



Islamic Religious Education Teachers' Strategies in Improving Learning Discipline

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Abstract	Article Info
<p>This study aims to determine the level of learning discipline of grade X students majoring in mechanical engineering at SMK Jayabeka 01 Karawang. Using a qualitative approach with case studies, this study involves the Principal of the Curriculum, PAI Teachers, and Students as the main subjects. The data collected were in the form of interviews, direct observations at schools, and documentation. The results in this study are that the strategy of PAI teachers in improving the discipline of class X students at SMK Jayabeka 01 Karawang is by enforcing every discipline in the classroom or outside the school, giving strict punishment to every student who violates, giving praise to students who are active and diligent when in the school environment, which can improve learning discipline. Each teacher provides advice and offers good reminders to students. The obstacles for PAI teachers in improving student learning discipline are students who are unaware of their needs, students who frequently enter and exit the classroom, and students from low-income family backgrounds, which can result in them becoming unfocused and lacking discipline.</p>	<p>Article History Submitted / Received: 17-05-2025 First Revised: 12-07-2025 Accepted: 10-11-2025 First Available online: 24-12-2025 Publication Date: 30-12-2025</p> <hr/> <p>Keywords: Strategy, PAI Teacher, Discipline, Learning</p>

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Introduction

One of the most essential aspects of education is student discipline, as it helps shape students' personalities, enabling them to become productive and responsible individuals. Education also equips each individual with the knowledge, skills, and understanding necessary to participate effectively in society. Education is a critical process (Hasan et al., 2023). Therefore, the primary task of an educator is to help students develop their potential while fostering a positive character, both physically and mentally.

Students' discipline affects their academic, social, and personal achievement. Discipline helps students understand and appreciate their responsibilities (Blegur, 2020). Discipline is a method to build children's character and teach them to behave in a way that is acceptable to the community, according to Muhammad Mustari in Research (Santosa & Anggraini, 2022). Discipline is an action that shows orderly behavior and obedience to various rules and provisions. Everyone must possess discipline; every Muslim is also an educator and student. Discipline is an act that demonstrates orderly behavior in multiple situations and in accordance with applicable regulations.

Students will realize that discipline facilitates the learning process, creates a conducive learning atmosphere, and encourages students to exhibit a high level of discipline (Ainiyah & Rahayu, 2023). In this context, teachers must demonstrate professionalism in developing personality, ethics, and morals, especially in terms of discipline. Teachers are agents of change who can develop their abilities and nurture students to become moral, ethical, and intelligent individuals in the various fields they pursue.

Learning Islamic Religious Education is very helpful in implementing and educating students on discipline, one of which is discipline during the learning process. Student learning discipline in schools encompasses various aspects, including arriving on time, greeting others with respect before entering, wearing appropriate attire, paying attention to lessons, and listening attentively to explanations. All of these processes will help the education and learning process run smoothly and are supported by effective learning strategies when delivering materials in class.

According to Marshall (2018), Regarding Education, a learning strategy is needed. A teacher can use the term learning method to convey lessons to his students in the classroom, both individually and in groups, with various approaches, such as project-based learning (PjBL), lectures, questions and answers, discussions,

demonstrations, written works, experiments, problem solving, and other methods, so that lessons are easy to understand and helpful in daily life. By applying effective learning strategies, teachers must know and utilize them to enhance students' discipline attitudes during the learning process.

Islamic Religious Education teachers must also employ various strategies to effectively apply student discipline attitudes, maximizing all the abilities and expertise they possess. Islamic Religious Education teachers must also help students become independent and realize their desires by instilling a religious spirit in them, such as instilling faith, piety, morals, and worship in their souls. To achieve the learning goals of Islamic Religious Education, it is essential to employ an engaging instructional approach. Research on Islamic Religious Education Teachers' strategies to improve student discipline (Darman, 2018) reveals that the effectiveness of these strategies increases with the implementation of classroom management.

Theoretical Review

Strategy

According to Hilmiyah (2021), a Strategy is a method. This means that the teacher designs the steps to achieve a specific goal. Strategy, in general, can be interpreted as a guideline for actions to achieve predetermined goals. In the world of Education, a strategy can be defined as a plan that includes a series of activities aimed at achieving a specific educational goal. A learning strategy is the measure of a plan.

Islamic Religious Education Teacher

A teacher is a profession, position, or job that requires specialized skills and expertise. Many people outside the field of Education become teachers. Still, in reality, many people who are not education graduates become teachers; they should be education graduates who hold a profession.

A teacher, especially an Islamic Religious Education (PAI) and Ethics teacher, is the most decisive component in the education and learning system as a whole in the education unit. This is because Islamic Religious Education and Ethics Teachers greatly determine the success of students, especially in relation to the formation of personality and noble morals, as well as the achievement of learning goals (Wahidin, 2018).

