

INFLUENCE OF CHARACTER EDUCATION ON POLITICAL LEADERSHIP IN ISLAM

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Abstract: This study highlights the important impact of character education within the framework of Islam on the development of political leadership, revealing that the moral and ethical foundations of Islam, which include values such as honesty, integrity, justice, and social responsibility, are the main cornerstones. This study uses library research methods with study analysis that involves a comprehensive integrative approach by examining and combining a variety of relevant library sources. Through an analysis that integrates a variety of literature sources, this study confirms that character education in Islam not only creates leaders who prioritize justice, accountability, and general welfare but also plays a vital role in shaping leaders who carry out tasks with high morality and ethics. Its significance lies in its ability to shape responsible, just, inclusive, and moral leaders, as well as foster sustainable leadership styles that uphold peace and advocate for justice. Character education in the context of Islamic political leadership is identified as an important key in the creation of leaders who can maintain peace, handle conflicts, and play a role in moral global diplomacy while also forming leaders who can communicate honestly, maintain morality and ethics, and lead with high integrity. In addition, this study confirms that character education in Islam plays a role in forming ethical and political leadership and becomes a moral pillar in carrying out a role in international diplomacy.

Keywords: *Character Education, Political Leadership, Islam.*

Abstrak: Kajian ini menyoroti dampak penting dari pendidikan karakter dalam kerangka Islam terhadap perkembangan kepemimpinan politik, mengungkap bahwa fondasi moral dan etika Islam yang meliputi nilai-nilai seperti kejujuran, integritas, keadilan, dan tanggung jawab sosial menjadi landasan utama. Kajian ini menggunakan metode penelitian keperpustakaan dengan analisis kajian yang melibatkan pendekatan integratif yang menyeluruh dengan memeriksa dan menggabungkan beragam sumber pustaka yang relevan. Melalui analisis yang mengintegrasikan beragam sumber pustaka, kajian ini menegaskan bahwa pendidikan karakter dalam Islam tidak hanya menciptakan pemimpin yang memprioritaskan keadilan, akuntabilitas, dan kesejahteraan umum, tetapi juga memainkan peran vital dalam membentuk pemimpin yang mengemban tugas dengan moralitas dan etika yang tinggi. Signifikansinya terletak pada kemampuannya membentuk pemimpin yang bertanggung jawab, adil, inklusif, dan bermoral, serta mendorong gaya kepemimpinan berkelanjutan yang menjunjung perdamaian dan mengadvokasi keadilan. Pendidikan karakter dalam konteks kepemimpinan politik Islam diidentifikasi sebagai kunci penting dalam penciptaan pemimpin yang mampu memelihara perdamaian, menangani konflik, dan berperan dalam diplomasi global yang bermoral, sementara juga membentuk pemimpin yang memiliki kemampuan komunikasi jujur, menjaga moralitas dan etika, serta memimpin dengan integritas yang tinggi. Selain itu, kajian ini menegaskan bahwa pendidikan karakter dalam Islam bukan hanya berperan dalam pembentukan kepemimpinan politik yang etis, tetapi juga menjadi pilar moral dalam menjalankan peran dalam diplomasi internasional.

Kata kunci: *Pendidikan Karakter, Kepemimpinan Politik, Islam.*

INTRODUCTION

Character education and political leadership in Islam are crucial to the formation and progress of society and the state. Both are closely interrelated because good character and ethics are key points in forming a successful political leader. In the context of Islam, character education is a solid foundation for fostering fair and wise leadership. Character education refers to the process of developing moral values, ethics, and attitudes in individuals.¹ In Islam, a strong emphasis is placed on noble characters, such as honesty, justice, courage, and wisdom. This is not only limited to religious understanding but also to daily practice. Someone who has a superior character is believed to be able to be a tough leader and able to make wise decisions.

On the other hand, political leadership in Islam has its characteristics. A political leader in Islam is expected to serve the community fairly, adhere to Islamic principles, and run the government with full discretion.² They have a moral responsibility to God and his people. Therefore, solid character education is an essential foundation for political leaders in Islamic teachings. Amid the complexities of modern society, political leadership rooted in character and moral values is key to maintaining social stability, justice, and public welfare.³ Islam, as a religion covering various aspects of life, including politics, asserts its essence of moral and ethical integrity in leadership. With a long history in governance, Islam offers strong guidelines for character-building and responsible political leadership.

