

Peers in the Role of Shaping Student Morals at MAN 2 Lamongan

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ABSTRACT

Peer groups play a crucial role in shaping the character of students at MAN 2 Lamongan. Interaction with peers helps develop noble social attitudes and molds their character and good moral conduct. The aim of this research is to explore the moral education taught at MAN 2 Lamongan and the role of peers in forming students' morals at the institution. This study employs a qualitative method with a descriptive approach, utilizing data collection techniques such as observation, interviews, and documentation. The findings indicate that the moral education provided at MAN 2 Lamongan is effective with the appropriate educational methods, while peers significantly influence students' moral development. Choosing good and high-quality peers positively impacts students' behavior and morality, whereas associating with peers with poor moral conduct can have negative consequences. Therefore, it is crucial for students to select peers who exhibit good and positive moral values.

Introduction

Education is one of the important aspects in shaping individual morals and personality. One of the environments that play an important role in shaping students' morals is social interaction with peers (Kurniawan & Sudrajat, 2018). Interaction with peers can shape students' morals in their social environment. Interaction with classmates also has a big role in shaping the character, character, or morals of students (Hartanti, 2023). Overall, education has a broad goal, which is to create civilized, virtuous human beings, and develop their intellectual aspects.

Peers are someone who is able to shape the character of children or students in their social environment (Wahyuni & Al Rasyid, 2022). Peers can also be understood as friends, a group of people who are the same age or with the same

social group. Associating with peers is one form of social interaction that occurs among students.

Akhlak or khuluq is a trait embedded in a person's soul that easily causes behavior without thinking first (Imam Tabroni & Rahmania, 2022). Morals are customs, manners, muru'ah, temperament, or whatever becomes an individual's character. It is important for every student to have good morals, because a good attitude among classmates can establish friendships and maintain interpersonal relationships in life, which is the key to success (Rosyidah, 2019). Human morality is a problem that Islam seeks to solve through the Prophet Muhammad. This is reflected in the hadith in the Prophetic hadith:

(البیهقي رواه) الْأَخْلَاقُ مَكَارِمٌ لِاتِّمَمِ بُعْثُ إِنَّمَا

“Indeed, I have been sent to perfect noble character”. (HR. Bukhori in sahih bukhari kitab adab, Baihaqi in syu'bil Iman and Hakim).

In essence, there is nothing that humans can be proud of except good character. The realization of good student character is expected to strengthen and improve their personality as ideal and thinking creatures and God's creation. The moral problems of low-achieving students are believed to be overcome by choosing healthy friendships with fellow students in the process of fostering noble morals. The Prophet made friends as a measure of the quality of one's religion. Therefore, the Prophet ordered us to choose in associating or making friends. In the hadith that the Prophet Muhammad. That

يُخَالِلُ مَنْ أَحَدُكُمْ فَلْيَنْظُرْ خَلِيلَهُ دِينِ عَلَى الْمَرْءِ:

“A person's religion is according to the religion of his close friends. So you should see who *is* his closest friend.” (Reported by Abu Daud and Tirmidhi, authenticated by Shaykh al-Albani in Silsilah Ash-Shahihah, no. 927 in Anul Ma'bud).

This hadith provides a statement that the importance of choosing friends. As well as making friends with a thief, a person can become a thief, students make friends with students who like to skip class, and gradually the student will also skip class. In associating, a person tries to adjust to the conditions and situations around him. Moral education has an important role in building a strong society and nation. The crisis experienced by the Indonesian nation is associated with a lack of understanding and application of moral values. Moral development in children is still worrying, so the main programs and efforts in fostering moral education are the main focus.

Some methods in moral education include exemplary methods, habituation, giving advice, persuasion, stories, and targhib and tarhib. This method aims to shape good behavior and avoid bad behavior in students (Ilmiah et al., 2022). The purpose of moral education is to form humans with noble morals, build harmonious relationships with the Creator and fellow humans, foster sincerity in doing charity, follow morals according to Islamic teachings, instill main morals, a

sense of responsibility, enthusiasm for work, motivation to learn, and good character (Utomo & Pahlevi, 2022).

