



Implementation of Zikir as a Spiritual Strengthening Media in Dayah Jamiah Al-Aziziyah Dawah Cadre Training

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ABSTRACT

Zikr is an act of worship that is intended to facilitate a closer relationship with Allah SWT and to reinforce individual spiritual connections. This study aims to examine the role of dhikr as a tool for spiritual growth in the training of da'wah personnel at Dayah Jamiah Al-Aziziyah. A qualitative approach with a phenomenological design was employed to gain insight into the implementation of dhikr, its impact on the spirituality of cadres, and the factors that facilitate or impede its effectiveness. Data were collected through the following methods: participatory observation, in-depth interviews, and documentation studies. The findings indicated that zikr is meticulously incorporated into the daily regimen and training program. The cadres report positive outcomes, including an enhanced sense of proximity to Allah, inner tranquility, emotional regulation, and elevated motivation in their preaching. Furthermore, zikr facilitates the strengthening of solidarity and social relations among cadres. However, the consistency of dhikr implementation is occasionally hindered by obstacles such as busy schedules. The success of the program is contingent upon the provision of caregiver support, technical guidance, and adequate facilities. The findings indicate that zikr is not merely a routine act of worship; it is also a tool for character development in the context of da'wah, fostering qualities such as patience, humility, and inclusivity. Ongoing assessment and program refinement are essential to enhance its efficacy. This model is a valuable reference for other Islamic educational institutions seeking to cultivate exemplary da'wah cadres.

Zikir merupakan ibadah yang bertujuan mendekatkan diri kepada Allah SWT dan memperkuat hubungan spiritual individu. Penelitian ini bertujuan mengeksplorasi implementasi zikir sebagai media penguatan spiritual dalam pelatihan kader dakwah di Dayah Jamiah Al-Aziziyah. Pendekatan kualitatif dengan desain fenomenologis digunakan untuk memahami pelaksanaan zikir, dampaknya terhadap spiritualitas kader, serta faktor pendukung dan penghambatnya. Data dikumpulkan melalui observasi partisipatif, wawancara mendalam,



dan studi dokumentasi. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa zikir diintegrasikan dalam rutinitas harian dan kurikulum pelatihan secara sistematis. Para kader merasakan dampak positif berupa peningkatan kedekatan dengan Allah, kedamaian batin, pengendalian emosi, serta motivasi tinggi dalam berdakwah. Zikir bersama juga mempererat solidaritas dan hubungan sosial di antara kader. Namun, hambatan seperti jadwal padat terkadang mengurangi konsistensi pelaksanaan zikir. Dukungan pengasuh, panduan teknis, dan fasilitas memadai menjadi faktor penting keberhasilan program. Kesimpulan menunjukkan bahwa zikir tidak hanya ibadah rutin, tetapi juga alat pembentuk karakter dakwah yang sabar, rendah hati, dan inklusif. Evaluasi rutin dan pengembangan program diperlukan untuk meningkatkan efektivitasnya. Model ini relevan untuk diadopsi oleh institusi pendidikan Islam lain yang berorientasi pada pembentukan kader dakwah berkualitas.

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A. INTRODUCTION

The practice of Zikr, or remembrance of Allah, is considered a highly recommended form of worship in Islam. It aims to bring individuals closer to Allah and strengthen their spiritual relationship with Him. This practice not only has personal significance, but also brings about significant spiritual changes in the lives of individuals and communities (Nizam Bin Abd Aziz et al., 2023). In Dayah Jamiah Al-Aziziyah, a *pesantren* or *dayah* (Islamic boarding school) in Aceh, Indonesia, Zikr is integrated into the training of da'wah cadres, emphasizing the importance of spiritual, moral, and intellectual strength in shaping the personality of these cadres (Irhas et al., 2023)).

Spiritual strengthening is seen as a fundamental aspect of da'wah cadre training. While da'wah cadres are required to have broad scientific knowledge, they must also display deep spiritual strength (Ar Ridho & Safira Malia Hayati, 2022). Zikr, as part of the Islamic tradition, plays a crucial role in building a strong spiritual character for these cadres so they can carry out their duties with dedication and sincerity (Wulandari, 2023).