¹ Suud Sarim Karimullah, Moh Amin, and Ummu Diana Munawwarah, "Strengthening Spiritual Education Based on the Qur'ān in Building Character in the Digital Age," *Devotion Journal of Community Service* 3, no. 14 (2022): 2785–94, <https://doi.org/10.36418/dev.v3i14.316>

² Doli Witro, "Ulama and Umara in Government of Indonesia: A Review Relations of Religion and State," *Madania: Jurnal Kajian Keislaman* 24, no. 2 (2020): 135–44, <https://doi.org/10.29300/madania.v24i2.3778>; R Quinn Mecham, "From the Ashes of Virtue, a Promise of Light: The Transformation of Political Islam in Turkey," *Third World Quarterly* 25, no. 2 (2004): 339–58, <https://doi.org/10.1080/0143659042000174842>.

³ William C K Chu, Ming-sum Tsui, and Miu-chung Yan, "Social Work as a Moral and Political Practice," *International Social Work* 52, no. 3 (2009): 287–98, <https://doi.org/10.1177/0020872808102064>; Xuotong Yan, "Political Leadership and Power Redistribution," *The Chinese Journal of International Politics* 9, no. 1 (2016): 1–26, <https://doi.org/10.1093/cjip/pow002>.

The influence of character education in Islamic political leadership becomes relevant given the increasingly emerging global challenges, such as corruption, injustice, and political instability that creep into various countries. In this situation, a deep understanding of the role of character education in shaping political leaders who can overcome these challenges is becoming increasingly important. Efforts to bridge this gap require careful study to explore effective methods and strategies for integrating character education into the training of political leaders based on Islamic teachings.

This in-depth assessment will enable a more comprehensive understanding of how solid character and morals in Islam can be the basis for substantial political leadership. This benefits the Muslim community and is relevant for the rest of the world, who are increasingly connected and dependent on global political policies. Deep understanding through this study is expected to significantly contribute to the development of political leaders who can lead with moral integrity and initiate positive change in society.

Therefore, the study of the influence of character education on political leadership in Islam is considered an important first step in understanding the complex relationship between character, ethical values, and political leadership in this religious context. It is hoped that the results of this study will provide a clearer insight into how character and morals can influence the actions of a political leader in Islam, as well as how this can shape a better future for society and the country as a whole.

Several scholarly works and literature have addressed various aspects related to character education in Islam, political leadership, and the interaction between the two. Here are some relevant key references to support the discussion of this study, as done by Al-Mawardi's *Al-Ahkam al-Sultaniyya*.⁴ Al-Mawardi, a Muslim scholar from the 11th century, wrote this book. The book discusses the concept of political leadership in Islam and the role of character required to be a just Leader. The study of this work provides a solid historical foundation for the

⁴ Abu al-Hasan al Mawardi, *Al-Ahkam Al-Sultaniyya* (Beirut: Dar al-Kutub al-'Ilmiyya, 1985).

understanding of political leadership in Islam. Halil Zaim, Ahmet Demir, and Taylan Budur discuss the role of Islamic ethics in shaping moral leadership.⁵ This study provides a solid theoretical basis for further research on the influence of character education in Islamic leadership.

Several previous researchers have also reviewed various aspects of leadership in Islam, including the role of character and morality in political leadership.⁶ These studies can provide insight into how nature influences leadership in an Islamic context. Several previous studies discuss the concept of political ethics in Islam and its relevance in shaping moral, political leadership.⁷ By referring to the existing literature, research on the impact of character education on political leadership in Islam can be given a solid theoretical basis. These works will play an important role in deepening the understanding of the significance of character in the dynamics of political leadership in Islam, as well as providing a broader perspective on the relationship between personality and leadership within the framework of this religion. Thus, the existing literature will be an important foothold in building a solid theoretical foundation for research on how character education affects and is a key aspect in mapping the path for political leaders in the context of Islamic values.

RESEARCH METHODS

⁵ Halil Zaim, Ahmet Demir, and Taylan Budur, "Ethical Leadership, Effectiveness and Team Performance: An Islamic Perspective," *Middle East Journal of Management* 8, no. 1 (2021): 42–66, <https://doi.org/10.1504/MEJM.2021.111991>.

⁶ Afiful Ikhwan, "Leadership In Islamic Education: Study Of Thematic Al-Qur'an And Al-Hadist," *ULUL ALBAB Jurnal Studi Islam* 17, no. 1 (2016): 31–46, <https://doi.org/10.18860/ua.v17i1.3253>; Valentine M Moghadam and Fatemeh Haghghatjoo, "Women and Political Leadership in an Authoritarian Context: A Case Study of the Sixth Parliament in the Islamic Republic of Iran," *Politics & Gender* 12, no. 1 (2016): 168–97, <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1743923X15000598>; Jens Koehrsen, "Muslims and Climate Change: How Islam, Muslim Organizations, and Religious Leaders Influence Climate Change Perceptions and Mitigation Activities," *Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Climate Change* 12, no. 3 (2021): 702, <https://doi.org/10.1002/wcc.702>.

