

DINAMIKA DAN PEMIKIRAN PENDIDIKAN ISLAM

KAJIAN KLASIK
DAN KONTEMPORER



70 TAHUN
PROF. DR. HAIDAR PUTRA DAULAY, MA

Guru Besar Sejarah Pendidikan Islam
Universitas Islam Negeri Sumatera Utara

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Kelompok Penerbit Perdana Mulya Sarana

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Editor: Mesiono, Zaini Dahlan, Junaidi Arsyad

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DAFTAR ISI

Sambutan Rektor UIN Sumatera Utara	vii
Sambutan Dekan Fakultas Ilmu Tarbiyah dan Keguruan UIN Sumatera Utara	x
Sambutan Prof. Dr. Usman Pelly, M.A., Ph.D	xii
Pengantar Editor	xiv
Daftar Isi	xv

BAB I

BIOGRAFI DAN POKOK-POKOK PIKIRAN	1
1. Biografi Prof. Dr. Haidar Putra Daulay, MA	3
2. Pokok-Pokok Pikiran Prof. Dr. Haidar Putra Daulay, MA dalam Bidang Pendidikan Islam	50

BAB II

PENDIDIKAN ISLAM DALAM LINTASAN SEJARAH; Dari Masa Klasik Sampai Indonesia Kontemporer	83
1. Prof. Dr. Al Rasyidin, M.Ag – Pendidikan Islam di Masa Rasulullah SAW: Sejarah dan Pemikiran	85
2. Dr. Sahkholid Nasution, MA – Sejarah Pertumbuhan Sintaksis Bahasa Arab	100
3. Prof. Dr. Haidar Putra Daulay, MA – Pendidikan Islam di Indonesia dalam Lintasan Sejarah	113
4. Prof. Dr. Hasan Asari, MA – Kajian Sejarah di Universitas Islam Negeri Sumatera Utara Medan; Sebuah Pengamatan Awal	139
5. Dr. Ja'far, MA – Al Jam'iyatul Washliyah dan Budaya Kitab Kuning	160

6. **Dr. Abdillah, M.Pd** – Al Jami'yatul Al-Washliyah dan Inovasi Pendidikan Islam 167
7. **Dr. Neliwati, M.Pd** – Dinamika Sistem Pendidikan Pondok Pesantren Modern Ar-Raudhatul Hasanah Kota Medan 200
8. **Dr. Mardianto, M.Pd** – Lorong Waktu: Strategi Pembelajaran Sejarah 217

BAB III

PENDIDIKAN DALAM PERSPEKTIF AGAMA, FILSAFAT, DAN POLITIK 233

1. **Dr. Salminawati, MA** – Kedudukan Etika dalam Pendidikan Islam 235
2. **Dr. Ali Imran Sinaga, M.Ag** – Penerapan *Punishment* dalam Pendidikan Islam; Kasus *Ta'zir* Khalifah 'Umar Bin Al-Khaththab 249
3. **Dr. Masganti Sit., M.Ag** – Pendidikan Anak di Zaman Now; Tinjauan Pendidikan Islam 266
4. **Dr. Siti Halimah, M.Pd** – Manfaat dan Tujuan Integrasi Nilai-Nilai Agama dan Moral ke dalam Mata Pelajaran Umum ... 276
5. **Dr. Tarmizi, M.Pd** – Analisis Hadis Fitrah dan Relevansinya Pada Teori Pendidikan 287
6. **Dr. Eka Susanti, M.Pd** – Ibn Rusyd: Pemikiran dan Pengaruhnya di Barat 303
7. **Dr. Ira Suryani, M.Si** – Pendidikan Tauhid Pada Anak Remaja di Era Milenial 319
8. **Dr. Zulfahmi Lubis, Lc, MA** – Urgensi Politik Bagi Pendidikan Islam: Studi Kasus Politik Pendidikan Sultan Shalahuddin Al-Ayyubi 328

BAB IV

MANAJEMEN, INOVASI DAN TEKNOLOGI PENDIDIKAN ISLAM 341

1. **Dr. Amiruddin Siahahan, M.Pd** – Manajemen Berbasis Sekolah: Keputusan Politis Sebagai Wujud Politik Pendidikan Nasional 343