Dayah Jamiah Al-Aziziyah recognizes the importance of integrating Zikr into the training curriculum of da'wah cadres. This approach not only focuses on imparting technical da'wah skills, but also aims to cultivate high spirituality in the cadres. Therefore, Zikr is not merely a routine worship practice, but also a planned medium for character building and spiritual strengthening (Irlina et al., 2024).

The tradition of Zikr at Dayah Jamiah Al-Aziziyah has been deeply ingrained in the daily lives of the students. Its regular implementation has positive impacts on spiritual education and increases awareness of the tasks and challenges of da'wah. Through Zikr, the students are trained to embody Allah's presence in every aspect of their lives, making the tasks and challenges of their da'wah more meaningful and effective (Daniyarti et al.,



2023).

However, the implementation of Zikr as a means of spiritual strengthening in the training of da'wah cadres requires a structured and systematic approach. This entails a comprehensive understanding of the concept of Zikr, its methods of implementation, and how to evaluate its impact on the cadres. With the right approach, Zikr can be an effective instrument in shaping the personality of spiritually resilient cadres (Nur Sabila Sa'diah et al., 2024).

Moreover, spiritual strengthening through Zikr can help da'wah cadres tackle the various challenges they face in society, including resistance from the community, moral challenges, and social pressures (Araniri et al., 2023). The spiritual strength gained through Zikr empowers them to face these challenges with confidence and patience.

This research aims to explore the implementation of Zikr in the training of da'wah cadres at Dayah Jamiah Al-Aziziyah. It focuses on understanding the mechanisms of implementation, the impact on spiritual strengthening, and the factors that support or hinder its implementation. The research seeks to provide a deeper understanding of the role of Zikr in the formation of quality da'wah cadres.

The importance of Zikr for spiritual strengthening is not limited to *pesantren* education but also extends to the lives of Muslims in general. Zikr as a form of worship can serve as a solution to various spiritual problems faced by Muslims in the modern era (Andrew et al., 2023). This research hopes to identify and apply best practices in the implementation of Zikr more widely.

In conclusion, spiritual strengthening through Zikr encompasses various dimensions, both at the individual and community levels (Sari & Marhaban, 2023). By integrating Zikr into the training of da'wah cadres, Dayah Jamiah Al-Aziziyah provides a concrete example of how Islamic values can be practically applied to shape individuals who excel spiritually, morally, and intellectually. This research serves as an important step in understanding the role of Zikr as a medium for spiritual strengthening in da'wah cadre training and contributes to the development of Islamic education focused on spiritual strengthening and character building.

Literature Review

The practice of zikir (dhikr), or the remembrance of Allah, is a fundamental aspect of Islamic spirituality that is widely recognized for its role in strengthening faith and emotional resilience. Scholars such as Al-Ghazali emphasize that zikir serves as a means of purifying the heart and increasing divine awareness, leading to inner peace and spiritual clarity (Supriadi, 2020). Contemporary studies further support this view, highlighting how regular engagement in zikir reduces anxiety, improves emotional regulation, and enhances mental focus (Mansor et al., 2023). In Islamic educational settings, particularly *pesantren* and *dayah*, zikir is not only a form of worship, but also an essential component in shaping spiritually resilient students (Irhas et al., 2023).

Beyond its spiritual benefits, zikir is also instrumental in character development, particularly in the formation of da'wah cadres who must embody patience, sincerity, and humility in their preaching efforts. Studies demonstrate that zikir fosters self-discipline, enhances emotional control, and strengthens moral integrity, which are crucial attributes for effective Islamic propagation (Sari & Marhaban, 2023). At Dayah Jamiah Al-Aziziyah,



the systematic incorporation of zikir into daily and weekly routines has exhibited favorable outcomes, including enhanced discipline, motivation, and the capacity to manage da'wah challenges with composure among cadres (Daniyarti et al., 2023). Furthermore, collective zikir sessions have been shown to promote solidarity and fortify social bonds among cadres, thereby reinforcing the communal spirit indispensable for da'wah activities (Arifin, 2023).