⁷ Adibah Binti Abdul Rahim, "Understanding Islamic Ethics and Its Significance on the Character Building," *International Journal of Social Science and Humanity* 3, no. 6 (2013): 508–13, <https://doi.org/10.7763/IJSSH.2013.V3.293>; Ira M Lapidus, "The Golden Age: The Political Concepts of Islam," *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 524, no. 1 (1992): 13–25, <https://doi.org/10.1177/0002716292524001002>.

This study adopts library research that is integrative and comprehensive in its analysis process. This method allows researchers to examine and synthesize a variety of relevant literature sources in the context of research. The sources used include various types of literature such as books, scientific articles, and opinions of experts who are competent in character education and political leadership in the context of Islam.

In conducting a comprehensive literature analysis, the researcher ensures that all aspects related to the focus of the study, namely the influence of character education on political leadership in Islam, are covered thoroughly. This approach enables the acquisition of a deep and holistic insight into the relationship between the character, ethics, and dynamics of political leadership in Islam by combining the various views and findings contained in the literature that has been published. This integrative and comprehensive approach to literature analysis enriches the understanding of the complexity of the issues under study. In this way, the study can present a broader and more diverse perspective related to the topic. This approach is a strong foundation for this study. It is expected to provide a deeper understanding of the impact of character education on the dynamics of political leadership in Islam.

For this type of data and data sources, this study uses secondary data in the form of relevant literature, such as books, scientific articles, and the views of experts who are considered competent in character education and political leadership in Islam. Data collection techniques are carried out through the search and selection of comprehensive and relevant literature to the study topic. In data analysis, the method used is a thorough and holistic analysis of the literature. Researchers examine, synthesize, and summarize the various views, findings, and arguments contained in the literature that has been published to gain a deeper understanding of the relationship between character education and political leadership in Islam.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. Character Education in the Islamic Context

Character education within the framework of Islam is an important foundation in forming individuals who have high quality and hold deep moral integrity. More than just a religion, Islam embraces a holistic view of life, including how character education becomes an integral part of this worldview. In its teachings, Islam provides ethical and moral principles that guide Muslim individuals in living their daily lives and leading their communities. It is important to understand that character education in Islam is not limited to religious teaching alone. Although spiritual teachings have a central role, the noble character in Islam embraces several values, such as honesty, justice, compassion, and patience. These values are interrelated and form a solid moral foundation for the individual's daily life.

Character in Islam also includes aspects of social responsibility and empathy for others. Muslim individuals are educated to care for the well-being of others and share with the needy, creating a deep understanding of social justice and concern for the less fortunate. In addition, character education in Islam also emphasizes aspects of leadership. A leader, especially in a political context, is expected to have strong character, high morality, and wise decision-making skills. Islam affirms the importance of integrity, honesty, and justice in the context of political leadership. For Islam, a leader is a public servant who is responsible not only to humans but also to God.

Character education in the context of Islam also has a strong relevance in facing the challenges of the Times. Moral and ethical values are often tested in the era of globalization and technological progress. The Islamic approach to character education provides solid guidelines for Muslim individuals to maintain their integrity in the face of social dynamics and change pressures. Thus, character education in Islam becomes a foundation that builds individuals with integrity and responsible leaders, providing relevant ethical values in the face of the complexity of the modern world.

Character education in Islam emphasizes moral and ethical values, the importance of science, and the improvement of knowledge as an integral part of the individual formation process. This religion encourages individuals to

continually learn, develop critical thinking, and become insightful leaders. In this context, character education in Islam carries a holistic approach that combines science and morality as the foundation for a successful life. It should be noted that character education in Islam also emphasizes the importance of modesty and adherence to religious principles. This gives a deep understanding of humility and obedience to God, forming a sincere and humble character in everyday life. In the Islamic view, knowledge is seen as a means for personal achievement and a foundation for solid moral development and improvement of ethical leadership qualities. Therefore, character education in Islam strengthens the close connection between knowledge and morality, forming individuals who are not only intellectually intelligent but also of good character. Character education in Islam emphasizes the values of modesty, obedience, and knowledge development as tools for forming morally responsible individuals and having dignified leadership.

