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**Limits of the Obligation to Seek Knowledge and Teach It  
and Stages in Islamic Education (Gender Studies Perspective)**

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**ABSTRACT**

*This article aims to determine the limits of a person's obligations in seeking knowledge and teaching it as well as the stages in an Islamic perspective. Qualitative research was chosen in this paper to reveal data using data collection techniques from several sources. Based on these results, it was found that there are no limits to the pursuit of knowledge, which has been explained in the hadith of the Prophet, which means "pursue knowledge from the cradle to the grave", and the pursuit of knowledge has no limits or exceptions, whether men or women are the same. And the teaching varies according to age level. Teaching methods for early childhood cannot be equated with teaching teenagers or adults.*

**ABSTRAK**

*Tulisan ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui batas kewajiban seseorang dalam menuntut ilmu dan mengajarkannya serta tahapan-tahapan dalam perspektif Islam. Penelitian kualitatif dipilih dalam tulisan ini untuk mengungkap data dengan teknik pengumpulan data dari beberapa sumber. Berdasarkan hasil tersebut, ditemukan bahwa tidak ada batasan dalam menuntut ilmu yang mana sudah dijelaskan dalam hadis Rasulullah yang artinya "tuntutlah ilmu dari buaian hingga liang labat", dan menuntut ilmu itu tiada batasan ataupun pengecualian, semuanya sama saja maupun laki-laki ataupun perempuan. Serta dalam dalam pengajarannya berbeda sesuai dengan tingkatan usia. Tidak bisa disamakan cara pengajaran anak usia dini dengan pengajaran orang remaja ataupun dewasa.*

**PRELIMINARY**

Education is one very important aspect of the Islamic religion. The Koran and hadith place a strong emphasis on the importance of seeking knowledge and teaching it to others. Seeking knowledge is considered an obligation for every Muslim, both men and women, in order to obtain correct knowledge, develop intellectually, and apply it in everyday life (Mawaddah, et.al., 2022). Apart from that, teaching knowledge to others is also considered a social responsibility and public good.

Islam is a religion of science. This means that Islam really accommodates reason and science as an integral part and colors a person's religious life. Knowledge is the key to achieving happiness in this world and the afterlife. Apart from that, everything that will be done must use science. Without science a person cannot do anything. People who seek knowledge have the same great reward as people who are struggling in the way of Allah. With knowledge, a person will not easily get lost in life because knowledge is like a light that will illuminate him from the darkness of ignorance.

Seeking knowledge in Islam has boundaries that include two important aspects: seeking knowledge personally and teaching it to others. The obligation to seek knowledge covers various fields, such as religious knowledge, world knowledge, practical skills, and so on. Through the pursuit of knowledge, a Muslim is expected to understand Islamic principles and values and be able to apply them in everyday life (Nasution, et.al., 2022).

Apart from seeking knowledge, a Muslim is also required to teach the knowledge he has to others.

In Islam, sharing knowledge and knowledge is part of social goodness. By teaching knowledge to others, a Muslim not only benefits others, but also contributes to building a knowledgeable and civilized society (Assingkiy & Putri, 2022).

Seeking knowledge is not limited to men only because women also have the same rights to seek knowledge and there are no restrictions on place and time in seeking knowledge. Seeking knowledge must be done seriously. Someone who is just lazy will not gain the knowledge they want (Zamroni, 2022). The command to seek knowledge aims to ensure that humans enter the ranks of intelligent people, far from the fog of ignorance and stupidity in religion. In fact, this also applies to other branches of knowledge, humans need it to carry out activities in their world and can provide benefits to this earth (Akbar, 2017).

The order to study is not differentiated between men and women. The most expected thing from studying is a change in the individual for the better, namely changes in behavior, attitudes and changes in other aspects that exist in each individual. Islam pays great attention to science because with science humans can work, achieve and be able to appear as caliphs, namely making the earth prosperous. With knowledge, humans are able to worship perfectly.

