

## The Role of a Mother in Education of Children According To The Perspective of The Quran

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### Abstract.

*The mother's role as an educator is very important, including the duties of breastfeeding and protecting and educating children. Psychological research shows that the mother's presence from the beginning of a child's growth is crucial because early childhood is a critical period for the child's physical, intellectual, personality, and spiritual formation. Based on the Al-Qur'an in Surah Al-Baqarah Verse 233, Luqman Verse 14, and Al-Ahqaf Verse 15, there is important education that must be instilled in children, including the education of aqidah and Luqman's advice to his children. This research is library research with data collection methods in the form of documentation and interpretation of the Al-Qur'an. The aim is to understand the role of mothers in educating children according to Surah Al-Baqarah Verse 233, Luqman Verse 14, and Al-Ahqaf Verse 15. The results show the importance of children's education from the womb, as well as the mother's role in breastfeeding, protecting, educating, and forming aqidah, responsibility, and gratitude in children. Breastfeeding with breast milk supports the child's health and begins the educational process from the breastfeeding period.*

**Keywords:** Education, Mother's Role, Surah Al-Baqarah, Luqman, Al-Ahqaf

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## 1. Introduction

Children's education is one of the most important aspects of Islam that determines the future of the next generation. The role of mothers in children's education is very crucial because mothers are the first and foremost educators in the lives of their children. In Islam, the family is considered the basic unit of society, and education that begins at home greatly

influences the development of children. The Qur'an and hadith provide clear guidance on the importance of the mother's role in educating children.

Children are a trust given to them by their parents, so the obligation to provide education to children is very important and takes the highest priority. A child's pure heart is like a priceless gem; if he is educated and accustomed to doing good, then he will grow into a good person. However, if he is educated and accustomed to bad behavior, he will become a person who is at a loss and is wretched in this world and the hereafter (Mulyani, 2019).

Research shows that children who receive less attention from their fathers tend to have decreased academic abilities, inhibited social activities, and limited social interactions. Even for boys, their masculine characteristics can become blurred or experience ambiguity. Mothers have a great responsibility in educating their children, both physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Children's education begins in the womb, and early interactions between mother and child greatly determine the child's development (Hikmah, Nurul., 2022).

QS. Al-Baqarah: 233 emphasizes the importance of the mother's role in breastfeeding her child as a form of early education:

وَالْوَالِدَتُ يُرْضِعْنَ أَوْلَادَهُنَّ حَوْلَيْنِ كَامِلَيْنِ لِمَنْ أَرَادَ أَنْ يُنَمِّمَ الرِّضَاعَةَ ۖ وَعَلَى الْمَوْلُودِ لَهُ رِزْقُهُنَّ وَكِسْوَتُهُنَّ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ

Meaning: "Mothers should breastfeed their children for two full years, for those who want to perfect breastfeeding. It is the father's obligation to provide for their food and clothing in an appropriate manner." (QS. Al-Baqarah: 233).

Rasulullah SAW emphasized the importance of the mother's role in the child's life. One of the hadiths that shows this is:

عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ قَالَ: جَاءَ رَجُلٌ إِلَى رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ فَقَالَ: يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ مَنْ أَحَقُّ النَّاسِ بِحُسْنِ صَحَابَتِي؟ قَالَ: أُمُّكَ. قَالَ: ثُمَّ مَنْ؟ قَالَ: أُمُّكَ. قَالَ: ثُمَّ مَنْ؟ قَالَ: أُمُّكَ. قَالَ: ثُمَّ مَنْ؟ قَالَ: أَبُوكَ. (رواه البخاري ومسلم)

Meaning: From Abu Hurairah ra. said: "A man came to Rasulullah SAW and asked, 'O Rasulullah, who is the person I have the most right to treat well?' He answered, 'Your mother.' The man asked again, 'Then who?' He answered, 'Your mother.' The man asked again, 'Then who?' He answered, 'Your mother.' The man asked again, 'Then who?' He answered, 'Your father.'" (HR. Bukhari and Muslim).

This hadith shows how high the position of a mother is in Islam and how great her influence is in the formation of a child's character and education. Prophet Muhammad SAW was an extraordinary educator for Muslims and is worthy of being a role model in the process of educating generations. In addition to the Quran, the Hadith of Prophet Muhammad SAW is the main source for Muslims in forming the best Muslim personality. The belief that only Allah deserves to be worshiped helps a person to keep his intentions solely for Allah.

