

Appreciation of Surah Al-Mu'minun on Students of Sultan Zainal Abidin University (UNISZA)

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Abstract

The appreciation of the verses in the Quran is very important today, as it is evident that the generation carrying the Quran is declining, and there are almost no successors. This observation arises because more and more Muslims are distancing themselves from the Quran day by day, and there is a decreasing interest among the younger generation in understanding the holy book. Additionally, the appreciation of the Quran can shape a strong identity, fostering individuals who are educated with high morals and ethics, diligent in their efforts, and knowledgeable. The characteristics of a faithful or successful believer are highly encouraged to be practiced in daily life, especially among university students. This is stated because the decline of morals among students is clearly prevalent today. Therefore, the main objective of this study is to measure the level of students' understanding of Surah Al-Mu'minun in shaping an exemplary personality in accordance with the concepts outlined in Surah Al-Mu'minun. The design used in this study is based on a quantitative research approach. Furthermore, this study employs a non-random sampling technique, involving 226 final-year undergraduate students from the Faculty of Contemporary Islamic Studies (FKI) at UniSZA. All data from the respondents were collected through the distribution of questionnaires and analyzed using the Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS Statistics 26) with descriptive analysis. The findings of the study indicate that the level of understanding of FKI students at UniSZA regarding Surah Al-Mu'minun is at a moderate level, while their appreciation of the Quran is at a fairly satisfactory level.

Keywords: Appreciation of the Quran, Understanding, Surah Al-Mu'minun, Successful Believer, Exemplary Personality

Introduction

As Allah said in Surah Al-Furqan verse 30:

وَقَالَ الرَّسُولُ يَا رَبِّ إِنَّ قَوْمِي اتَّخَذُوا هَذَا الْقُرْآنَ مَهْجُورًا ۝ ٣٠

(Surah Furqan : verse 30)

Meaning : The Messenger has cried, "O my Lord! My people have indeed received this Quran

with neglect."

The verse indeed reflects the sadness and concern of the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) over his people's attitude of neglecting the Qur'an. Although the Qur'an is a guiding principle that should be followed and respected, many choose to disregard it. This emphasizes the importance of returning to the teachings of Qur'an and making it as guideline in daily life. (Ibnu Kathir, 2015). Indeed, there are numerous virtues and benefits for a Muslim who deeply studies each surah of the Qur'an, serving as a model for the entire Muslim community. Reading the Qur'an is a noble act of worship that carries many rewards. However, merely reciting it without understanding its content and reflecting on its meanings does not fulfill the ultimate purpose for which the Qur'an was revealed. It is essential for those who read the Qur'an to engage in appreciation and understanding (Rohana, Fatin & Khairul, 2018).

Surah Al-Mu'minun is the 23rd chapter of the Quran and was revealed in Makkah. It consists of 118 verses and contains many lessons that can benefit people today. This surah is named Al-Mu'minun because it describes the qualities of a believer that lead to success in the Hereafter and tranquility in this world. Furthermore, in Surah Al-Mu'minun, Allah SWT describes the characteristics of successful Muslims for every believer who practices them in daily life. Therefore, the researcher aims to study the level of appreciation for Surah Al-Mu'minun among students at Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin (UniSZA). This study will also focus on explaining the characteristics of an outstanding and successful Muslim according to the concepts outlined in Surah Al-Mu'minun.

The Role of the Quran in Life

The appreciation of the Quran plays a crucial role in the development of Islamic civilization. The importance of studying and understanding the Quran serves as a fundamental source in human development (Saiful, 2018). Qur'anic ethics reflect moral values that inspire individuals, deeply influencing their character and behavior based on the principles found in the Quran. The term "Qur'ani" refers to anything that is based on and aligns with the teachings found in the Quran. Thus, the moral values present in the Quran serve as a reference for humanity in cultivating noble character. Qur'anic ethics encourage individuals to embody the values outlined in the Quranic texts, such as brotherhood, mutual assistance, consultation in matters of common interest, fulfilling trusts and promises, and so forth (Lukman, 2022).

