

WEBSITE RESEARCH AS A SOURCE OF ONLINE INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS IN STUDYING ISLAM

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ABSTRACT

The development of information technology takes place rapidly along with the development of an increasingly advanced era. This also has an impact on the ease of access to information anywhere and anytime. The information accessed is not only related to general information, but also information related to religious knowledge. However, not all websites/sites that seek information can be trusted, so accuracy and caution are needed in processing the information obtained. This study aims to find out websites that are used as references for students in studying Islam and students' considerations in believing in the information obtained on these websites. This study uses a descriptive qualitative research method involving students of the Universitas Islam Indonesia from various majors and years. Determination of informants is done through purposive sampling technique and data collected through interviews. Analysis of the data that has been collected is carried out through data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusions. The results of this study show that in general there are 7 websites that are used as references for students in studying Islam, including guidanceislam.com, islam.nu.or.id, youtube.com, muslim.or.id, studisyaariah.com, rumaysho, suara Muhammadiyah. The reason students trust the information obtained from the website is because the ustadz have an understanding of ahlussunah wal jama'ah and are trusted, the information provided is complemented by aqli arguments, naqli arguments, as well as scientific sanad, relevant to the book being read, and the website used is trusted.

Keywords: website, Islamic religion, students.

INTRODUCTION

The science of religion is the foundation and guidance of humans in their daily lives. Lack of knowledge and understanding of religious knowledge can be one of the causes of people committing deviations. Crimes under the guise of religion have occurred several times in Indonesia, one of which is the suicide bombing in Medan. This action is actually only the interests of terrorist organizations or groups of deviant sects. They just want to create a scary atmosphere. This action is contrary to the first precept, namely "Belief in the One and Only God", because it is not in accordance with religious values. (Putra 2019). Therefore, religious knowledge is very important to learn, especially for a Muslim. Understanding religious knowledge is a basic need to guide a Muslim in every activity. Through understanding the science of religion, a Muslim learns to understand the Qur'an and the Sunnah of the Prophet Muhammad which are the guidelines of life. In addition, when viewed from Islamic law, studying religious knowledge is an obligation for every Muslim or fardhu 'ain. This is relevant to the words of the Prophet Muhammad which means "Seeking knowledge is obligatory for every Muslim" (HR. Ibn Majah no. 224, from Anas bin Malik's friend ra. Validated by Al Bani in shahih al-Jami'ish shaghir no. 3913). It is different from the fardhu kifayah law, if it has been done by some people then it is not an obligation for other people. If a Muslim does not study religion, then he cannot carry out his obligations as a servant properly. In worship, by studying religious knowledge, a Muslim will know how to pray, fast, zakat, pilgrimage, and other worship properly. This is one of the strong reasons for the importance of studying religion.

Along with advances in information technology, everyone can easily get information via the internet or social media. According to BPS data from the 2021 Susenas Survey data collection, 62.10 percent of Indonesia's population has accessed the internet in 2021 (Source: BPS). Meanwhile, the number of active social media users in Indonesia was 191 million in January 2022. This number has increased by 12.35% compared to the previous year of 170 million people ("Pengguna Media Sosial Di Indonesia Capai 191 Juta Pada 2022" n.d.). The use of the internet as a source of information and learning also occurs in religious knowledge. Many sites or websites that discuss religious materials. These sites and websites can be easily accessed by the public because they are a source of public

information. One group that often uses the internet and social media as a source of information is students. Students who are part of the Z generation, become a generational group where almost every activity is carried out by utilizing technology. Their access to information is very easy, including in obtaining information related to religious knowledge. Students can learn religious knowledge, not only through studies organized by groups, mosques, or universities. However, they can also learn through online studies using social media. Even various sites or websites can also be easily accessed by students to study religious knowledge.

This phenomenon is one of the impacts of the development of information sources that are influenced by technological developments. This provides great benefits to increase and develop student knowledge. But on the other hand, it is also vulnerable to being a source of wrong information. Especially now, hoax information can easily spread and be trusted by the public. One of the fake news is the news that there are victims of the corona virus in 2020 in Ambon. The two suspects are suspected of spreading hoaxes through social media. In this case the two hoax spreaders were arrested by the police (Upaya et al. 2021). So believing in incorrect information can be a fatal mistake, especially if the information is related to religion. A person's understanding and practice of religion is not in accordance with actual religious teachings or there will be religious deviation. Therefore, researchers are interested in knowing how students get religious information through websites and other online media. The focus is on researching websites that are sources of information for students in studying religion and the reasons they believe the information they have obtained through these websites. Through this research, it is hoped that it can provide an overview of students' digital literacy skills, especially related to religious knowledge. So that it can then be considered in developing various sources of information related to religious knowledge that are relevant to the needs and characteristics of students.

RESEARCH METHODS

This research is a research that uses a qualitative approach with descriptive analysis. The Indonesian Islamic University was the chosen location for conducting this research because it represents an Islamic university with various facilities that are updated with technological developments. This facility can be used by students in learning many things.



