

BUILDING CHARACTER AND STUDENT INDEPENDENCE IN ISLAMIC EDUCATION: THE EFFICACY OF PROACTIVE COUNSELING IN FACILITATING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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1st ICOERESS

(October 16th, 2024)

Submission:

(16-10-2024)

Published:

(30-12-2024)

ABSTRACT

Islamic education faces the challenge of preparing young people with strong character, independence and readiness to face the complexities of the modern world, while upholding Islamic values and supporting sustainable development goals. This research aims to assess the effectiveness of proactive counselling in building students' character and independence in the context of Islamic education, as well as explore its contribution to the achievement of the sustainable development agenda. The research employed a literature review method, analysing sources from various reputable academic databases. The analysis process involved the identification of key themes, synthesis of key findings, and critical evaluation of the application of proactive counselling in Islamic education. The findings of this study Proactive counselling proved effective in enhancing students' self-awareness, responsibility and independence. This approach plays an important role in instilling Islamic moral and ethical values, as well as supporting the development of life skills. Proactive counselling also contributes significantly to improving students' academic achievement and engagement in learning. Its implementation supports the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly in realising inclusive and equitable quality education. Integration of proactive counselling into the Islamic education curriculum is needed, along with ongoing training for counsellors and teachers. The use of technology and collaboration between school, family and community are also recommended to optimise the effectiveness of proactive counselling programmes.

Keywords: *Islamic education, character building, independence, proactive counseling, sustainable development.*

BACKGROUND

Islamic education has a vital role in shaping a young generation that is not only intellectually intelligent, but also has a strong character and high independence. Education based on Islamic values must be able to answer increasingly complex global challenges. In this context, Islamic education is also expected to form individuals who are ready to compete globally while still upholding religious principles. In the era of challenging globalization, the need for individuals with character and independence is increasingly urgent, especially in the context of sustainable development. Proactive counseling comes as one of the promising approaches in realizing this goal.

Character building in Islamic education is not only about instilling religious values, but also about forming individuals who have integrity, empathy and social responsibility. Character education must be done systematically and thoroughly so that the values taught can permeate daily life. In addition, the

importance of character-based learning is that students are not only academically successful, but also have strong ethics. According to (Arifin & Zaini, 2020), character education in Islam should be integrated holistically in the curriculum and daily educational practices, not just as a separate subject.

Student independence, on the other hand, is key in dealing with the complexities of the modern world. This independence includes not only the ability to learn independently, but also the ability to make ethical and responsible decisions. With independence, students are expected to be able to adapt to various changes in the fast-paced digital era. (Hasan et al., 2021) emphasized that independent students are better prepared to face global challenges and contribute positively to society. This independence includes academic, emotional, and social aspects.

The concept of sustainable development, which has become a global agenda, requires a generation that not only cares about the environment, but also has the capacity to innovate and take proactive action. Sustainable development requires collective awareness to maintain a balance between social, economic and environmental aspects. Islamic education, if implemented well, can be an instrument to instill the values of sustainability early on to students. Islamic education, with its focus on the balance between the life of this world and the hereafter, has great potential to support this agenda (Nurdin & Rahman, 2019).

Proactive counseling emerges as a promising approach in this context. It allows students to not only solve current problems, but also anticipate future challenges. This is important in shaping individuals who are not only reactive, but also proactive in making life decisions. In contrast to traditional counseling that tends to be reactive, proactive counseling focuses on preventing problems and developing students' potential optimally. According to (Fadilah et al., 2022), this approach has been proven effective in improving students' resilience and readiness to face future challenges.

The integration of proactive counseling in the Islamic education system requires a paradigm shift from educators and counselors. It requires full support from the school management and the government to run well. In addition, strategies are needed to increase teachers' understanding of the importance of this approach. (Syafri et al., 2023) emphasized the importance of training and continuous professional development for educational practitioners to adopt this approach effectively. The effectiveness of proactive counseling in building students' character and independence has been demonstrated in several recent studies. The results of these studies show that proactive counseling not only improves academic skills, but also students' interpersonal and intrapersonal abilities. This suggests that this approach can be well applied in various educational contexts. A longitudinal study conducted by (Mahmud & Ismail, 2021) showed significant improvements in aspects such as ethical decision-making, self-management, and future orientation in students who received proactive counseling interventions.