Concept of Surah Al-Mu'minun

According to Al-Tabari in Ibn Kathir (1992), it is explained in more detail that those who successfully attain what they request from Allah do so due to their righteous deeds and their faith in Allah, His books, and His messengers. This includes rewards and eternal residence in paradise, as well as safety from the punishment promised by Allah to those who oppose Him. Achieving freedom from the hell fire and entering paradise represents the ultimate success for a believer. There is no greater success than this. Therefore, any worldly success cannot be compared to success in the Hereafter. However, Islam does not limit success to the Hereafter alone in its teachings. The beginning of Surah Al-Mu'minun describes the characteristics of believers that can bring them benefits in the Hereafter and tranquility in this world (Halimatus, 2023). According to Musmuliadi Kamaruding et al. (2021), the content of verses 1 to 11 of Surah Al-Mu'minun can also serve as a foundation for achieving

excellence in work. In general, Surah Al-Mu'minun presents several educational steps in faith, ranging from prayer to the development of trustworthy qualities that reflect a good Muslim character (Dadan et al., 2022). Allah SWT describes the characteristics of the faithful in this surah, such as being focused in prayer, maintaining trust and promises, avoiding unbeneficial actions, giving zakat, safeguarding their prayers, and preserving their honor. These characteristics serve as guidelines for a believer to strive to become the best servant of Allah by following all His commands and avoiding all His prohibitions (Sofea et al., 2023).

Methodology

The research design used in this study is a survey, which is a non-experimental research method preferred by many researchers. This design is employed to gather data from a sample within a large population. The study involves the collection of quantitative data using a questionnaire as the research instrument. Written sources such as previous studies in the form of articles, journals, books, and others are used as references in the construction of the questionnaire items. The data collected from the questionnaires are distributed both physically (hard copy) and online (via Google Forms).

The target respondents for this study are 226 students at Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin (UniSZA). Additionally, this study focuses on undergraduate students from the Faculty of Contemporary Islamic Studies (FKI) aged between 18 and 27 years whom are Muslim. The study employs a quantitative method. A set of questionnaires was distributed to the respondents as a research instrument aimed at examining the level of appreciation among students at UniSZA towards Surah Al-Mu'minun.

Findings and Discussions

Table 1 shows the number of respondents who completed the questionnaire, totaling 226 individuals. The percentage of female respondents is 67.7%, with a frequency of 153, while the percentage of male respondents is 32.3%, with a frequency of 73. Therefore, the analysis from this study indicates that the majority of respondents are female students.

Table 1

Distribution of Respondents' Demographics Based on Gender

Variable	Item	Number	Total
Gender	Male	73	226
	Female	153	

Next, Table 2 shows the distribution of respondents according to the study programs in the Faculty of Contemporary Islamic Studies.

Variable	Item	Number	Percentage	Total
Study Programs	Da'wah	62	27.4	226
	Shariah	46	20.4	
	Theology (Usuluddin)	47	20.8	
	Counseling in Theology (Usuluddin Kaunseling)	36	15.9	
	Quran & Sunnah (Qira'at)	35	15.5	

Table 2 shows the distribution of study programs among the respondents who completed the questionnaire. All of these programs fall under five centers of study in the Faculty of Contemporary Islamic Studies (FKI) at UniSZA. For the Center of Da'wah and Islamic Civilization, the percentage obtained is 27.4% with a frequency of 62. For the Center for Quran & Sunnah, the percentage is 15.5% with a frequency of 35. Next, for the Center of Shariah, the percentage is 20.4% with a frequency of 46. The Center of Usuluddin is divided into two programs: the Usuluddin program has a frequency of 47 with a percentage of 20.8%, while the Counseling in Usuluddin program has a percentage of 15.9% and a frequency of 36 respondents.

Table 3

Understanding of FKI Students Regarding the Appreciation of the Quran

Item	Statements	Min	S.D
C1	Frequency of reading and reflecting on Quranic verses	1.90	0.845
C2	Focus during daily prayers	3.23	0.688
C3	Scheduling time for worship amidst daily busyness	1.43	0.746
C4	Characteristics of a faithful believer	3.55	3.072
C5	Applying the characteristics of a faithful believer as stated in Surah Al-Mu'minun	1.03	0.174
C6	Aspects that need improvement within oneself	1.96	1.289
C7	Values taught in Surah Al-Mu'minun	3.22	0.786
C8	Avoiding unbeneficial actions	3.61	0.879
C9	Lack of awareness among Muslims in appreciating or understanding the Quran contributes to moral decline	3.61	0.549
C10	Muslims who regularly read and strive to understand ethical teachings will be better protected	3.79	0.477
C11	Good Muslims work to improve their morals and weaknesses	3.84	0.405
C12	The moral decline of students that is frequently occurring today	2.74	1.062

