

SCHOOL PRINCIPAL INNOVATION AS A STRATEGY IN ESTABLISHING STUDENTS' RELIGIOUS CULTURE

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Abstract

This research aims to describe the principal's innovation as a strategy in establishing the religious culture of students at Junior High School Larangan Pamekasan. This research used descriptive qualitative methods. Data was obtained through interviews, observation and documentation. The validity of the data was checked through through extended observations, persistence of observations, and triangulation. The results of this research are: First, the principal's innovation as a strategy in establishing the religious culture of students at SMPN 1 Larangan Pamekasan is implemented through the development of character education innovation activities, such as *Ya Habibi* program which contains some activities like *Yasin* recitation, memorizing Al-Qur'an, and *qiroah* mentoring. Second, the implementation of the principal's

innovation as a strategy in establishing the religious culture of students at SMPN 1 Larangan Pamekasan was carried out at different times; yasing recitation was done daily, memorizing Al-Qur'an and *qiroah* mentoring were done weekly. Third, the evaluation within the principal's innovation as a strategy in establishing the religious culture of SMPN 1 Larangan Pamekasan students was done through regular evaluation meetings as well as accountability reports from the person in charge of *Ya Habibi* program carried out once a month, as well as follow-up assessments by looking at the potential of student from *Ya Habibi* program by involving students in school events, as well as various kinds of competitions related to *Ya Habibi* activities.

Penelitian ini dilakukan karena memiliki tujuan untuk mendeskripsikan inovasi kepala sekolah sebagai strategi dalam membangun budaya religius siswa SMPN 1 Larangan Pamekasan. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif deskriptif. Data diperoleh melalui cara wawancara, observasi, dan dokumentasi. Pengecekan keabsahan data dilakukan melalui perpanjangan pengamatan, ketekunan pengamatan, dan triangulasi. Adapun hasil dari penelitian ini yaitu: *Pertama*, inovasi kepala sekolah sebagai strategi dalam membangun budaya religius siswa SMPN 1 Larangan Pamekasan dilaksanakan melalui kegiatan pengembangan kegiatan inovasi pendidikan karakter, yaitu program *Ya Habibi* yang memuat tiga kegiatan didalamnya, yaitu pembacaan Yasin, hafalan Al-Qur'an dan bimbingan qiroah. *Kedua*, implementasi inovasi kepala sekolah sebagai strategi dalam membangun budaya religius siswa SMPN 1 Larangan Pamekasan melalui kegiatan *Ya Habibi* dilaksanakan dalam waktu yang berbeda, yaitu setiap hari untuk pembacaan yasin, dan satu minggu sekali untuk hafalan Al-Qur'an dan bimbingan qiroah. *Ketiga*, evaluasi inovasi kepala sekolah sebagai strategi dalam membangun budaya religius siswa SMPN 1 Larangan Pamekasan melalui kegiatan *Ya Habibi*, melalui rapat evaluasi rutin sekaligus laporan pertanggungjawaban dari penanggungjawab kegiatan *Ya Habibi* yang dilaksanakan setiap satu bulan satu kali, serta penilaian tindak lanjut dengan melihat potensi siswa anggota program *Ya Habibi* dengan turut mengikut sertakan siswa pada acara-acara sekolah, serta berbagai macam perlombaan yang memiliki keterkaitan dengan kegiatan *Ya Habibi*.

Keywords: Innovation, School's Principal Strategy, Religious Culture.

Introduction

In the current era of globalization, there is a lot of demoralization in people's lives due to the reluctance of the younger generation to learn and understand knowledge and religious values. One of which is juvenile delinquency that leads to criminal acts that are frequently occurring nowadays, such as bullying, robbery, drugs, murder, and having intimate relationships that exceed the norms leading to free sex.

Therefore, there is a need for special guidance or direction for the current young generation in the form of basic developmental knowledge, provision from an early age regarding the basic knowledge of good and proper self-development in accordance with applicable norms which aims to produce a better young generation who will be able to identify appropriate behavior and differentiate between good and bad values in everyday life. One of the ways to lead this young generation is through education.

Education is a means of human self-development in which efforts are made to create a young generation that is qualified, has high knowledge, and has a great sense of responsibility within itself to perform self-development in a better direction in living everyday life in the community.¹

Therefore, the role of the school principal is very important in determining the direction and goals of life at school through various strategies carried out as an effort to deal with advances in technology and information in this modern era.² This is because the principal is someone who has full control over the continuity of

¹ Bahruddin, *Manajemen Peserta Didik* (Jakarta: PT. Indeks, 2014), 2.

