

A professional and ideal educator, in Imam Ghazali's view

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KEYWORDS

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ABSTRACT This research is motivated by the view of education according to Imam Abu Hamid Muhammad, or Imam Al-Ghozali, who is deeply concerned about education. Therefore, in education, good teachers must always guide their students to have faith and be devoted to Allah SWT. According to Imam al-Ghazali, a teacher must have a patient attitude in accepting problems asked by students, be loving and not show favouritism, instill a friendly nature in his heart towards all his students, have interest and attention to the teaching and learning process and guide and educate students as best as possible. According to Al-Ghazali, the ideal professional teacher figure is responsible for education and teaching and is tasked with perfecting, purifying, clarifying and guiding his students to get closer to Allah. Teachers must also have an intelligent mind, perfect morals, and a muscular physique.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Imam Abu Hamid Muhammad, known as Imam al-Ghazali, is among the most significant Muslim theologians and Sufis. He received the title of High Imam Abu Hamid Imam al-Ghazali Hujjatul Islam. He was born in 1085 in Tus in Persia, northeastern Khorasan Province. Nisamul Mulk gave him a professorship at the Nisammiah high school in Baghdad. However, he left this position for four years to travel and write. Then, he taught again briefly at the Nisammiah high school in Nishapur. Not long after, he returned to his hometown of Tus and died there in 1111.

Besides being a respected Muslim theologian and Sufi, Imam al-Ghazali is highly concerned with education. Three of his major works, *Ihya'ulum id-din*, *Fatihah al-'ulum*, and *Mizam al-'amal*, contain his views on educational issues. One of the educational issues that received significant attention from Imam al-Ghazali was teachers or educators.

Imam al-Ghazali uses the term educator with various words such as *al-muallimin* (teacher), *al-mudarris* (teacher), *al-muaddib* (educator) and *al-walid* (parent), namely those who are in charge and responsible for education and teaching. According to Imam al-Ghazali, teaching is the most needed activity and has the perfect role because a teacher perfects and purifies the human heart. Most importantly, a teacher must guide students to believe and be devoted to Allah SWT. According to Imam al-Ghazali, a teacher must have a patient attitude in accepting problems asked by students, be loving and not show favouritism, instill a friendly nature in his heart towards all his students, have interest and attention to the teaching and learning process and guide and educate students as well as possible. Imam al-Ghazali revealed that whoever is engaged in his duties as a teacher means he is pursuing a very noble cause.

2. METHOD

This research uses a qualitative research approach where qualitative research as a scientific method is often used and carried out by a group of researchers in the field of social sciences, including education. Qualitative research is carried out to build knowledge through understanding and discovery. The qualitative research approach is a research and understanding process based on methods investigating social phenomena and human problems (Iskandar, 2009).

Qualitative research is a method based on the positivism philosophy, used to research the condition of natural objects, where the researcher is the key instrument, sampling of data sources is carried out purposively and snowballing, the collection technique is triangulation (combination), and data analysis is inductive. /qualitative, and the results of qualitative research emphasize meaning rather than generalization. Because the qualitative research method is research that intends to understand the phenomena experienced by the research subjects (Dr. Rukin, n.d.)

3. RESULT & DISCUSSION

3.1 The Figure of a Teacher According to Imam Ghazali

According to the National Education System Law, "Educators (teachers) are professional staff tasked with planning, implementing the learning process, assessing learning outcomes, providing guidance and training, and conducting research and community service, especially for educators at universities.

According to Hadari Nawawi, a teacher is a person who works in the education sector and is also responsible for helping students reach maturity. From the definitions above, it can be seen that a teacher or educator is responsi-

ble for students' physical and spiritual development in carrying out their duties as students. Moreover, it develops students' mindsets to prepare themselves for the future.

3.2 Understanding Professional Teachers

Etymologically, a professional is taken from the English profession, which means acknowledging, acknowledging, and declaring an expert—livelihoods or workers who require skills obtained through special education or training. Ahmad Tafsir says in his book, "Professionalism is an understanding that teaches that a professional must do every job. A professional person is a person who has a profession.

The Big Indonesian Dictionary defines a profession as "a field of work based on specific educational expertise (skills, vocations, etc.). Professional teachers are teachers who have special abilities and expertise in carrying out teaching and learning activities so that they achieve targets in the form of achieving goals related to the subjects presented and have maximum abilities.

Here, Imam Ghazali explains that the etiquette and duties of teachers are as follows: 1) Teachers should view students as their children; 2) In carrying out their duties, teachers should not expect wages or praise but should expect Allah's approval and be oriented toward getting closer to Him; 3) Teachers should take advantage of every opportunity to advise and guide students that the aim of studying is to get closer to God, not to gain worldly positions or pride; 4) For students who misbehave, teachers should reprimand them as best they can sarcastically and affectionately, not openly and reproachfully; 5) Teachers should not be fanatical about the field of study they teach and then criticize the field of study taught by other teachers; 6) Teachers should pay attention to the development phases of students' thinking to convey knowledge according to their thinking abilities; 7) Teachers should pay attention to weak students by giving them easy lessons and not haunting them with difficult things that can make them lose their love of learning; and 8) Teachers should practice knowledge and not otherwise act in conflict with the knowledge they teach to students.