This section aims to discuss the descriptive analysis of the level of appreciation among FKI

students at UniSZA towards the Quran. In this section, there are twelve items along with several response options provided in the questionnaire to assess the respondents' understanding of Quranic appreciation. The analysis results indicate that the lowest percentage pertains to the item "frequency of reading and reflecting on Quranic verses," with a mean of 1.90 and a standard deviation of 0.845. Meanwhile, the highest mean percentage is found for the item "A good Muslim is one who strives to improve their morals and weaknesses," with a mean of 3.84 and a standard deviation of 0.405. This analysis indicates that students need to further enhance their appreciation of the Quran and seek initiatives to improve their character to become better Muslims. Therefore, one of the initiatives that can be taken to improve oneself is to understand deeper into the Quran. This is because the Quran serves as a distinction between what is right and wrong.

Muslims who practice the Quran have a different character compared to those who do not. The attitudes and personalities of a Muslim who implements the teachings of the Quran will manifest in positive actions, unlike those who neglect it (Mardziah, 2022). Additionally, the Quran also states that the family is the first school in educating and instilling an understanding of religious knowledge. In this regard, parents have a significant responsibility in educating their children about Islam (Laila, 2023). Furthermore, one of the consequences of neglecting the Quran is that a Muslim may find themselves in evident misguidance, mental confusion, and a life filled with hardships and difficulties (Burhanuddin, 2013). In conclusion, appreciation of the Quran can shape the character and personality of a Muslim to be better, and various steps need to be taken to raise awareness among students about the overall appreciation of the Quran.

Table 4

Percentage of Students' Understanding in Comprehending Surah Al-Mu'minun

Item	Statements	Percentage of Students' Understanding of Surah Al-Mukminun
S1	What type of Surah is Al-Mu'minun?	84.1
S2	How many verses are there in Surah Al-Mu'minun?	86.3
S3	What are the characteristics of the believers mentioned in Surah Al-Mu'minun?	68.6
S4	What does Allah SWT say at the beginning of Surah Al-Mu'minun?	93.8
S5	Who is the prophet mentioned by Allah SWT in Surah Al-Mu'minun in verse 26?	74.3
S6	Do you know all the characteristics of believers stated by Allah SWT in Surah Al-Mu'minun?	75.7

Table 4 shows a descriptive analysis of respondents' understanding regarding the introduction of Surah Al-Mu'minun among FKI students at UniSZA. This section also includes six questions along with several response options provided to test the respondents' comprehension. Based on the analysis results, the study finds that the majority of FKI students at UniSZA have a fairly satisfactory understanding of the Quran, particularly Surah Al-Mu'minun.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the appreciation of the Quran among students today is at a moderate level, and one of the common social issues faced by students is the unrestricted interaction between males and females. The researcher also found that the level of understanding of the Quran does not correlate with the students' field of study. Therefore, this study aims to raise awareness among students about the importance of appreciating Surah Al-Mu'minun in their daily life. It can also serve as motivation for students to explore the lessons and teachings contained within the surah. Additionally, students can enhance their knowledge about Surah Al-Mu'minun, which includes the characteristics of believers as stated by Allah. At the same time, this can help students apply these characteristics in their daily life to cultivate the exemplary personality of a Muslim.

Overall, awareness of the Quran appreciation among students, particularly the younger generation, needs to be further strengthened. This is because a deeper engagement with the Quran can foster a knowledgeable generation skilled in its understanding. Young people should appreciate the Quran, as it provides numerous important benefits, such as improving their character toward a better state, as highlighted in Surah Al-Mu'minun. In addition, by appreciating the Quran, the younger generation is not only can enrich their personal life but also contribute to the development of the ummah in a positive direction. A deep engagement with the Quran can cultivate individuals who possess noble character, broad knowledge, and actively participate in advancing society and the nation.

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