² Ariyanti, N. N., & Ummah, N. I. (2022). Kepemimpinan Kepala Madrasah Berbasis Kecerdasan Emosional dalam Membangun Kemitraan. *LEADERIA: Jurnal Manajemen Pendidikan Islam*, 3(1), 1-10. <https://doi.org/10.35719/leaderia.v3i1.127>

education in the school, especially in terms of school achievement, by managing various situations, controlling and supervising the performance of the school community, as well as determining the direction and goals of life in the school as an effort to matters of improving school quality.³

One strategy that can be carried out by school principals is to make a breakthrough through educational innovation activities by carrying out distinctive movements focuses on establishing religious values within students which also can become a means of strengthening students' religious culture at school. Such activity is expected to create habits for students to behave and have good morals in accordance with good values in everyday life.⁴

Religious culture is essentially an effort to apply the values of religious teachings in everyday life which has subconsciously become a habit that has been followed by all school members in their daily life inside the school environment.⁵ The establishment of religious values can be implemented in several ways, both through school leadership policies, educational curriculum through learning activities, and outside learning activities like extracurricular activities.⁶

Apart from that, the establishment of religious values in schools can be carried out through various activities within the

³ Wilda Arif, "Strategi Kepala Sekolah dalam Pembinaan Pembinaan Budaya Religius", *Journal of Islamic Education Management* 5, No.5, (2020): 70, <https://ejournal.iainpalopo.ac.id/index.php/kelola>

⁴ Fathorrozi, F., & Muhith, A. (2021). Peran Kepala Sekolah dalam Pelaksanaan Manajemen Pemasaran Sekolah Dasar di Jember Jawa Timur. *JlEMAN: Journal of Islamic Educational Management*, 3(2), 203-220. <https://doi.org/10.35719/jlteman.v3i2.73>

⁵ Kristian Septian Putra, "Implementasi Pendidikan Agama Islam Melalui Budaya Religius (*Religius Culture*) di Sekolah", *Jurnal Kependidikan* 3, No.2, (2015): 25, <https://ejournal.uinsaizu.ac.id/index.php/jurnalkependidikan/article/download/897/736>

⁶ Ibid, 52.

school, which at the beginning of implementation can use a top-down strategy which later can be discussed with all the teams involved, and as time goes by the system implemented can be carried out through strategy from the lower party to the upper party in the form aspirations conveyed by subordinates to their superiors which aims to make activities carried can become a strategy in strengthening the establishment of religious culture in each student. Therefore, schools are currently required to be able to carry out a distinctive strategy through educational innovation activities which can realize religious values for each student.

For instance, the strategy carried out by the principal of SMPN 1 Larangan Pamekasan, Where the principal continuously carries out educational development through an educational innovation program which includes various character education development activities for SMPN 1 Larangan Pamekasan students which aims as means of establishing various characters in students, one of which is students' religious character through the implementation of the religious values contained in the *Ya Habibi* program.

The *Ya Habibi* program is a religious program that focuses on the use of Al-Qur'an as a means of strengthening students' religious culture, which includes three activities, such as *Ya* (Yasin recitation), *Ha* (memorizing the Qur'an), and *bibi* (*Qiro'ah* mentoring).⁷

The researcher selected SMPN 1 Prohibition Pamekasan as the research locus based on some considerations as at SMPN 1 Larangan Pamekasan has distinctive movement in efforts to develop religious culture for students through an activity that directly included three activities: *Yasin* recitation, memorizing the Al-Qur'an, and *Qiro'ah* mentoring.

⁷ Website SMPN 1 Larangan, <https://smpn1larangan.art.blog/inovasi-sekolah>, (4 Mei 2023).

This study is expected to provide advances to many parties, both theoretically and practically. Where theoretically this research is intended as input into the education development system, especially regarding the school principal's strategy in realizing students' religious culture. Meanwhile, in practical terms, this research is intended to be additional knowledge in the student development process at SMPN 1 Larangan Pamekasan, as well as being used as complete evaluation material regarding the principal's innovation as a strategy in building the religious culture of students at SMPN 1 Larangan Pamekasan through the *Ya Habibi* program.

