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TIPS FOR ACHIEVING SUCCESS ACCORDING TO THE BOOK (MIFTAH AL-NAJAH BY AID AL-QARNI)

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ABSTRACTS

This study uses a qualitative research method with a character study approach that is included in the category of library research. A descriptive-analytical approach is used to describe the steps to achieve success, as well as the characteristics of successful people according to Aid al-Qarni's views. The results of the study show Aid al-Qarni's career journey and thoughts in the fields of education, preaching, and Islamic literacy. Aid al-Qarni has made great contributions through his works that have inspired many people. Furthermore, discussing the steps to achieve success as explained in Miftah al-Najah which emphasizes sincerity, discipline, and wise use of time as the keys to success. In addition, the characteristics of successful people according to Aid al-Qarni include strong faith, hard work, and concern for others. Through a combination of spiritual and moral values, individuals can achieve true success that is not only worldly, but also brings blessings. Therefore, educational institutions are advised to integrate Islamic success values into the curriculum, workers and business actors apply Islamic ethics, and society instills a culture of hard work and social concern.

A. INTRODUCTION

Success is one of the main goals in human life, which is pursued in various dimensions, both personal, social, and professional (Shohib & Sa'diyah, 2023). Success has a relative meaning, because each individual has different definitions and standards regarding its achievements. Dahlia et al. (2024) explain that success can be divided into two main aspects, namely worldly success and afterlife success. Worldly success is often measured through material achievements, such as wealth, position, and comfort of life.

From a broader perspective, Dahlia et al. (2024) remind that success is not only limited to material things, but also includes a spiritual dimension, which is often overlooked in a world that prioritizes instant results and physical luxury. Afterlife success can only be achieved by those who live in piety, do good to others, and always draw closer to Allah SWT. In Islam, these two aspects complement each other, so that a person must live according to the guidance of the Qur'an in order to be successful in the world and the hereafter. Ibn Kathir (2017) in his book emphasizes the importance of balance between seeking happiness in the world and the hereafter. He interprets the Qur'an, Surah Al-Qashash verse 77, as an order to seek sustenance in the world as provisions for the hereafter.

Aqbar et al. (2020) explained that the main problem facing humanity today is a misconception of the concept of al-Falah, which is often only focused on material aspects, regardless of ethical, moral, and spiritual values, which error is triggered by the ideology of materialism that dominates the views of modern society, leading to hedonistic, secular, and materialistic economic behavior. As a result, various negative impacts arise, such as environmental damage, economic inequality, loss of social solidarity, and other social phenomena, such as prostitution, corruption, anarchism, and gambling. This error is also caused by the positive economic paradigm that prioritizes the efficiency of resource allocation without taking into account the spiritual and moral dimensions.

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This error is also caused by the positive economic paradigm that prioritizes the efficiency of resource allocation without taking into account the spiritual and moral dimensions (Dlaimunthe et al., 2023; Indainanto et al., 2023). The modern economy that developed from the secular Western tradition also contributed to this view, especially through Neo-Classical thinking that emphasizes individualism and utilitarianism. As a result, well-being is often measured through materialism and wealth, while spiritual happiness, which should be the main motivator of human behavior, is often ignored. Islam teaches that the purpose of human life is not only limited to worldly success, but also includes spiritual growth and happiness in the afterlife (Sinta et al. 2024).

This teaching encourages humans to live with full awareness, recognize God's creation, be pious, and strive to achieve success in the world and the hereafter (Sikumbang et al., 2024). True success in the Islamic view is the result of a combination of earnest effort in the world and steadfastness of faith and good morals. In addition,

success in Islam has a strong moral foundation, where efforts to achieve success must be based on sincere intentions and good morals (Rohmah, 2018). Thus, Muslims are required to pursue success not only in career and social aspects, but also in faith and piety to Allah (Rubino et al., 2023). Success based on faith provides deeper and more lasting happiness, both in the world and in the hereafter (Anton et al., 2024).

Based on the above explanation, it can be concluded that the concept of success in the Islamic perspective is that success is not only related to worldly achievements, but also includes happiness and success in the hereafter (Humaizi et al., 2024). Therefore, true success in Islam includes obedience to Allah, social responsibility, and a harmonious spiritual commitment between worldly and hereafter life. By fulfilling these three elements, a Muslim can achieve true fortune that is approved by Allah SWT, bringing balance between worldly happiness and salvation in the hereafter

B. METHOD

This research is a qualitative research with a character study approach that is included in the category of library research. The focus of this research is on the book *Miftah al-Najah* by Aid al-Qarni. The descriptive-analytical approach is a research method used to describe and analyze the concepts contained in the text systematically and in depth (Sugiyono, 2023; Patton, 2009). In the context of this research, the descriptive-analytical approach is used to describe the steps to achieve success, as well as the characteristics of successful people according to Aid al-Qarni's views. This method involves a deep understanding of the text, organizing information, and critical analysis to explain the meaning and application of the concepts discussed. According to Syahrin Harahap (Harahap, 2011), data collection in character study research begins with collecting literature, including three things:

- A. Collecting the works of the figure concerned on the topic being researched (as primary data). In this study, the work of the figure in question is the book *Miftah al-Najah* by Aid al-Qarni
- B. Tracing the works of other people about the figure in question or about the topic being studied (as secondary data). The latter can be searched in encyclopedias, systematic books, and thematic. Because in the book usually shows a wider library.
- C. List of interviews addressed to the person concerned (if still alive).

C. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Identifying the relevance of the concept of success in Miftah al-Najah Karya Aid al-Qarni to the development of students' character in Islamic education, requires an in-depth analysis based on the principles of success put forward by 'Aid al-Qarni'. In addition, it is important to understand how these concepts can be implemented in the Islamic education system in order to form the character of students with integrity, knowledge, and piety. Therefore, the principles outlined in this book can be used as a guideline in building superior student character.

Instilling the Right Intention in Learning

Aid al-Qarni emphasized that true success begins with good intentions. So in the context of Islamic education, the intention in learning is not only to achieve academic achievement, but also as a form of worship to Allah and an effort to seek knowledge for the good of the people. This is in line with the principles of Islamic education which emphasize the importance of intention in every aspect of life, including in seeking knowledge. Sincere intentions and true goals are the main foundations for students in forming characters that are oriented towards Islamic values.

In the context of Islamic education, this principle is relevant in forming the character of students so that they have the awareness that learning is not just for personal interests, but also as a form of worship to Allah and a contribution to the people. This is reinforced by the hadith of the Prophet Muhammad SAW which states that in fact deeds depend on intentions (HR. Bukhari and Muslim). Therefore, a straight intention in seeking knowledge will guide students in carrying out the learning process with full sincerity and responsibility.

Furthermore, the concept above also instills moral values in Islamic education, such as honesty, responsibility, hard work, and concern for others. By having good intentions and the right goals, students will be more motivated to continue learning and developing themselves, not only to achieve academic achievement, but also to provide benefits to society. In addition, the concept of success in Miftah al-Najah is also in line with the goals of Islamic education in forming people with noble character. Education is not only aimed at making the mind intelligent, but also at forming a strong character based on Islamic values (Husna et al., 2024). By instilling the understanding that true success is not only measured by material aspects, but also by how much a person can provide benefits to others, students will grow into more responsible individuals and have social concerns.

Cultivating Sincerity and Asceticism in Seeking Knowledge

Sincerity in seeking knowledge is a fundamental principle in Islamic education that plays a role in shaping the character of students so that they have the right goals and are not trapped in worldly interests alone. Without sincerity, the knowledge gained will not provide genuine benefits, either for oneself or for others. In Islamic education, sincerity in learning does not only mean seeking knowledge with good intentions, but also maintaining sincerity in the process. Islam teaches that seeking knowledge is part of worship.

In addition to sincerity, asceticism is also an important element in the character of a seeker of knowledge. Asceticism in the context of education does not mean leaving the world completely, but making knowledge a means to seek Allah's pleasure, not as a

tool to boast or seek worldly gain alone. This hadith provides a warning to seekers of knowledge not to use knowledge as a tool to pursue worldly interests without considering spiritual values and benefits for the community. On the other hand, Islamic education also emphasizes that knowledge that is not practiced will lose its value. Knowledge is not only to be collected, but must be applied in everyday life to provide benefits for oneself and society.

In educational practice, previous scholars such as Imam Al-Ghazali and Imam An-Nawawi always emphasized the importance of sincerity in seeking knowledge. Imam Al-Ghazali in *Ihya 'Ulumuddin* stated that knowledge that is not accompanied by the right intention will only be a heavy burden in the afterlife. Therefore, students in the Islamic education system must be taught to instill sincerity from an early age, both in the learning process and in practicing the knowledge they gain. By having sincere intentions and an ascetic attitude, students will not only become knowledgeable individuals, but also humble, useful, and oriented towards the welfare of the community. They do not only pursue worldly success, but also understand that knowledge is the path to happiness in the world and the hereafter. Thus, Islamic education does not only focus on academic achievement, but also forms the character of students to have high moral and spiritual integrity.

Teaching Sacrifice, Perseverance, Discipline, and Consistency in Seeking Knowledge

Seeking knowledge in Islam is not only an obligation, but also a path to success in this world and the hereafter. In the book *Miftah al-Najah*, Aid al-Qarni emphasizes that knowledge can only be achieved through sincere and continuous effort. Islamic education also emphasizes the importance of sacrifice, perseverance, discipline, and consistency in learning. These four aspects are very relevant in shaping the character of students to become superior and responsible people. This discussion will describe how sacrifice, perseverance, discipline, and consistency are the main factors in a person's academic and spiritual success in seeking knowledge, by referring to the concept put forward by Aid al-Qarni and the perspective of Islamic education.

