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**Educational Strategies to Develop Discipline Among Students
from the Islamic Perspectives**

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Abstract

Issues pertaining to discipline among students both in schools and higher institutions of learning are constantly being highlighted in the mainstream media, such as bullying, gangsterism, smoking, beating up teacher, stealing, raping and so forth. Several studies have been conducted to determine factors which lead students to behave in such a manner. Although, these studies have developed strategies to tackle the issues, the problems still persist. This may be because the approach used does not take into consideration a balanced approach which includes the elements of emotional, mental, and spiritual aspects. This paper intends to consider an approach employed from the perspective of Islamic Educational Strategy in tackling the students. This qualitative research focuses on reviewing analysis of educational philosophy from the perspectives of Islamic scholars using documentation method and the data gathered would be analysed as findings. The objective of the paper is to determine the type of educational strategies in Islam that can help mould students to become disciplined students. The strategies would be put forward to curriculum planners so that a more balance educational system can be formed. Subsequently, the strategies can be employed by parents, school teachers, and lecturers to educate and develop students to be disciplined.

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1. Introduction

Indiscipline prevails among students in various forms such as gangsterism, bullying, promiscuity, stealing, drug addiction, delinquency, and so forth. The number of students behaving negatively is increasing daily and the issues have often been reported in the local dailies. For instance in 2006 only, there were 6,652 records of disciplinary problems amongst students in the schools (Malaysia Ministry of Education, 2008). A similar report was given by the Department of Welfare under the Malaysian Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development on criminal cases involving students that there was an increase by 18.9% from 6,059 cases in 2004 to 7,201 cases in 2005 (Malaysia Department of Social Welfare, 2006). The disruptive behavior portrayed by a considerable number of Malaysian students has caused a grave concern among educators, parents, and society at large in determining the root of the problem.

2. Research Background

Researchers claimed that the transition growing process from childhood to adolescent that is accompanied by dramatic and psychological transformations may alter the student's cognitive, emotive, and social development (Papathanasiou & Lahana, 2007). Hence, an adolescent who is not capable to cope with the pressure and expectations of the growing development, he may behave in such disruptive behavior as a show of defense in handling such dramatic changes. In a report from the Malaysia Department of Statistics (2007) showed that adolescents constitute about 10% of the total population in Malaysia and that there are 2.6 million adolescents of ages between 15 to 20 years old. Hence, there is a need to alleviate and contain the indiscipline problems among students. The local media too reported there is an increase in the number of social problems among students of institution of higher learning, such as in the case of promiscuity among university students. The problem portrayed does not only involve the students at the private universities, but also students from the public universities. The scenario reflected badly on the image of university students who should portray an exemplary behavior to the younger generation particularly to school students at the primary and secondary levels. Although the number of cases may seem smaller when compared to the total population of students, however if the problem is not curtailed it may lead to a negative understanding that such indecent behavior is permitted at higher institutions of learning. Another issue of concern is drug abuse among students; Malaysian Anti-Drug Association (2005) reported that there were 1,357 cases of drug abuse amongst students in that year. The issues reported that there is an urgency to meet the challenges in tackling indiscipline problem among students.

Although there are a considerable number of studies on the issue of indiscipline among students, however, most of these studies were carried out in the West and from the perspective of western educational philosophers. There is a lack of study on students' indiscipline in Malaysia context (See, 2009) and from the perspective of Islamic educational philosophy (Abd. Munir, 2009). Moreover, most of the studies concerning indiscipline amongst students were done to identify the positive and negative behaviors in students (See, 2009), and to determine the level of students discipline problems and the dominant factors contributing to the students discipline problems. The findings of the study have contributed to a better understanding the factors that may attribute to students behaving in such negative manner. Nonetheless, how the problems can be approached from the Islamic philosophy of education is not being considered. Therefore, there is a need to contain the problems because the youths are the future generation and future leaders in maneuvering the state of this country. Hence, the intention of this study is to view the indiscipline problem amongst students from the Islamic perspective as well as to provide an alternative approach to tackle the problem.

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