3.3 The Concept of the Ideal Teacher

According to the Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), a teacher means a person who teaches. Thus, people whose profession is teaching are called teachers. Be it teachers at school or elsewhere. In English, several words refer to teachers: teacher, tutor, educator, and instructor. All these words are close to the term teacher. In Webster's dictionary, the teacher is defined as someone who teaches. A tutor is a teacher who provides instruction to students, a private teacher, and an instructor is someone who teaches, a teacher or a trainer. An Educator is someone with educational work responsibilities (educational expert).

Ahmad Tafsir defines a teacher (educator) as a person responsible for the ongoing process of growth and development of students' cognitive and psychomotor potential. Imam Barnadib stated that a teacher (educator) deliberately influences others to achieve maturity. Teachers (educators) consist of parents and other adults who are responsible for the child's maturity.

There are several criteria for an ideal teacher: 1) Have sincere educational motivation, namely being sincere in applying his knowledge; 2) Act as a loving parent to their stu-

dents; 3) Able to explore the potential of students; 4) Be open and democratic in accepting and respecting the opinions of students; 5) Can work with students to solve problems; 6) Become a role model so that students follow the good deeds carried out by their educators toward the path of the afterlife.

The requirements for teachers (educators) are Teachers are professional educators because they have implicitly accepted and assumed part of the educational mandate that rests on their parents' shoulders. This means that parents have given the teacher a mandate or 34 part of the responsibility. Parents cannot possibly hand over their children to just any unprofessional teacher.

Law no. 20 of 2003 and Republic of Indonesia Government Regulation No. 19 of 2005 Chapter IV concerning Standards for Educators and Education Personnel contains the requirements for becoming a teacher as stated in article 28, namely:

- a. Teachers must have academic qualifications and competence as learning agents, be physically and spiritually healthy, and have the ability to realize National education goals.
- b. The academic qualifications, as referred to in paragraph (1), are the minimum educational level that must be met by a teacher as proven by a relevant diploma and expertise certification following applicable statutory provisions.
- c. Competencies as a learning agent at primary and secondary education levels and early childhood education include 1) pedagogic competence, 2) personality competence, 3) professional competence, and d) social competence.
- d. A person who does not have a certificate and expertise certification as intended in paragraph (2) but has particular expertise that is recognized and required can be appointed as a teacher after passing a suitability and equality test. Methodology of expansion with different schools of thought.

3.4 Duties and Obligations of Teachers According to Al-Ghazali

According to Al-Ghazali, the main task of educators is to perfect, cleanse, purify and bring the human heart closer to Him. However busy he is in teaching and he has extensive business, and he also faces significant dangers, his etiquette and duties are maintained, namely:

The first duty is compassion for those who study and treating them as one would one's children.

The second task is that he follows the owner of the *syara'* (Prophet) SAW.

The third task is that he must not neglect the teacher's advice.

The fourth task is essential to teaching, namely preventing students from having bad morals by means of teasing, as far as possible, not openly or with affection.

The fifth task is that people responsible for some knowledge should not spread knowledge outside their expertise among their students.

The sixth task is to provide students with sufficient levels of understanding.

The seventh task is to convey to a short-sighted student something clear and appropriate for him, and he does

not mention that there is something detailed which he has kept from him behind this.

The eighth task is for the teacher to put his knowledge into practice. Let him not deny what he says because knowledge is gained with the sight of the heart, while experience is gained with the sight of the eyes.

3.5 Biography of Imam Al-Ghazali

He is Imam Zaid Ad-Din, Hujjatul Islam, Abu Hamid Muhammad Ibn Muhammad Ibn Muhammad Imam Al-Ghazali At-Thusi, An-Naisabur, a Figh scholar, expert in Sufism, of the Shafi'i school of jurisprudence and the Asy'ariyah monotheism. He was born in 450 Hijriyah 1058 AD in the city of Thus, the second largest city in Khurasan after Naisabur, Persia.

His name is sometimes pronounced al-Ghazali (two z), taken from the word Ghazzal, which means wool spinner because his father's job was as a wool spinner. Meanwhile, Imam al-Ghazali, with one letter "z," is taken from the word Ghazala, the name of al-Ghazali's birth village.

Imam al-Ghazali is an accomplished thinker with the title of defender of Islam or Hujjatul Islam. Imam al-Ghazali also received the title Ornament of Religion. His life history and opinions have been widely discussed and studied by authors in Arabic, English and other world languages, including Indonesian. It is appropriate for future generations of thinkers to study the thoughts of previous people so that they can live well and live. His simplicity can be seen from his attitude of not wanting to eat except for his efforts. Imam al-Ghazali's father, in his spare time, often took the opportunity to communicate with ulama at recitation assemblies. He was very generous in giving something he had to the clerics he visited as a feeling of sympathy and gratitude. As someone close to and likes ulama, he hopes that his son will become an ulama who is an expert in religion and advises the people. Before the end of his life, Imam al-Ghazali's father made a will to a Sufi, who was also his father's close friend, to look after his two young children, namely Muhammad and Ahmad and leave a small inheritance for his children.

4. CONCLUSION

According to Al-Ghazali, the ideal professional teacher figure is responsible for education and teaching and is tasked with perfecting, purifying, clarifying and guiding his students to get closer to Allah. Teachers must also have an intelligent mind, perfect morals, and a muscular physique. Teachers must have compassion, honesty, sympathy, and sincerity. Teachers must also understand the psychological differences and differences in students' intellectual abilities. The teacher must be able to provide material systematically.

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