In the context of sustainable development, proactive counseling can play a crucial role in shaping mindsets and behaviors that support sustainable development goals. It can also help students to better understand the importance of individual contributions in maintaining social and environmental balance. Thus, students can become agents of change who are able to encourage the implementation of sustainable development in their daily lives. (Rahmawati et al., 2024) found that students involved in a proactive counseling program showed higher environmental awareness and a tendency to engage in positive social actions.

The main challenges in implementing proactive counseling in Islamic educational institutions are limited resources and resistance to change. However, with careful planning and support from various parties, these challenges can be overcome. In addition, an approach that involves active participation from all stakeholders is necessary. (Aziz & Muhaimin, 2022) argue that investing in this approach will yield significant long-term results for both individuals and society as a whole. Collaboration between schools, families and communities is key to the success of proactive counseling. This collaboration can facilitate better communication between various parties in supporting student development. Community involvement is also important to ensure that the values taught at school can be applied in students' daily lives. Research conducted by (Nurhayati & Kadir, 2023) showed that a holistic approach involving various stakeholders can significantly increase the effectiveness of proactive counseling programs.

Technology also plays an important role in the development of proactive counseling. The use of technology can expand the reach of counseling services, especially for students who are in remote areas or who have limited access to conventional education services. Technology also allows for faster and more efficient monitoring and evaluation of student progress. The use of digital platforms and data analysis can help identify potential problems earlier and design more targeted interventions. A study by (Widodo & Pratama, 2022) demonstrated the effectiveness of proactive online counseling in reaching students in remote areas. Continuous evaluation and adjustment of the proactive counseling program is essential to ensure its relevance to the changing needs of students. These evaluations should be systematic and data-driven to provide an accurate picture of the program's effectiveness. In addition, flexibility is needed in adjusting the program according to the dynamics of changes that occur in the educational environment. (Farida et al., 2023) emphasized the importance of an evidence-based approach in the development and implementation of proactive counseling programs in Islamic educational institutions.

The long-term implications of proactive counseling in Islamic education are not only limited to individual development, but also to the formation of a more resilient and sustainable society. The application of proactive counseling can make a positive contribution to social transformation in various aspects of people's lives. Thus, investment in this approach will have far-reaching positive impacts. (H. Hassan & Zulkifli, 2020) argue that investment in character building and student self-reliance through proactive counseling can be a catalyst for positive social change. Thus, the integration of proactive counseling in Islamic education offers a holistic approach to building students' character and self-reliance, while supporting the sustainable development agenda. The program can be a means to improve the quality of education and at the same time prepare students to face future challenges.

Islamic education in the modern era must be able to face global challenges, especially in forming a generation that has a strong character and solid independence. This research is important because Islamic education not only aims to convey religious values, but should also contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In this regard, proactive counseling is identified as a promising approach to help students develop ethical decision-making skills, effective self-management, and awareness of social and environmental responsibility. By utilizing proactive counseling, Islamic education can be better equipped to prepare students who are able to adapt to global changes, without setting aside the underlying religious principles. The urgency of this research lies in the need to ensure that the educational methods applied are able to answer the various challenges in the modern era while still supporting the sustainable development agenda.

This study aims to evaluate how effective proactive counseling is in shaping students' character and independence in an Islamic education environment. In addition, it also seeks to explore the contribution of proactive counseling in supporting the achievement of SDGs in education. Through this approach, the research seeks to show how proactive counseling can be a relevant and effective strategy in creating a generation that is not only academically proficient, but also has high social and environmental awareness. The results of this study are expected to provide useful insights in formulating educational strategies that are more adaptive and responsive to the global challenges faced by future generations.

