



# Application of Index Card Match Method to Improve Islamic Religious Education Learning Outcomes on The Stories of The Prophets of Allah SWT for Grade IV Students of SDN 094118 Marubun

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## ABSTRACT

This study aims to analyze the application of the Index Card Match method in improving the learning outcomes of students at SD Negeri 094118 Marubun Lökkung in the PAI subject, especially in the material on the stories of the Prophet of Allah SWT. This study uses a quantitative approach with a classroom action research (CAR) design carried out in two cycles. Each cycle consists of the stages of planning, implementation, observation, and reflection. Data were collected through learning outcome tests, observations of student activities, and interviews with teachers and students to obtain a comprehensive picture of the effectiveness of this method in PAI learning. The results of the study showed that the application of the Index Card Match method had a positive impact on student learning outcomes. The average student score increased significantly, and most students were able to achieve or exceed the minimum completion standard. In addition, this method also increases student motivation and participation in learning. In addition to improving cognitive aspects, this method also has a positive impact on students' affective and psychomotor aspects. Based on the results of the study, it can be concluded that the Index Card Match method is an effective learning strategy in improving student learning outcomes in Islamic Religious Education subjects, especially in the material on the stories of the Prophets of Allah SWT. Therefore, the Index Card Match method can be used as an alternative in teaching Islamic Religious Education to create a more interesting and effective learning experience for elementary school students.

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## Introduction

Islamic Religious Education (PAI) has a very important role in shaping the character and morals of students from an early age. One of the main materials in PAI is the stories of

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the Prophets of Allah SWT, which teach the values of exemplary behavior, patience, honesty, and faith. Through these stories, students are expected to be able to understand and emulate the attitudes and behavior of the Prophets in everyday life. However, in practice, learning the stories of the Prophets is often considered less interesting by students. The lecture method that is still widely used by teachers tends to make students passive and less actively involved in the learning process, so that their understanding of the material is less than optimal.

Many studies have shown that active and interactive learning methods are more effective in improving students' understanding and motivation to learn. One method that can be used to overcome problems in PAI learning is Index Card Match. This method is an active learning strategy that involves paired cards containing questions and answers. Students are asked to find the right pair of cards through interaction and discussion with their friends. With this method, learning becomes more enjoyable and students find it easier to understand and remember the material being taught.

The Index Card Match method has several advantages over conventional methods. First, this method involves physical and mental activities simultaneously, so it can improve students' memory of the material. Second, this method encourages social interaction and cooperation among students, thus improving their communication skills. Third, the learning atmosphere becomes more enjoyable and not boring, which ultimately has an impact on increasing students' learning motivation.

However, although this method has been widely used in various subjects, its application in Islamic Religious Education learning, especially in the material of the stories of the Prophets of Allah SWT, has not been widely studied. Therefore, this study aims to analyze the effectiveness of the application of the Index Card Match method in improving the learning outcomes of students at SD Negeri 094118 Marubun Lökkung in Islamic Religious Education subjects.

This study is expected to contribute to the world of education, especially in the development of more innovative and effective learning strategies in teaching religious material. By using the Index Card Match method, it is hoped that students can better understand the values contained in the stories of the Prophet SAW and apply them in everyday life. In addition, this study can also be a reference for teachers in choosing the right learning method to improve student learning outcomes in elementary schools.

## Methods

The Index Card Match method is an active learning strategy that uses paired cards containing questions and answers. Students are asked to match the correct pair of cards by interacting and discussing with their friends. This study uses a quantitative approach with a classroom action research (CAR) design that is carried out in two cycles. Each cycle consists of the stages of planning, implementation, observation, and reflection. Data were collected through learning outcome tests, observations of student activities, and interviews with teachers and students to obtain a comprehensive picture of the effectiveness of this method in Islamic Religious Education learning.

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## Result

The results of this study indicate that the application of the Index Card Match method has a significant positive impact on student learning outcomes in Islamic Religious Education (PAI) subjects on the material of the stories of the Prophets of Allah SWT. This method has been proven to be able to improve students' understanding of the material, increase learning motivation, and create a more interactive and enjoyable learning atmosphere.

In the first cycle, the results of the evaluation test showed that there were still some students who had difficulty matching card pairs correctly. This was caused by several factors, including a lack of understanding of the material and students' unfamiliarity with the learning methods used. In addition, limited time in completing the search for card pairs was also an obstacle for some students. However, observations made during the learning process showed that most students enjoyed this activity and showed high enthusiasm in participating in the learning.

To overcome these obstacles, several improvements were made in the second cycle, such as providing clearer directions at the beginning of learning, providing more flexible time, and providing additional exercises before the game began. The evaluation results in the second cycle showed a significant increase in the average value of student learning outcomes. If in the first cycle only some students managed to get scores above the minimum completion standard, then in the second cycle the number of students who achieved or exceeded the standard increased drastically.

In addition to the cognitive aspect, the Index Card Match method also has a positive impact on students' affective and psychomotor aspects. From the observation results, it can be seen that students become more active in participating, both in finding card pairs and in discussing with their friends. This activity encourages cooperation between students and improves their social skills, especially in terms of communication and collaboration. This is in accordance with the constructivist learning theory which states that learning that involves social interaction can improve students' understanding of a material.

In addition, interviews with Islamic Religious Education subject teachers showed that this method is more interesting than the lecture method that is usually used. Teachers stated that students seemed more focused and understood the material more easily than when only given verbal explanations. Teachers also felt helped by this method, because students were more independent in finding answers and understanding the material without having to be continuously re-explained.