2. Dr. Candra Wijaya, M.Pd – Prinsip Implementasi Pengembangan Kurikulum Kerangka Kualifikasi Nasional Indonesia (KKNI)	357
3. Dr. Muhammad Rifa'i, M.Pd – Strategi Inovasi Pendidikan Islam	370
4. Dr. Wahyudin Nur Nasution, M.Ag – Supervisi Pengajaran dan Penilaian RPP	388
5. Dr. Yusuf Hadijaya, M.Pd – Dinamika Manajemen Pendidikan Tinggi: Sebuah Analisis Terhadap Fungsi Perencanaan di Perguruan Tinggi Keagamaan Islam Negeri....	400
6. Dr. Indra Jaya, M.Pd – Menggapai Status Guru Profesional di Indonesia	414
7. Dr. Sholihatul Hamidah Daulay, M.Hum – A Brief of Homeschooling in Indonesia	424
8. Dr. Rusydi Ananda, M.Pd – Kontribusi Pendekatan Sistem dalam Teknologi Pendidikan dan Pembelajaran	437

BAB V

KOMUNIKASI, PSIKOLOGI DAN KONSELING

PENDIDIKAN ISLAM	451
1. Prof. Dr. Saiful Akhyar Lubis, MA – Konseling Islami; Layanan dalam Pendidikan	453
2. Dr. Nurussakinah Daulay, M.Psi, Psikolog – Keterkaitan Pendidikan Islam dan Psikologi Positif	464
3. Dr. Akmal Walad Ahkas, M.Pd – Kepemimpinan Berbasis Kecerdasan Intelektual, Kecerdasan Emosional dan Kecerdasan Spiritual	483
4. Dr. Amiruddin MS, MA – Konsep Pendidikan Karakter dalam Pendidikan Islam	502
5. Dr. Salim, M.Pd – Pendidikan yang Membelajarkan dan Kegiatan Sepanjang Hayat	520
6. Dr. Asnil Aidah Ritonga, MA – Proses Pembelajaran Melalui Interaksi Edukatif dalam Pendidikan Islam	537

7. Rahmah Fithriani, M.Hum, Ph.D – Zone of Proximal Development and The Study of Feedback in Second Language Writing	556
8. Dr. Didik Santoso, M.Pd – Developing English Materials For Mathematics Education Department Students	568
9. Dr. Tien Rafida, M.Hum – Kesantunan Berkomunikasi dalam Perspektif Islam	580
DOKUMENTASI ILMIAH	595
BIODATA PENULIS	614
BIODATA EDITOR	619

A BRIEF OF HOMESCHOOLING IN INDONESIA

Dr. Sholihatul Hamidah Daulay, M.Hum.

A. Background

Education that supports the child's future is in accordance with characteristics of children. The most important thing is to comfort the child to undergo educational process by doing fun activities will be more meaningful to children. Every child has different characteristics that make a child has high imagination. Albert Einstein considered imagination as wealth invaluable in human beings.

If the key to educational success is enjoying what he is doing, what happens to children who learn lessons they did not like as in formal education example in school. This rigid education system to curb a child's imagination is so high that potential, interests, and talents of children will be difficult to develop. Ten years ago, not many families would consider home-based education a serious option for their children. Few people in the community had ever heard of such a strange thing as keeping kids home from school; the families who did so were considered radical or irresponsible.

However, homeschooling is a learning method that recently spread out in the development of education in Indonesia. This learning method is conducted in home under parents supervisor to develop children cognitive ability, skill, and attitude itself. Those aspects are importantly inquired and developed by parents from their children.

Based on <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Homeschooling>, stated that homeschooling may also refer to instruction in the home under the supervision of correspondence schools or umbrella schools. In some places, an approved curriculum is legally required if children are to be home-schooled. A curriculum-free philosophy of homeschooling may be called unschooling, a term coined in 1977 by American educator and author John Holt in his magazine *Growing Without Schooling*.

On the other hand, aside from coping with widespread ignorance and negativity about home education from friends, relatives, and neighbors, many families had to struggle with state and local education officials who refused to recognize that children could become educated outside of their schools. The parents formed support groups to reassure each other that they were not crazy, and to help each other deal with criticism, often from close friends and relatives.

Actually, there is still possible to encounter ignorance and negative feelings about homeschooling, especially among public-school educators, but the tide has turned. Personal and academic homeschooling success stories abound in the media. Colleges and universities across the country are welcoming homeschooled kids, and some are even recruiting them. Some local school departments once attempted to outlaw the practice, but now they are simply ignoring it; others recognize that it meets real needs and helps interested families get in touch with local support organizations.

