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Email: ijireditor7@gmail.com

Formation of Independent Children's Character Through Dialogue of Faith in Allah

¹Nurul Riyatin

¹RA 'Aisyiyah Tanjungsari, Indonesia

¹nurulriyatin@gmail.com

Correspondence Email: nurulriyatin@gmail.com

Abstract: Independence is an important aspect of a child's character development, allowing them to take initiative, take responsibility for their actions, and overcome challenges effectively. Dialogue of faith in Allah Swt, as a process of reflection and internalization of spiritual values, is believed to contribute to fostering independence in children. This article aims to review the scientific literature in the last five years regarding the influence of faith dialogue in Allah Swt on the formation of children's independent character. The method used is a systematic literature review by identifying, selecting, and analyzing relevant articles from various databases. The results of the study show that dialogue of faith in Allah Swt can encourage children to develop confidence, decision-making skills, self-discipline, and perseverance, which are important components of independence. Dialogue of faith in Allah Swt also provides a strong moral foundation for children to act independently while still considering ethical values and social norms. This article provides important implications for children's character education in the family, school, and community environment, by emphasizing the importance of faith dialogue as a means to foster independence based on spiritual values.

Keywords: Character, Independent Children, Dialogue Of Faith.

INTRODUCTION

Independence is the ability to act freely and responsibly without relying excessively on others. Independent children are able to take initiative, make decisions, overcome problems, and manage themselves well (Prasetyo & Setiawan, 2021) Independence is one of the important aspects in the formation of children's character because it prepares them to face life's challenges and contribute positively to society.

Faith dialogue, as a process of interaction and reflection of spiritual values, can be an effective means to foster independence in children. Through faith dialogue, children are invited to reflect on the meaning of life, understand religious teachings, and apply spiritual values in daily life (Muniroh, 2015). This process can help children to develop self-confidence, decision-making



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skills, self-discipline, and perseverance, which are important components of independence (Sholeh et al., 2025).

In the complex and dynamic landscape of child development, character building plays a central role in determining the future direction of individuals and society as a whole (Maesyaroh, 2024). Character, in essence, encapsulates a series of moral, ethical, and social qualities that guide individuals in interacting with the world around (Zubaedi, 2013). Furthermore, in the midst of the increasingly rapid flow of globalization and modernization, independence is a crucial attribute that allows children to adapt, innovate, and contribute positively to society (Qurrotu A'yunin, 2022). Independence, defined as the ability to act autonomously, take initiative, and take responsibility for one's own actions (Prasetyo & Setiawan, 2021) not only prepares children to face life's challenges, but also empowers them to reach their full potential (Johnson et al., 2024).

In Indonesia as a country with a majority Muslim population, Islam has a significant role in shaping societal values and norms. In this context, the dialogue of faith in Allah SWT, as a process of interaction and deep reflection on Islamic teachings and values, is believed to have great potential in fostering independence in children. Faith dialogue, which involves two-way communication between children and parents, teachers, or religious leaders, allows children to ask questions, reflect on the meaning of religious teachings, and apply Islamic values in daily life (Muniroh, 2015). This process not only strengthens children's understanding of religion, but also helps them to develop self-confidence, critical thinking skills, and moral responsibility, which are important foundations for independence (K. Syafi'i & Ikwandi, 2023).

Self-reliance in the Islamic perspective does not mean unlimited freedom or extreme individualism (Sholeh & Muzakki, 2024). On the other hand, the independence that is recommended is independence based on monotheism, namely the belief in the oneness of Allah swt and obedience to His teachings (Azah et al., 2024). Independence based on monotheism encourages children to act independently, but still considers ethical values and social norms taught by Islam (Habibulloh et al., 2025). Thus, children are not only able to take the initiative and make



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their own decisions, but also take responsibility for their actions and their impact on others (Hasyim & Ari, 2020)

In Islamic teachings, teaching independence to children is the responsibility of every parent and teacher (Habibulloh, 2024). Education actually does not only focus on the religious aspect, but also includes the formation of character and skills that will equip children to live life in the world (Syafi'i et al., 2024). One of the important aspects of children's education is to instill independence (Habibulloh & Ridho, 2024).