Tawhid helps a person understand the true meaning of worship. All worship performed must acknowledge the oneness of Allah, and monotheism helps make worship an expression of love, devotion, and obedience to Allah. Understanding monotheism provides a strong ethical and moral foundation in everyday life. Tawhid guides individuals to live according to Allah's teachings in all aspects of life, including worship (Muji, 2022).

Mothers play a central role in children's education, both directly and indirectly. Research shows that early interactions between mothers and children greatly influence the child's mental and emotional development. These interactions include daily activities such as breastfeeding, playing, and talking to children. In the family, the mother is a role model for her children. Children learn a lot from observing their mother's behavior and attitudes. Therefore, the role of the mother in educating children is not only limited to formal teaching but also includes character and moral education through good examples (Harahap et al., 2022).

Guided by the Quran and Hadith, Islam places great emphasis on the role of mothers in the education of children. The education given by mothers not only equips children with worldly knowledge but also forms strong morals, ethics, and spirituality, which will be the foundation for their future lives.

## **2. Research Method**

This research is included in the type of library research or library study, also known as library research. The data collection technique used is documentation, including the method of explaining the exegetes to the Qur'an and the theory of the Qur'an included in the interpretation. The approach used is the inductive technique and the tahlili method for the analysis of the verses of the Qur'an. Library research or literature study is a research method that collects and analyzes data from various written sources, such as books, journals, articles, and other documents (Darmalaksana, 2020).

Collecting library materials that are in accordance with the topic or research problem, such as books, journals, articles, and other relevant sources. Studying and analyzing the contents of the collected library materials. Conducting a critical evaluation of the library sources used, such as assessing the quality, accuracy, and objectivity of the information. Preparing a framework or outline to facilitate writing a research report. Writing a research report using the evaluated library sources (Abdhul, 2021).

## **3. Results and Discussion**

### **3.1. The Role of Mothers in Educating Children (Study of Q.S. Al-Baqarah: 233, Luqman: 14, and Al-Ahqaf: 15)**

This verse emphasizes the mother's responsibility to breastfeed her child for two years and the father's obligation to provide a living and decent clothing. In Al-Munir's interpretation, a mother has the primary obligation to breastfeed her child for two full years because breast milk is considered the best by all health experts. A father is responsible for earning a living to meet the needs of the breastfeeding mother and the baby. According to Ibn Kathir in his interpretation, the mother is obliged to breastfeed (*rada'ah*), while the father is responsible for providing clothing and food for the family according to his ability and convenience (Suaidi Yusuf et al., 2021).

Allah makes it mandatory for mothers to breastfeed their babies because a mother's milk has a big influence on her child. Research results from medical experts show that breast milk consists of truly pure essence. Mother's milk is also the best food for babies, and this is no longer in doubt by nutrition experts. Apart from the nature of the mother's nature, she has a deep sense of affection, is not appropriate to take temporary action for mothers who do not want to breastfeed their children simply because of their personal interests, for example, to

maintain their beauty. so that breastfeeding directly from the mother is closely related to the mental and mental development of the child. Thus, it is not appropriate to take temporary action for mothers who do not want to breastfeed their children simply because of their personal interests, for example, to maintain their beauty. Even though this is contrary to her own nature and indirectly she loses the opportunity to build the basis of a motherly relationship with her own child in the emotional field.

Ibn Kathir stated that in the process of weaning a child, both parents must first consult. Weaning should not be done based on the will of only one party (father or mother). In addition, in household life, husband and wife must make decisions through consultation, both regarding children's education, property, future plans, and others. This is in accordance with the example given by the Prophet Ibrahim as.

The mother's love for her child is reflected in her responsibility to breastfeed, while the father is obliged to provide support. A mother does not just breastfeed her child but does so with great tenderness, affection, and caress. This makes feelings of affection grow in children, along with feelings of love and kindness (Lajnah Pentashihan, 2011)

On the other hand, children who have never experienced a mother's love tend to feel shackled, which can give rise to a hard, evil, and vengeful character. Education experts have conducted research on societies with high morality, and one of the reasons is that the Emperor's wives at that time breastfed their own children, not handing over their children to other women to breastfeed (Ismail, 2018).

### **3.2. Discussion**

After giving birth, the main task of a mother is to breastfeed her child. Newborn babies are equipped with the instinct to breastfeed, although they do not yet have knowledge or intelligence, except for the potential that will be developed by parents and the environment. Modern science has proven that breast milk is the best food for babies. In Surah Al-Baqarah: 233, Allah SWT says, which means, "Mothers should breastfeed their children for two full years, namely for those who want to perfect their breastfeeding, and the obligation of the father to provide for their livelihood and clothing in a proper manner." This verse explains the mother's responsibility in breastfeeding their children for two years and the father's obligation to provide decent clothing for them.