Some people choose homeschooling simply because they are attracted to the lifestyle it allows, as well as the healthy family and socialization benefits. By participating in community life, homeschooled children feel comfortable with a wide variety of people. Without the social pressure from peers and age-segregated classrooms, kids feel more comfortable forming friendships. At our family baseball games, we see kids of all ages — siblings, friends, and newcomers — playing with each other and with adults in an unself-conscious way. Many people who come into contact with homeschooled kids remark on how easy it is to talk with them.

Basically, homeschooling is an option that is becoming more attractive to parents as time goes on. Schools have become increasingly unstable over the past couple of decades. Children roam the hallways unchecked, textbooks are outdated, violence is prevalent, children are bullied mercilessly, and the quality of education on the whole has greatly diminished.

Homeschooling is also advantageous because it keeps children away from other students that may be corruptive forces. There are many students in school who do not value learning. This is not any fault of the schools; however, it is still a painful reality. These students can lead to the destruction of a stable learning environment. Home schooling keeps children focused on learning and not on avoiding social pressures.

One important benefit of an academic institution is the opportunity

for children to become properly socialized. Attending school with other children from all walks of life leads to the development of social skills. One of the disadvantages of home schooling is the relative isolation children have from their peers.

Actually, there are many parents find comfort in blaming the educational system for the shortcomings in their child's academic performance. If we choose to home school you will be accepting full responsibility for the outcome of your child's education. This is more of a burden than it seems. Studies have shown that many homeschooling ventures fail due to the fact that the home generally lacks qualified educators. On the other hands, many parents have gripes about teachers, but the fact is that they generally have to teach large classes filled children with diverse learning needs. In addition, certified educators have taken teaching classes and have passed state examinations to receive their teaching certificates.

Based on this problems, this writing would like to share about some questions, such as: what's homeschooling itself and types of ingredients to make homeschooling success, and how to cope some advantages of homeschooling, is Islamic homeschooling can be a solution for develop our education. This paper will explain the problem based on theory and cases.

B. What Is Homeschooling?

"Ho-meschooling" means a nonpublic school in which one or more children of not more than two families or households receive academic instruction from parents or legal guardians, or a member of either household. Wanderer (2007:16) stated that in principle, homeschooling or school home is the concept of educational options held by the parent. Teaching and learning process take place in a conducive situation, in order the child's unique potential can develop.

Homeschooling is the process of educating school-aged children at home rather than at a school. As of the early 2000s, it is perhaps one of the fastest growing trends in education in the United States. Since 1993, the practice has been legal in all 50 states. About 1.1 million students were being home-schooled in the spring of 2003, according to the National Household Education Surveys Program (NHES), which was conducted by the United States Department of Education. In addition, the percentage

of the school-age population that was being home-schooled increased from 1.7 percent in 1999 to 2.2 percent in 2003. Parents choose to home-school their children for a variety of reasons, though certain factors appear to be more prevalent than others. Nearly two-thirds of the parents of home-schooled students reported that their primary reason for home schooling was either concern regarding the environment of schools or a wish to provide moral or religious instruction.

In addition, homeschooling or home school (also called home education or home learning) is the education of children at home, typically by parents but sometimes by tutors, rather than in other formal settings of public or private school. Although prior to the introduction of compulsory school attendance laws, most childhood education occurred within the family or community, homeschooling in the modern sense is an alternative in developed countries to private schools outside the home or educational institutions operated by civil governments. In homeschooling, the potential of children are the main point process learning. By homeschooling, the parents will know about the talents and hobbies of their children. Parents also can monitor the child easily.

Basically, homeschooling is a legal option for parents in some countries to provide their children with a learning environment as an alternative to public or private schools outside the home. Parents cite numerous reasons as motivations to home school, including better academic test results, poor public school environment, religious reasons, improved character/morality development, the expense of private education, and objections to what is taught locally in public school. It may be a factor in the choice of parenting style. Homeschooling is also an alternative for families living in isolated rural locations or living temporarily abroad.

For many people, homeschooling calls to mind an image of three or four children seated around a kitchen table feverishly writing in workbooks while Mom stands nearby. While this might be a reality in some homes, there is no typical homeschool day. With several philosophies or schools of thought on the topic, there's as much variety to the homeschool methods and practices used as to the families that are using them. Home schooling can be a rewarding experience for the entire family. However, it can also be hard on your pocketbook. Frugal home schooling is becoming a popular term among most families living on limited income or for those wanting to cut back on expenses.