The effectiveness of zikir in enhancing da'wah competence is a widely acknowledged concept in Islamic scholarship. Regular engagement in zikir has been linked to increased confidence, mental resilience, and sincerity in delivering Islamic teachings (Hijrah, 2022). Testimonies from da'wah cadres at Dayah Jamiah Al-Aziziyah substantiate the notion that zikir assists them in maintaining focus on their mission, equipping them with the capacity to confront community resistance, moral dilemmas, and social pressures with patience and wisdom (Tgk. Abdul Hadi, interview). Furthermore, zikir serves as a wellspring of spiritual energy, prompting preachers to recognize that their efforts are ultimately directed towards Allah, thereby mitigating the risk of burnout and fortifying their commitment to the dissemination of Islamic teachings (Andrew et al., 2023).

Notwithstanding the numerous benefits associated with zikir, challenges persist in the realm of ensuring the consistent practice of zikir among da'wah cadres. The intensive academic and da'wah training schedules often result in time constraints, making it difficult for cadres to maintain a disciplined zikir routine (Tgk. Faisal, interview). Additionally, some students initially struggle to grasp the spiritual depth of zikir, perceiving it as mere repetition rather than a transformative practice (Macdonald, 2012). However, the efficacy of structured mentoring, adaptive scheduling, and institutional support from caregivers in maintaining the role of zikir in da'wah training has been demonstrated (Yazid & Hana, 2023). These findings suggest that with continuous evaluation and program refinement, zikir can serve as a powerful tool in shaping spiritually resilient and morally grounded da'wah cadres.

B. METHODS

This research employs a qualitative approach with a phenomenological design to gain a profound understanding of the implementation of zikir as a medium for spiritual strengthening in the training of da'wah cadres at Dayah Jamiah Al-Aziziyah (Kusuma et al., 2023). This approach was selected due to the fact that phenomenology permits researchers to investigate the direct experiences of participants with regard to the practice of zikir that they engage in and its impact on their spiritual strengthening. The research was focused on elucidating the mechanism of zikir implementation, its influence on spiritual development, and the factors that facilitate or impede its implementation (Jahja, 2023).

The research was conducted at Dayah Jamiah Al-Aziziyah, which is renowned for its robust religious tradition and meticulous da'wah cadre training program. The research subjects were selected from among the caregivers of the dayah, the participants in the training program for da'wah cadres, and other personnel who were involved in the implementation of activities related to zikir. Purposive sampling techniques were employed to select informants deemed capable of providing pertinent and comprehensive data on the research topic (Sugiyono, 2008).

The data collection methods employed included participatory observation, in-depth



interviews, and documentation studies (Sugiyono, 2008). The objective of the observations was to gain a direct understanding of the implementation of zikr activities, including an examination of the routines, methods employed, and responses of the participants (Ahyar et al., 2024). In-depth interviews were conducted with key informants, such as dayah caregivers and dakwah cadres, to elicit their perspectives on the role of zikr in training. The documentation comprised activity records, curriculum, and training materials related to zikr.

Data analysis was conducted through thematic analysis techniques, where the data that had been collected was categorized based on the main themes that emerged during the research (Jahja, 2023). The researcher also applied data triangulation techniques to ensure the validity and reliability of the findings, by comparing the results of observations, interviews, and analyzed documents. Through this approach, the research is expected to provide a comprehensive picture of the implementation of zikr as a medium for spiritual strengthening at Dayah Jamiah Al-Aziziyah.

C. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The implementation of zikr at Dayah Jamiah Al-Aziziyah is well integrated into the daily activities of santri and is a major part of the training of da'wah cadres. Daily zikr is carried out consistently before and after congregational prayers, while weekly zikr is carried out in special forums, such as the Friday night zikr assembly (Macdonald, 2012). These activities are designed to build spiritual closeness to Allah and prepare the santri to face the challenges of da'wah. Tgk. Miftahuddin, the dayah caregiver, stated that zikr is not just routine worship, but also a spiritual exercise that strengthens the mentality of cadres.

The curriculum for da'wah cadre training in this dayah includes zikr as one of the compulsory subjects. Zikr is taught both theoretically in spirituality classes and practically in daily activities (Masykar, 2024). Researchers found that this integration is done to ensure that santri not only understand the concept of zikr, but can also internalize its values in their lives and da'wah activities. In an interview, a santri mentioned that the implementation of structured zikr helps them feel calmer and more focused.