Independence in this context refers to a child's ability to do things on their own, make the right decisions, and take responsibility for the actions and choices taken (Sholeh, 2025). Independence does not mean letting children do everything unsupervised, but rather providing measurable and age-appropriate opportunities for them to learn and develop (Abror et al., 2024).

Teaching independence to children is a long-term investment that will provide great benefits for them in the future (Sholeh et al., 2024). From an Islamic perspective, independence is an important part of children's education which aims to form a generation that is responsible, independent, and able to make a positive contribution to society (Yuniarti, 2024). By providing opportunities, support, and good examples, parents can help their children grow into independent and successful individuals in this world and the hereafter.

In recent years interest in the role of religion in the formation of children's character has been increasing (Zubaedi, 2013). Various studies have shown that involvement in religious activities, such as prayer, fasting, and reading the Qur'an, can contribute to developing moral values, spirituality, and social responsibility in children (Ahsan, 2020). However, research that specifically highlights the role of faith dialogue to Allah Swt in fostering independence in children is still relatively limited. In fact, faith dialogue has a unique potential in empowering children to think critically, make wise decisions, and act independently while adhering to Islamic values. (Sholeh, 2023)

Some early research shows that dialogue of faith in Allah Swt can help children to develop confidence and decision-making skills. For example, research conducted by Azmi (2021) found



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that children who engage in regular faith dialogue with their parents tend to have higher levels of confidence and are better able to make the right decisions in difficult situations (Sanusi et al., 2011). Another study conducted by Rahman (2022) shows that faith dialogue can help children to understand Islamic values more deeply and apply them in their daily lives, thereby increasing their moral responsibility (Minarti et al., 2024).

These studies still have some limitations. First, most of the research only uses quantitative methods, so it is not able to delve deeply into children's experiences and perspectives regarding faith dialogue. Second, these studies often do not consider contextual factors that can affect the effectiveness of faith dialogue, such as the family's socioeconomic background, parents' education level, and the environment in which the child lives. Third, these studies have not specifically examined the role of faith dialogue in fostering independence in children, but only focus on other aspects of character.

This scientific article aims to fill the research gap by deeply examining the role of faith dialogue to Allah Swt in shaping the character of independent children. This article will use a systematic literature review method to identify, select, and analyze relevant scientific articles published in the last five years. Therefore, this article aims to conduct a systematic literature review of scientific literature in the last five years regarding the influence of faith dialogue in Allah Swt on the formation of children's independent character.

METHOD

This study uses a systematic literature review method to identify, select, and analyze scientific articles relevant to the research topic (Taggart, 2016). The process of searching for data through books, scientific articles is carried out through electronic databases such as publish or perish, google scholar, library genesis. Articles that meet the inclusion criteria are condensed and then evaluated for quality using appropriate assessment instruments so that the data can be presented in its entirety according to the theme. The data extracted from each article included: (1) the characteristics of the research (author, year, research design, sample), (2) the faith dialogue



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intervention used, (3) the results of the research related to the formation of children's independent character. The collected data is then analyzed descriptively and thematically to identify emerging patterns and themes. The data that has been analyzed with several theories then becomes a conclusion in this study.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

A. Character Concept

Character is a multidimensional concept, which has become the focus of attention in various disciplines, ranging from psychology, sociology, to education. A deep understanding of character is very important in an effort to form individuals who have noble character, are responsible, and are able to contribute positively to society. Likewise, in children's education, character is an educational value that is the foundation in children's growth and development (Nugraha et al., 2024)

Etymologically, the term "character" comes from the Greek word, *charakter*, which means "sign" or "character". In the context of psychology, character refers to a relatively stable and consistent mindset, feeling, and behavior of a person, which sets him apart from others (Sugianti et al., 2025) Character includes moral dispositions, values, beliefs, and habits that guide individual actions and decisions. Lickona defines character as "knowledge of moral values, loving moral values, and practicing moral values". This definition emphasizes three important aspects of character (Lickona, 2012) namely: 1) Moral Knowing: Awareness and understanding of moral principles and ethics that are right and wrong. 2) Moral Feeling: Emotions and attitudes that encourage individuals to love and appreciate moral values. 3) Moral Action: The ability and willingness to act in accordance with moral values, even in the face of adversity or temptation.

