the data taken, since the researchers followed the activities of informants. Meanwhile, this research used a descriptive-qualitative approach in which this research provided an explanation or description of the object studied. This study aims to explain or interpret the role of parents to children in terms of cleanliness in dealing with COVID-19 in the perspective of psychology of Islamic education. The researchers were able to describe and analyze the facts about the importance of the role of parents to children in the psychology of Islamic education.

### 2.2. Time and Location of Research

Manongsari Hamlet, Sardonoharjo, Ngaglik, Sleman, Yogyakarta is the location chosen by the researchers to conduct this research. It is because the location is close to the researchers and this made it easy for the researchers to observe the daily activities done by the parents to the children. This research was conducted from 16 July 2020 until the researcher could obtain the really relevant information and proved the facts from the roles of the parents to children in the psychology of Islamic education.

### 2.3. Target/Subject of Research

Determination of research subject was done through the key person or based on the people selected as the key to the data source. Then the researchers used the purposive method in which the researcher had some considerations to retrieve the information. Mrs. Rida Rusmini was the research target as well as the parent of a children named: (1) Andyka Isa Dyka Ferry and (2) Mahardika Noval Syahputra.

### 2.4. Procedure

In this study, the data collection procedure carried out by the researcher included (1) Interview method. In this study, researcher attempted to obtain the information through interviews with relevant informants. In relation to qualitative research, the

researcher determined the informants who were expected to provide information based on the research focus. The informants were selected based upon certain criteria, including that the informant not only knew and could provide information, but also had experienced it seriously due to their long involvement with the activity concerned. (2) Observation method. In this case, the researcher directly observed the research object with an aim to obtain the accurate data for realizing the discussion in this study. The researcher concerned with what was happening, listened to what was stated, gave the questions about information and studied the documents given by the informants. (3) Documentation method. It is the technique of collecting data by collecting and analyzing the documents in the form of writing or pictures. Documentation was done by reviewing any documents related to research, including secondary sources.

## 2.5. Data, Instruments, and Data Collection Technique

The informants or data sources in this study consisted of two: primary data sources and secondary data sources. The primary data source is the information obtained from the results of interviews with Mrs. Rida Rusmini. Also, the results of observations in the field were related to physical, documents, and condition in regard to the roles of parents towards children about the cleanliness in dealing with COVID-19 in the perspective of psychology of Islamic education. Meanwhile, secondary data sources refer to the data that can be used to complement the results of this study such as scientific journals, published books, magazines, newspapers, articles, internet, and social media related to the research object. The data collection technique used in this study included: (1) Observation Techniques. In this case, the researcher was directly involved in the activities carried out with an aim to obtain the data required in this study. (2) Interview Techniques. The researcher did interviews with Mrs. Rida Rusmini, the parent of the child to obtain the data relevant to the focus of the study. In data collection using the interview method, a research instrument grid containing a list of questions was required as a guide for conducting interviews. (3) Documentation Techniques. In collecting this data, researcher examined the activities carried out by the parents towards their children.

## 2.6. Data Analysis Technique

The data obtained were analyzed using content analysis technique. This technique covered three conditions: objectivity, systematic approach, and generalization. The data analysis method used in this study was inductive, i.e. an analysis based upon

the data obtained. To analyze the data, the researcher used the data analysis model from Miles, Huberman and Saldana model, also known as interactive model. Miles, Huberman and Saldana stated that this data analysis activity is an interconnected activity before, during, and after data collection in parallel form to build general insight called as analysis. (Sugiyono, 2017) The following scheme describes the qualitative research analysis method

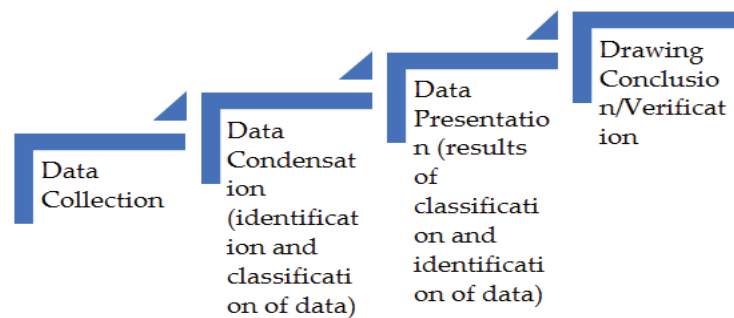


Figure 1: Data Analysis.

### 3. Results and Discussion

#### 3.1. Results of the Research

In interview conducted by researcher, Mrs. Rida Rusmini explained about various things started from how parents informed the risks of Covid-19 to their children. From the answers given by the parents, the researcher figured out that the parents should have firstly known about covid-19, by finding out information through social media, handphones, television, and other mass media. The parents also became the school committee meaning that she also represented the school as well and this information from the school could be informed to the children. The Islamic teachings that Mrs. Rida conveyed to her children in dealing with COVID-19 included to do prayer 5 times a day, doing Sunah prayer, istiqomah in making an effort, or praying for always being healthy. Say, it does not a matter if the child wants to go out, but the child must concern with health protocols such as wearing a mask and carrying hand sanitizer as not all places do not always have a place to wash their hands. If hearing the call to prayer on the street, the child should go to the mosque as soon as possible, and the child should come to the mosque on time. If the child see a crowded place, the child should not go to the place and find a quiet place and the child should find a quite – not crowded place to eat. The method Mrs. Rida used in informing the dangers of Covid-19 to children was to buy

more masks to be used and washed continuously. Fortunately, Mrs. Rida also produces Kangen Water, so the parents always make hand sanitizers and their children can carry the supplies everywhere. In fact, when their children did the Friday prayer, the parents always tell their children to bring hand sanitizer and wear masks. The parents have no answer for the question of how to help their children to survive from the Covid-19. They said that human can only try, and whether we are safe or not it depends on God alone. Principally, if the parents give a command, they must have already set an example for their children. Humans should be thankful for being healthy. The point is that human just struggle and try to be healthy and the rest is belong to Allah. So, to guarantee that the child is safe from COVID-19, it will be God willing because God gives us health. If we stay at home, without opening the door, then it will guarantee that we are safe from Covid-19 but only physically. However, it is clearly not economically sound. We need to fulfil the needs for living. Health guarantee is only from Allaha and parents can only pray all the time and always do dhikr asking Allah to be healthy.