In the context of modern education, sacrifice can take the form of a willingness to reduce leisure time, allocate more time to study, and face academic challenges with great tenacity. The message of this verse is that those who strive and sacrifice in seeking knowledge will receive an appropriate reward from Allah, both in this world and in the hereafter. Perseverance is an attitude of never giving up in the face of obstacles when seeking knowledge. The concept of discipline in seeking knowledge can also be seen from the exemplary behavior of great scholars, such as Imam Ash-Syafi'i and Imam Ahmad bin Hanbal. Imam Ash-Syafi'i is known to have a very disciplined learning method. He memorized the Qur'an since childhood, then studied the science of fiqh and hadith with great perseverance. Even in difficult circumstances, he remained persistent in learning and writing down the knowledge he had acquired. Meanwhile, Imam Ahmad bin Hanbal traveled far to gain knowledge from various teachers and always recorded every lesson carefully. Their perseverance and discipline prove that useful knowledge cannot be obtained without hard work and sincerity. In everyday life, students who have high discipline in learning will find it easier to achieve success. Those who are accustomed to learning consistently will be better prepared to face academic exams and life challenges.

The concept of sacrifice, perseverance, discipline, and consistency in Miftah al-Najah has a very strong relevance to Islamic education. Islam teaches that knowledge is not only a tool to achieve worldly success, but also a path to Allah's pleasure. Therefore, someone who wants to succeed in seeking knowledge must have strong determination, high discipline, and a consistent spirit of learning. Through Islamic education, students are taught to make knowledge a provision for life and make it a form of worship. Those who have sacrifice, perseverance, discipline, and consistency in learning will grow into intelligent individuals, have noble morals, and are useful to society. Thus, these principles are not only relevant in formal education, but also in building character and a strong work ethic in everyday life.

Instilling Discipline and Consistency in Worship

Success in Islam is not only measured by worldly achievements, but also by discipline in carrying out worship. Aid al-Qarni emphasized that discipline in worship is one of the main keys to true success. Islamic education, discipline in worship is not only aimed at improving the spiritual aspect, but also forming good habits such as valuing time, setting priorities, and building a sense of responsibility.

consistency (istiqamah) is more important than the amount of worship performed. In the context of Islamic education, students need to understand that success is not only about the end result, but also about the process that is carried out repeatedly and continuously. If discipline in worship is well instilled, then students will find it easier to develop characters such as perseverance, patience, and commitment to their life goals. Therefore, the habit of praying on time in Islamic schools not only educates students to obey Allah, but also trains them in managing time and personal responsibility. In addition to obligatory worship, students also need to be introduced to sunnah worship such as tahajud prayer, sunnah fasting, and reading the Qur'an regularly. These habits form a personality that is more disciplined, patient, and has better self-control. Islamic education also instills the principle that every activity carried out with good intentions can be worship. Therefore, students are taught to organize their daily schedules in a balanced way, including time for studying, worshiping, resting, and social activities. Regularity in life will help them achieve greater success, both in this world and in the hereafter. Instilling discipline and consistency in worship not only forms students who are spiritually obedient, but also builds a character that is responsible, patient, and has a clear purpose in life. Success in Islam is not only measured by how much knowledge is obtained, but also by how much that knowledge forms a better person and is closer to Allah. By implementing discipline in worship from an early age, students will be better prepared to face the challenges of life with a more mature and responsible attitude.

Cultivating a Brave, Firm, and Patient Attitude in Facing Challenges

In Islamic education, courage, firmness, and patience are characters that must be instilled in students so that they are able to face academic and life challenges. Aid al-Qarni in the book Miftah al-Najah emphasizes the importance of a brave and firm attitude in facing obstacles and having patience in pursuing the path of knowledge. The combination of these three attitudes will form a strong character in students, who do not give up easily, and have a high fighting spirit in achieving success. Courage in facing

challenges is an important aspect taught in Islam. Courage is not only in the physical aspect, but also in critical thinking, expressing opinions, and facing life's difficulties.

In Islamic education, patience in learning and facing academic challenges is part of the character that must be built. Students are taught that knowledge cannot be achieved instantly, but requires perseverance and hard work. In the learning process, students need to have the determination to continue trying and not give up easily when facing academic failure or social challenges. This verse teaches that every test and challenge faced by a person has been adjusted to their abilities. Therefore, in Islamic education, students are taught not to give up easily when facing difficulties in learning. Perseverance in overcoming obstacles will form a tough and mentally strong character. Patience is also closely related to discipline and self-control in seeking knowledge. In addition, patience in seeking knowledge is also related to self-control and discipline. A patient student will be able to control his emotions when facing failure and continue to try to improve himself.

