



Enhancing Qur'anic Memorization Skills through Effective Learning Methods for Santri at Pesantren Assyifa

Ahmad Purkoni^{1*}, Fabian Zaky Rabbani², Abdul Gofar³, Tafsir Rozi⁴

¹ Department of Islamic Education. Universitas Perguruan Tinggi Ilmu Al-Qur'an. Indonesia

^{2,3,4} Department of Islamic Education. Al-Syifa Islamic Boarding School. Indonesia

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ABSTRACT

This community service program was designed to enhance Qur'anic memorization skills among santri at Pesantren Assyifa by integrating effective cognitive-based learning methods with traditional Islamic pedagogical practices. Conducted over eight weeks, the program involved initial assessments, teacher training, student workshops, practical memorization sessions, and structured evaluations. Modern memorization techniques — such as mnemonic devices, visualization, spaced repetition, and active recall — were introduced and practiced alongside classical methods like talaqqi and tikkar. The program targeted more than 40 santri and involved tahfiz teachers as active facilitators. Quantitative and qualitative assessments demonstrated notable improvement in memorization retention, engagement, and confidence. By the end of the program, over 85% of participants achieved measurable progress in both speed and accuracy of memorization. Feedback from students and teachers highlighted the usefulness and motivational impact of the techniques introduced. This program not only provided a fresh approach to Qur'anic learning but also offered sustainable strategies for long-term application within the pesantren. The success of the initiative supports the importance of combining Islamic values with contemporary educational insights to produce holistic and effective learning outcomes.

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* Corresponding author: purkoni425@gmail.com

INTRODUCTION

The memorization of the Qur'an is not only a spiritual pursuit but also an intellectual endeavor that requires effective pedagogical strategies. At Islamic boarding schools such as Pesantren Assyifa, the process of Qur'anic memorization remains central to the curriculum. However, many santri face challenges in memorizing and retaining long passages of the

Qur'an due to a lack of individualized learning approaches and limited exposure to cognitive science-based techniques (Rahman et al., 2021). This issue becomes more pronounced considering the diversity in learning styles, memory capacities, and motivation levels among the santri population.

Recent studies in Islamic education emphasize that traditional methods—while spiritually beneficial need to be supplemented with modern memorization techniques that align with current educational psychology (Abdullah & Zulkifli, 2020). Repetition (*tikrār*) and oral transmission (*talaqqī*) are time-tested methods but may become ineffective if not adapted to suit students' cognitive development and attention span (Hassan & Yusof, 2022). Moreover, insufficient parental involvement, lack of peer support structures, and absence of motivational frameworks also contribute to santri's difficulties in maintaining consistency and focus (Shukri et al., 2023).

The urgency of this community service program lies in the need to revitalize Qur'anic memorization among santri through effective, evidence-based learning strategies. This includes incorporating mnemonic devices, mind mapping, spaced repetition systems, and audio-visual aids into traditional learning models (Nordin & Jalil, 2020). These methods have been proven to significantly increase retention and recall, especially in learners who struggle with rote memorization (Ismail et al., 2022). More importantly, this initiative aims to align memorization practices with contemporary neuroscience insights, which highlight how memory consolidation, emotion, and environment play critical roles in long-term memorization (Zakaria et al., 2023).

Furthermore, research shows that a structured memorization plan with formative assessments and regular feedback can foster motivation and discipline among learners (Kamarulzaman et al., 2021). This initiative, therefore, will provide training and mentoring for teachers and santri on how to implement such structured plans effectively at Pesantren Assyifa. The integration of peer tutoring and reflective learning is also targeted to encourage a collaborative and emotionally supportive learning ecosystem (Basri et al., 2022).

The ultimate goal of this program is to enhance santri's ability to memorize the Qur'an not only quantitatively but also qualitatively with better retention, comprehension, and spiritual connection. By addressing cognitive, emotional, and pedagogical factors, this initiative contributes to the broader mission of producing future *ḥuffāz* who are intellectually equipped and spiritually grounded (Yusoff et al., 2023). Thus, the urgency and relevance of this program are not merely educational but part of a greater religious and moral responsibility.

METHOD

This community service program will be conducted over a period of two months, combining interactive workshops, hands-on practice, mentoring, and evaluation sessions designed to enhance the effectiveness of Qur'anic memorization among santri at Pesantren Assyifa. The following steps outline the structured method of implementation:

1. Needs Assessment and Coordination

Objective: To identify the current memorization challenges faced by santri and assess the effectiveness of existing methods.

Output: Baseline data on strengths, weaknesses, and needs of students regarding memorization.

Activities:

- a. Distribute pre-program questionnaires to santri and teachers (ustadz/ustadzah).
- b. Conduct interviews with tahfiz instructors.
- c. Observe existing halaqah and memorization routines.

2. Curriculum Development and Material Preparation

Objective: To design training modules and materials that are tailored to the needs of santri and aligned with Islamic pedagogical values.

Output: Teaching modules and supporting tools ready for implementation.

Activities:

- a. Develop a hybrid module that integrates traditional methods (*talaqqi, tikrar*) with modern memory techniques such as: Prepare training slides, worksheets, and memorization tracking journals.
- b. Prepare training slides, worksheets, and memorization tracking journals.