The results showed that zikr had a significant impact on improving the spirituality of the cadres. Most of the cadres stated that they felt inner calm and a deeper closeness to Allah after routinely performing zikr. One of the participants, Tgk. Abdul Hadi, said, "Zikr helps me overcome the pressure and difficulties in the task of da'wah." This shows that zikr serves as an important tool for maintaining emotional stability and spiritual motivation (Mansor et al., 2023).

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1.1 Friday night zikr activities of dayah jamiah al-aziziyah da'wah cadres

Zikr also increases cadres' enthusiasm and confidence in carrying out da'wah tasks

(Hijrah, 2022). Some santri mentioned that they were more motivated to preach after experiencing the benefits of zikr firsthand. Tgk. Nurul Aini, one of the participants, said, "Zikr reminds me of the main purpose of da'wah, which is to convey goodness based on faith in Allah." This reflects how zikr is a source of inspiration in daily da'wah activities.

However, the implementation of zikr in this dayah is not entirely without obstacles. Some santri revealed that the busy schedule of activities often makes it difficult for them to maintain the consistency of zikr. For example, when there are big events or intensive academic activities, time for zikr is sometimes reduced. However, support from caregivers and facilities such as a special room for zikr help minimize these obstacles.

Theoretically, the results of this study are in line with the views of classical scholars such as Al-Ghazali, who emphasized that zikr is an effective method to cleanse the heart and get closer to Allah (Supriadi, 2020). In the context of da'wah, zikr helps cadres to maintain their intentions and face challenges with sincerity. The structured implementation at Dayah Jamiah Al-Aziziyah shows how Islamic values can be internalized in the daily lives of santri.

The main supporting factors in the successful implementation of zikr in this dayah are committed caregivers, adequate facilities, and clear written guidelines (Yazid & Hana, 2023). Dayah caregivers play an active role in motivating cadres to carry out zikr, while facilities such as a special room for zikr and guidebooks strengthen these efforts. On the other hand, obstacles such as time constraints and lack of consistency among some cadres are still challenges that need to be overcome.



1.2 Daily zikr activities of santri dakwah cadres dayah jamiah al-aziziyah

With these results, it can be concluded that zikr not only has an impact on the spiritual strengthening of individuals, but also on the ability of cadres to carry out da'wah with more confidence and dedication (Munjirin et al., 2023). The findings of this study provide practical recommendations for other dayahs that wish to adopt a similar model, as well as a foundation for further research to explore the psychological impact of zikr on da'wah cadres.



The daily zikr that is consistently practiced by Dayah Jamiah Al-Aziziyah's da'wah cadres has a significant impact on their spiritual discipline. In an interview, Tgk. Nurul Rahayu revealed that the routine of zikr after every congregational prayer made her more disciplined in maintaining other worship. She said, "After getting used to zikr, I feel something is missing if I forget other sunnah acts of worship." This shows how zikr becomes a catalyst in building a better worship routine.

In addition, zikr also affects the mindset of da'wah cadres in facing challenges. One cadre, Tgk. Musafir, explained that through zikr he learned to be more patient and calm. "When I feel upset or stressed, remembering Allah through zikr helps me to refocus on the purpose of da'wah," he said. This experience indicates that zikr acts as an important self- control mechanism for da'wah cadres.

The zikr activities conducted together in the weekly zikr group provide a deep collective spiritual experience (Mansor et al., 2023). Most of the cadres feel that zikr together strengthens their relationship, both with Allah and fellow group members. Tgk. Afifatun Nafis, a santri, said, "I feel spiritually stronger when I hear the voices of my friends zikr together. It's like an energy that we share with each other." This experience shows that zikr also has a social dimension that strengthens togetherness in the dawah community.

However, not all cadres have the same experience. In an interview with a santri who became a da'wah cadre named Tgk. Paisal, he revealed that it was initially difficult to follow the daily zikr routine due to a lack of spiritual awareness. "I used to feel that zikr was just repetition of words, but after some time, I started to feel its meaning," he explained. This adaptation process shows the importance of intensive mentoring in guiding cadres to understand the value of zikr (Macdonald, 2012).