In the Islamic education paradigm, there is knowledge that comes from revelation, namely the Al-Qur'an (including Hadith) and heuristic knowledge that comes from experience, reason and thoughts, personal and natural events related to humans. The various powers of science that exist in this world that humans can seek and study prove the glory of science in the sight of Allah and the glory of its claimants. With knowledge, all human needs and needs can be met more quickly and more easily, both verbally (words) and in the form of actions (body parts), without knowledge success can never be found because knowledge is the most important part of life, such as the human need for oxygen to breathe.

Based on the explanation described above, the author tries to develop a research structure, namely problem formulation, research questions and research objectives. The problem in this research is an explanation regarding studying. The question in this research is how to explain the pursuit of knowledge and the hadith or verses of the Koran that contain the discussion of the pursuit of knowledge. Meanwhile, the detailed questions are what are the limits of the obligation to study knowledge, the obligation to study knowledge for men and women, how to teach knowledge and practice knowledge, and what are the stages of teaching knowledge at age levels, starting from early childhood, elementary school age, adolescence, up to mature. It is hoped that this article will be useful and can serve as a guide in learning Islamic education.

## **METHOD**

In this research, the author used a qualitative research method with a library study type of research. This method is descriptive and tends to use analysis in order to know or be able to describe the reality of the events being studied, making it easier to obtain objective data according to the facts (Assingkiy, 2021). It can be seen that qualitative research is natural research and the data produced is descriptive.

## **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

### ***Definition of Demanding Knowledge***

*Ilm* from a linguistic perspective means clarity, therefore everything that is formed from the root word has the characteristic of clarity. According to Ibn Manzur in *Lisan al-'Arab*, one of the meanings of knowledge is the opposite of stupid. Meanwhile, according to the term, this word is used in the sense of the process of achieving knowledge and the object of knowledge (Mu'ammam, 2014).

Knowledge is the cornerstone and basis of every deed that a Muslim does, so knowledge must be possessed before we act. Shaykhul Islam Ibn Taymiyyah said, Knowledge is what is built on evidence, and useful knowledge is that which was brought by the Messenger of Allah. According to Abu Anas Majid Ali Al-Bankani, linguistic knowledge is the opposite of stupid. A person with knowledge is said to be *aalim* or *aliim*; a people are called *ulama*. In terms, it is explained by some scholars that science is *ma'rifah* (knowledge) as opposed to *al-jahl* (ignorance) (Kadir, 2020).

Islam strongly recommends its ummah to actively seek knowledge or study in order to improve their quality to become a smart and superior ummah, so that they do not become a backward, stupid and weak ummah so that they are oppressed and dominated by other ummah in various aspects. Seeking knowledge is an endeavor or effort to learn knowledge, both worldly knowledge and the knowledge of the afterlife so that knowledge is useful for oneself and for others.

Seeking knowledge is an effort made by a person to change behavior and behavior for the better because basically knowledge shows the way to truth and leaves behind ignorance. The commandment to seek knowledge in Islam is addressed to the old and the young, men or women, rich or poor, all of whom have equal obligations in seeking knowledge or learning. Seeking knowledge is not only carried out within a certain time limit but is carried out throughout life (long life education) (Rustina, 2019).

### ***Limitations on the Obligation to Learn and Teach Science***

Seeking knowledge from the Islamic perspective is not just an invitation, but has become an obligation for every Muslim. Imam al-Ghazali believes that knowledge is an obligation for humans, both men and women, young and old, adults and children, according to their circumstances, talents and abilities. Seeking knowledge is an obligation for every Muslim and Muslim woman, regardless of gender (Khasanah, 2021).

Rasulullah SAW obliged mankind to seek knowledge from birth until the end of life. Rasulullah SAW said: "Seek knowledge from the cradle (baby) to the grave". Seeking knowledge is a human right protected by Islam. In fact, Islam requires guardians to teach science as stated in the hadith narrated by Abu Nu'aim that the Messenger of Allah said, the obligation of parents towards their children is to give them good names, teach them to write (educate them), and marry them off when they reach adulthood. The word *al-walad* above includes both boys and girls.