According to Wanderer (2007:26) that homeschooling does not mean that children learn at home, but they can learn anytime and anywhere from situations and conditions around them at home. In this case, education makes the children free mind, and power. Wanderer stated that one reason why home schooling is used as an alternative education than a classic formal education.

1. The interaction between parent and child is more intensive.
2. Children master the competency.
3. Activities and more flexible study time.
4. Opportunity for socializing widespread.
5. Learning from experience.
6. More effective supervision.

Homeschooled kids are less likely to be peer dependent, and family life is likely to be less stressful when it is free from the demands of educational institutions. We often hear parents and kids talk about how relieved they feel from being freed of traditional schooling and nightly homework. These family members were nearly strangers to each other, sharing hurried breakfasts, chaotic suppers, and struggles over homework. With independent learning, they have more time to talk and listen; more time to spend in libraries, museums, and concert halls; or to hike, ride bikes, read, or think. These changes are what happens when family life is driven by the needs of families, rather than the needs of institutions.

However, the next question is how does a family begin homeschooling?, Susan Nelson, a homeschooling consultant and curriculum developer, suggests that new homeschooling parents will find their task simpler if they decide whether their primary goal in becoming home educators is "to provide their child with useful and interesting educational experiences; or to prepare him for [formal] schooling." Other advocates of homeschooling are more practical and suggest reading homeschooling literature, becoming familiar with the homeschooling laws of one's state, attending a how-to seminar, joining a regional support group, or spending time with a seasoned homeschooling family before taking the leap.

C. 5 Essential Ingredients To Homeschooling Success

Obviously, a student does not have to be homeschooled in order to accomplish one of the feats above, nor does every homeschooled child excel

in such notable ways. However, every homeschooling parent desires for success in teaching their children at home and launching them into the world to become all that God has intended for them to be. The flipside to this statement is that no one wants to fail when it comes to teaching their children at home. So, what are the five necessary ingredients to homeschooling success.

1. The desire to foster a closer relationship with each of your children and your kids with one another. If you don't want to spend more time together and deepen these relationships (or, at least, *want to want to spend more time together*), then homeschooling may not be the best choice for you. However, I am sure that you have heard it said before that at the end of the day, no one is going to say, "I wish that I had spent more time at work... or by myself... or with my canary..." No, the universal regret that aging and dying people declare is their sadness over not spending enough time with their loved ones. Teaching your children at home is an amazing opportunity to spend more time with your dearest loved ones and have no regrets.
2. Teachable spirit on the part of the parent. This is essential because, like it or not, you will learn so much more teaching your own children than you ever did in school the first time around. So, you might as well like to learn.
3. Successful homeschooling is creating a home environment that is conducive to learning. This may show itself differently in each of our homes, but the result is the same – a place where kids can learn and enjoy it. A home that is conducive to learning may have quiet and cozy reading nooks, bookshelves crammed with great books, a listening corner complete with headphones and a beanbag chair, uncluttered smooth surfaces for writing, stacks of coloring/activity books and colored pencils, a place to gather together and talk about the day's events. You get the idea... Create centers in your home that make learning fun and accessible.
4. Successful homeschool is 2 hours of your time to devote to your children's studies. Truly, when the one-on-one teaching method is employed in your home, you do not need all day in order to get things done. In fact, a child in K-2 grades might be finished with her schoolwork in as few as 45 minutes (of course, that probably does not include the time that you spend reading together because who can get enough

of that!). At the other end of the spectrum, you might not need that much time with your middle schooler or high schooler either, because they become such independent learners by this age. The kids that will need the majority of that time that you have designated for school – those full 2 hours – would be your students in 3-6 grades as math and grammar assignments might get a little more involved.

5. Library card. That's right! With access to a huge roomful of books, a world of learning opportunities is at your doorstep. Let's say that your child is interested in insects or flowers, electricity or magnetism, transportation or inventions... check out as many books as he can devour on the subject and then some more. Watch your child light up with the delight of learning.