Physical contact between mother and child begins during the breastfeeding period, which also has an impact on the regulation of psychic contact. According to Dr. Utami Roesli, the correct early initiation of breastfeeding (IMD) technique is to immediately dry the baby after birth and place it on the mother's chest to create skin contact between mother and baby (Amaliyah & Futriani, 2023).

As heads of families, parents have duties and functions as protectors and caretakers of their family members, both morally and materially. Rasulullah SAW said, "Each of you is a leader, and each of you will be held accountable for what you lead." Parents must provide material guarantees for the survival of their family, such as living and other needs. In Surah Al-Baqarah, Allah says, "Place them wherever you live and do not harm them to narrow them down." (Fariq et al., 2021)

The verse in Surah Al-Baqarah: 233 states, "Mothers should breastfeed their children for two full years, namely for those who want to perfect their breastfeeding." This shows the importance of breast milk in the physical and mental formation of children (Ministry of

Religious Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, 2011b). The phrase "Al-umm madrasatul ullah" (mother is the first school) emphasizes the strategic role of mothers in educating children in early life. Islam views infancy and toddlerhood as an important period for the formation of personality and future success. Children's physical, intellectual, and mental education must be developed properly (Khairiyah Husain Thaha, 2005). Physical education includes attention to the child's time, sleep, and rest. Intellectual education includes teaching from the womb, reading books, and providing a mini library. Spiritual education includes instilling strong faith, understanding of peace, and love for Allah.

In Surah Luqman, Allah says, "We command man to do good to his parents; his mother conceived him in a state of increasing weakness and weaned him in two years" (Al-Luqman: 14). This verse teaches that even though parents force them to commit shirk and immoral acts, children must still do good to them. Akhlak karimah, behavior that originates from the Qur'an and Sunnah, is the basis of behavior that must be instilled in Islamic education (Prananosa et al., 2018).

The verse in Surah Al-Baqarah: 233 emphasizes the father's obligation to feed and clothe the mother in a virtuous manner. Mothers play a role in preventing children from the bad influences of modern times and the fire of hell through education in faith and physical and spiritual morals. In Surah Luqman, Allah says, "Give thanks to Me and to your parents; only to Me will you return" (Luqman: 14). This verse emphasizes the importance of thanking Allah first, because He is the one who gives strength to mothers from pregnancy to educating children without feeling bored and tired for the sake of their children.

Based on a study of Surah Al-Baqarah: 233, Luqman: 14, and Al-Ahqof: 15, there is very important educational material for children, especially in instilling education in faith, morals, and Luqman's will to their children. In this era, we often see a crisis of noble morals, while bad morals are often shown, both intentionally and unintentionally, among the current and future generations (Rois, 2022).

The period in the womb is an important period that needs to be utilized to lay the foundations for developing children's abilities, especially those related to morals and ethics. The involvement of parents, especially mothers, is greatly needed during this period to provide protection, affection, and education. Therefore, mothers are advised to breastfeed their children for two full years because during this period children really need protection and education from their mothers.

The role of mothers in children's education includes mothers as nurses, protectors, and educators. This is due to several factors in a mother: mothers who always make time for their children, mothers as the main molders in educating, and mothers as the first people to instill faith in children.

#### **4. Conclusion**

A mother's role in a child's education is very important from the beginning of a child's life, starting from conception, development into an embryo, and birth as a human. During this time, the child is connected and develops both physically and psychologically with the mother who is carrying him. The mother is the first and foremost place in the formation and education of children. Allah SWT has given great potential to a mother, giving her a central role in the home as the main educator according to the perspective of the Koran. Research shows that the mother's role as an educator includes several important aspects: mother as



breastfeeder, mother as protector, and mother as educator. Based on Surah Al-Baqarah: 233, Luqman: 14, and Al-Ahqof: 15, there is educational material that is very important in children's education, especially in instilling Luqman's faith and testament in his children. Nowadays, we often witness a crisis of noble morals, while bad morals are often shown unintentionally to current and future generations. The period in the womb is a golden period that needs to be utilized to lay the foundations for developing children's abilities, especially in terms of morals. The involvement of parents, especially mothers, is very necessary at this time.

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