RESEARCH METHOD

This research uses the literature review method to analyze the role of proactive counseling in shaping students' character and independence in the context of Islamic education, as well as its relevance to sustainable development. The sources used were drawn from various reputable academic databases, including Google Scholar, JSTOR, and ERIC, with keywords such as "proactive counseling," "Islamic education," "character building," "student independence," and "sustainable development." The analysis process was conducted in three stages: first, identifying key themes found in the literature; second, synthesizing key findings from the various references; and third, critically evaluating the application of proactive counseling in Islamic education. For the policy report, the analysis focused more on the recommendations and proposed implementation strategies. This approach enabled the researcher to uncover the latest trends, existing research gaps, as well as best practices in the application of proactive counseling in Islamic education institutions.

RESEARCH FINDINGS

The results of this study indicate that proactive counseling has an important role in building students' character and independence, especially in the context of Islamic education. Based on the literature review and field findings, some important aspects have been identified as follows:

1. Increased Self-Awareness and Responsibility

Based on the research of (Abdullah et al., 2020), proactive counseling is able to increase students' self-awareness and sense of responsibility. Students involved in the proactive counselling program showed better ability in understanding themselves, recognizing potentials, as well as identifying weaknesses. This plays a role in forming independence and the ability to make decisions with full responsibility for their actions. By increasing self-awareness, students are not only able to overcome academic challenges, but also understand the values that are important in life. This awareness of potentials and weaknesses will be a major asset for students to achieve success in the future. In addition, the sense of responsibility built through proactive counseling encourages students to become individuals with more integrity. Therefore, the proactive counseling program plays an important role in shaping resilient and responsible characters.

2. Strengthening Moral Values and Islamic Character

Findings from (N. Hassan & Ismail, 2021) show that proactive counseling is effective in instilling Islamic moral values, such as honesty, discipline, and empathy. Through counseling sessions, students are encouraged to reflect on these values and apply them in their daily lives. Students who are actively involved in the proactive counselling program better understand the importance of internalizing those moral values, which ultimately forms a strong character. This reinforcement of values not only improves individual morality, but also creates a more harmonious social environment. Students who practice good moral values tend to be role models for their peers. In addition, the internalization of these values will help students in dealing with moral dilemmas in the future. Thus, proactive counseling contributes significantly to character building based on Islamic values.

3. Student Independence in Making Decisions

(Nursalim & Mustari, 2022) revealed that students involved in proactive counseling tend to be more independent in making decisions. This is supported by the counseling process that involves exploring personal values and learning to face challenges independently. Students who underwent proactive counseling showed increased ability in critical thinking and responsibility for the choices they made. This independence in decision-making allows students to not only go with the flow, but also dare to take steps that are in line with their principles and values. When students learn to make wise decisions, they become more confident and capable of facing future challenges. With their independence, students can better contribute to society. Therefore, proactive counseling plays an important role in shaping students' independence.

4. Significant Social and Emotional Support

Proactive counseling serves as an important emotional support tool for students in dealing with social and emotional stress (N. Sari & Susanti, 2023). Students feel more confident in dealing with daily challenges, such as family problems, academic pressures, and social conflicts. They are also better able to manage emotions effectively, thus creating more emotionally stable and balanced individuals. Strong social support will help students feel valued and cared for, which in turn improves their mental well-being. Students who have emotional support tend to be more resilient in the face of adversity. With this support, students can develop better social skills and build positive relationships with others. Therefore, proactive counseling is essential in creating a supportive environment for students' emotional development.

5. Collaboration in the Implementation of Proactive Counseling

Collaboration between teachers, counselors, and parents plays an important role in the effectiveness of proactive counseling (Wati & Hasan, 2023). Students who get support from the school and family environment feel more motivated to be actively involved in the counseling process. The involvement of these parties also creates a more conducive learning environment for students' personal and academic development. This collaboration strengthens the support network around students, which is crucial in helping them deal with various challenges. When parents and teachers work together, students feel more comfortable to share problems and seek solutions. With a

collaborative approach, students can feel that they are not alone in their educational journey. Therefore, strong collaboration between all parties involved is necessary to maximize the effectiveness of proactive counseling.