The difference between this research and some previous researchs are: a research conducted by Muhammad Mutawakkil and Siti Aminah in 2021 entitled "School Principal's Strategy as an Innovator in the Development of Religious Culture at the Islamic Junior High School (SMPI) Darul Muwahidin Maesan Bondowoso." Where the difference lies in several aspects such as the type of research used, the innovation activities carried out by the school principal as a form of strategy in building students' religious culture, where in this research the school principal carried out innovative activities in establishing students' religious culture through *Ya Habibi* activities which included *Yasin* recitation activities, memorizing Al-Qur'an, *Qiro'ah* mentoring, while in Muhammad Mutawakkil and Siti Aminah's research the school principals carried out innovative activities in building students' religious culture through routine activities of reciting the Koran before learning activities begin, prayers to students' homes called *Anjangsana*, overnight stays at Islamic boarding schools called *Pesan Mama* and congregational prayers.⁸

Methods

⁸ Muhammad Mutawakkil dan Siti Aminah, "Strategi Kepala Sekolah Sebagai Inovator Dalam Pengembangan Budaya Religius di Sekolah Menengah Pertama Islam (SMPI) Darul Muwahidin Maesan Bondowoso" IAIN Jember, Jember, 2021), viii.

This research used a qualitative approach with descriptive research type, as it was conducted to describe the object under study in accordance with existing reality (not manipulating).⁹ Data collection techniques were carried out through observation, interviews and documentation. The data produced in this research is the result of information from observation and recording activities carried out in a planned and detailed manner regarding the principal's strategy in realizing the religious culture of students at SMPN 1 Larangan Pamekasan obtained from the principal, head of student affairs, PAI teachers, and students of SMPN 1 Larangan Pamekasan.

The validity of the data in this research was checked through: First, by carrying out extended observations, where the researcher extends the observations carried out to collect research data until they reach the saturation point, in a slightly longer time to obtain accurate data. Second, by carrying out perseverance of observation, where researchers in conducting research are truly carried out diligently and consistently by showing persistence to continuously deepen the data that has been obtained. So that later, through diligent observations carried out, it gave accurate data and the sequence of events according to the focus studied precisely and in detail. Third, triangulation, where in this case the researcher used source triangulation using three or more informants, and technique triangulation, namely through observation, interviews and documentation techniques.¹⁰

Result and Discussion

Implementation of Principal Innovation as a Strategy in Establishing Student's Religious Culture

⁹ Lexy J. Moleong, *Metode Penelitian Kualitatif* (Bandung: PT Remaja Rosdakarya, 2021), 5.

¹⁰ Sugiono, *Metode Penelitian Kuantitatif, Kualitatif, dan R&D* (Bandung: Al-Fabeta, 2010), 241.

According to Nurdin Usman, the implementation of an activity is basically oriented towards an activity or what is also usually called an action that is carried out in a planned manner containing various details of the activity in it which can be used as a reference in carrying out an activity in daily life with the aim of later being able to achieve a goal that will be achieved in daily life properly and correctly.¹¹ In the introduction above, the theory of innovation as ideas that arise as a means of producing new discoveries in carrying out activities in everyday life.¹² In the world of education, it is very important for school principals to carry out innovation activities. This is done with the intention of being a form of strategy that will be carried out by the school principal in leading the continuity of school education. As said by Iban Sofyan, strategy is a series of plans for activities that will be carried out in various forms of activities in daily life, both within the organization and outside the organization.¹³

Implementation of the principal's innovation as a strategy in establishing the religious culture of students at SMPN 1 Larangan Pamekasan was done through the *Ya Habibi* activity, which contains three activities, such as Surah Yasin recitation, memorizing Al-Qur'an, and *qiroah* mentoring. The implementation of each activity is carried out differently, both in terms of the system and the time. For the surah yasin recitation at SMPN 1 Larangan Pamekasan, all students of SMPN 1 Larangan Pamekasan are required to participate every morning before the learning activities are carried out, in which it takes place exactly at 06.45, led by one of the student representatives who already has been pointed to read through the microphone available in the BK room. Meanwhile, for Al-Qur'an memorization activities and *qiroah*

¹¹ Nurdin Usman, *Konteks Implementasi Berbasis Kurikulum* (Jakarta: PT Raja Grafindo Persada, 2002), 70.

¹² Muhammad Hasan, "Inovasi dan Modernisasi Pendidikan Pondok Pesantren", *Karsa: Jurnal Sosial dan Budaya Keislaman* 23, No.2, (2015): 296, 10.19105/karsa.v23i2.728

¹³ Iban Sofyan, *Manajemen Startegi* (Jakarta: Graha Ilmu, 2015),3.

mentoring, it is not for all students at SMPN 1 Larangan Pamekasan. Thus, it is only for students who are interested in taking part in Al-Qur'an memorization activities and *qiroah* mentoring only. It is carried out once a week, in the afternoon at 15.00 on Thursdays for Al-Qur'an memorization activities, and Fridays for *qiroah* mentoring activities, by inviting coaches or mentors from outside who already have a professional background as *tahfidz* and a *qori'*.