Character education in the Islamic context also highlights the importance of moral awareness in every action and decision. In Islam, individuals are taught to always consider ethical values in all aspects of life, including interacting with others, doing business, or participating in politics. This creates a deep culture of moral reflection, where individuals consciously consider the ethical implications of their actions. In addition, character education in Islam also includes values such as loyalty and honesty.⁸ Commitment to religious principles and the people became an essential element of political leadership in Islam. Leaders who are loyal to Islamic moral and ethical values will be more likely to carry out their duties well and serve the community with integrity.

Character education in Islam also has a vital dimension of self-development. Individuals who get character education in Islam are empowered to recognize their weaknesses and seek to improve themselves with the guidance of Islamic ethical values. This concept of self-improvement is known as "*tazkiyāh*" in Islam, which refers to purifying the soul and character. *Tazkiyāh* created the

⁸Ismail Ismail, "Character Education Based on Religious Values: An Islamic Perspective," *Ta'dib: Jurnal Pendidikan Islam* 21, no. 1 (2016): 41–58, <https://doi.org/10.19109/td.v21i1.744>.

foundation for political leaders in Islam to set a good example and exercise effective leadership. In addition, character education in Islam also includes aspects of concern for the environment. Islam teaches that man is the Caliph (custodian) of the Earth; hence, individual Muslims are responsible for the natural environment. This affects how political leaders in Islam view environmental issues and how they take on sustainable policies.

In addition to the character of individuals and political leaders in Islam, character education also creates the basis for a more moral and Ethical Society. Moral values instilled through character education shape positive social norms and protect society from harmful behavior. In a political context, this demands governments and political leaders to follow the ethical values inherited by Islam and ensure that their policies reflect these values. Character education in Islam teaches the importance of dialogue, tolerance, and cooperation between individuals and groups.⁹ It creates a foundation for political leaders in Islam to promote peace, harmony among religious communities, and intercultural understanding. This is becoming increasingly relevant in an increasingly globalized and diverse world.

Character education in Islam also significantly influences a participatory democratic culture. Although political systems in Islam can vary, character education teaches values such as deliberation and consensus. This creates the basis for an inclusive decision-making process in which political leaders must listen to the diverse views in society and seek adequate agreement. In addition, character education in Islam also encourages individuals to be critical of the actions of governments and political leaders. It manifests social responsibility and reminds political leaders to be accountable to the people and God. In this case, the character acts as an effective monitoring tool to keep the government on the right moral and ethical track.

⁹ Imam Mujahid, "Islamic Orthodoxy-Based Character Education: Creating Moderate Muslim in a Modern Pesantren in Indonesia," *Indonesian Journal of Islam and Muslim Societies* 11, no. 2 (2021): 185–212, <https://doi.org/10.18326/ijims.v11i2.185-212>; Suud Sarim Karimullah et al., "Iksan Kamil Sahri's Perspective on Dualism of the Education System in Indonesia," *Devotion Journal of Community Service* 4, no. 3 (2023): 737–48, <https://doi.org/10.36418/devotion.v4i3.422>.

Character education in Islam also creates a foundation for political leaders in Islam to understand that their ultimate goal is service to society and society. They are expected to be exemplary in service and justice and steer clear of corruption and abuse of power. It creates political leaders committed to advancing the welfare of society and promoting social justice. In a broader range, character education in Islam is also rooted in global principles such as peace, justice, and global prosperity. This creates a stage for political leaders in Islam to play a role in finding solutions to global challenges such as climate change, international conflicts, and economic inequality.

Character education in Islam also emphasizes the importance of self-awareness and self-control. Individuals who attend character education in Islam are taught to understand their strengths and weaknesses and control their passions and emotions. This is an essential aspect of political leadership, as leaders who can control themselves tend to make wiser and moral decisions. In addition, character education in Islam creates a deep understanding of a sense of responsibility towards society and humanity. The political leader in Islam is taught to view his position as a calling to serve and protect the interests of his people, as well as to play a role in maintaining global peace and prosperity.

Character education in Islam also includes aspects of awareness of universal human values. It teaches individuals the importance of human rights, peace, and tolerance.¹⁰ In a political context, this demands political leaders in Islam to exercise leadership that reflects these values in their actions and policies. This becomes crucial in maintaining stability, peace, and harmonious relations in society and between nations. Character education in Islam also encourages political leaders to lead a leadership based on transparency and accountability. Political leaders must be able to be held accountable for their actions and

¹⁰ Suud Sarim Karimullah, Mu'adil Faizin, and Aafa Islami, "Internalization of Islamic Moderation Values in Building a Civilization of Love and Tolerance," *Al-Insyiroh: Jurnal Studi Keislaman* 9, no. 1 (2023): 94–125, <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.35309/alinsyiroh.v9i1.6345>.

decisions and must communicate honestly and openly to their people.¹¹ This created an environment where corruption and abuse of power could be avoided, and the people had high confidence in his government.