The relevance of the concept of success in Miftah al-Najah to the development of students' character in Islamic education lies in the instillation of the values of patience, steadfastness, and discipline in seeking knowledge and facing life's challenges. Islamic education emphasizes that success is not an instant result, but rather the fruit of hard work, consistency, and consistent effort. Students are taught to understand that every test, both academic and life, is part of the learning process that must be faced with enthusiasm and confidence. In addition, this concept also emphasizes the importance of right intentions and straight goals in seeking knowledge. Islamic education not only aims to produce intellectually intelligent individuals, but also to form individuals who have mental resilience, courage, and responsibility in practicing and disseminating knowledge. This principle encourages students to have a sincere, responsible, and beneficial attitude for society, as Islamic teachings place knowledge as a means to success in this world and the hereafter. Thus, the concept of success in Miftah al-Najah is very relevant in forming the character of students who not only excel in academics, but also have perseverance, discipline, and high fighting spirit in facing various challenges.

Developing a Productive and Consistent Attitude in Working

A productive and consistent attitude in working is one of the main principles emphasized by Aid al-Qarni in the book Miftah al-Najah. Success is not only measured by worldly achievements, but also by the extent to which a person can contribute to society. Aid al-Qarni gave examples of great Islamic figures who continued to work without getting bored, such as Ibn al-Jawzi who wrote a thousand books throughout his life. This example shows that productivity is the result of perseverance and consistency in working. In the world of education, students need to be directed to instill productive habits from an early age, both in writing, researching, and developing useful skills (Dalimunthe et al., 2024).

Productivity and consistency in working are two important aspects in shaping the character of students in Islamic education (Dalimunthe, 2022). Islam teaches that knowledge must be practiced and disseminated in order to provide wider benefits. Therefore, students need to be equipped with a productive mindset, discipline in managing time, and determination in achieving goals. By forming productive and consistent characters in their work, they will not only be successful in academics, but

also become individuals who are able to make real contributions to society and the community as a whole.

Avoiding the Attitude of Imitation and Encouraging Innovation

Islamic education does not only aim to transfer knowledge, but also to shape the character of students to be able to think critically and innovatively. The concept of success in *Miftah al-Najah* by Aid al-Qarni emphasizes the importance of abandoning the attitude of imitation, which is following something blindly without deep understanding. This statement shows that success in education is not only measured by the ability to follow in the footsteps of others, but also by the courage to think independently, develop new ideas, and find creative solutions in solving various life challenges. This attitude is important in the modern era, where change occurs very quickly, and only those who are able to give. Islam, critical thinking is part of the command of Allah SWT which encourages humans to use reason in understanding knowledge and the reality of life.

Islamic history shows that Islamic civilization has progressed rapidly because Muslim scientists not only followed the opinions of previous scholars, but also developed new theories and methodologies in various fields of science. Wijaya (2023) explains that there are several examples of scholars who reject the attitude of imitation and encourage innovation in their knowledge, namely:

- Imam Al-Ghazali, who criticized the Greek philosophical approach that contradicted Islamic teachings and developed a theory of education based on morality and spirituality.
- Ibn Khaldun, who is known as the father of sociology because of his ideas on the science of history and the dynamics of human civilization.
- Al-Khwarizmi, who developed the algebra and decimal number system that is still used today in modern mathematics.

These three figures are examples of how Islam encourages its people to think innovatively and not just follow existing opinions without critical understanding. If today's students only rely on old methods without trying to find innovation, then the development of science will stagnate and will not be able to answer the challenges of the times (Syam et al., 2024).

D. CONCLUSION

The steps to achieve success according to Aid al-Qarni in *Miftah al-Najah* include several interrelated aspects, starting with good intentions and noble goals. Sincerity and asceticism in doing good deeds are the main foundations in every endeavor. Persistent struggle, discipline, and perseverance in learning and worship are also very important. al-Qarni emphasized the importance of using time wisely and not wasting existing opportunities. True success, according to him, is not only measured by worldly achievements, but also by the blessings obtained through devotion to Allah, by emulating the struggles of Islamic figures as a source of inspiration. The characteristics of successful people according to Aid al-Qarni in *Miftah al-Najah* include strong self-quality, both in spiritual and moral aspects. Successful people have the right intentions and deep faith as a foundation, which drives them to work hard, be disciplined, and consistent. They also show patience, persistence, and dedication in facing life's tests, as

well as maintaining noble morals, honesty, and justice. In addition to focusing on personal achievement, successful people also strive to benefit others and leave a valuable legacy. With a balance of skill, determination, and fair leadership, they are able to inspire and lead with integrity, making them good examples for those around them.

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Data availability: The data supporting the findings of this study are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request.

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