



Formation of Students' Religious Character Through Habituation of Religious Activities

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Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis pembentukan karakter religius peserta didik di SMP Bhakti Pertiwi melalui metode pembiasaan, dengan menanamkan nilai-nilai keagamaan dalam kehidupan sehari-hari. Pendekatan yang digunakan adalah kualitatif dengan metode studi kasus, di mana data dikumpulkan melalui observasi dan wawancara. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa karakter religius peserta didik dibentuk melalui berbagai kegiatan keagamaan, seperti pembelajaran Al-Qur'an, shalat berjamaah, tausiah, shalat sunnah, istighosah, dan kegiatan monthly motivational Quranic gathering. Adapun faktor-faktor yang mempengaruhi pembentukan karakter religius meliputi lingkungan keluarga, lingkungan sekolah, lingkungan sosial, dan pengaruh media sosial. Pembentukan karakter melalui metode pembiasaan juga memberikan dampak positif pada peserta didik, sehingga mereka mampu menginternalisasi nilai-nilai religius, baik di lingkungan sekolah maupun di luar sekolah.

Keywords: Karakter Religius, Pembiasaan, Kegiatan Keagamaan.

Abstract

This study aims to analyze the formation of religious character of students at SMP Bhakti Pertiwi through the habituation method, by instilling religious values in everyday life. The approach used is qualitative with a case study method, where data is collected through observation and interviews. The results of the study indicate that the religious character of students is formed through various religious activities, such as learning the Qur'an, praying in congregation, tausiah, sunnah prayers, istighosah, and monthly motivational Quranic gathering activities. The factors that influence the formation of religious character include the family environment, school environment, social environment, and the influence of social media. Character formation through the habituation method also has a positive impact on students, so that they are able to internalize religious values, both in the school environment and outside of school.

Keywords: Religious Character, Habituation, Religious Activities

Introduction

Currently, character education is a topic that is often discussed. In every environment, character education must be prioritized because every individual needs values that can be applied in daily life. Character plays an important role in a person's success in living life. If a person has a strong character, they will be able to face the challenges of the times and make wise decisions. Because of the important role of character in life, the Ministry of Education and Culture has introduced a program to strengthen structured character education in

learning activities in schools, so that the character of the Indonesian nation can be instilled from an early age in the nation's young generation. (Sari, Ismail, and Afgani 2023). At this time, the crisis of character education is increasingly rampant with the arrival of various different educational problems, the problem that is now occurring is the crisis of character education in students, especially in the school environment which concerns moral values in the students themselves. (Rosmiati and Imam Tabroni 2021).

Character education is not an education that only transfers knowledge about something wrong or right. But they must also transfer value and make it a habituation that is carried out continuously by students. In the end, character education is an effort to balance the competencies of students as a whole which not only emphasizes the cognitive aspect, but also the psychomotor and affective aspects. (Syaroh and Mizani 2020). According to Daradjat, in (Raudhatinur, 2019) the deterioration of morals (behavior) is caused by the lack of religious spirit embedded in a person and the lack of religious education as it should be in the family, school, and community. Meanwhile, currently the duties and responsibilities of religious education and families tend to entrust some of their responsibilities to teachers, because religion is the main reference that leads them to form a moral life. (Setiawan and Karolina 2020)

The education sector is obliged to realize students who excel in their field of knowledge and character. Every character formation takes some effort to make it happen. (Mahbubi and Husein 2023). The character of students is still the main problem that requires improvement and the role of all aspects in education. Because the implementation of character education has not been imbued by all education actors as a transformation of values and personality formation. (Zubaidi 2022). Students' character problems can generally be seen from their attitudes and behaviors, such as lack of manners, brawls, bullying, liking to see pornographic images, skipping school, lying and the like. Some of these conditions show that knowledge alone is not enough to have an impact on changing student behavior. This is because the implementation of learning leads to knowledge but is minimal in preparing character. The failure of Indonesian education in producing human beings with character is in line with the opinion of Ketut Sumarta who revealed that national education focuses on thinking intelligence and puts aside taste intelligence, moral intelligence, and mental subtlety. (Kulsum and Muhid 2022)