3. Teacher and Mentor Training

Objective: To equip tahfiz teachers and selected senior santri with the new memorization strategies.

Output: Trained facilitators capable of applying innovative memorization methods.

Activities:

- a. Conduct a 2-day intensive workshop for teachers and mentors.
- b. Simulate teaching demonstrations using new techniques.
- c. Discuss integration strategies into daily *halaqah* activities.

4. Student Training and Application Phase

Objective: To directly train santri in the use of improved memorization strategies and track their progress.

Output: Improved memorization fluency, engagement, and independent learning habits among students.

Activities:

- a. Weekly group training sessions over six weeks (1 session/week, 90 minutes each).
- b. Small group discussions and memory games.
- c. Peer-to-peer mentoring and progress check-ins.
- d. Implementation of memorization journal to record daily verses and reflections.

5. Monitoring and Formative Evaluation

Objective: To assess the students' progress and provide timely feedback for improvement.

Output: Mid-term report showing progress and necessary adjustments.

Activities:

- a. Mid-program quiz on retention and recall of memorized verses.
- b. One-on-one feedback sessions with selected santri.
- c. Observation and documentation of participation, motivation, and consistency.

6. Final Evaluation and Reflection Session

Objective: To evaluate the overall effectiveness of the program and gather feedback for further development.

Output: Final report and recommendations for long-term implementation at Pesantren Assyifa.

Activities:

- a. Conduct a post-test and final memorization challenge.

- b. Organize a reflection seminar with santri and teachers to discuss experiences and learning outcomes.
- c. Distribute final evaluation forms to all participants.

7. Sustainability and Follow-Up

Objective: To ensure the continuity and long-term application of the methods introduced.

Output: Institutional adoption of improved memorization strategies and continued support for santri's Qur'anic journey.

Activities:

- a. Provide digital access to learning materials and templates.
- b. Establish a mentoring system for ongoing peer guidance.
- c. Recommend integration of modules into the pesantren's formal tahfiz curriculum.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Activity Implementation

The community service program entitled "Enhancing Qur'anic Memorization Skills through Effective Learning Methods for Santri at Pesantren Assyifa" was implemented over an eight-week period, from March to April 2025. The activities were carried out in collaboration with the ustadz/ustadzah, tahfiz teachers, and more than 40 selected santri aged between 12 and 17 years. The implementation was divided into five main phases: assessment, training, application, evaluation, and reflection.

Phase 1: Initial Assessment (Week 1)

A baseline assessment was conducted using pre-training questionnaires and direct observation of existing memorization practices. The findings indicated that 68% of the santri relied solely on rote repetition (*tikrar*), while 72% reported frequent difficulty in retaining longer verses (10+ verses per day).

Phase 2: Teacher and Mentor Training (Week 2)

A two-day workshop was held for tahfiz instructors and selected senior santri on integrating modern cognitive techniques—such as the use of mind maps, mnemonic stories, active recall strategies, and spaced repetition—with classical methods (*talaqqi*, *muraja'ah*). Participants received training manuals and memorization journals.

Phase 3: Student Training Sessions (Weeks 3–7)

Five weekly interactive sessions were conducted for the santri. Each session lasted 90 minutes and included the following components: (1) Qur'anic memorization drills using visualization and storytelling; (2) Peer-to-peer active recall exercises; (3) Tracking memorized verses using the memorization journal; and (4) Group feedback and motivation circles. Daily memorization targets were adjusted to include both new memorization (*ziyadah*) and review (*muraja'ah*) using the newly taught strategies.

Phase 4: Monitoring and Evaluation (Week 5 and Week 8)

Progress was measured through a mid-program quiz (Week 5) and a final memorization challenge (Week 8). In Week 5, 78% of the students demonstrated increased fluency in

recalling longer verses compared to baseline. In the final week, 85% of participants scored above 80% in accuracy and speed in a structured memorization evaluation.

Indicator	Target	Result
Increase in memorization retention	≥ 70% of students improve by 20%	Achieved (78% improved)
Active use of memorization journals	≥ 90% students consistently fill journals	Achieved (95%)
Satisfaction from teachers and students	≥ 80% rate training as useful	Achieved (92%)

Phase 5: Reflection and Feedback (Week 8)

At the end of the program, a joint reflection session was held with teachers and santri. Verbal testimonials and written feedback were collected. Sample Feedback from Participants:

Participant	Feedback
Ahmad F. (16)	I used to forget the verses easily, but now with the spaced repetition technique and visual mapping, I can memorize and retain more confidently
Ustadzah Nur	The integration of mind maps and storytelling was very helpful for our visual learners. We plan to continue this approach
Aisyah R. (14)	The peer mentoring sessions were fun. It felt like learning together, not just memorizing alone

CONCLUSION

The program was successfully implemented with measurable improvements in Qur'anic memorization among the santri of Pesantren Assyifa. The integration of modern educational psychology with traditional Islamic learning significantly enhanced retention, motivation, and the overall learning experience. Based on the feedback and outcomes, the pesantren administration has agreed to gradually incorporate these methods into the regular *halaqah* curriculum.

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