In addition to personal impact, the implementation of zikr also provides benefits in strengthening the mentality of cadres as preachers (Daniyarti et al., 2023). One of the senior teachers, Tgk. Mustasir, shared his experience when facing an audience that was difficult to accept da'wah. "When I start to feel hopeless, I take the time to do zikr. It helps me remember that the results of da'wah are in the hands of Allah, not in my hands," he explained. This perspective helps cadres to remain istiqamah in da'wah.

The results of this study also found that cadres who regularly practice zikr are better able to maintain consistency in their da'wah activities. Tgk. Siti Rifqa, a santri, revealed, "Zikr helps me to always remember the main purpose of da'wah, which is to instill goodness on the basis of faith in Allah." This indicates that zikr not only provides spiritual strengthening, but also strengthens the intention in da'wah.

In the implementation of zikr, assistance from dayah caregivers is very important. Tgk. Munawir, one of the caregivers, explains that they not only provide technical guidance on zikr, but also explain the meaning behind the words of zikr. "We ensure that each cadre understands why they are doing zikr, so that zikr becomes not only a routine, but also a meaningful spiritual experience," he says. This approach helps cadres internalize the values of zikr deeply.



In summary, the impact is as follows.

Table 1. the Impact of Zikr Activities for Da'wah Cadres

No.	Main topic	Description of findings	Interviewee statement
1	Implementation of Zikir	Dhikr is performed on a daily basis, preceding and following congregational prayer. In contrast, weekly Dhikr is conducted in a dedicated forum. Furthermore, the practice of dhikr constitutes an integral component of the da'wah training curriculum.	"Zikr is not only routine worship, but also spiritual training that strengthens the mentality of santri." - Tgk. Miftahuddin
2	Effects on Spirituality	A majority of cadres report an increased sense of proximity to Allah and inner peace following regular engagement in dhikr.	"Dhikr helps me overcome the pressure and difficulties in my da'wah duties." - Tgk. Abdul Hadi
3	Motivation for Da'wah	Zikir has been observed to increase the enthusiasm of cadres for da'wah, with a notable increase in sincerity and consistency of intention.	"Zikir reminds me of the main purpose of da'wah, which is to impart goodness based on faith in Allah." - Tgk. Nurul Aini



4	Challenges of Zikr Consistency	The demanding schedule of activities often presents a significant challenge for cadres in maintaining consistency in the implementation of zikr.	"Sometimes it is difficult to be consistent because there are many other activities that also require time." - Tgk. Faisal
5	Social Dimensions of Zikr	Zikr has the capacity to foster a collective spiritual experience and to reinforce the bonds between cadres.	"Hearing my friends dhikr together makes me feel spiritually stronger." - Tgk. Afifatun Nafis
6	Building Da'wah Character	Through the practice of dhikr, cadres develop a sense of humility and inclusivity in their approach to da'wah.	"Zikir has taught me to appreciate the process of da'wah more." - Tgk. Mustasir
7	Emotional Control	Zikir functions as a self-control mechanism that enables cadres to maintain composure and focus in the face of challenges.	"When I feel upset or stressed, dhikr helps me to refocus on the purpose of da'wah." - Tgk. Musafir
8	Role of Caregiver Support	Caregivers provide technical guidance and elucidate the significance of dhikr so that cadres comprehend its spiritual purpose, not merely the routine.	"We make sure that each cadre understands why they are doing dhikr, so that it becomes a meaningful spiritual experience." - Tgk. Munawir

As for the obstacles experienced by cadres, such as time constraints due to busy schedules, this has become a major concern of the dayah. As a solution, the daily zikr schedule is adjusted so that it does not collide with other activities. According to Tgk. Miftahuddin, "We want to ensure that zikr remains an integral part of the cadres' lives without reducing the intensity of other activities." This policy shows flexibility in managing time without reducing the spiritual value of zikr activities (Andrew et al., 2023).



