

## Implementation of Usrah Program for Sriti Teachers: A Study in Islamic Core Integration Primary School (Sriti) Al - Muttaqin Taiping Perak Malaysia

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### Abstract

*The Usrah program is synonymous with the preaching movement which is one of the educational activities in fostering the improvement of self-identity and spirituality of an individual preacher. Teachers who are educators are part of the preacher in shaping the school students. This article aims to examine the implementation of the Usrah Program conducted on the teachers of Islamic Core Integration Primary School (SRITI) al-Muttaqin, Perak Malaysia. The SRITI school in Malaysia is part of the private schools run by NGOs that aim to spread da'wah to the community. The research methodology used the interview method with the SRITI al-Muttaqin school administration in obtaining information on the implementation of the Usrah program that was conducted. The results of the study found that the Usrah Program conducted is an official program that aims to improve the ability of teachers to educate students alongside teachers as preachers.*

**Keywords:** Usrah, Da'wah, teacher, SRITI Al - Muttaqin.

### Introduction

Usrah is a concept of da'wah that forms the self of every human being who receives or follows the knowledge given. According to Norsaadah Din (2012), it states that the Prophet Muhammad SAW started usrah in the spread of Islamic da'wah during the era of Ignorant Arab. This usrah was accompanied by several companions to provide an understanding of the monotheistic faith of Islam which is derived from the revelation of Allah SWT. The concept of usrah was continued by Imam Hassan Al - Banna (1906 - 1949) by reintroducing it to Muslims through da'wah activities in the Ikhwanul Muslimin movement in Egypt (Muhamad Hafiz Suliman and Dr Mohd Isa Hamzah 2019). In Malaysia, according to Nurulain Abd Rahim and Razaleigh Muhamat (2018), usrah has taken root and developed to spread the message of Islam in 1970. It can be identified that there is a phenomenon related to the awareness of Islamic teachings. Mashitah Sulaiman and Mohammad Redzuan Othman stated that one of the reasons for the increase in the spread of Islam was due to the relationship between Egypt and Malaysia through the great influence of Malaysian students who continued their studies at the University of Al-Azhar. These students then returned to Malaysia and spread their ideology and culture there.

As the consequence, the evolving of usrah program in Malaysia has become a habit for educational institutions, especially in the religious stream schools. The definition of usrah is synonymous with the word education, which means a process of character development of a human being with the goal of becoming a perfect human being and able to dedicate oneself to Allah SWT wholeheartedly (Mahayudin Yahaya 2005). Usrah has three main pillars, namely Ta'aruf (knowing each other), Tafahum (understanding each other) and Takaful (helping each other) (Norsaadah binti Din, 2019).

According to Saedah Siraj (2003) and Nor Raudah Hj Siren (2020), a quality education will build a generation of quality and excellent Muslims. The formation of the curriculum in schools, specifically in the primary education, which influences the spiritual and physical development of the children in order to be a human being who is pleasing to Allah SWT in this world and the hereafter. Islamic school education is one of the efforts towards building a good generation of Muslims in terms of personality, knowledge and behavior based on Islam, Iman and Ihsan. Various efforts has been organized to successfully develop the character of the children in order to be a human being who are pleased by Allah SWT.

### Problem Statement

The spread of knowledge with the right teacher is very important as part of the effort to develop a person who can lead the Muslims. According to Kamarul Azmi Jasmi and Ab. Halim Tamuri (2007) that a person who holds the title of teacher or educator is a person who plays an important role in the world of education (Kamarul Azmi Jasmi 2012). This is due to the teacher's job which is to convey or disseminate knowledge to the generations that will develop Muslims and the world. A career as a teacher or educator serves as the trust from Allah SWT, which to be conveyed to people in order to form a new generation of quality.

According to Wan Mohd Zahid (1993) and Sofeah Mohamed et al. (2016) stated that teacher morality plays a very important role in educating the generation that will lead the future of the people and the country. Education based on Islamic teachings sourced from Al-Quran and As-Sunnah is able to build people who are obedient to the commands of Allah SWT. The definition of behavior captured in all actions including speech, attire and procedures performed on a daily basis. Good deeds or behavior are manifested from good morals and in addition with good knowledge (Sofeah Mohamed et al., 2016).

Sekolah Rendah Integrasi Teras Islam (SRITI) is a primary education school under the patronage of Dewan Pemuda Parti Islam Se-Malaysia (PAS) also has teachers who want to build young generation that can lead the Islamic nation and country successfully. In accordance with the curriculum set by the Education Development Department under the PAS Youth Council, the curriculum at SRITI is a learning based on the Primary School Standard Curriculum (KSSR), Diniyah Curriculum (KAFA) and Fardu Ain and Fardu Kifayah (KAFFAH) Curriculum (Siti Aisyah Ibrahim et al.). For that particular reason, teachers who are hired are required to have the foundation of the Islamic teachings. Since SRITI is under the management of PAS, PAS made an approach in the implementation of the curriculum model in schools, among which is the approach of teaching and learning in a thoughtful manner, namely usrah (Muhammad Hafiz bin Suliman and D rMohd Isa bin Hamzah, 2019). The Tarbiah (nurturing) method in PAS has the influence of the Tarbiah method practiced by Ikhawanul Muslimin. Hence, usrah is also being practiced for teachers in SRITI (Nurul Fathonnah Binti Mohd Effendy and Siti Nur Falah Binti Zulkifli, 2016).

Therefore, this study is targeted to SRITI teachers who aim to build a generation based on the Islamic teachings. Furthermore, this study will focus more on the education received by teachers, especially usrah to be used as one of the spiritual nourishment in order for the teacher to prepare themselves in educating their students.