In addition, character education in Islam also teaches the importance of social service and philanthropy. Political leaders in Islam are expected to listen and respond to society's needs, especially those less fortunate. This creates a moral demand for political leaders to take action in favor of the weak and fight for the welfare of the people. Character education in Islam also creates a strong connection between individuals, political leaders, and Allah. Political leaders in Islam are reminded of their responsibility to Allah in carrying out their duties. This creates additional motivation to be moral and ethical leaders and strive to achieve justice in their policies and actions. In a complex global era, character education in Islam plays a central role in shaping political leaders who can overcome the challenges of the Times, promote peace, and advance the welfare of humanity at large.

2. Political Leadership in Islam

Political leadership in Islam carries a deep and broad meaning. Islam is not just a belief system. It also offers a comprehensive view of how individuals and political leaders should behave and lead. In this framework, political leadership in Islam does not simply mean occupying a political office but rather the burden of moral and ethical responsibility borne by the individual allowed to lead. Therefore, understanding political leadership in Islam includes several aspects, including character, social responsibility, role in society, and ethical principles that are the firm foundation for a leader. It is important to understand that character has a central role in the context of political leadership in Islam. Nature is a Muslim leader's main foundation. Good character is crucial in carrying out leadership tasks. Islam teaches that a political leader must be a good example for

¹¹Jane Mansbridge, "A 'Selection Model' of Political Representation," *Journal of Political Philosophy* 17, no. 4 (2009): 369–98, <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-9760.2009.00337.x>; Kathleen K Ahearn et al., "Leader Political Skill and Team Performance," *Journal of Management* 30, no. 3 (2004): 309–27, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jm.2003.01.004>.

society, show high integrity, and fulfill his duties with full dedication to justice and welfare for his people. With good character, a political leader can maintain morality and integrity amid political pressures and temptations.

In Islam, political leadership is about gaining power and a mandate that must be accounted for. A Muslim leader is expected to put the public interest first, take responsibility for decisions taken, and pay attention to the benefit of society as a whole. Political leadership in Islam also underlines the aspect of service to humanity, where a leader is ordered to ensure the welfare and justice of all his citizens. Thus, a solid character becomes the main pillar in forming a responsible political leader in the teachings of Islam. Good character not only shows moral excellence but also ensures the firmness and continuity of a leader's integrity in the face of various challenges and temptations in the political environment.

Social responsibility is also an integral part of political leadership in Islam. A political leader is expected to be deeply aware of his responsibility towards his people. It includes protecting citizens' fundamental rights, ensuring social justice, and fighting for the economic well-being of society. Political leaders in Islam are reminded of their moral accountability to Allah and his people, so they have a high duty to carry out their duties properly. In addition, the role of a political leader in Islam also includes being a public servant. It illustrates the concept that a leader should not be a master leader but a servant dedicated to the benefit of society. This principle preventsprevents leaders from authoritarian behavior or unlimited power emphasizing that leadership is a call to serve and benefit the people.

Ethical principles have also become a strong foothold in political leadership in Islam. Political leadership in Islam should reflect high moral principles, such as honesty, justice, and loyalty. Muslim leaders are expected to avoid unethical behavior, such as corruption or abuse of power, and carry out their duties with discretion and integrity. Ethical principles also include fair treatment of all citizens, regardless of their religion, ethnicity, or background.

Political leadership in Islam also includes the concept of Shura, which refers to deliberation and consultation. In Islam, political leaders are expected to

listen to diverse views and seek agreement before making important decisions. This principle creates the foundation for inclusive decision-making, which involves the active participation of different segments of society. Thus, political leadership in Islam is more participatory than authoritarian, and the leader must understand the needs and aspirations of his people. In addition, political leadership in Islam also contains elements of moral responsibility and accountability. Political leaders in Islam are reminded that they are accountable to Allah for their actions and decisions. This creates additional motivation to be a moral and ethical leader and to exercise leadership with integrity and fairness. Leaders who feel accountable to God are likelier to avoid harmful behavior and prioritize the public interest.

Political leadership in Islam also encourages leaders to become representatives of the people who fight for the rights and interests of their citizens. Political leaders in Islam are not only in charge of running the government but also of being defenders of the weak and fighting for their rights. This creates the concept of equitable and progressive leaders who dedicate themselves to overcoming societal inequalities and injustices. Character education in Islam also teaches human values, equality, and tolerance. Political leadership in Islam includes promoting peace, harmony among religious communities, and intercultural understanding. This has a significant impact on maintaining social stability and building inclusive societies. In addition, political leadership in Islam encourages leaders to understand that their duty is service to community. A Muslim leader is expected to serve his people with dedication and care. It creates a commitment to social assistance, poverty alleviation, and improving people's welfare.