Berkowitz and Bier (2005) add that character involves "an integration between thoughts, emotions, and behaviors that results in responsible, ethical, and meaningful actions." This definition emphasizes the importance of consistency between what individuals think, feel, and do (Bier, 2014)



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In the era of globalization and increasingly fierce competition, the formation of independent character in children has become increasingly crucial. Independence is not just the ability to do things on your own, but it also includes the ability to think critically, make the right decisions, take responsibility for actions, and have the initiative to achieve goals. Education plays an important role in fostering independent character in children, so that they are ready to face challenges and achieve success in the future.

Independence, in the context of developmental psychology, refers to the ability of individuals to function autonomously, regulate themselves, and control behavior without dependence on others (Siregar et al., 2024) Independence involves various dimensions, including: 1) Emotional Independence: The ability to manage emotions on one's own, cope with stress, and have a sense of self-confidence. 2) Behavioral Independence: The ability to make decisions, solve problems, and act independently. 3) Value Independence: The ability to develop and maintain personal values, and act in accordance with those values. 4) Financial Independence: The ability to manage one's own finances and meet the needs of life without relying on others.

Education has a central role in fostering independent character in children. Through a structured and directed learning process, children can develop the skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary to become independent individuals. Especially faith education in Allah Swt gives strength and courage to a person to behave and act according to his own beliefs (Ari Nugroho, 2017).

Faith in Allah Swt is the main foundation in the teachings of Islam. Faith is not just a conviction in the heart, but it is also reflected in everyday words and deeds. Instilling faith in Allah Swt in children from an early age has a significant impact on the formation of their character, including an attitude of independence (Harahap et al., 2024) A constructive and continuous dialogue about faith can help children understand the role of Allah Swt in their lives, which in turn will motivate them to become independent and responsible individuals.

a. Dialogue of Faith in Allah Swt

Dialogue of faith in Allah Swt has a significant role in shaping children's independent character. Through constructive and continuous dialogue, children can understand the role of Allah Swt in their lives, foster a sense of responsibility, build self-confidence, develop intrinsic motivation, and develop the ability to make decisions based on Islamic values. Good religious education at home and at school, as well as examples from parents and teachers, will help children grow into faithful, independent, and responsible individuals (Harahap et al., 2024)

Faith dialogue with children can influence their attitude of independence in several ways:

1. Fostering Awareness of Responsibility to Allah Swt

Dialogue about Allah Swt as the creator and maintainer of the universe can foster awareness in children that everything they have is a gift from Allah Swt. This awareness will encourage them to use the gift to the best of their ability and take responsibility for all their actions."And whoever does righteous deeds will be rewarded for himself, and whoever does evil, then his sin will be upon himself, and your Lord will not persecute His servants." (QS. Fussilat: 46) This verse can be discussed with children to instill an understanding that each individual is responsible for his or her actions before Allah Swt.

2. Building Confidence by Relying on Allah Swt

Dialogue about the attributes of Allah Swt such as Al-Qawiyyu (Most Powerful) and Al-Vice (Most Nurturing) can help children build confidence by relying on Allah Swt in their every endeavor. They will feel confident that Allah Swt will always help them if they try earnestly and pray to Him.

"It is enough for Allah to be a Helper for us and Allah is the best Protector." (QS. Ali Imran: 173) This verse can be taught to children as a reminder that Allah Swt is the best place to lean and ask for help.

3. Cultivating Intrinsic Motivation to Worship and Do Good

Dialogue about the purpose of life as a Muslim, namely to worship Allah Swt and do good to others, can foster intrinsic motivation in children to do useful and positive things.

They will feel motivated to study, work hard, and help others not because of coercion, but because of their awareness of their obligations as servants of Allah Swt.

"And I did not create jinn and man but that they should worship Me." (QS. Adz-Dzariyat: 56) This verse can be discussed with children to explain that the main purpose of human creation is to worship Allah Swt.

4. Developing decision-making skills based on Islamic values

Dialogue about Islamic values such as honesty, justice, responsibility, and compassion can help children develop the ability to make the right decisions based on these values. They will learn to consider the impact of each of their actions on themselves, others, and the surrounding environment, and strive to always act in accordance with the teachings of Islam (Kartowagiran, 2010)

"Indeed, Allah commands (you) to be just and do good, to give to your relatives, and to forbid from vile, wickedness and enmity. He teaches you so that you can take lessons." (QS. An-Nahl: 90) This verse can be taught to children as a guideline in behaving and making decisions.