Character education is a system of instilling character values in school residents which includes components of knowledge, awareness or willingness, and actions to implement these values, both towards God Almighty, oneself, parents, the surrounding environment, and nationality so that they become human beings who are *kamil*. The

definition of character education is a conscious and planned human effort to educate and empower the potential of students to build their personal character so that they can become individuals who are beneficial to themselves and their environment. It can be said that character education is very closely related to moral education where the goal is to form and train individual abilities continuously for self-improvement towards a better life. (Annur, Yuriska, and Arditasari 2021). To shape human character into a religious character can start with his daily habits. Because basically religious activities do not only occur when worshiping but also by doing other activities that are encouraged by supernatural powers. (Sholiha, Alfa, and A'yun 2021)

Character education must be instilled as early as possible, because along with the development of science and technology, we as educators today are not only required to have the ability to adapt to the times, but must be able to shape the character of students, namely with a strong character, pious, noble character, and have extensive knowledge to develop their potential and grow students' emotional intelligence. The process of character formation is the responsibility of all parties, both teachers, parents and the community, through formal institutions in the school environment and non-formal institutions in the family and community environment. (Nurbaiti, Alwy, and Taulabi 2020)

According to experts, character is a trait or disposition that exists in every person, where these traits are not innate from birth but are formed slowly and influenced by the surrounding environment, as well as family. To develop the character of students, we as teachers need to provide religious activities outside of class hours that can support the development of students' character. (Sulistiyorini and Nurfalah 2019). One of the forums for character development of students at school is through regular religious activities every day. These religious activities are activities that are held every day, the purpose is to familiarize students to be trained and accustomed to these activities, either before learning starts or having their own time in the implementation of the activities, the activities held are activities to habituate the *dhuha* prayer, carry out the congregational *dhuhur* prayer, congregational *asar* prayer, and the recitation of the Qur'an accompanied by their respective *muallimat*.

Research Methods

This research was conducted at SMP BHAKTI PERTIWI Sukodadi, Paiton, Probolinggo. This study aims to determine the process of forming religious character through the habituation of dhuha prayers, carrying out congregational dzuhur prayers, congregational asar prayers, and recitation of the Qur'an which are carried out before KBM begins and are accompanied by their respective muallimat. This study uses a qualitative approach with the type of case study research in the field. The data collection methods used in this study include in-depth observation and interviews to gain an understanding of a phenomenon or problem that attracts the attention of the school environment obtained from research information. This type of research is used to gain an in-depth understanding and interpretation of teachers' strategies in shaping students' character through habituation of religious activities at SMP BHAKTI PERTIWI, Sukodadi, Paiton, Probolinggo. In the implementation of interviews to collect data, the informants who are the subjects of this research are principals, teachers and students as an effort to cultivate character. This research focuses on teachers' strategies in shaping students' character through habituation of religious activities. Through data analysis, the stages used include data collection, data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion of research results.

Results and Discussion

A. Teachers' Strategies in Forming the Religious Character of Students at SMP Bhakti Pertiwi Sukodadi Paiton Probolinggo

The formation of religious character carried out at SMP Bhakti Pertiwi Sukodadi Paiton Probolinggo is carried out through several habituation of religious activities. Habituation is the process of forming certain behaviors or habits through the repetition of activities or actions consistently and continuously. In these activities, there are values of devotion and discipline. The value of piety is the peak of appreciation which is reflected in daily actions both in relation to God and with fellow humans. The religious activities carried out at SMP Bhakti Pertiwi Paiton Probolinggo are carried out through several habits. In the formation of good character (religious character) cannot be done spontaneously, but an educator is an example for his students, which we must

set a good example for students. Like when the call to prayer echoes all teachers simultaneously rush to the prayer room to carry out congregational prayers with students, this is one example of a teacher becoming *uswatun hasanah* towards his students. Example is an action or anything that can be imitated or followed by others who do or realize it, so the person who is followed is called an example. Exemplary can be seen from three aspects, namely the aspect of attitude, the aspect of words and the aspect of deeds. (Sholiha, Alfa, and A'yun 2021). Here are some of the religious activities implemented at SMP Bhakti Pertiwi Sukodadi Paiton Probolinggo