In terms of choosing friends, Syaikh Al-Zarnuji stated a kalam which reads:

يَفْتَدِي بِالْمُقَارِنِ الْقَرِينِ فَإِنَّ * قَرْنَهُ وَأَبْصَرَ تَسْأَلُ لَا الْمَرْءَ عَنِ
تَهْتَدِي فَقَرْنُهُ خَيْرٌ ذَا وَإِن كَانَ * سُرْعَةً فَجَنَّبَهُ ذَا سَرَّ كَانَ فَإِنَّ

“Do not question a person, but look at who he is friends with. For indeed a person with his friend will follow or imitate. Do not ask about a person's behavior, but look at who his friends are. Because a person usually follows his friends. If your friends are bad, then stay away from them. And if he is good, then befriend him and you will be guided.”

This syair explains that a person's character can be seen from his friends. This indicates that a person tends to imitate the traits of his friends. A good individual, if constantly associating with bad people, is likely to be affected by the bad nature. Vice versa, an individual who has a bad nature can also be influenced by goodness if they are friends with good people. Among the various hadiths that explain the parable of friends, narrated by Imam Al-Bukhari (Book of slaughter and hunting chapter of kasturi oil no. 5018 in fathul bari with the following series of hadiths:

مُوسَى أَبِي عَنِ بُرْدَةَ أَبِي عَنِ بُرَيْدٍ عَنْ أُسَامَةَ أَبُو حَدَّثَنَا الْعَلَاءُ بْنُ مُحَمَّدٍ حَدَّثَنَا
وَاللَّسْوَاءِ لِحِ الصَّالِحِ الْجَلِيلِ مَثَلُ قَالَ وَسَلَّمْ عَلَيْهِ اللَّهُ صَلَّى النَّبِيِّ عَنْهُ اللَّهُ رَضِيَ
أَنْ وَإِمَّا مِنْهُ تَتَبَاعَ أَنْ وَإِمَّا يُحْذِيكَ أَنْ وَإِمَّا الْمَسْكُ فَحَامِلُ الْكَبِيرِ وَنَافِخُ الْمَسْكِ كَحَمَلِ
ثِيَابِكَ يُحْرِقُ أَنْ وَإِمَّا الْكَبِيرِ وَنَافِخُ طَيِّبَةً رِيحًا مِنْهُ تَجِدَ
خَبِيثَةً رِيحًا تَجِدَ أَنْ وَإِمَّا

“Narrated [Muhammad ibn Al 'Ala`] Abu Usamah from Buraid from Abu Burdah from Abu Musa (may Allah be pleased with him) reported that the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said: ‘The example of a righteous friend and a bad friend is like that of a perfume seller and a blacksmith; either the perfume seller will gift you or you will buy from him or you will get the fragrance, while the blacksmith will only burn your clothes or you will get the bad smell.’

In this hadith, a parable is given about a perfume seller who will give a good aroma through his sales. In this case, one can get a good smell by buying perfume from the seller, or even just being near him will feel the good smell. On the other hand, if one befriends a blacksmith, it is likely to only result in the nearby clothes being burnt or at least will encounter an unpleasant aroma from him.

Referring to the Prophet's hadith above, a good friend will provide examples and support with his good qualities, such as good morals, knowledge and intelligence, zuhudan, and entrepreneurship, without us having to ask for it.

Friendship with a good person will bring a positive aura. Conversely, if we are friends with a bad person, they will give us their badness and negative traits, or at least we will be considered a bad person because of our friendship with them.