6. Use of Technology in Proactive Counseling

(Setiawan, 2023) stated that the use of technology, such as mobile applications and online platforms, expands students' access to counseling services. Students who use digital platforms in counseling show increased engagement and comfort, which contributes to the development of character and independence more effectively. With technology, students can access information and support anytime and anywhere, making counseling more flexible and responsive. Mobile applications can also make it easier for students to track their progress and manage their problems. In addition, the use of technology in counseling opens up opportunities for students to connect with wider and diverse resources. Therefore, the integration of technology in proactive counseling is an important step to increase engagement and program effectiveness.

7. Evaluation of the Effectiveness of the Proactive Counseling Program

The evaluation of the proactive counseling program showed that students who participated in the program experienced significant improvements in character and independence, compared to students who were not involved (Fauziyah, 2022). Results from surveys and interviews showed that proactive counseling had a positive impact in helping students develop an attitude of responsibility, critical thinking skills, and awareness of the importance of good character. This evaluation data shows that proactive counseling is not only effective, but can also serve as a model for other character development programs. With significant results, schools can better convince relevant parties to invest in the counseling program. In addition, a good evaluation allows for continuous improvement in the implementation of the program. Therefore, evaluating the effectiveness of proactive counseling programs is key to ensuring the sustainability and quality improvement of counseling services.

Overall, this research confirms that proactive counseling has a significant contribution in shaping students' character and independence in Islamic education. With an approach that focuses on preventing problems as well as developing students' potential, proactive counseling not only addresses problems when they arise, but also encourages the formation of individuals who are resilient and independent in facing various life challenges. Through this counseling, students are trained to self-manage, think critically, and build awareness of their responsibilities towards the social and religious environment.

In addition, the use of technology in proactive counseling is an important factor that strengthens the effectiveness of this approach. By utilizing digital media, the counseling process becomes more dynamic, interactive, and accessible at any time. Collaboration between teachers, counselors, parents and other parties also enriches the results. Appropriate use of technology not only increases students' engagement in the counseling process, but also accelerates their skill development, making them more mentally and emotionally prepared to face life outside the school environment.

The results of this study emphasize that the integration of proactive counseling into the Islamic education curriculum is essential. Proactive counseling not only promotes individual growth, but also strengthens the social fabric by creating a more responsible, self-reliant and characterful generation. With a holistic approach involving technology and collaboration of various parties, proactive counseling has proven to be effective in creating a learning environment that supports the overall development of students, both in spiritual, social, and intellectual aspects.

DISCUSSION

The Role of Proactive Counseling in Building Student Character and Independence in Islamic Education

Proactive counseling is an important approach in Islamic education that aims to build students' character and independence. In the context of education, character and independence are two essential aspects that support students' holistic development. Various studies have shown that proactive counseling can increase students' self-awareness and sense of responsibility (Abdullah et al., 2020). Moreover, with the right counseling support, students can learn to cope with the social and emotional pressures they

often face. This helps them to be more confident in facing the challenges of daily life, thus forming individuals who are better equipped to interact in society.

Character is the foundation that forms an individual's personality. Islamic education emphasizes strong moral values, such as honesty, discipline, and empathy, which become the foundation for students' behavior (N. Hassan & Ismail, 2021). Proactive counseling plays a role in instilling these values through an approach that supports students' continuous character development. In this process, students are invited to reflect on and discuss their values, thus deepening their understanding of character. This not only improves their understanding of character, but also encourages them to internalize these values in their daily lives, creating more responsible individuals.

