Khatam Al-Quran in Islamic Education Curriculum in Malaysia

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Abstract

This study intends to explore the role played by J-QAF and Islam Education teachers in achieving the objective of complete recitation of the Quran (Khatam al-Quran) by primary school pupils. The study is focussed on teachers involved in the teaching of J-QAF first level pupils in 2005, now in their fourth year of primary school. The teachers involved have used the best possible strategy and technique in their lessons in order to ensure that Muslims pupils would be able to accomplish Khatam al-Quran while at primary school. Among fourth year pupils, there are some who have achieved complete recitation. However, this has been accomplished through a combination of the pupils' recitation at home as well as in school. Although some pupils have completed, there are still (many) pupils at the level of Iqra' books 1, 2 and 3. So this study is intended to discover the reality of the teaching of J-QAF since it was introduced in 2005.

INTRODUCTION

The J-QAF programme was based on an idea proposed specifically by the Prime Minister of Malaysia during his visit to the Ministry of Education Malaysia on the 30th of December 2003. The proposal was considered in detail at a J-QAF seminar organized by the Ministry of Education from the 3rd to the 5th of March 2004. The J-QAF programme was implemented on an experimental basis in a pilot project for 3 months ending in July 2004. The Prime Minister subsequently agreed for this programme to be implemented from school year 2005.

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The J-QAF programme is an effort to strengthen Islamic Education through special emphasis in the teaching of the Jawi script, the Quran, Arabic Language and Fardu Ain at the primary school level. The implementation of this programme involves the use of its own distinctive curriculum, models and modules. Specialist teachers are used for remedial teaching, guidance, skill development, strengthening, enrichment and subject appreciation among pupils. The implementation of the programme uses the present timetable allocations.

Nevertheless, this study will only focus on matters related to the Khatam al-Quran (Complete Recitation) programme in primary schools and on the role of teachers in achieving this objective. Here introduce the paper, and put a nomenclature if necessary, in a box with the same font size as the rest of the paper. The paragraphs continue from here and are only separated by headings, subheadings, images and formulae. The section headings are arranged by numbers, bold and 10 pt. Here follows further instructions for authors.

1.1. J-QAF KHATAM AL-QURAN MODULE

According to the "Panduan Dasar dan Pelaksanaan J-QAF" (J-QAF Policy and Implementation Guide), JAPIM (2008), the recitation of the Quran is currently being taught as part of Islamic Education under the category Quran Recitation guidance. However it does not stress learning until completion of the Quran because that would require continuous guidance using an adequate number of teachers in proportion to the number of pupils, using the *talaqqi* and *mushafahah* approach (that is, by a method of learning where each student directly faces his teacher, who shall listen to the student's recitation, correct any mistakes, and demonstrate the correct and proper way of reciting). As such, the subject of Islamic Education in schools is only geared towards the ability to recite the Quran, while the aspect of complete recitation of the entire Quran (khatam) is not emphasized but left instead to society to deal with.

2.1. PROBLEM STATEMENT

According to the "Panduan Dasar dan Pelaksanaan J-QAF" (J-QAF Policy and Implementation Guide), JAPIM (2008), the recitation of the Quran is currently being taught as part of Islamic Education under the category Quran Recitation guidance. However it does not stress learning until completion of the whole Quran because that would require continuous guidance using an adequate number of teachers in proportion to the number of pupils, using the *talaqqi* and *mushafahah* approach (that is, by a method of learning where each student directly faces his teacher, who shall listen to the student's recitation, correct any mistakes, and demonstrate the correct and proper way of reciting). As such, the subject of Islamic Education in schools is only geared towards ability to recite the Quran, while the aspect of complete recitation of the entire Quran (khatam) is not emphasized but left instead to society to deal with.

In order to achieve the objective of Khatam al-Quran at the primary school level, several Khatam al-Quran modules have been introduced into the J-QAF programme:

A. 6 Months Khatam al-Quran model during the Teaching and Learning (T & L) time-period for the first 6 months.
B. Recitation of Quran guidance during the T & L period for the second 6 months.
C. Tasmik Module outside the T & L period.
D. Regularly scheduled Quran Literacy camps outside of school hours

2.2. SURVEY OF BOOKS FOR IMPLEMENTING THE MOE J-QAF PROGRAMME

The J-QAF Khatam al-Quran programme consists of 4 models as follows: -
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