1. Learning the Qur'an

This activity is an activity that has been implemented for a long time and is running well at SMP Bhakti Pertiwi where in learning the Qur'an uses the *tartila* method. The *tartila* method is a method of reading the Qur'an that emphasizes directly on the practice of reading. As for the guidebook, the *tartila* method consists of 6 volumes starting from a simple level, step by step to the perfect level. This *Tartila* method was compiled by the PW Jamiyatul Qurro wal huffadz Team of East Java. In each volume there is a learning objective with the intention of making it easier for everyone who learns or teaches the Qur'an. This *tartila* method in practice does not require various tools, because it is emphasized on the reading (reading the letters of the Qur'an fluently). At SMP Bhakti Pertiwi, the learning of the Qur'an is divided into two groups. The first group, *Tahsinul Qiraah*, focuses on learning and improving the reading of the Qur'an. Meanwhile, the second group, *Tahfidzul Qur'an*, is intended for students who have completed *Tahsinul Qiraah* and are able to read the Qur'an well. Students in this group are required to memorize Juz 30. In this activity, it really provides a very significant improvement for students in reading the Qur'an well and *makhorijul* the right letters.

2. Habit of congregational prayer

The habit of congregational prayer applied at SMP Bhakti Pertiwi is one of the important steps taken by the school, the goal is to instill religious character in its students. In addition to learning the Qur'an, SMP Bhakti Pertiwi also emphasizes the

importance of congregational prayers that are carried out every day at school, especially during Duhur and Asr, as part of their daily routine. With this habit, it is hoped that students can strengthen religious values, become more disciplined individuals, and have noble morals. This habit of congregational prayer has a significant influence on shaping religious character and discipline in students. As expressed by Ahmad Tafsir, habituation is a method in education in the form of a process of cultivating habits, and the essence of habituation is repetition. So based on the research that has been conducted, this habit of congregational prayer can apply the habit of congregational prayer to students and can build the religious character and discipline of students at SMP Bhakti Pertiwi.

During congregational prayers, students not only carry out prayer obligations, but are also trained to dhikr and pray after prayer. In this institution, students not only agree with the prayer led by the imam, but also read the dhikr aloud and pray together. In addition, during the habit of congregational prayer, this activity is also filled with the recitation of prayers before the prayer begins or when waiting for the arrival of the imam. The habit of congregational prayer in schools shows a very significant increase in students, from initially students who were not used to performing congregational prayers, but now students are used to doing it and also praying on time.

3. Tausiah Activities

In addition to learning the Qur'an and getting into the habit of praying in congregation, SMP Bhakti Pertiwi also implements the cultivation of religious character through tausiah activities, where students take turns conveying messages related to Islamic religious education, such as morals towards teachers, filial piety to parents, and the importance of cleanliness as part of faith. It is hoped that the knowledge that students gain before performing will be a new insight for them and other students, as well as help in the formation of a strong religious character, and train the courage and confidence of students to appear in front of

all students and teachers through these activities, the principal stated that students experienced many positive changes. Those who were previously not used to appearing in public are now used to becoming more confident and even able to sound the call to prayer and other dhikr readings.

4. Habits of sunnah prayer

Getting used to the sunnah prayer is one of the methods to increase worship and get closer to Allah SWT. This activity is carried out routinely every day at school, where students perform dhuha prayers, qobliyah and ba'diyah sunnah prayers. The habit of praying dhuha is carried out at 8 am before the learning takes place. This is a good step in shaping the character of students. By regularly carrying out this sunnah prayer, students are expected to get used to carrying out sunnah worship, which will eventually be embedded in them as a good habit. Through this habit, it is hoped that students will not only carry out religious obligations, but also be able to live deep spiritual values, and make them an important part of daily life.