Therefore, the definition of an Islamic Religious Education Teacher is someone who is able and has the authority and trust from the community and the government to carry out duties, functions, roles, and responsibilities in educating,

teaching, guiding, training, and evaluating based on the values of Islamic teachings so that their students become complete human beings (*insan kamil*) and later become perfect human beings.

Learning Discipline

The theory of learning discipline comes from the word "discipline", which means obedience to the rules that exist in schools, such as discipline, and so on. Based on this understanding, it can be said that learning discipline encompasses all forms of action carried out in accordance with applicable regulations, both at school and outside the school. In other words, people are considered disciplined if their thoughts and actions are consistently aligned with the prevailing rules.

According to Kompri (2017), learning discipline involves self-awareness to control oneself and learn effectively. Learning, on the other hand, is the process of changing behavior as a result of the responses that affect it, such as knowledge, attitudes, and skills.

Method

This study employs a qualitative research approach with a case study design to understand the strategies used by Islamic Religious Education Teachers in improving the learning discipline of grade X students majoring in Mechanical Engineering at SMK Jayabeka 01 Karawang. The research subjects consisted of Islamic Religious Education Teachers and class X students majoring in Mechanical Engineering. The data in this study were collected through interviews, observations, and documentation. The research procedure includes the preparation stage, data collection, analysis, and validation. The data are analyzed thematically through reduction, presentation, and drawing of conclusions. This research will take place from October 2024 to January 2025, at SMK Jayabeka 01, Karawang. The study's results are expected to provide in-depth insights into student discipline, particularly in terms of learning and adhering to school rules and regulations.

Results

Based on the results of research conducted by researchers on the strategy of Islamic Religious Education Teachers in improving the learning discipline of class X majoring in Mechanical Engineering at SMK Jayabeka 01 Karawang for the 2025/2026 academic year, it shows that there are still students who lack discipline when learning takes place in the classroom, this is because students feel less interested in Islamic

religious education subjects and often feel bored when teachers convey learning. Based on direct observations made by researchers in the classroom and school environment, it is evident that some students remain outside the classroom during the learning process.

Interviews were conducted to reinforce the results of this study. In its implementation, interviews were conducted with curriculum teachers, PAI teachers, and five students. In the interview, he explained the factors that contribute to students being undisciplined when studying. This is as said by the head teacher of the curriculum field, "there are two factors that make students undisciplined when learning, namely internal and external factors", which is also strengthened by the expression of one of the students, "learning Islamic religious education kadang feels bored and not enthusiastic because it uses the lecture method only".

In the application of the method strategy that must be used by Islamic religious education teachers related to student learning discipline, namely, a teacher can use the learning method to deliver lessons to his students in the classroom, both individually and in groups, with various approaches, such as project-based learning, lectures, questions and answers, discussions, demonstrations, papers, experiments, problem solving, and other methods, so that the lessons are easy to understand and helpful in everyday life. Islamic religious education teachers apply the rules of discipline that both the teacher and their students must follow.

In the process of implementing a learning discipline strategy for students, the teacher's task is not only to monitor in the classroom but also to continue to monitor student changes both outside the classroom and in the school as well as collaborate with other teachers to ensure that students continue to be disciplined in the learning process that takes place in the school, with the cooperation between teachers and parents it will be easier to implement strategies to improve student learning discipline in vocational schools Jayabeka 01 Karawang.

Discussion

The Condition of Student Learning Discipline at SMK Jayabeka 01 Karawang

The conditions of learning discipline of students of Class X of Machining Engineering at SMK Jayabeka 01 Karawang in improving learning discipline are as follows:

- 1) *Lack of student interest in learning the subject of Islamic Religious Education*, student interest in learning is an encouragement of student interest in the material to be delivered which will help encourage students to pursue and

be interested in every subject matter, in the subject of Islamic Religious Education, is often considered unimportant and is called a very dull subject so that there is a lack of interest or pleasure for students when learning Islamic Religious Education, in this sense, the lack of self-awareness attitude towards students that Islamic Religious Education is significant in the formation of character and morals.

This was reinforced in interviews with students: "*Learning that is quickly boring and sleepy is when learning Islamic religious education, when the teacher explains that the innate is sleepy and bored, so there are students who focus more on cellphones and some even sleep in class.*"

In this case, teachers must have a strategy that encourages students to be enthusiastic about following the learning process, as well as modify students' learning patterns in Islamic Religious Education, making the learning experience more enjoyable and less boring. This is also reinforced in research (Education & Islam, 2024), which suggests that a teacher must have a strategy for delivering learning in relation to the increasingly sophisticated era. A teacher is also required to be able to effectively utilize the sophistication of technology in the application of learning models, ensuring that students are not bored with the learning methods.