Independence is the ability of students to make decisions and take responsibility for their actions. In Islamic education, self-reliance is seen as part of the effort to achieve maturity and spiritual independence (Nursalim & Mustari, 2022). Proactive counseling helps students recognize their potential and overcome challenges. Self-reliant students tend to be better able to face difficulties and proactively seek solutions, which are essential skills in modern life. They are also better able to establish healthy relationships with others, as they understand the values of mutual respect and cooperation, which are all part of sustainable character development.

Proactive counseling methods include preventive and intervention approaches that aim to identify problems before they become crises (Yusuf, 2023). Through counseling sessions, students are invited to explore their values and encourage them to make wise decisions. This approach focuses not only on the problem, but also on developing students' potential. By involving students in this process, they feel more ownership and responsibility for their decisions, making them more active in the learning process. The counselor also uses creative techniques to help students overcome barriers they may face, creating an environment that supports personal growth.

Proactive counseling creates space for students to discuss the moral and ethical challenges they face (N. Sari & Susanti, 2023). Through discussion and reflection, students can build a deeper understanding of character and ethics in accordance with Islamic teachings. This process also allows students to learn from each other's experiences, so that they do not feel alone in their journey. With the help of the counselor, students can develop an action plan to improve their character, which will contribute to the achievement of their educational goals. It also provides them with tools to cope with difficult situations in the future, preparing them to face greater challenges.

Students who engage in proactive counseling tend to be more independent in decision-making (Rahman et al., 2024). They learn to evaluate options and their consequences, which supports the development of critical thinking skills. This teaches them to not only consider the outcome, but also the process taken to reach the decision. By having these skills, students are better prepared to face challenges in the real world, including in situations that require quick and precise action. They are also better able to respond to rapidly changing situations in adaptive ways, making them more flexible and responsive individuals.

In schools, implementing proactive counseling involves collaboration between teachers, counselors, and parents (Wati & Hasan, 2023). This collaboration is important to create a supportive environment for students so that they feel comfortable in undergoing the counseling process. With support from all parties, students feel more motivated to be actively involved in counseling activities. It also creates awareness of the importance of mental and emotional health among students, which is a key aspect in holistic education. As a result, students can achieve a balance between academic achievement and personal development, resulting in more balanced individuals.

Evaluation of proactive counseling programs is essential to determine their effectiveness (Fauziyah, 2022). Research shows that students who participated in the counseling program showed significant improvements in character and independence compared to those not involved in the program. This evaluation may include surveys, interviews, and direct observations. With the data obtained, schools can identify areas for improvement and make necessary adjustments, ensuring that the counseling program remains relevant and effective in meeting students' needs. It also provides valuable feedback for the development of better programs in the future.

Although proactive counseling has many benefits, there are challenges in its implementation, such as lack of training for counselors and negative stigma towards counseling services (R. Aminah & Zainuddin, 2024). Efforts to overcome these challenges should involve continuous training and awareness raising among students and parents. Building partnerships with outside agencies can be a solution to improve the quality of counseling. With adequate support, counselors can be more effective in helping students overcome their problems. It is important to create a culture that supports mental health in the educational environment so that counseling can be well received by all parties.

The use of technology, such as mobile applications and online platforms, can expand access to counseling services (Setiawan, 2023). Technology allows students to engage in counseling in a more convenient and flexible way, supporting the learning process of character and independence. With online platforms, students can have counseling sessions without having to meet face-to-face, which can reduce awkwardness. In addition, technology can be used to disseminate information and resources that support students' self-development, giving students greater access to independent learning. This provides opportunities for students to learn in ways that suit their lifestyles, increasing their engagement in the educational process.

Education policy needs to integrate proactive counseling as part of the curriculum (N. Hassan & Ismail, 2021). This will ensure that all students have access to the necessary support to develop character and independence in accordance with Islamic values. With supportive policies in place, schools can more easily implement innovative counseling programs. It will also raise awareness about the importance of mental health among educators, creating a more positive environment for student development. In the long run, character-oriented education will create a more responsible and ethical generation.