Political leadership in Islam also involves the concept of amanah, which refers to trust and obedience to Allah in performing duties. Political leaders in Islam are expected to carry out their duties with a sense of responsibility, abstain

from unethical behavior, and uphold the principles of truth.¹² Good deeds and morals must continue to be maintained even in a position of power, thus ensuring moral leadership. In addition, political leadership in Islam also includes an understanding of justice, both in decision-making and in the treatment of all citizens. Political leaders in Islam are reminded of their obligation to ensure fair treatment, as well as policies that benefit certain groups and the whole society.¹³ This creates demands to combat corruption, nepotism, and abuse of power.

Furthermore, political leadership in Islam also contains elements of inclusive leadership. A Muslim leader is expected to respect the rights of all citizens regardless of their religion, ethnicity, or background. It creates the foundation for policies focused on respecting human rights and alleviating discrimination. Character education in Islam teaches values such as mutual help and unity in community life. Political leadership in Islam includes responsibility for promoting cooperation and harmony in society and addressing conflicts and divisions.

Political leadership in Islam also highlights the importance of social service and philanthropy. A political leader in Islam is expected to understand that his post is a call to serve the people and help them overcome various social, economic, and political problems. Character education in Islam teaches values such as generosity, caring for the less fortunate, and social responsibility. Furthermore, political leadership in Islam includes a role in maintaining the peace and stability of society. Islam emphasizes the importance of dialogue, tolerance, and cooperation between individuals and groups. Political leaders in Islam are expected to mediate conflicts, promote tolerance among religious communities, and create a harmonious environment. The principles of social justice and wealth

¹² Suud Sarim Karimullah, "Religion and State in the Islamic Political Paradigm in Indonesia Perspective of Prof. Kamsi," *Analisis: Jurnal Studi Keislaman* 22, no. 1 (2022): 53–74, <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.24042/ajsk.v22i1.12648>.

¹³ Audrey Osler, "Patriotism, Multiculturalism and Belonging: Political Discourse and the Teaching of History," *Educational Review* 61, no. 1 (2009): 85–100, <https://doi.org/10.1080/00131910802684813>; Homa Hoodfar and Samad Assadpour, "The Politics of Population Policy in the Islamic Republic of Iran," *Studies in Family Planning* 31, no. 1 (2000): 19–34, <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1728-4465.2000.00019.x>.

distribution are also critical elements of political leadership in Islam. Political leaders are expected to ensure that the country's wealth is distributed fairly so all citizens have fair access to resources and opportunities. It creates the foundation for policies focused on poverty alleviation, economic equality, and the protection of social rights.

Political leadership in Islam also includes avoiding conflict and mediating conflicts that may arise in society. Islam teaches the importance of peace and conflict resolution through deliberation and diplomacy. Political leaders in Islam are expected to be fair arbiters and seek to maintain social stability. In addition, political leadership in Islam includes oversight of the policies taken and the use of power. Political leaders are reminded of their moral accountability to God and his people. This principle creates a moral obligation to carry out leadership duties with integrity, avoid corruption, and maintain transparency in decision-making.

Character education in Islam also emphasizes the importance of patience, tenacity, and perseverance in facing political challenges. Political leaders in Islam are expected to remain steadfast in carrying out their duties despite facing political pressures or complex challenges. In an increasingly globalized world, political leaders in Islam also have global responsibilities. They are expected to play a role in global issues such as international peace, climate change, and poverty alleviation. It creates a moral obligation to contribute to the welfare and justice of the world.

Political leadership in Islam also includes responsibility for the natural environment. Character education in Islam teaches political leaders to understand that nature is God's creation that must be guarded and preserved. This creates demands for sustainable environmental policies and responsibility towards future generations. In addition, political leadership in Islam also includes the role of security guards and public order. Political leaders in Islam are expected to maintain peace in society and protect citizens from all threats, both within and outside. It creates a moral responsibility to carry out security duties reasonably and based on the principle of justice.