Informants in this study were students of the Islamic University of Indonesia from various study programs and various years which were determined through a purposive sampling technique. The data were collected through in-depth interviews with informants and observing informants in the process of studying religion through the website. Furthermore, the data is processed through 3 stages of data analysis, namely data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusions.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Indonesian Islamic University students are among those who are active in participating in various religious studies activities. This is evidenced by the many religious activities held by faculties, universities, and by the takmir of the Ulil Albab Mosque. In the leadership structure at the Islamic University of Indonesia, there are several structural positions that are responsible for managing and developing students' abilities in understanding religion. Related to the activities of students studying religious knowledge independently, this study found that many students use the internet to obtain religious information or to learn religious knowledge. Students tend to look for information on websites which are more flexible and can be accessed using mobile phones. Websites that are sources of information also vary, both those managed by socio-religious organizations and those managed by individuals. In general, there are 6 websites that are widely used by students as a source of information in studying Islam, namely:

1. Muslim.or.id

This website is managed by students and alumni based in Yogyakarta, under the Yogyakarta Al-Atsari Islamic Education Foundation. The main purpose of this website is to serve as a medium for preaching Islamiyyah Ahlu Sunnah wal Jama'ah in cyberspace. Its motto is "Purifying Aqidah, Spreading Sunnah". The motto purify aqidah was chosen because the administrators considered that there was a lot of confusion in understanding Islam among the people, especially in Indonesia. So with this website, it is hoped that it will become one of the means to purify faith. Meanwhile, the motto "Spreading the Sunna" was chosen because currently it is considered that there are many worships carried out by the community that do not originate from the teachings of the Prophet. Therefore, through



the da'wah carried out by this website it becomes a means to spread the sunnah of the Prophet, so as to eliminate the existing bid'ahs.

2. Konsultasisyariah.com

Konsultasisyariah.com is a site that is a means of da'wah which is part of the Yufid Network. Yufid is a Creative Team consisting of a group of young people who aspire to benefit humans, by creating valid Islamic educational content, in accordance with the understanding of the Prophet sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam and his companions. Then distribute it in the form of digital da'wah content for free to anyone. Konsultasisyariah.com presents a variety of questions and answers about the problems of daily life. On this site, discussions of cases and answers are presented in a clear and scientific manner, based on the arguments of the Qur'an and Sunnah, as well as the statements of the scholars. This site was formed with the hope that it will become a scientific online sharia treasure, which will make it easier for Muslims to find answers to problems that occur around them (Konsultasisyariah.com).

3. Rumaysho

Rumaysho is a site formed by Abu Rumaysho Muhammad Abduh Tuasikal or commonly known as Ustadz Abduh Tuasikal. This Rumaysho site is very popular. This site is an Islamic da'wah site that is rich in knowledge, full of proof, and has many benefits. This website is taken from the name of ustadz abduh Tuasikal's first child, Rumaysho Tuasikal (triadi, 2018).

4. Suara Muhammadiyah

Suara Muhammadiyah was originally a magazine published by the Islamic movement organization Muhammadiyah. At the beginning of this magazine's publication, it was written as Soewara Moehamdijah, which was later shortened to SM. This magazine was published in 1916. Suara Muhammadiyah is one of the oldest mass media in Indonesia that has ever been published and has never stopped publishing until now. Suara Muhammadiyah contains various kinds of articles, both articles containing Islamic teachings, elements of education, social, knowledge, and economics, as well as general ones. During the movement to liberate Indonesia this magazine also played an active role in supporting Indonesian independence (Wikipedia).



5. Nu Online

NU Online is the most popular Islamic da'wah site in Indonesia. Authoritative sources become references in online NU content. This site provides a variety of religious information services that promote tolerant and moderate principles (Wikipedia).

6. Youtube.com

YouTube provides services to users to be able to watch, upload, and share videos. In addition, YouTube also features a variety of video content produced by users or content creators, including TV clips, music videos and film clips. The site also features amateur content such as short original videos, video blogs and provides educational videos. The average content on YouTube is uploaded by individuals, even though YouTube has entered into partnerships with several organizations or companies (Wikipedia)

Some of the reasons students believe the information they get from the website are:

1. The ustad who delivered the material has an understanding of ahlussunnah wal jamaah Ustad or religious leaders have a central role in the spread of Islam. In formal and informal learning activities, the ustadz is the most important part. An ustadz plays two roles at the same time in society, namely being an educator and being able to transform the knowledge he has in everyday life to face the challenges of the global era. An ustadz does not only play a role in conveying da'wah orally but also must be able to show commendable behavior. Apart from the physical aspect, an ustadz must also include the psychological aspect. Thus, all the actions and attitudes that exist in an ustadz become a description of his personality. An ustadz is said to be good if he has good behavior. Vice versa if the behavior is bad then it will be considered bad personality (Zahra, 2017). Therefore, choosing an ustad or teacher who guides in studying religion is one of the first steps that can determine one's learning process. Currently, in cyberspace, many ustadz create resources for studying religion, whether in the form of videos, images, or text. With diverse scientific backgrounds, the information provided by the ustadz in their content may also be different. Especially with the difference in understanding of religion or the way they understand religion. This is one of the considerations for students in selecting religious information/knowledge they obtain from the internet. Students tend to trust