5. Istighosah activities

According to Muhammad ibn Abdul Wahab in the "Book of Tawhid", istighosah is to ask for something to relieve distress or sadness and ask for help only with Allah SWT. (Dedek Romansyah 2021). The istighosah activity has been part of several religious activities carried out at SMP Bhakti Pertiwi. This activity is held every Friday and is carried out once a month. The goal is to get closer to God and instill religious values in every child. The implementation of istighosah is applied to students as an effort so that they always dhikr to God Almighty. The joint istighosah reading aims to familiarize students to do it when outside of school. Students can apply istighosah recitation at their respective homes with their families or in the community later.

6. Monthly Motivational Quranic Gathering

The Monthly Motivational Quranic Gathering is a meeting of all students and teachers regularly every month held at SMP Bhakti Pertiwi with the aim of providing motivation and inspiration to the participants through reading, understanding, and

reflecting on the verses of the Qur'an. This monthly motivational quranic gathering activity is held in the field of SMP BHAKTI PERTIWI every Wednesday for once a month. In this event, students usually learn the values contained in the Qur'an, get spiritual strengthening, and get encouragement to apply these teachings in daily life. This activity aims to build a stronger bond with Islamic teachings and strengthen the faith and piety of students.

B. Factors Influencing the Formation of Religious Character

Overall, the formation of religious character is the result of the interaction between education, environment, personal experience and religious activities carried out consistently. The combination of these factors helps a person internalize religious values and make them an integral part of his life. There are several factors that affect the formation of religious character through habits in religious activities at SMP Bhakti Pertiwi, namely:

1. Family Environment

The role of the family, especially parents, is very important in instilling religious values through example and guidance in carrying out daily religious activities. The family is the first child to make a mental and physical contribution to his life. Through interaction in the family, children not only get to know themselves and their parents but also know the life of the community and the surrounding nature. Parents as educators are actually the foundation of children's personalities. The basis of this personality will play a role throughout life. The family is the most important and first educational environment, the family is also the most responsible environment for educating their children. Parents play a role in forming an intimate and long-lasting system of interaction characterized by personal loyalty, love and affectionate relationships. The role of parents is to improve the child's mentality. (Rindawan, Purana, and Kamilia Siham 2020).

As the first environment known to children, the family is a place where children learn basic values, including religion and spirituality. Through example, learning, and parenting, parents can instill religious values, such as honesty, patience, compassion, and tolerance. Some ways that parents can do to form their children's religious character include:

- a. Giving an Example: Children tend to imitate their parents' behavior. By showing a religious attitude in daily life, such as praying, speaking well, and being polite, parents can set a good example. Religious Learning from an Early Age: Teaching children about religious values, whether through stories, joint prayers, or regular worship, helps children understand the meaning of religion in daily life.
- b. Positive Family Environment: A harmonious, affectionate, and supportive family atmosphere also helps to form a child's religious character.
- c. Open Communication: Inviting children to dialogue about religious values and life helps them internalize religious teachings and apply them in their daily lives. With a consistent and compassionate approach, parents can help children grow into religious individuals with good morals.

2. School Environment

The school environment has a contribution in shaping the religious character of students, because the school is not only a place for academic learning, but also to instill moral and spiritual values, namely through interaction with teachers, friends, and religious activities that have been implemented in the school. Teachers have an important role as role models for students. The way teachers communicate, teach ethical values, and provide examples of positive behavior that can support the process of building students' character. Teachers guide

students in ethical aspects by teaching moral values such as manners, honesty, discipline, and responsibility.

In addition, teachers' consistency in showing positive attitudes such as respecting others, being fair, and showing empathy will have an impact on how students imitate these behaviors in their daily lives. Overall, teachers have an important role as role models in shaping students' character. Students not only learn from the material that is taught formally, but also from the teacher's behavior as a figure they respect and set a role model. Students can develop a deeper understanding of their beliefs. In addition, religious attitudes can be formed through a school culture that encourages discipline, ethics, and a sense of responsibility that is in line with religious values.