Political leadership in Islam also teaches the importance of solidarity and cooperation. Political leaders are expected to promote harmonious relationships between individuals and groups and play a role in overcoming societal conflicts and divisions. In a global context, political leadership in Islam encourages leaders to actively participate in world issues such as international conflict resolution, poverty alleviation, and humanitarian assistance. It creates a moral responsibility for political leaders in Islam to play a role in promoting the welfare and peace of the world. Political leadership in Islam is a concept that includes character, Social Responsibility, role as a public servant, ethical principles, and devotion to moral and human values. It is a call to serve society, maintain peace, promote justice, and fight for well-being in the community and the world. Character education in Islam creates leaders committed to leading with integrity, carrying out their duties wisely, and promoting high moral values. Political leadership in Islam has a broad and positive impact on forming responsible and ethical leaders and fosters justice and peace in society and the world.

3. Influence of Character Education on Political Leadership

The influence of character education on political leadership is essential in forming leaders with integrity and effectiveness. A person's character plays a central role in leading, making decisions, and interacting with society. In the context of political leadership, character education is a solid foundation that influences the behavior and actions of a leader. Character is a collection of values, ethics, and personal traits that make up a person's personality.¹⁴ It encompasses honesty, fairness, courage, humility, and responsibility, all highly valued attributes in political leadership. Character education aims to develop these traits in individuals, including political leaders, to carry out their duties with integrity and high morals.

Political leadership based on good character positively impacts society and the state. An honest and fair leader, for example, will earn the trust of his people.

¹⁴ William Fleeson et al., "Character: The Prospects for a Personality-based Perspective on Morality," *Social and Personality Psychology Compass* 8, no. 4 (2014): 178–91, <https://doi.org/10.1111/spc3.12094>.

Communities will feel that their leaders are committed to justice and the general welfare. Thus, character education helps create leaders who are more accepted and respected by society. In addition, a strong character also affects a leader's ability to make wise and moral decisions. A leader with good feelings tends better to understand the ethical consequences of his political choices. They will consider the interests of society and ethical principles in decision-making, which can lead to more just and moral policies.

Character education is also essential in motivating political leaders to act responsibly. A strong character creates a sense of responsibility towards society and the state. A responsible leader will be more likely to avoid corrupt behavior and abuse of power. They will carry out their duties with complete dedication for the benefit of the people. In addition, character education also creates leaders who can face political pressure with integrity and moral firmness. The temptations of power or personal gain will not easily sway them. A strong character will help leaders to maintain their morality and integrity, even in difficult situations.

Vital character education in political leaders also plays a role in building public trust. Honesty, integrity, and high morality are the main factors that affect the level of trust placed by the people in their leaders. Leaders with good character will more easily gain the support and confidence of the people, which is crucial in politics. Good nature also influences the way a leader interacts with his political colleagues. Establishing good working relationships, negotiating, and reaching agreements is essential to political leadership. Character education that promotes humility, tolerance, and the ability to listen to diverse views can help build positive relationships between political leaders and their peers.¹⁵

Character education also plays a role in motivating political leaders to commit to actual community service. Strong character encourages leaders to prioritize the interests of society over personal or group interests. They will be

¹⁵ Elizabeth J Krumrei-Mancuso and Wade C Rowatt, "Humility in Novice Leaders: Links to Servant Leadership and Followers' Satisfaction with Leadership," *The Journal of Positive Psychology* 18, no. 1 (2023): 154–66, <https://doi.org/10.1080/17439760.2021.1952647>; Randall Curren, "Why Character Education?," *Impact* 2017, no. 24 (2017): 1–44, <https://doi.org/10.1111/2048-416X.2017.12004.x>.

more likely to dedicate themselves to solving society's social, economic, and political problems. In addition, good character also influences how a political leader deals with complex pressures and challenges.¹⁶ The ability to maintain integrity and morality in the face of difficult situations is essential to effective political leadership. Character education helps leaders to remain firm in their values even in stressful situations. Furthermore, a strong character in a political leader also contributes positively to strengthening the image and reputation of the country. Leaders with integrity and morals support a positive idea of a country in the eyes of the international community, which can open up opportunities for cooperation and beneficial diplomacy.

The influence of character education on political leadership is also reflected in a leader's ability to cope with challenges and crises. Strong character helps leaders to remain calm, determined, and focused in the face of difficult situations. They will not be deterred by political pressures or crises that may arise. Instead, they will make decisions based on the ethical and moral principles they hold dear. Character education also affects a political leader's ability to understand society's various views and needs. Leaders with good character will be more likely to listen to the opinions of their people, respond to their needs, and strive to reach agreements that can improve people's well-being. They will prioritize the interests of society over personal or group interests.