### **Research Objective**

1. To know the concept of usrah carried out by SRITI teachers.
2. To know the reference sources used by SRITI teachers in usrah.
3. To know the effect of usrah carried out on SRITI teachers.

### **Research Methodology**

The research methodology applied to this study is a qualitative type using a design of case study. The data collection techniques are such as observations, interviews and documentation in order to obtain data on the implementation of usrah conducted in schools by the teachers.

The research methodology applied in this study is a qualitative method. The instrument of this study will use the methods of interview, observations and content analysis.

### **Scope Of The Research**

This study will be conducted on the teachers who teach and involved; either directly or indirectly, in the usrah program conducted at the Sekolah Rendah Integrasi Teras Islam (SRITI) Al-Muttaqin Taiping, Perak, Malaysia.

### **Significance Of The Study**

Usrah program is one of the programs conducted in an educational institution or an organization. The implementation of usrah can have a positive or negative impact with the correct understanding in terms of Islamic teachings. Nevertheless, based on previous studies, there are gaps and weaknesses in the study of usrah, specifically at the level of teachers as educators. On that account, the writing of this study will focus more on the implementation of usrah on teachers in religious stream schools that currently carrying the Islamic teachings, namely SRITI.

### **Study Findings And Discussion**

#### **Implementation Of Usrah Program Among Teachers In Sriti Al - Muttaqin Taiping Perak**

Sekolah Rendah Integrasi Teras Islam is an Islamic educational institution at the primary level. SRITI was established under the leadership of Primary School Development, Dewan Pemuda PAS Malaysia which is an educational successor from the Pusat Asuhan Tunas Islam (PASTI). Education at SRITI offers a curriculum that combines the Primary School Standard Curriculum (KSSR) with the Diniyah Curriculum, the Tahfiz Curriculum and also the Fardhu Ain and Fardhu Kifayah Curriculum (KAFFAH). The KAFFAH curriculum is a learning subjects introduced by SRITI which consists of the subjects such as Fiqh Syahadah, Fiqh Taharah, Fiqh Solat, Lughatul Quran and the integration of Islamic syllabus in KSSR subjects (Siti Aisyah et al., 2021). Since SRITI is under the management of PAS, the school management will basically follow the concept of tarbiah management currently held in PAS. This is due to the implementation of PAS preaching which covers the entire level in the organization, including SRITI teachers. SRITI teachers need to prepare themselves before imparting knowledge to students and at the same time act as a role model to students. At SRITI Al-Muttaqin Taiping, teachers are obligated to follow usrah which is managed by the school management, because SRITI teachers automatically become members of PAS.

Hence, PAS has provided several structures of tarbiah for the schools and teachers to follow, in pursuance of developing and building an atmosphere of Islamic teachings. According to the interview, at SRITI Al-Muttaqin, the management has established two types of usrah that is mandatory for all teachers and management involved with the school. Firstly is the usrah among teachers, and the second usrah is usrah between management and teachers. Usrah among teachers is conducted once a week, while usrah between the management and teachers is held once a month. The aim of this usrah is to strengthen the relationship or fellowship between teachers and management. Besides, this usrah is also held to improve and prepare the teachers prior to imparting knowledge to students in school (Ustaz Ainuddin, 2022).

The usrah carried out by the management and the school is based on the preaching concept brought by PAS, which is based on Al-Quran, As-Sunnah and Ijma 'Ulama. Usrah conducted at the school uses a book entitled 'Apa Artinya Saya Memeluk Islam' (What Does It Means I Entered Islam) written by the author Fathi Yakan. This book is used to enable teachers and management to become a true Muslim. The core of usrah begins with the introduction of usrah and the pillars of usrah, namely ta'aruf, tafahum and takaful.

There are several effects of usrah on teachers and management, one of them are the teachers and the school can build their identity. Tarbiah from an effective usrah will make a person improve himself in a better direction. Other than that, usrah members in school will be able to boost up the value of leadership within themselves. In line with the preaching approach brought by PAS, every human being needs to move forward in a better direction in order to standing up for Islam. The main thing to be achieved in an usrah is to strengthen the relationship between the members of the usrah. If the members of usrah can understand the things mentioned in usrah, then the usrah is considered as an effective usrah. An effective usrah can cultivate a sense of belonging and strengthen the relationship between usrah members, including teachers and school management. A good relationship between teachers can create a harmonious atmosphere in the school and can continue to have a positive impact on students. A good relationship between teachers and school management as a result of effective usrah, will smoothen the school management and will open up opportunities for the school (Lajnah Tarbiah and Perkaderan PAS Pusat 2018)

### Conclusion

In conclusion, the leadership of PAS has developed Sekolah Rendah Integrasi Teras Islam for the sake of Islam. The management of SRITI and usrah can never be separated because usrah itself is a method of tarbiah and preaching brought by PAS. Usrah can create a phenomenon in an organization only when it is implemented in a correct and effective way. PAS has given some guidelines in matters of preaching and tarbiah for posterity. The main sources of Al-Quran, As-Sunnah and ijthid ulama are the guide in conducting preaching and tarbiah in the organization under PAS for the sake of Islamic well-being.

The PAS organization, particularly in SRITI Al-Muttaqin, has carried out usrah on teachers and school management. This is considering SRITI as one of the organizations under PAS and needs to follow the preaching that PAS has planned. The usrah towards teachers and school management has given various good deeds in addition to being able to smoothen the school journey to prepare the advanced Muslim generations. However, usrah must be conducted in a correct and effective manner to ensure that the Islamic faith is not being mocked arbitrarily.

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