People who know Arabic, even if their knowledge is minimal, will definitely know this. Islam requires a Muslim woman to seek knowledge, just as Islam requires it for men. Everyone who understands Islam will know that Islam does not differentiate between men and women in matters relating to assignments and burdens, rights and obligations, as well as etiquette. Therefore. There is no difference in seeking knowledge between men and women as long as Islam still demands and obligates parents to teach reading and writing to their children. Listen to what the Messenger of Allah said. That; "Seeking knowledge is obligatory for every Muslim. (HR. Ibnu Majah) The word 'Muslim' here includes men and women, Islam does not differentiate between men and women in giving rewards and punishments."

Islam only differentiates the treatment of certain laws between men and women, such as menstruating women who are not required to pray and do not have to make up for prayers missed during menstruation, the same goes for women who are postpartum. These two women are also not obliged to fast but have to make up for the amount of fasting they leave during menstruation or postpartum, and several other examples which are very limited (Mahmud, 2007).

Al-Quran surah Al-jum'ah verse 5 explains, every human being is commanded to seek knowledge and practice it, so that the knowledge they have can be useful for themselves and many people. Not just memorizing but also comprehending and comprehending the knowledge that has been gained, so that you don't spread it carelessly, if you just memorize without understanding it is like a donkey carrying a thick book without knowing what is in it. And it will be a burden on oneself, if it is spread it is not the truth that is accepted but the lies and lies contained in it. Allah SWT will not help show people who oppress themselves with disbelief in truth and goodness.

There are educational implications in Qs. Al-Jum'ah verse 5: (1) A teacher must be responsible for educating his students and applying his knowledge to many people, (2) A student must develop and acquire his knowledge and put it into practice, (3) In the world of education, one of the important factors in determining The quality of the generation is their faith and knowledge and practicing them in aspects of daily life (Nabila, et al, 2021).

In Islam, it is not only mandatory to study, but it is mandatory to teach. The obligations of learning and teaching in Islam have the same status. Islam does not tolerate people who allow themselves to be ignorant. Islam must provide encouragement, attention and guidance so that everyone has the awareness of the obligation to learn and teach (Nata, 2010). Knowledge is learned to be put into practice. Practicing the knowledge we gain is an obligation after we have previously fulfilled our obligation to seek it. The key to the blessings of knowledge lies in its practice.

Knowledge without charity is like a tree without fruit. It is detrimental, not only to the student of knowledge, but also to other people. This is where the importance of knowledge is put into practice. Practicing knowledge is certainly a priority. Because, Allah SWT. and the Prophet Muhammad. gives high appreciation to people who sincerely put their knowledge into practice. Practicing the knowledge we learn does not have to wait for that knowledge to gather in large numbers. We must put into practice what little

knowledge we have. That way, we will get multiple benefits. However, if we do not practice something that we already know, then Allah SWT. will make calculations later when the Day of Testimony is held (Rasyid, 2017).

### ***Stages of Seeking Knowledge in Islamic Education***

In early childhood, namely around 2 years old, the teaching process is where they imitate other people, so the teaching stage is that we do movements or activities and the children will follow our activities, because this stage in learning is by imitating other people. . In childhood, the teaching stage has begun to enter their world of learning, namely by reading, writing and arithmetic, but using play methods, because at this time children are still vulnerable to what is called play, so we teach them to read, write and count, but in a way play methods, and we invite them to enter their social environment and the culture of their family so that they become familiar with their social environment and their family.

Next is the teenage period where at this stage, their identity or self-identity is formed in individual development. So at this stage the most important thing is that character formation or the formation of children's identity takes place. Next is the adult period where during adolescence there is no longer a need for teaching or development of teaching that is not necessary because here they are around 20 or 30 years old where they already understand their life so here we only teach them to be financially independent in order to develop their situation, find a life partner, start their family or start their new life.

### **CONCLUSION**

Based on the research description above, it can be concluded that seeking knowledge is one of the most important parts of human life, without knowledge humans will not be able to develop. Science is systematically structured knowledge obtained through research methods, about social behavior, culture and natural phenomena that can be measured or observed. Seeking knowledge from the Islamic perspective is not just an invitation, but has become an obligation for every Muslim.

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