- 2) *Enforcing discipline and punishment of students in the classroom*, based on the results of observations and interviews with Mr. Enang as the curriculum field at SMK Jayabeka 01 Karawang on May 2, 2025 "there has been the enforcement of discipline in every class, and there are students who are not in the class during lesson hours, sanctions are given to the student, with the punishment of students being very influential when learning so that they do not repeat violations others".

Usually, violations often occur in the form of students not doing homework, students who are late to class, with the penalty of reading prayers/short letters. Students who are allowed to go to the toilet but do not return to class are punished, assuming the student is not present. Punishments are given to students to serve as a deterrent and to instill discipline in their lives. According to Nurhani, Y. et al. (2023), one of the strategies identified in their research to improve student discipline is for teachers and students to collaborate in enforcing school rules and adhering to all school regulations.

The Strategy of Islamic Religious Education Teachers in Improving the Learning Discipline of Grade X Students of the Department of Mechanical Engineering at SMK Jayabeka 01 Karawang

Based on the results of the research that has been carried out from observations and interviews conducted by researchers related to the strategy of Islamic Religious Education Teachers in improving the learning discipline of students in class X at SMK Jayabeka 01 Karawang. With a learning strategy, the results of the learning process in the classroom become more effective. Teachers must have a learning strategy plan that masters the learning material to be delivered. In this context, teachers must be professional in carrying out their duties, including fostering personality, ethics, morals, and discipline.

A teacher can use the learning method to deliver lessons to their students in the classroom, either individually or in groups, with various approaches, such as project-based learning, lectures, questions and answers, discussions, demonstrations, writings, experiments, problem solving, and other methods, so that the lessons are easy to understand and helpful in daily life. Islamic Religious Education teachers must also help students become independent and realize their desires by instilling a religious spirit in them, such as instilling faith, piety, morals, and worship in their souls.

As an Islamic Religious Education Teacher, applying learning strategies during the learning process requires knowledge of discipline and an exemplary attitude towards students. With an increased attitude of learning discipline, students can learn with focus and obey every regulation set by the school. The student learning disciplines are as follows:

First, discipline in the use of time is a key to student success, as enforcing time discipline is crucial in improving student learning. The fact that those who live in an orderly manner and make good use of their time is the key to their success in life.

Based on an interview with Mr. Enang, in the curriculum field, there has been enforcement in every classroom and corner of the school, where both teachers and students can carry out the rules. If there is a violation, there is a punishment". The existence of time discipline in learning ensures that students are not arbitrary when in class. Research observations indicate that the enforcement of time discipline at SMK Jayabeka 01 Karawang is effective, as evidenced by the students' attendance and punctuality in class.

Second, discipline attitudes and rules, because Islamic religious education about morals is declining rapidly with the development of the times, school discipline

is crucial in forming good and obedient students. School progress is influenced by student discipline. A good school will result in an effective and promising learning process, but conversely, a less effective learning process can occur.

According to the results of an interview with Mr. Nana Suryana, a PAI teacher, "there are still some students at SMK Jayabeka 01 Karawang who lack discipline and obey the rules that have been determined, so I, as a PAI teacher as well as the head of student affairs, always remind and monitor the extent of the discipline of each student". Considering that, every teacher must have an evaluation plan or a report for all students who have demonstrated improvement in applying discipline attitudes to school rules. Strengthened in research by Sintasari & Lailiyah (2024), one of the strategies for improving student learning discipline can also be through frequent teacher evaluations.

Third, the discipline of worship. According to Halimah (2020), as noted in research by Diah Rahmadana & Fitriani (2022), practicing religious teachings as a teacher is an essential component of this, which is a fundamental right. Therefore, the teacher's discipline in worship will have an impact on students' understanding and experience of religion during learning.

Based on observations made on May 2, 2025, regarding the discipline of worship at SMK Jayabeka 01 Karawang, it is evident that there is still a lack of discipline in prayer and spiritual activities, as some students fail to exhibit proper worship behavior. Thus, every teacher provides a good example and advice as a reminder to their students to become human beings with good morals and character (Lutfi Yahya, 2019).

Obstacles of Islamic Religious Education Teachers in Improving the Learning Discipline of Class X Students majoring in Mechanical Engineering at SMK Jayabeka 01 Karawang

According to the results of the interview with Mr. Enang as the principal of the curriculum and Mr. Nana Suryana as the Teacher of Islamic Religious Education, there are several obstacles to a process towards student discipline, especially discipline in the learning process of students in grade X of the Department of Mechanical Engineering of SMK Jayabeka 01 Karawang which is in the form of Internal factors or External which causes students to not apply discipline by obeying the rules that have been determined at school. From the results of the interview, the obstacles that exist at SMK Jayabeka 01 Karawang in improving student learning discipline are:

