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Interface Design of Quranic Application using Design Science Research Methodology: A Comparison of Gamification and Non-Gamification Design

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ABSTRACT

Objective: To improve student motivation and engagement through an intuitive mobile interface with interactive visuals. Method: Using Design Science Research Methodology (DSRM), this study compares gamified and non-gamified interface designs. Results: User Experience Questionnaire (UEQ) results indicate that the gamified version outperforms the non-gamified design, particularly in stimulation and attractiveness, positively impacting learner and teacher satisfaction. Additionally, the Intrinsic Motivation Inventory (IMI) confirms that gamification significantly increases students' motivation, while the User Engagement Scale (UES) highlights the gamified version's effectiveness in creating an enjoyable, engaging, and impactful learning experience. Novelty: This research uniquely contrasts gamified and non-gamified designs in Quranic education, providing insights for quality improvement in Islamic e-learning platforms.

INTRODUCTION

Indonesia, with its majority Muslim population, has a longstanding tradition of non-formal Quranic education called *mengaji*, introduced by parents to their children as part of religious upbringing (Astiana, 2024). Islamic education has evolved to remain relevant in contemporary society, aligning with modernization efforts to integrate religious teaching with advancements in technology and new perspectives (Elihami et al., 2024). This modernization of Islamic education includes paradigm shifts, emerging movements, and reform initiatives aimed at renewing established religious knowledge, traditions, and institutions (Firmansyah et al., 2023). This shows that Islamic education must remain adaptable to contemporary context, including utilizing technology to increase effectiveness (Karami & Dahlan, 2022).

In response, Akram Afifi Holdings introduced *Mengaji* Online, an innovative Learning Management System (LMS) that offers a more flexible format for Quranic learning. The platform provides interactive, scheduled sessions between students and teachers, allowing for structured, on-demand learning. However, the *Mengaji* Online LMS faces design challenges, particularly in user experience, due to the absence of a mobile-friendly version and limited visual appeal, which hinders student engagement. Consequently, students often access the platform only during scheduled sessions, rarely exploring additional features due to the lack of interactivity. This contributes to low user involvement, impacting the platform's overall success (Steffen et al., 2023).

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