Similar research has been conducted by Wiwik Rohaning with Yusuf Kurniawan and Ajat Sudrajat who discuss the role of peers in shaping student character in elementary schools and Madrasah Tsanawiyah. While this study discusses the role of peers in shaping student morals at MAN 2 Lamongan. The results of previous research show that peers act as facilitators, motivators, and mediators in shaping student character, as well as providing social, moral, and emotional support, and teaching social skills. Meanwhile, this study examines the role of peers in shaping student morals specifically, using a qualitative approach and the object of study focuses on students at MAN 2 Lamongan. The superiority of this research lies in its specific focus and new contributions in understanding the role of peers in shaping student morals in the madrasah environment. (Kurniawan & Sudrajat, 2018).

As an Islamic-based “madrasah” educational institution, MAN 2 Lamongan understands that education is one of the containers in a socio-cultural container, including the formation and realization of a generation with noble character and environmental insight. MAN 2 Lamongan works directly or indirectly to create an Islamic environment by instilling moral awareness in students through theoretical and practical efforts in all daily activities so as to create positive Islamic energy among students.

With morals, humans can know the limits of what is good and bad and can put or place things according to their true proportions. But based on the preliminary study that the author conducted at MAN 2 Lamongan, the author still found that in this educational institution there are still the following symptoms, namely the lack of application of moral learning that has been taught, unkindness in relationships, the use of harsh language, mocking behavior towards friends, lack of empathy and help to friends, and disruption of discipline in the classroom.

All of these problems are inseparable from the influence of the social environment and the friendship environment. Students' relationships with their peers can affect students' attitudes and perceptions about something. Strong social influence can change a person's attitude towards a belief or event and refer to an action. Therefore, research on the role of peers in shaping student morals at MAN 2 Lamongan is relevant to do. The purpose of the research is to find out: 1) how moral education is taught at MAN 2 Lamongan and 2) how the role of peers in the formation of student morals at MAN 2 Lamongan. With a deeper understanding of the role of peers in the formation of student morals, it is hoped that the right steps can be identified to improve student moral development and is expected to contribute to efforts to create a positive Islamic environment and form a generation with noble morals and environmental insight among MAN 2 Lamongan students.

Method

This research uses a qualitative research method with a descriptive approach. Data collection was done through observation, interviews, and documentation. (Machali, 2021). Data obtained in the form of descriptive words, actions, gestures, and symbols from informants, namely the principal, several teachers, and several students at MAN 2 Lamongan. This study aims to understand in depth and detail the role of peers in the formation of student morals at MAN 2 Lamongan.

The data that has been collected is then subjected to data reduction to summarize and select those relevant to the problem formulation. After that, the data is presented in the form of descriptions and relationships between categories to facilitate understanding. This qualitative data analysis process takes place interactively and continuously until it reaches data saturation. Conclusions are drawn based on the data that has been collected and analyzed. Although initial conclusions are dynamic and subject to change, conclusions supported by valid and consistent evidence will be credible. This inference makes it possible to conclude the role of peers in shaping student morals at MAN 2 Lamongan.

Results and Discussion

1. Moral education taught at MAN 2 Lamongan

The observation results show that students at MAN 2 Lamongan have good morals. They are polite, disciplined, diligent in worship, interact well, and cooperate with peers. Teachers at school also play a role in shaping students' morals through various methods, such as setting a good example, giving advice, and familiarizing students with religious activities.

This condition is reinforced by the statement of "Mrs. Hidayatus", the Religion teacher, explaining how the morals of MAN 2 Lamongan students are: "Students at MAN 2 Lamongan have good morals, characterized by high discipline in going to school and entering class on time. They are also diligent in performing prayers, including sunnah prayers, showing a good relationship with Allah. In addition, students also interact well and cooperate with each other in activities, creating a harmonious learning environment."

Madrasahs also make scheduled efforts to shape students' morals through programs such as morning greetings, morning recitation, dhuha prayer, cultum before the zuhur prayer, and women's studies. Thus, MAN 2 Lamongan has succeeded in shaping students' morals in accordance with the vision and mission of the madrasah, which emphasizes religious and ethical education. As expressed by "Mr. Purnomo", the principal, namely:

"In an effort to shape students' morals, the school applies several effective ways. Teachers become role models by giving advice both in class and in other meetings. Religious activities such as reciting the Quran together, praying zuhur in congregation, and praying dhuha independently by students outside of class hours also contribute to shaping morals. Kultums in various languages before the zuhur prayer congregation not only shape morals, but

also train students' courage and responsibility. All of these methods aim for students to develop good morals and acquire strong moral values in their daily lives."