There is a change in the way of children to do worship during the emergence of COVID-19 pandemic. The child is more frequently going to the mosque for Friday prayer. The child also is getting more diligent in reading the Koran and praying on time at home. His parents even threaten and even punish their children if their children do not do Friday prayer, unless the child is ill. Parents will be angry with their children, when the children do not want to pray Friday just to guard the portal in the village. Parents always advise their children to never leave Friday prayer, because Friday prayer is obligatory for a man. Parents do not want their children to go to hell if their children leave Friday prayer. They always accustom their children since childhood to to pray on time and recite the Koran after every Maghrib prayer. Covid-19 has brought an effect on children's behavior in terms of cleanliness. For a 5<sup>th</sup> -grade-elementary school child, the child still needs to learn and parents must first notify the child to clean up. For the older child, the child has had his own awareness to always maintain cleanliness. Even sweeping and washing dishes does not have to be ordered by his parents, he immediately does it.

### 3.2. Discussion

The good insight of parents about Islam is needed during the Covid-19 pandemic. Because, for those who are married and have children, child is an investment in the afterlife, as well as a mandate from Allah SWT that must be given a care and love and educated with an understanding of Islamic knowledge. Because in the hereafter, the parents will be held accountable before Allah. There will be no intention of parents to

position their children into something harmful, even intentionally to harm their children in the afterlife. However, due to the lack of religious knowledge, parents when educating the children might unintentionally do things that actually put their children into the wrong way. In fact, in today's millennial era, many parents do not want to wake up their children who have reached puberty to perform the obligatory prayers without any consideration with the impact for their children in the afterlife. Also, many mothers persuade the husband to buy their children gadgets with an aim that their children will not miss information. In fact, the gadgets are the reason why their children dare to argue with and even speak harshly to their parents. Astaghfirullah. Compared to a father, it is a mother closer to children. That is why the mother is also called as *Al Umm Madrasa Al Ula* meaning the main madrasa for children. However, there are so many harm done by parents for lacking of knowledge about Islam. In fact, children are a mandate from Allah SWT. For nine months, a mother is in pregnancy filled with struggle and pain, but why so many parents are willing to allow their children to sin, say, by allowing children to play on cellphones, rather than to recite the Qur'an.

Moreover, in today's era, many parents teach their children to learn Arabic language, but many parents also teach their children to learn English so that their children can be successful and can go abroad. In fact, many parents teach their children in matters of prayer, the Koran, faith in Allah, and other worship for their children, but many parents also educate and cram their children with wordly knowledge, and the children even do not know how to pray before getting in the toilet. Is this a reflection of the children we will be proud of in future? Certainly not. Even in terms of cleanliness, parents must also teach their children to always maintain cleanliness both at school, at home, outside the home, and in the community. There is a saying that cleanliness is part of faith. Therefore, the role of parents is very important for their children in terms of cleanliness, especially during the conditions of Covid-19, which currently spread in Indonesia. The Messenger of Allah (SAW) once said, "Verily Allah is pure who loves pure things, He is Clean and loves cleanliness, He is the Most Noble who loves glory, He is Most Beautiful who loves beauty, so clean your places." (HR. Tirmizi). Therefore, the role of parents here is critical to educate their children in terms of Islamic knowledge. Particularly in facing the Covid-19 pandemic, the role of parents regarding hygiene in children is very important. Because the main key in raising children lies in their parents. Parents should never educate the children according to the lusts of the world, but they need to educate children to be those having Islamic personalities.

When children are on the wrong path, it is the parents who should remind them to continue to do the good deeds in the way of Allah. Child is a gift from God, so we

as much as possible to continue to teach Islamic education from an early age. Letting their children on the wrong path will be a regret for the parents both in the world and in the hereafter. If parents are equipped with Islamic knowledge, namely a pious father and a pious mother, they will be able to advise their children in accordance with Islamic law and good (ahsan) words. The Messenger of Allah (SAW) said: "Whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day, let him say good or keep silent." Therefore, parents must use the Al-Qur'an and Al-Hadith as a way of life for parents to practice in educating their children. Because parents later in the hereafter will be reckoned and held accountable. Parents must equip themselves with Islamic knowledge, by constantly studying Islamic knowledge. It is because the command to seek knowledge is obligatory for every Muslim and it does not merely stop when we graduate from college, it should be continue forever. It is good to be a parent who sets a good example for their children so that later children will grow up to be the pious children.

#### 4. Conclusion

From the explanation above, it can be concluded that how important the role of parents is in reminding children to maintain cleanliness. The children also need a continual notifications from the mother. The role of the mother is not only to remind, but also to be a model for the children. It is also important to teach Islamic religious knowledge to children. The pandemic is now getting out of control though all efforts have been made by the government. While at home, in addition to teach about the way of hand washing, reminding to wear masks, and keeping a distance, the role of the mother is also to teach to obey the Allah commands such as praying, dhikr, pray for the end of this pandemic. It is not only about the worldly life but also about the religion. Everything that happens is by His will and will certainly end at His will.

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