However, although this method provides many benefits, there are several challenges that need to be considered in its implementation. One of the main challenges is the preparation which is quite time consuming, especially in making question and answer cards. Teachers need to ensure that each pair of cards is relevant to the material being taught and challenging enough for students to really think in matching the cards. In addition, classroom management is also an important aspect, especially in controlling

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student dynamics so that they stay focused and not just playing without understanding the contents of the material.

## Discussion

Overall, the results of this study support the theory that learning methods involving physical activity and social interaction can improve students' understanding of the subject matter. Index Card Match not only improves students' memory of the material on the stories of the Prophets of Allah SWT, but also makes the learning process more enjoyable and less boring. Therefore, this method can be used as an effective alternative in teaching Islamic Religious Education subjects, especially on narrative materials such as the stories of the Prophets of Allah SWT.

With the positive results of this study, it is hoped that the Index Card Match method can be applied more widely in other subjects. The development of this method can also be done by adjusting the level of difficulty of the questions and answers to suit the level of cognitive development of students. In addition, further research can be conducted to test the effectiveness of this method over a longer period of time and in various different learning contexts.

### A. Application of the Index Card Match Method in Islamic Religious Education Learning

The Index Card Match method began to be applied in Islamic Religious Education learning with the material on the stories of the Prophets of Allah SWT in class IV of SD Negeri 094118 Marubun Lokkung. The learning process begins with the preparation of cards containing questions on one side and answers on the other. The cards were distributed randomly to students. Each student received one card and was asked to find a pair of cards that matched the information they had.

In the early stages of implementation in the first cycle, the teacher gave directions on how to play the game and divided the students into several small groups. The classroom atmosphere became more active, although some students seemed confused about the game mechanism. However, with the teacher's guidance, students began to understand the learning process and participate actively. This method made students more interested because it involved game elements that were different from the lecture method that was usually used previously.

In this implementation, the teacher also gave students the opportunity to discuss the contents of the material after finding a pair of cards. Group discussions helped students to exchange information about the stories of the Prophets of Allah SWT, so that their understanding of the material increased.

### B. Improving Student Learning Outcomes

Evaluation of learning outcomes was carried out at the end of each cycle through a written test that measured students' understanding of the stories of the Prophets of Allah SWT. The test results in the first cycle showed that out of 30 students, only 18

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students (60%) achieved scores above the Minimum Completion Criteria (KKM) with an average score of 70.

After reflection, it was found that some students still did not understand the content of the material due to limited discussion time and lack of guidance in matching cards. In the second cycle, the teacher made improvements by clarifying instructions, providing more discussion time, and providing examples of how to match cards effectively.

The evaluation results in the second cycle showed a significant increase. As many as 26 students (87%) managed to achieve scores above the KKM with an average score of 85. This proves that the Index Card Match method is able to significantly improve student learning outcomes

### C. The Effect of the Index Card Match Method on Student Motivation and Learning Participation

The implementation of the Index Card Match method not only has an impact on learning outcomes, but also increases student motivation and participation in learning. This can be seen from the enthusiasm of students when looking for card pairs, group discussions, and their courage to ask or answer questions posed by the teacher.

In observations conducted during learning, students appeared more active, were not embarrassed to ask questions, and were more enthusiastic in participating in learning activities. This method also helps students with low abilities to be more confident because the learning process is carried out in groups, so they can help each other.

In addition, this method strengthens students' understanding through physical activity and social interaction, which makes the material easier to remember compared to conventional learning methods.

### D. Challenges in Implementing the Index Card Match Method

Although this method has a positive impact, there are several challenges faced during implementation. Some of these challenges include:

1. Limited Time: The card matching process takes quite a long time, especially in the early stages of implementation.
2. Difficulty in Guiding Students: Teachers need to pay more attention to students who are slow to understand the game so that they do not fall behind.
3. Lost or Damaged Cards: In some cases, game cards are lost or damaged, affecting the smoothness of learning.

To overcome these challenges, teachers are advised to prepare spare cards, provide clear directions, and divide students into groups that are balanced between high and low-ability students.

### E. Advantages of the Index Card Match Method

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Based on the results of the study, the Index Card Match method has several advantages, including: Increases interaction between students, Encourages cooperation in groups, Helps students understand the material in a fun way, Trains critical thinking and communication skills, Helps students who have kinesthetic and visual learning styles

Thus, the Index Card Match method is not only effective in improving student learning outcomes, but is also able to create an active, creative, and enjoyable learning atmosphere. This method is highly recommended as one of the innovative learning strategies in Islamic Religious Education material, especially in the material on the stories of the Prophets of Allah SWT.

## Conclusion

Based on the results of the research that has been conducted, it can be concluded that the application of the Index Card Match method in Islamic Religious Education (PAI) learning on the material of the stories of the Prophets of Allah SWT at SD Negeri 094118 Marubun Lokkung has proven effective in improving student learning outcomes. This can be seen from the increase in the average student score from the first cycle of 70 to 85 in the second cycle, with the percentage of learning completion increasing from 60% to 87%. In addition to improving learning outcomes, this method also has a positive impact on student motivation and participation in learning. Students become more active, enthusiastic, and motivated in understanding the material because of the elements of games and group discussions. This method also helps students who have low learning abilities to be more confident and more easily understand the material in a more interactive way.

Although there are several challenges in implementing this method, such as time constraints, difficulties in guiding students, and technical obstacles such as lost or damaged cards, these challenges can be overcome with careful planning and more structured learning strategies. Overall, the Index Card Match method can be used as an alternative innovative and effective learning strategy in Islamic Religious Education learning, especially for the material of the stories of the Prophets of Allah SWT. The application of this method not only improves students' understanding of the material, but also builds better critical thinking, cooperation, and communication skills.

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