Evaluation For Principal Innovation as a Strategy in Establishing Student's Religious Culture

Evaluation is a step which includes research activities, and assessing whether ongoing activities are in accordance with the planning system that has been determined previously, and improvements will be made as a follow-up to existing problems in sustainable activities as a form of continuation to improve and solve the problems properly and accurately.¹⁴

Therefore, in every activity it is very important to carry out evaluation to see whether the activities implemented have been carried out well in accordance with the existing objectives. In implementing the principal's innovation system as a strategy in establishing the religious culture of students at SMPN 1 Larangan Pamekasan carried out through the *Ya Habibi* program which of course it also contains an evaluation system for the activities carried out. The evaluation of the establishment of religious culture of students at SMPN 1 Laranga Pamekasan through the *Ya Habibi* program is carried out through several aspects, including:

1. Evaluation meeting and accountability report from the parties in charge for *Ya Habibi's* activities

This routine evaluation meeting is held once a month to discuss all kinds of activities at SMPN 1 Prohibition Pamekasan. The topics discussed in the evaluation meeting were the development progress, as well as problems that arose in the implementation of

¹⁴ Saefullah, *Manajemen Pendidikan Islam* (Bandung: CV Pustaka Setia, 2012), 40.

Ya Habibi's activities. After that, the accountability report is held from the party responsible for the activity to the school principal which focuses on to what extent that the program makes the students active and increase their potential in participating in *Ya Habibi* activities by using the student attendance book. Moreover, if in the future a problem arises, a solution will be sought together so that all parties are responsible for the implementation of *Ya Habibi's* activities and to carry out their responsibilities again in accordance with their respective duties and main tasks.

2. Assessment of student's potential by actively participating in various events at school and various competitions outside the school

In addition to the form of evaluation through monthly evaluation meetings as well as accountability reports, the form of evaluation of the principal's innovation as a strategy in establishing the religious culture of students at SMPN 1 larangan Pamekasan through the *Ya Habibi* program is also implemented through an evaluation system in the form of assessing student potential, by actively involving student members of *Ya Habibi* to take part in various forms of school events, such as in class IX graduation activities, the Maulid event, and so on, by performing the Qur'an recitation, and also actively involving students in various forms of competitions, such as muhasabah tilawatil qur'an competitions, tahfidz juz 30 competitions, and so on.

Indicators in the principal's innovation evaluation activities as a strategy in establishing the religious culture of SMPN 1 students are; (a) increasing interest of students in reciting *Al-Quran* which means that the habits instilled at school have an impact on students' behavior in the family or community; (b) increasing students' memorization of the *Al-Qur'an* from only memorizing short surah to at least memorizing *juz amma*; and (c) increasing students'

qiroah reading so that they are able to read Al-Qur'an in *tartil* and *tahsin*.¹⁵

Thus, from the theory and research findings above, it is very clear that the principal of SMPN 1 Larangan Pamekasan has really implemented an evaluation or assessment system for the principal's innovation as a strategy in establishing the religious culture of SMPN 1 Larangan Pamekasan students through the *Ya Habibi* program well, and correctly by comprising various important indicators that can be used as a reference in the evaluation activities carried out, looking at the fact that the meeting has been held as evaluation and an accountability report from those responsible for *Ya Habibi's* activities at SMPN 1 Larangan Pamekasan, as well as a form of follow-up assessment of student potential by including *Ya Habibi* students to participate in all forms of events at school and various existing competitions.

Conclusion

The implementation of the principal's innovation as a strategy in establishing the religious culture of students at SMPN 1 Larangan Pamekasan is carried out through the *Ya Habibi* program which consists of three activities, such as Surah Yasin recitation, memorizing Al-Qur'an, and *qiroah* mentoring carried out differently, both from the system and the time.

Evaluation of the principal's strategy in establishing the religious culture of students at SMPN 1 larangan Pamekasan through the *Ya Habibi* program is carried out through several aspects; *First*, carrying out monthly evaluation meetings of activities as well as accountability reports from the responsible parties for the *Ya Habibi* activities. *Second*, implementing follow-up activities in the form of assessing student potential by participating in school events and various competitions that are related to *Ya Habibi* activities.

¹⁵ Proposal Kegiatan Ya Habibi SMPN 1 Larangan Pamekasan, *Inovasi Pendidikan Ya Habibi (Yasin, Hafalan Al-Qur'an, & Bimbingan Qiroah) SMPN 1 Larangan Pamekasan* (22 Oktober 2023), 5-6.

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