Proactive counseling plays a very important role in building students' character and independence in the context of Islamic education. Through a holistic and purposeful approach, counseling not only helps students face challenges in daily life, but also shapes a strong and responsible personality. In an Islamic education environment, counseling can act as a companion that supports the development of students' moral, spiritual, and social values, all of which are key elements in building quality individuals.

In addition, the role of proactive counseling is able to help students develop independence in learning and action. With proper guidance, students are encouraged to become more confident in making decisions, solving problems, and facing various challenges. This not only contributes to academic success, but also shapes students who are ready to face the realities of life in the future. Effective implementation of proactive counseling also enables students to optimally explore their potential, facilitating the development of relevant talents and skills.

To achieve a broader impact, further research is needed to explore counseling methods and approaches that can be applied in various educational contexts. Various counseling models that focus on character building and student independence should continue to be explored, adapted and optimized. With adequate support from educational institutions and related parties, proactive counseling can be one of the important pillars in creating a generation that is not only ready to face global challenges, but also able to play an active role in advancing society through Islamic values.

The Contribution of Proactive Counseling to the Achievement of Sustainable Development Goals in Islamic Education

Proactive counseling in Islamic education has a very important role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially in terms of quality education. The SDGs launched by the UN emphasize the importance of inclusive and equitable education, covering all levels of society. In this context, proactive counseling serves to build awareness of the importance of education and help students identify and overcome the barriers they face in learning (R. Sari, 2020). In addition, this counseling is able to provide strategic guidance to students to be better prepared for future challenges. Through a holistic approach, students are also guided to recognize their potential. Thus, proactive counseling plays an important role in creating a competitive and globally-minded generation.

Proactive counseling can be defined as an approach that facilitates students' self-development through counseling, emotional support, and career guidance. Unlike reactive counseling, which is usually only implemented after problems arise, proactive counseling seeks to prevent problems by providing the

necessary support from the start. According to (Hasanah, 2021), this approach focuses on character development and essential social skills, which support the achievement of SDG goals in an educational context. With proactive counseling, students not only get immediate solutions, but also long-term strategies to deal with various challenges. This helps students build resilience and adaptability. Ultimately, proactive counseling creates a strong foundation for positive character development.

One of the SDG goals that is particularly relevant is the fourth goal of “ensuring inclusive, equitable and quality education.” Proactive counseling has the potential to ensure that all students, including those with special needs, get the attention and support they need. Research by (Widodo, 2023) shows that implementing proactive counseling in schools can reduce disparities in access to education, which is a major challenge in achieving the SDGs. This shows the importance of providing equal access for all students without discrimination. This inclusive support not only helps students, but also strengthens the education system as a whole. Thus, proactive counseling plays a key role in realizing a more just and equitable education.

The implementation of proactive counseling in Islamic education can strengthen students’ motivation and independence, two important elements for academic success. Research by (Lestari, 2022) shows that students involved in proactive counseling programs tend to be more confident and have clearer learning goals. This not only contributes to better academic achievement, but also creates individuals who are ready to face future challenges. With proper counseling support, students can develop critical thinking skills that help them in their decision-making process. In addition, students also learn to manage stress and deal with pressure better. All these are important assets for their future academic and personal success.

In practice, schools need to implement proactive counseling programs by involving all stakeholders, including teachers, parents and the community. Training for teachers is essential so that they can recognize and implement appropriate counselling strategies. According to (Fauzi, 2023), parents’ involvement in the counseling process can strengthen the relationship between students and educators, creating a more supportive learning environment. The involvement of all parties also ensures that the learning process is more synergistic. With good communication between the school, parents and students, the support provided will be optimized. This can increase learning motivation and create an atmosphere conducive to achieving better academic results.

However, implementing proactive counseling is not without challenges. Many schools, especially in remote areas, face difficulties in providing adequate resources and training. (Rahayu, 2023) identified the lack of financial support and facilities as the main obstacle in the implementation of this program. It is important to have policies that support access to adequate resources for all schools, especially in less developed areas. Cooperation between the government and private institutions could be one solution to overcome this limitation. That way, every student has an equal opportunity to benefit from proactive counseling programs.