A supportive environment, such as places of worship, spiritual activities, and guidance from teachers, also has a significant influence on the formation of students' religious character. Because in instilling character in students, it is done by giving positive examples to them, so that it can be an example for students. (Ningsih, Darsinah, and Ernawati 2023)

3. Social Environment

The social environment is a social condition in which individuals live and interact with others. It encompasses all aspects of social relationships, norms, values, and cultures that shape behavior and interactions between individuals in a society. The social environment has a significant influence on the formation of a person's religious character, because religious character is formed through the process of socialization, social interaction, and absorption of values around students. The success and failure in the formation of students' religious character is also more or less influenced by the surrounding environment. If the existence of the surrounding environment is able to reflect positively on the process of forming students' religious character, then

it is able to make a good contribution to the formation of religious character. On the other hand, if the contribution of the environment is not good, irrelevant to the process of forming students' religious character, then it will obviously hinder the process of forming students' religious character.

Similarly, the association of students outside the school also has a great influence on the religious character of students, because the influence of the association is very fast, if there is a bad influence, it will also have a bad impact on the child. The magnitude of the influence of association in society is inseparable from the existence of existing norms and habits, if the habits that exist in the environment are positive, it will also have a positive effect, and if negative habits exist in the community environment, it will also have a bad effect on the development of children's religious soul, because the magnitude of the influence caused is also independent of the absence of supervision from the school. (Ahsanulhaq 2019)

4. Social Media Influence

Social media has a significant impact on character building. Because social media has an important role in shaping a person's identity and character. The development of social media certainly has many impacts, both positive and negative impacts on children's education in adolescence, especially children's moral education. (Dewi 2020). Social media can indeed have a positive impact, especially if they are exposed to educational content, studies, and other positive things. Many children become more diligent in learning, more motivated in spiritual matters, or get positive inspiration from the figures they follow on social media. However, it is important for parents to keep an eye on their children's social media use so that they do not get carried away by less useful or even harmful content. Also manage the time of use and provide an understanding of the importance of choosing information

that can help children make good use of social media. Parents can also discuss the content that children see, so it can encourage them to criticize and take positive things from it. Social media can be a good tool if its use is managed wisely and with full supervision. The positive impact of social media if associated with children's character provides many benefits, including children can learn how to adapt, socialize with the public and manage a network of friends (multiplying friends or reuniting with old friends), as well as making it easier for children to learn, because it can be used as a means for organizations, as well as supporting an individual's success in achieving his goals. In social media, many people believe that young people (teenagers) are influenced by the lifestyle, views and attitudes of the influencers on social media can shape their lifestyle and preferences.

Conclusion

Based on the results of observations and interviews, the author can conclude that the formation of religious character at Bhakti Pertiwi Junior High School is carried out through the habituation of various religious activities. These activities include learning the Qur'an, which aims to instill students' love for the holy book and understand its teachings. In addition, congregational prayer activities are carried out regularly to get students used to carrying out religious obligations together, which also strengthens a sense of togetherness and discipline. Tausiah, sunnah prayers, and istighosah are also important parts of religious activities in this school, which help strengthen the spiritual aspect and improve the quality of students' worship. One of the interesting routine activities is the monthly motivational Quranic gathering, which is held every month as a means to motivate students to deepen their religious teachings through the values contained in the Qur'an. The factors that affect the formation of religious character in students at SMP Bhakti Pertiwi are not only limited to activities carried out at school. The family environment plays an important role in providing an early foundation for religious education for children. In addition, the school environment is also a very influential

place, considering that students spend most of their time in school. The social environment, such as peers and the surrounding community, also plays a role in shaping students' religious attitudes and behaviors. Finally, the influence of social media is getting stronger in this digital era, both in positive and negative terms, so there needs to be proper supervision and direction so that students can use it wisely in the process of forming their religious character.

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