5. Fostering Mental Resilience in Facing Challenges

Dialogue about exams and trials as part of life can help children develop mental resilience in the face of challenges. They will understand that every difficulty they face is a test from Allah Swt to test their faith and patience (Nugraha et al., 2024) By being patient, praying, and putting in earnest effort, they will be able to pass every test well.

"And indeed We will give you trials, with a little fear, hunger, lack of possessions, souls and fruits. And give glad tidings to the patient." (QS. Al-Baqarah: 155) This verse can be discussed with the child to give an understanding that trials are part of life and patience is the key to facing them.

Thus, the Faith dialogue is one of the solutions for character formation in the current era. Where the sentences of a teacher are advice that is very useful. Dialogue of faith in Allah Swt needs to be carried out in every interaction, both when defending; formal and

non-formal teachings, both in the classroom and outside the classroom. The results of the literature review show that faith dialogue has a positive influence on the formation of children's independent character. Some of the main themes that emerge from the analysis of the article are:

a. Increased self-confidence

Dialogue of faith in Allah Swt has a significant role in increasing children's confidence through several mechanisms. First, faith dialogue helps children understand their identity as servants of Allah who have unique potentials and advantages (Mulyadi, 2020) Through reflection on his creation and the universe, the child can realize that he is part of God's great plan and has a meaningful purpose in life. This awareness fosters a sense of self-worth and confidence that it has value in God's eyes.

Second, faith dialogue provides children with a solid moral foundation and clear behavioral guidelines (Novayani, 2017) When children understand religious teachings and try to practice them in their daily lives, they will feel more confident in their actions and not easily swayed by negative influences from the surrounding environment. This consistency between beliefs and behaviors builds self-integrity and strengthens children's self-confidence.

Third, the dialogue of faith in Allah Swt facilitates open and honest communication between children and parents, teachers, or religious leaders (Sari, 2017) In this dialogue, the child feels safe to express his thoughts, feelings, and concerns without fear of being judged or belittled. The support and acceptance she receives from adults helps boost her confidence and her courage to face challenges.

Fourth, the dialogue of faith in Allah Swt encourages children to participate in positive religious and social activities (Sari, 2017) Through this involvement, children have the opportunity to develop social skills, build healthy relationships, and contribute to society. These positive experiences increase the child's confidence and belief that he or she is able to make a positive impact on the world around him. Thus, the dialogue



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of faith in Allah Swt is not only a transfer of religious knowledge, but also a holistic character formation process (Sufratman, 2022) which contributes significantly to increasing children's confidence as individuals who have faith, noble character, and are useful to others.

Dialogue of faith in Allah Swt helps children to develop confidence through understanding that they have the potential and abilities given by Allah Swt . This belief motivates children to try new things, take measured risks, and not give up easily in the face of challenges.

b. Development of decision-making skills

Dialogue of faith in Allah Swt significantly contributes to the development of children's decision-making abilities through several interrelated ways. First, faith dialogue instills moral and ethical values that are the basis for wise decision-making (Muniroh, 2015) Through stories in the Qur'an and hadith, children learn about the consequences of good and bad actions, as well as the importance of considering their impact on themselves, others, and the environment. This understanding helps children to prioritize the right values and avoid adverse actions.

Second, the dialogue of faith in Allah Swt encourages children to think critically and reflectively before making decisions(Novayani, 2017) Children are invited to consider the various options available, analyze the advantages and disadvantages of each option, and seek guidance from the Qur'an and the sunnah. This process trains children's ability to think logically, rationally, and objectively, as well as avoid impulsive decisions based on momentary emotions.

Third, faith dialogue fosters an awareness of responsibility for every decision taken (Sufratman, 2022) Children learn that every action has consequences, and he must be ready to account for his decisions before Allah Swt and humans. This awareness encourages children to be more careful and careful in making decisions, as well as avoid actions that can harm themselves or others. Fourth, faith dialogue



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provides a spiritual framework that helps children to seek guidance from Allah Swt in making difficult decisions (Syahputra, 2020) Children are taught to pray, pray istikharah, and ask for guidance from Allah Swt so that they are given convenience and blessings in every decision.