In detailed interviews, multiple members of the group indicated that the practice of zikr has a beneficial effect on their ability to remain focused and resilient in the face of various life challenges. Tgk. Musafir asserted that through the practice of zikr, he experienced a sense of tranquility when confronted with the vicissitudes of life. He stated that when he recalls Allah, all difficulties appear to be mitigated. This illustrates the efficacy of zikr as a coping mechanism.

Moreover, zikr facilitates an enhanced comprehension of the essence of da'wah as a meritorious endeavor among the cadres. Tgk. Azhari, a senior santri, disclosed that through the practice of zikr, he developed a greater sense of humility and learned to refrain from imposing his views on others. "Zikir taught me to appreciate the process of da'wah," he elucidated. This value is of great consequence in the formation of polite and inclusive da'wah.

Furthermore, the social dimension of zikr has a beneficial impact on the formation of solidarity among cadres (Arifin, 2023). Through the practice of zikr, the cadres experience a heightened sense of connection and solidarity with one another. "We provide mutual support in the context of da'wah activities through the practice of prayer and zikr together," stated Tgk. Azhari. This sense of solidarity serves to reinforce the bonds of community, which in turn provide the foundation for cooperation in da'wah.

The impact of zikr is also evident in the enhancement of the social ethics of the cadres (Akhmad Choirur Rozikin et al., 2024). Tgk. Mustasir observed that those who regularly engage in zikr tend to exhibit increased levels of politeness and empathy towards others. "Zikr facilitates greater awareness of God's presence, which in turn improves attitudes towards others," he stated. This demonstrates that zikr has an impact on not only the spiritual aspect, but also the social dimension of cadres.

As a recommendation for future action, this study suggests that the zikr program should undergo regular evaluation, particularly in order to assess its impact on cadres' da'wah competence. Through this evaluation, the dayah can ensure that the zikr program remains relevant and effective in forming quality da'wah cadres.

The findings of this study offer empirical evidence that zikr plays a pivotal role in fostering the spiritual and mental development of da'wah cadres. The success of this program can be attributed to two key factors: structured implementation and intensive mentoring. Therefore, zikr can serve as a model for other educational institutions with comparable objectives.

E. CONCLUSION

The incorporation of zikr as a tool for spiritual fortification within the training of da'wah cadres at Dayah Jamiah Al-Aziziyah has yielded notable outcomes in the formation of character and discipline among the cadres. Through the daily recitation of the zikr and participation in collective zikr activities, the cadres not only attain inner peace but also enhance the quality of their spiritual relationship with Allah SWT. This enables them to become more patient, focused, and resolute in the face of the challenges inherent to da'wah. This impact is reflected in the experiences of cadres who perceive the benefits of zikr as a



Furthermore, zikr plays an essential role in fostering social cohesion among cadres. Collective spiritual experiences, such as those fostered through joint zikr activities, contribute to the strengthening of relationships between members and the fostering of a spirit of togetherness in carrying out da'wah tasks. The success of this program is contingent upon the provision of intensive mentoring from dayah caregivers, particularly with regard to ensuring that each cadre possesses a comprehensive understanding of the meaning of zikr. As a result of this assistance, zikr is no longer merely a routine practice; it has also become a means of strengthening the inclusive and humble character of da'wah.

Nevertheless, the program continues to face challenges, particularly in maintaining the consistency of cadres amidst their demanding schedules. Adaptive approaches, such as schedule adjustments and periodic evaluations, are imperative to enhance the efficacy of the program. Therefore, it can be argued that zikr represents a pertinent spiritual strengthening model that can be effectively applied within the context of da'wah cadre education. With continuous optimization and evaluation, this program has the potential to serve as a model for similar institutions in the formation of a qualified cadre of da'wah professionals.

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G. AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

1. Conception and Research Design: The lead author was responsible for the conceptualization of the study, the design of the methodology, and the formulation of the theoretical framework.
2. Data Collection: The research team, led by the lead author, conducted interviews, observations, and qualitative data analysis.
3. Analysis and Interpretation: The research team analyzed the results and discussed the findings based on relevant theories.
4. Manuscript Writing: The lead author drafted the manuscript, and team members assisted in editing and refinement.
5. Revision and Finalization: The entire team engaged in a revision process based on feedback from Dayah caregivers and independent reviewers before the manuscript was finalized.



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