D. Implementation of Homeschooling

According to Seto Mulyadi, Chairman of the National Commission on Children, the emergence of home schooling as an alternative was necessary to prove his success as a competition draw process through non-formal systems. Etymologically, home-schooled is held at the home school. Although called a home schooling, does not mean the child will continue learning at home, but children can learn anywhere and anytime from the situation and conditions are really comfortable and fun just like being at home. Individual excellence is what gives meaning to the integration of subjects to students. Seto said, the need for full support from their parents to learn, to create a creative learning and fun, and maintain interest and enthusiasm to learn the child. Because behind the convenience, home school parents also requires patience, cooperation among members of the family, and consistent in investment habits.

Seto declared that dismiss a number of myths about homeschooling are judged wrong for this. For example, a child less socially, parents cannot be a teacher, parents need to know everything, parents should spend 8 hours a day, not as much study time study time-formal schools, children are not accustomed to discipline and his own wishes, cannot get a diploma and move the path to a formal school, unable to compete, and homeschooling expensive.

There are several classifications homeschooling formats, namely:

1. Single homeschooling

Implemented by parents in a family without joining with others for a particular case or as far-flung locations

2. Homeschooling compound

Performed by two or more families for certain activities while still held by the principal activities of each parent. The reason: there are needs that can be compromised by some families to do activities together. For example the curriculum of the Consortium, sporting activities (eg tennis athlete of the family), the skill of music / arts, social activities and religious activities

3. Homeschooling community

Combined several homeschooling compound to prepare and determine the syllabus, teaching materials, the principal activities (sports, music/ art and language), facilities/infrastructure and teaching schedule. Commitment to the implementation of learning between parents and the community about 50:50.

On the other hand, there are many reasons for choosing homeschooling community, namely:

- a. Structured and more complete for academic education, the development of noble character and achievement of learning outcomes
- b. There are better learning facilities such as: workshops, nature lab, library, science laboratory / language, auditoriums, sports facilities and art
- c. Space motion wider dissemination of learners but can be controlled
- d. Support higher because each is responsible for teaching each other according to their expertise. It is suitable for children aged above 10 years
- e. Combining families live far apart over the Internet and other information tools to reject the appeal (benchmarking), including for standardization

What makes homeschooling better than traditional schooling? Lately, there is a rising trend in families selecting to homeschool their child rather than send their child to a traditional government-run educational institution.

However, there are many reason parents choose homeschooling for their children, the decision to home-school is not based solely on conservative

religious or political views. Although parents homeschool for a variety of reasons, the primary reason is dissatisfaction with public education. Other reasons stated by home-schooling parents include the following:

- a. the opportunity to impart a certain set of beliefs and morals
- b. higher academic performance through one-on-one instruction
- c. the ability to develop stronger parent-child relationships
- d. the lack of discipline in public schools
- e. the opportunity to escape negative peer pressure through more controlled interactions with a student's peers
- f. an inability to pay private school tuition
- g. a physically safer environment in which to learn

E. Big Advantages of Homeschooling

Some of the benefits homeschooling has over traditional government-run education:

1. Flexible Schedule

Homeschooling allows a flexible schedule. For example, the child doesn't need to get up at 7:00 every morning. With homeschooling, your child can start homeschooling at 9 in the morning or later depending on your family's preferred schedule. You can schedule your child's homeschooling education as you, the parent, see fit — with materials or subjects that may be not available in a government school. You can tailor the homeschool curriculum to suit the individual needs and interests of your child.

2. Individual attention

In a traditional school setting, thirty to forty students are assigned to a teacher in class. Therefore, usually, the teacher cannot devote 100 percent attention to any child since it will not be fair to the other children. Plus, it is nearly impossible to provide individual attention to all students in class that size. With homeschooling, your child gets individual attention as he/she needs it. For example, if your child is struggling in math, you could spend more time and energy teaching mathematics. Your child's homeschooling schedule can be adjusted to account for that. For example, if your child is better at science than she is at mathematics, simply spend more homeschooling hours with mathematics and cut

back on science. With homeschooling, the choice is yours. Traditional schools can't do that. They are the opposite of flexible.

3. Family Activity

The schooling of the child can become an extended family activity. Field trips and experiments are good examples of this. Plus, your child also receives more quality time with his/her parents. There is more time for family bonding. The child is also free of any negative peer pressure or influences.

4. No peer pressure

With homeschooling, your child does not need to prove his/her abilities to other kids. Parents are able to deeply understand their child better with homeschooling and therefore are able to plan the learning program according to his strengths and weakness. Parents can also change the educational program to suit the child's learning style. For example, some children learn better through reading while others need to write in order to learn. Some children even learn better by way of experiencing or seeing things in action.