Confidence in the help of Allah Swt gives peace and confidence to children in the face of uncertainty and risks that may arise. Thus, the dialogue of faith in Allah Swt not only provides knowledge about religious values, but also equips children with critical thinking skills, moral responsibility, and essential spiritual beliefs to develop wise and responsible decision-making skills

Faith dialogue provides a moral and ethical framework for children to make decisions. They learn to consider the consequences of their actions, as well as choose decisions that are in accordance with the spiritual values they embrace. This process trains children to think critically, responsibly, and independently in making decisions.

c. Building of Self-Discipline

Dialogue of faith in Allah Swt has a central role in the formation of a child's self-discipline through several interrelated mechanisms. First, faith dialogue instills a deep understanding of the concept of obedience and obedience to the commands of Allah Swt (Qurrotu A'yunin, 2022) Children learn that self-discipline is not just following the rules set by parents or teachers, but is a form of love and devotion to the Creator.

This awareness motivates children to voluntarily obey the applicable rules and norms, as well as avoid acts that are prohibited by religion. Second, the faith dialogue provides examples (uswah hasanah) from prophets, messengers, and pious figures who have high self-discipline (Ali Hajjaj, 2020) Children learn from their stories about how they control themselves, resist their passions, and strive to achieve noble goals.

These stories inspire children to imitate their positive behaviors and develop self-discipline in daily life. Third, faith dialogue teaches practical and effective self-control techniques (Omar & Kilika, 2018) Children learn about the importance of managing



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time, postponing momentary pleasures, and managing negative emotions. These techniques help the child to overcome temptations and challenges that prevent him from achieving his desired goals. Fourth, faith dialogue fosters awareness of the supervision of Allah Swt (muraqabah) in every action and word (Badriyan et al., 2024)

Children learn that Allah Swt always watches over them, both physically and mentally. This awareness encourages children to be careful in their actions and words, as well as to avoid actions that are not pleasing to Allah Swt. Thus, the dialogue of faith to Allah Swt not only provides knowledge about the importance of self-discipline, but also equips children with essential motivation, examples, techniques, and awareness to form strong and sustainable self-discipline. Self-discipline formed through faith dialogue will help children to achieve success in this world and the hereafter.

Faith dialogue emphasizes the importance of self-discipline as a form of obedience to God and commitment to spiritual values. Through faith dialogue, children learn to control themselves, manage their time, and postpone momentary pleasures in order to achieve greater goals. Self-discipline is an important foundation for independence because it allows children to manage themselves well.

d. Increased Perseverance

Dialogue of faith in Allah Swt plays a crucial role in improving the harmony of a child through several integrative mechanisms. First, faith dialogue instills a deep understanding of universal values such as compassion, tolerance, and brotherhood (Qurrotu A'yunin, 2022) Children learn that all human beings are equal creations of Allah Swt, regardless of differences in ethnicity, race, religion, or social status. This understanding fosters empathy and respect for others, as well as reducing prejudice and negative stereotypes.

Second, faith dialogue teaches the importance of respecting differences of opinion and beliefs(Qurrotu A'yunin, 2022) Children learn that differences are grace and that



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everyone has the right to have different views. Faith dialogue also teaches effective and polite communication, as well as avoiding destructive and divisive debates.

Third, faith dialogue encourages children to participate in social and religious activities involving people from various backgrounds (Novayani, 2017) Through these interactions, children have the opportunity to get to know others more closely, understand their perspectives, and build positive relationships. This experience helps children to appreciate diversity and celebrate differences.

Fourth, faith dialogue teaches the importance of forgiveness and apologizing (Muslimah, 2016) Children learn that everyone makes mistakes and that forgiveness is a noble act. Dialogue of faith also teaches how to sincerely apologize and take responsibility for mistakes made. The ability to forgive and apologize helps children to resolve conflicts peacefully and maintain harmonious relationships.

Faith dialogue teaches children about the importance of perseverance in achieving goals. They learn from the stories of religious leaders who are persistent in facing trials and do not give up easily in fighting for good. Perseverance helps children to overcome obstacles, learn from mistakes, and keep striving until they reach their desired goals.