knowledge or information from ustad who has an understanding of ahlussunnah wal jamaah. Ahlussunnah Wal Jamaah if interpreted separately, namely assunnah and ahl jama'ah. As sunnah means behavior or al hadith in Arabic but as sunnah also has another meaning, namely the path of the Prophet Muhammad. Al jama'ah comes from the word jama'a-yajmau which means gathering. But if the word yajma'u jama'atan is revised it means agreement. So that it can be interpreted that al-Jamaah is holding fast to the rope of Allah SWT, there is no dispute or division. After growing, ahl al sunnah has the meaning of adherents of the sunnah of the Prophet SAW and al jamaah has the understanding of adherents of the teachings of the companions of the Prophet SAW. In Indonesia, the ahlussunnah wal jamaah school is very popular. This understanding is called laqab ASWAJA. Among the Indonesian people, the ahlussunnah wal jamaah concept has the characteristic of focusing on maintaining balance. 1). monotheism, to maintain a balance between the arguments of aqli and naqli. 2). Sharia, which focuses on Islamic teachings, namely the Koran and hadith. 3). Sufism, namely to prevent extreme aqeedah (Sori Monang, 2022). This is because this understanding is considered to be most in accordance with the Islamic teachings spread by the Prophet.

2. The explanation from the website is accompanied by clear naqli and aqli arguments, and sanad.

To strengthen, an explanation of recommendations and prohibitions in religion, it is necessary to have arguments so that what is conveyed has a foundation.

- a. Naqli

Naqli propositions are the foundations derived from the Koran and hadith to be used as evidence and or reasons for truth or untruth. The naqli proposition applies flexibly and its truth is absolute and certain. The word of Allah SWT and the sunnah of Rasulullah SAW is the source of this argument. Another meaning of theorem naqli is something that is taken from one place to another. Which means, they wrote down the hadiths and then copied them and relied on the original sources. The proposition naqli is proof of the text of the verses of

the Al-Quran and has essential and absolute truth. Each of the mujtahid has a different interpretation regarding the text even though the naqli argument originates from the Al-Quran and hadith.

b. Aqli

The proposition of aqli is proof of whether something is wrong or right based on considerations of human reason. The proposition that is born from human reason is called the aqli argument. The proposition of aqli can also be understood as a rational argument and is obtained from logical thinking. In discussing the science of aqidah, what is used is the proposition of aqli because aqeedah is intended for people who think rationally. All things related to aqidah are not allowed to join in but must be believed for themselves the truth. As the word of Allah SWT in surah Yunus verse 100 which means, "And no one will believe except by Allah's permission, and Allah will inflict wrath on those who do not use their common sense," (Nuraini, 2022).

c. Sanad

Sanad is a chain that continues to the Prophet Muhammad, both in hadith and scientific transmission. The scholars still maintain their scientific sanad because they remember that scientific sanad has a very important position. Recitation of religious knowledge one must have a scientific background so that the chain continues with the scholars of each generation up to the generation of friends who received religious understanding from the Prophet Muhammad. In the muqaddimah KH Sahal Mahfudz, alhamdulillah al-ladzi takhsa' ummatan muhammadiyahata bi silsilati al-isnad it is stated that one of the specialties of the people of the Prophet Muhammad is the continuity of the sanad that is not interrupted (SUHENDRA, 2019).

3. Relevant to the knowledge that students have.

To be able to understand a text well, we must have background knowledge that can support us in understanding the text. Reading ability is largely determined by background knowledge, reading experience, ability to master knowledge related to text content, and linguistic aspects. Therefore, reading is an interactive communication between the reader and the reader. Not all of the meanings contained in the reading can be understood by the



reader, sometimes a reading only provides instructions for the reader on how to arrange the expected meaning of the knowledge that has been previously obtained. This shows that the information contained in the reading can be understood by the reader if he integrates it with the understanding or knowledge that has been obtained before (Shofiah, 2017). So it is important for us to choose reading material that is in accordance with the knowledge we have obtained, especially for a student. The reading or information can be a support for the arguments issued so that the information conveyed by students is easily accepted by listeners.

4. The website is managed by a trusted source

Quality information is obtained from quality sources as well. There are many information search sites on the internet, but not all sites provide decent information as a reference. Reporting from www.mediaindonesia.com 10, there are at least eight hundred thousand sites that produce. This data is based on the Ministry of Communication and Informatics (Rahmatullah, 2018).

CONCLUSION

The conclusion of this study shows that there are several religious websites that are often used by students as a source of learning about religion. These websites include muslim.or.id, Konsultasisyariah.com, Rumaysho, Suara Muhammadiyah, Nu Online, and Youtube.com. These websites are trusted by students as references or learning resources because they are filled with ustad who are trusted and have an understanding of *ahlussunnah wal jamaah*, can provide actual information because they include the arguments of *aqli* and *naqli*, are relevant to the knowledge possessed by students, and are managed by trusted sources. Information obtained by students from the website is used for personal gain, such as reading material, or used for wider interests, for example to make posters as *da'wah* content

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