The strong character also creates honest and transparent leaders communicating with the community. Political leadership based on good character promotes accountability and avoids abuse of power. Moral leaders will speak honestly about their actions and policies, essential in maintaining public trust. In addition, good character also creates political leaders who can serve as role models for society. Leaders who demonstrate integrity, ethics, and high morals

¹⁶ Michael D Mumford et al., "Leadership Skills for a Changing World: Solving Complex Social Problems," *The Leadership Quarterly* 11, no. 1 (2000): 11–35, [https://doi.org/10.1016/S1048-9843\(99\)00041-7](https://doi.org/10.1016/S1048-9843(99)00041-7); Wojciech Cwalina and Andrzej Falkowski, "Morality and Competence in Shaping the Images of Political Leaders," *Journal of Political Marketing* 15, no. 2–3 (2016): 220–39, <https://doi.org/10.1080/15377857.2016.1151121>.

will motivate people to follow their example. Thus, a political leader's character can influence the values and behavior of society as a whole.

Character education in political leadership also creates leaders who can maintain societal peace and stability. Strong character traits, such as fairness, tolerance, and humility, support leaders in mediating conflict and minimizing division. They will seek solutions that benefit all parties and avoid disputes that harm society. Character education also influences how political leaders treat citizens from different backgrounds, religions, and ethnicities. An inclusive and fair character creates leaders who uphold the principles of equality and non-discrimination. They will work to ensure that the rights of all citizens are respected and protected. In addition, good character also motivates political leaders to play a role in alleviating poverty and social inequality. Character education in Islam, for example, teaches values such as generosity and caring for the less fortunate. Leaders of good character will strive to create policies and programs that reduce economic disparities and ensure all citizens have equitable access to resources.

The strong character also creates leaders who can lead sustainable leadership. They will be dedicated to serving the community, maintaining their morality and ethics throughout their tenure, and continuously striving to improve the community's quality of life. Character education in political leadership creates leaders who are responsible, fair, inclusive, and moral. They will work to resolve conflicts, promote peace, alleviate poverty, and maintain justice. Political leadership based on good character positively impacts society and the state, creating better conditions for everyday well-being. Therefore, character education in the context of political leadership should be a top priority in forming future leaders.

In addition, the influence of character education on political leadership includes the ability of a leader to serve as a moral role model in society. A leader with good character, such as honesty, integrity, and concern for the public interest, will be an example to other citizens. Society tends to follow leaders who demonstrate positive values and high morality. Character education also

influences the way a political leader interacts with leaders from other countries. The ability to establish strong diplomatic relations, respect cultural and religious differences, and play a role in moral international diplomacy is essential in international relations. Leaders of good character are likelier to promote peace, International Cooperation, and conflict resolution.

Strong character creates and becomes the foundation for leaders who can communicate honestly and transparently with the community. They understand accountability is important and clearly explain their policies and actions to the people. This practice creates public trust and encourages active participation in the political process. In addition, a strong character also affects a leader's ability to exercise sustainable leadership. They are committed to serving the community with consistency and integrity throughout their tenure. Maintaining morality and ethics in difficult situations is important to exercising effective political leadership.

Character education in the context of political leadership creates leaders who are fair, moral, qualified, and committed to the public interest. They have the potential to lead wisely, carry out their duties with integrity, and promote justice and morality in society and the world. In an era where ethical and moral political leadership is highly valued, character is the key to building reliable and honest political leaders. Therefore, character education in the context of political leadership should be emphasized more in forming future leaders. The focus on moral values, integrity, and honesty must be at the core of the education of leaders so that they can carry out their duties with integrity and high morality. In the face of various complexities and socio-political dynamics, solid character becomes a foundation for leaders to stick to the principles of ethics and morality, maintain public trust, and ensure responsible service to the public interest.

CONCLUSION

Character education in the context of Islam plays a very important role in shaping the character of political leaders who are responsible, moral, and have meaning in their leadership. Character education in Islam provides a solid ethical

foundation for leaders, enabling them to lead fairly, transparently, and inclusively. In addition, leaders with good character tend to understand social and environmental issues better and play a role in efforts to overcome poverty and inequality. The strong character also motivates leaders to exercise sustainable leadership and prioritize public interests over personal interests or certain groups.

Furthermore, the influence of character education on political leadership in Islam is an important key in creating leaders who can maintain peace, resolve conflicts, and engage in moral international diplomacy. Character education also makes leaders who can communicate honestly, maintain morality and ethics, and lead with integrity. With the emphasis on character education in Islam, there is an update in the understanding of the essential role of character in shaping ethical and responsible political leadership. Character education not only provides a moral foundation for leaders but also shapes them into Agents of change who care about the welfare of society and are committed to the common good. In a complex global context, moral values instilled through character education in Islam become principles that inspire and shape a new paradigm related to political leadership that includes moral, ethical, and caring aspects of the social and international environment.

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