Thus, the dialogue of faith in Allah Swt not only provides knowledge about the values of harmony, but also equips children with essential social, emotional, and spiritual skills to build harmonious relationships with others and create a harmonious and peaceful society.

e. Strengthening the Moral Foundation

Dialogue of faith in Allah Swt has a fundamental role in strengthening the moral foundation of a child through the process of internalizing noble values derived from religious teachings. First, faith dialogue introduces children to the concept of monotheism, namely the belief in the oneness of Allah Swt and total obedience to Him (Novita Herawati, 2022) This belief is the main foundation for a child's moral



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foundation, because he realizes that all his actions and behaviors must be in harmony with the will of Allah Swt .

Tawhid teaches children to always be honest, fair, responsible, and do good to others, because all of them are a form of devotion to the Creator. Second, faith dialogue introduces children to the concept of noble morals exemplified by the Prophet Muhammad Saw (Muniroh, 2015) Children learn that the Prophet Muhammad PBUH is the best example in all aspects of life, including in terms of morals.

Faith dialogue helps children to understand the meaning of noble morals such as compassion, patience, honesty, humility, and courage, and apply them in daily life. Third, faith dialogue instills awareness of the supervision of Allah Swt (muraqabah) in every action and word (Muniroh, 2015) Children learn that Allah Swt always sees and hears everything they do, both physically and mentally. This awareness encourages children to always be careful in acting and speaking, as well as avoiding actions that are not pleasing to Allah Swt.

Fourth, faith dialogue provides a clear and consistent framework of thinking in dealing with moral dilemmas(Syahputra, 2020) Children learn to consider various relevant factors, seek guidance from the Qur'an and the sunnah, and consult knowledgeable and wise people before making decisions. Faith dialogue also teaches children to take responsibility for every decision taken, as well as to learn from mistakes and improve themselves in the future. Thus, the dialogue of faith in Allah Swt not only provides knowledge about moral values, but also forms the character of children who are strong, have integrity, and always strive to do their best in accordance with religious teachings.

Faith dialogue provides a strong moral foundation for children to act independently while still taking into account ethical values and social norms. They learn that independence does not mean doing things according to one's own will, but it also means taking responsibility for actions and their impact on others.



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The influence of the dialogue of faith in Allah Swt on a child extends far beyond just the cultivation of ritualistic beliefs; It permeates into the formation of a whole character, influencing the child's view of the world, himself, and others. This kind of dialogue, which is carried out consistently and contextually, fosters a deep awareness of the presence and power of Allah Swt in every aspect of life. Through conversations about His amazing creation, His perfect attributes, and His just promises, children begin to understand that they are not only part of the visible physical world, but also connected to a larger spiritual reality. This awareness gives birth to a deep gratitude for all the blessings that have been given, as well as a moral responsibility to maintain the universe and do good to fellow beings.

Effective faith dialogue also encourages children to reflect on the meaning of life, question the purpose of its existence, and seek answers in the teachings of Islam. This process of searching for meaning stimulates intellectual and spiritual development, helping children build a strong and solid identity based on faith values. Furthermore, a deep understanding of Allah Swt as Al-Alim (All-Knowing) and Al-Hakim (All-Wise) fosters a sense of tawakal and optimism in children, equipping them with peace of mind in facing life's trials and challenges.

They learn that every difficulty is a test from Allah Swt which aims to improve the quality of faith and piety, and that Allah Swt will not give trials beyond the limits of His servants' abilities. Thus, faith dialogue not only transmits religious doctrines, but also empowers children to become resilient, responsible, and noble individuals, capable of making positive contributions to society and civilization.

CONCLUSION

Faith dialogue is an effective approach in shaping the character of independent children. Faith dialogue means bringing a conversation between a teacher and his students to Allah swt, in other words faith dialogue is a conversation centered on Allah swt. Dialogue of faith in Allah swt



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can be used as a learning method to shape the character of a child, one of which is to form the character of an independent child. Through faith dialogue to Allah swt, children can develop self-confidence, decision-making skills, self-discipline, and perseverance, which are important components of independence. Faith dialogue also provides a strong moral foundation for children to act independently while still considering ethical values and social norms in the conversational communication that is built. The habit of dialogue of faith in Allah swt is the main key to the success of instilling independent character in a child. Because a child's independence is very dependent on his belief and understanding of something. Therefore, faith dialogue needs to be integrated in children's character education in the family, school, and community environment.

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