5. Religious Learning

Religious learning is a sensitive issue. However, by homeschooling, parents can take control over the moral and religious learning of their child. Parents can impart their ideologies and deep beliefs to the child, rather than let the school dictate what moral and religious education the child will be receiving.

F. Muslim Homeschooling

As homeschooling grows, more Muslims are beginning to homeschool as well. However, their motivations are not well understood. Sajjida Sarwar (2013:25-29) stated that as a student in an Islamic teacher education program, contributes to our understanding in this article by investigating the motivations that three Muslim families have for homeschooling.

In Arabic there are three terms for education that are representative of various elements of a holistic, Islamic education. The broadest term for education is *ta'lim*, which comes from the root word *'alima* (*to know, to have knowledge, to learn*) and is used to denote knowledge that is sought or imparted through instruction and teaching. Second, the word *tarbiyah* comes from the root word *raba* (*to increase, to raise, to rear*), and it refers

to a state of spiritual and ethical nurturing in accordance with the will of God. Finally, *ta'dib* comes from the root word *aduba* (*well-cultured, well-mannered*), and it suggests a person of refined social behavior and development.

Of these three terms, Sarwar (2013:25-29) identified that homeschooling Muslims were primarily concerned with *tarbiyah*, which refers to the development and the training of people in various aspects according to their natural disposition. In other words, these mothers felt that by homeschooling, they were nourishing something intrinsic and pure within their children (the *fitra*), which they believe becomes diluted by the brokenness of the world. As it states in the Qur'an, "Every child is born in a state of *fitra* (pure innocence); it is the parent that will make him to be a Jew, or a Christian, or a pagan." Related to this idea of the *fitra*, some of the mothers were also concerned that the Islamic identity of their children would be lost and assimilated. Reflecting on the ills of society such as bullying and peer pressure that they encountered in school, these parents felt compelled to shield their children from similar evils that would rob them of innocence and their Muslim faith.

Many Muslim families consider homeschooling their children for a variety of reasons, such as concern over the moral environment in the public schools, wanting to teach religious studies not offered in the schools, or desire for more one-on-one attention than a classroom teacher can provide.

On the other hand, many Muslims are not able to or do not wish to homeschool their children, because they believe the public or private education they have access to is superior to what they themselves could provide, they want their children to be well-socialized and prepared for interacting with the diverse types of people they may encounter in adult life, or they prefer the structure and organization of a comprehensive secular educational system while teaching religion at home and at the mosque, and so on. While opinions on homeschooling tend to be plentiful and strong, getting resources and information for Muslim families considering homeschooling can be challenging.

Another related saying from the Qur'an that may inspire Muslim homeschooling is where the Prophet Muhammad compares the role of a parent to a shepherd and says, "Each of you is a shepherd and each of you is responsible for his flock. The rule is a shepherd and is responsible

for his flock. A man is the shepherd of his family and is responsible for his flock. A woman is the shepherd of her husband's household and is responsible for her flock." Clearly, this verse places a great amount of responsibility on parents for the upbringing of their children.

In some areas, homeschooling families have been collaborating to share areas of expertise and teaching duties, in essence creating small community schooling programs. A Muslim family interested in homeschooling might be able to join or create such a community, depending on population and interest where it resides.

Successful Muslim homeschooling is also sharing of experience and opinion, it is probable that any reader will not agree with 100 percent of its content but will still be able to understand the intended message. For example, one might not hold concern expressed by some interviewees about young boys playing with girls' toys, but can understand the general concern about providing strong Muslim male role models as part of the children's educational experiences, or one might disagree with an opinion about whether or not children should be allowed to read novels that contain "un-Islamic" situations or behaviors, but can understand the general concern about children's exposure to media. This resource will not provide a concrete list of do's and don'ts for these and other issues; however, the reflection of the interviewed homeschoolers may provide insight that can be put to use.

G. Conclusion

In homeschooling, there is so much to do and so little time. In addition, another drawback to homeschooling could be implementation of an educational plan. Many parents are not qualified as teachers and may not understand what is necessary to ensure a child has access to the proper curriculum. There are many advantages and disadvantages to homeschooling, before you begin a homeschooling plan, make sure you have evaluated your ability to properly instruct your child and provide a quality learning experience. If you do not think you can handle it, you might as well send your child to school but become more involved with his or her education.

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