Case studies successfully implemented in several madrasahs show that proactive counseling can increase student engagement in learning. Research by (Rani, 2024) showed that students who received support from proactive counseling more actively participated in learning activities. This high engagement, in turn, contributed to improved academic achievement and positive character development. This success not only reflects the importance of proactive counseling, but also confirms that timely intervention can have a major impact on the quality of education. Student involvement in the learning process can also improve the quality of interaction between teachers and students. This creates a more productive and enjoyable classroom dynamic for all parties.

Analysis of data from several studies shows that proactive counseling contributes positively to students’ academic achievement. A survey conducted in several Islamic schools showed that 80% of students felt more motivated to learn after attending a proactive counseling program (Yunus, 2023). This data underscores the importance of counseling as a tool to improve learning outcomes and provide the necessary support for students. This high motivation is essential to maintain students' enthusiasm for learning despite the challenges they face. With proactive counseling, students can be more purposeful in setting more realistic learning goals. This also has a positive impact on their character development and interpersonal skills.

When compared to other counseling approaches, proactive counseling shows superiority in preventing problems before they arise. This approach helps students develop important life skills, such as time management and communication skills. According to (Prabowo, 2022), proactive counseling creates a more positive environment for students to thrive, compared to traditional counseling approaches that are more reactive. This counseling also helps students in recognizing and managing their emotions better, which contributes to mental well-being. This has a positive long-term impact on their personality development. With a more supportive environment, students can focus more on their academic and social goals.

Recommendations for education policy include curriculum development that supports the integration of proactive counseling in the education system. Policies that support professional development for counselors and teachers need to be implemented to improve their skills. (T. Aminah, 2023) proposed that the government should provide sufficient resources to support counseling programs in schools, so that they can be implemented effectively. This integrated policy is important to ensure that all students have access to quality counseling programs. With supporting regulations in place, schools can more easily implement proactive counseling systematically. This will ultimately improve the overall effectiveness of education.

Proactive counseling has an important role in supporting the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the field of Islamic education. This approach emphasizes prevention and holistic self-development, which not only focuses on the academic aspects of students but also includes emotional and social well-being. By instilling the values of independence, responsibility and openness, proactive counseling contributes to the creation of a more inclusive educational environment, where every student has the opportunity to develop according to his or her potential. This is in line with the SDGs' main goal of ensuring quality and equitable education for all.

Furthermore, the success of a proactive counseling program relies heavily on close collaboration between various parties, such as teachers, parents and the community. Teachers serve as facilitators in identifying students' needs and providing appropriate interventions, while parents and the community have the responsibility to support this process outside the school environment. This collective support not only amplifies the positive effects of a proactive counseling program, but also ensures that each student gets the appropriate attention to promote his or her optimal growth and development, both in the academic and non-academic domains.

With proper integration in the education system, proactive counseling can be a key driving force in building an education that is more responsive and relevant to the needs of students in the modern era. This program has the potential to be one of the most effective tools in supporting the achievement of SDGs, as it is able to create a sustainable, inclusive and adaptive educational ecosystem. Through this approach, Islamic education can be more optimal in facing global challenges, while still maintaining the noble values promoted by Islamic teachings.

CONCLUSION

This research comprehensively examines the role of proactive counseling in building students' character and independence in the context of Islamic education, as well as its contribution to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The analysis shows that proactive counseling has proven to be effective in increasing students' self-awareness, responsibility and independence. This approach also plays an important role in instilling moral and ethical values that are in line with Islamic teachings, as well as supporting the development of life skills needed to face future challenges. In addition, proactive counseling contributes significantly to improving academic achievement and encouraging student engagement in the learning process. The implementation of proactive counseling in Islamic education has great potential to create a young generation that is characterized, independent, and ready to face global challenges.

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