First, *internal factors* such as students who are less aware of their own needs and obligations. This right allows students to make noise arbitrarily while studying or at school, both inside and outside the classroom. Learning can be said to be perfect when it runs smoothly without any obstacles from either teachers or students. For students who lack discipline during the learning process, it results in a disturbance to the concentration of teachers and peers. For this reason, Islamic Religious Education Teachers must have a strategy for overcoming these problems, as follows:

- 1) Islamic Religious Education teachers must have a range of learning methods so that students do not feel bored during the learning process. For this reason, teachers can use creative and innovative techniques, such as cooperative learning methods and experiments, and then have students summarize the material that has been taught. This aligns with Djamarah's opinion (SB) in the research (Maufiroh et al., 2021), which states that "a method is needed to achieve maximum goal results." In the learning process, the PAI Teacher employs a method with several variations tailored to the needs of each delivery to students, making it easier for them to think critically and respond to the material presented.
- 2) Islamic Religious Education teachers who are not only in charge of teaching but also have a role as a guide and advisor to each student. In addition to training students' personalities in accordance with Islamic teachings, PAI teachers also issue warnings in nonverbal forms. They provide warnings to students who ignore the material being delivered or who are disruptive and noisy themselves. Teachers can use hand gestures and movements; with this method, teachers are more effective and find it easier to reprimand students.
- 3) Give a subtle reprimand by giving a reprimand to the students of SMK Jayabeka 01 Karawang without threatening or being rude, but with the teacher's affirmation.
- 4) Giving praise, which is the most fun thing for Shiva, who listens and focuses on following the learning until it is finished, with the aim that students will continue to be enthusiastic during the learning process.

Second, students who are often allowed to come and go from class and do not comply with learning activities are examples of student indiscipline in the classroom. This is frequently underestimated, despite being one of the obstacles to student learning. Students at SMK Jayabeka 01 Karawang abused their teachers' permissions, even though teachers could not prohibit students from leaving the classroom without an apparent reason. Obstacles like this can disrupt

other students in the class, so this problem is also influenced by the discipline issues that exist at school. As a result, analysis is required during the learning process to improve student discipline. So for this reason, with the results of the lecture from Mr. Enang and Mr. Nana, "in every class, there must be more emphasis on the rules that have been determined, so that students are more obedient and disciplined, so that teachers who enter every class hour must apply these rules". With the teacher's affirmation, especially during Islamic religious education, teachers must enforce the rules that have been determined and mutually agreed upon regarding the sanctions.

Third, economic factors and a bad family environment, based on the results of the conversation with Mr. Enang as the curriculum and Mr. Nana as the PAI teacher, that with students who have a background with their families, this can make students unable to focus and not disciplined about the discipline at school, let alone discipline in the classroom when participating in the learning process.

He found that, based on observations, there are students who often daydream during the learning process, become sleepy, play games, and wander when asked by the teacher; these students do not answer the teacher's questions. With these obstacles, teachers must get to know and understand each of their students better and invite them to talk privately, aiming to build closer relationships and identify the problems that can cause students to lose focus and discipline in the established school discipline.

Conclusion

Based on the results of the research that has been carried out on the strategies of Islamic religious education teachers in improving the learning discipline of class X students majoring in Mechanical Engineering at SMK JAyabeka 01 Karawang, the following conclusions can be drawn:

- 1) Based on the learning conditions of students at SMK Jayabeka 01 Karawang, there are several conditions related to student learning discipline. Thus, it can be concluded that the condition of student learning discipline, namely the lack of interest in learning Islamic religious education, is reflected in the classroom. Although student learning conditions are not ideal, teachers strive to improve their students' classroom discipline. Students are aware of their behavior, and teachers provide a deterrent effect on students who violate.

- 2) Islamic religious education teachers' strategies in improving the learning discipline of grade x students majoring in Mechanical Engineering at SMK Jayabeka 01 Karawang, in improving discipline by carrying out several learning strategies in the classroom. In general, Islamic religious education teachers apply techniques that are used during the learning process in the school, such as:

Cooperative, affective, and expository strategies, as well as other methods such as lecture approaches, have been implemented by Islamic Religious Education Teachers. These strategies aim to improve student learning discipline. Therefore, Islamic religious education teachers must also understand the student learning disciplines, such as time discipline, attitude discipline, and worship discipline.

- 3) Obstacles to Islamic Religious Education teachers in improving the learning discipline of grade X students majoring in Ordering Engineering at Jayabeka 01 Karawang Vocational School have several obstacles faced during the continuous learning process, namely: 1) students make riots in the classroom, students play cellphones, chat with their friends, As for the way Islamic religious education teachers deal with students who make them uncomfortable in class by subtly reprimanding, Giving assignments to stay focused on learning, giving nonverbal warnings, and by giving praise to students who are active in the class. 2) Students who are often allowed to go in and out of class without returning to class or for a long time outside the class.

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