Based on the results of observations and interviews conducted, it can be concluded that the moral education taught at MAN 2 Lamongan can be categorized as good and successful education. This success can be seen from the close relationship between the moral education methods applied and the results achieved. The following explanation illustrates the link between moral education taught with moral education methods, as well as the reasons why these methods can be said to be good methods

a. Exemplary Method: Greeting Students and Prayer in Congregation activities:

Through these activities, teachers, principals, and student council administrators provide good examples in terms of manners, concern for others, and obedience to worship. By being role models, they shape good attitudes and behaviors in students.

b. Habituation Method: Reciting the Quran in the Morning:

By having students recite the Qur'an and Asmaul Husna every morning before the start of learning activities, the school strengthens students' connection with the Qur'an and enhances their religious knowledge. This forms a good habit of engaging in religious activities.

c. Method of Giving Advice: Kultum before Zuhr prayer:

Cultum activities provide an opportunity for students to give advice to fellow students. They can share religious values, ethics, and kindness to their peers, which can influence their behavior and understanding of religion.

d. Persuasion Method: Women's Studies (keputrian):

Through women's studies activities, students are given a convincing understanding and arguments about the importance of following religious rules regarding women who are menstruating or unable to pray in congregation. This aims to influence students' thoughts and attitudes so that they carry out religious teachings with deeper conviction and understanding.

e. Story Method: Qur'an Tahfidz Program:

Through the Qur'an memorization program, students learn stories in the Qur'an that provide moral and ethical lessons. In the process of memorizing, students can absorb the values contained in the story and apply them in everyday life.

f. Methods Targhib and Tarhib: Dhuha Prayer:

Although Dhuha prayer is not compulsory, students are given an understanding of the benefits and virtues of the prayer. They are motivated to perform the dhuha prayer by emphasizing the goodness, blessings, and the certain happiness of the hereafter. This forms a

positive attitude and positive attitudes and beliefs towards worship and the afterlife.

The moral education method applied at MAN 2 Lamongan has succeeded in shaping students' morals well. The methods of exemplary, habituation, giving advice, persuasion, stories, and *targhib* and *tarhib* have been well integrated in moral education. Through these methods, students gain an understanding of moral and ethical values, as well as motivation to worship and behave well. Moral education at MAN 2 Lamongan also achieves the goal of forming humans with noble morals, in accordance with religious teachings. Students are not only prepared intellectually and skillfully, but also taught to get closer to Allah sincerely in everyday life.

Thus, it can be concluded that the moral education taught at MAN 2 Lamongan has succeeded in forming students with good morals in accordance with religious values and the success of this moral education reflects the success of madrasah in achieving its educational goals.

2. The Role of Peers in Shaping Student Morals at MAN 2 Lamongan

The influence of peers is very important in the formation of student morals. Interactions with peers help develop good social attitudes and shape good character and morals. Choosing good and quality peers positively affects students' behavior and morality, while friends with bad morals can have a negative impact. Therefore, it is important for students to choose peers with good and positive morals.

The importance of the role of peers can also be seen from the results of interviews with MAN 2 Lamongan students. Peers act as mediators who provide advice and assistance in solving problems faced by students. In addition, peers also act as motivators who provide support and encouragement to students, and invite them to study together. Support from peers is very important in the learning process of students so that they become more diligent in learning and achieve satisfactory grades.

This is reinforced by the expression "Safrina Alya", a student of MAN 2 Lamongan, explaining that:

"My friends play a role in moral formation. Because friends not only have a negative impact, but friends can also have a positive impact. For example, friends can remind us when it's time to pray, and if we are lazy to do our assignments, they usually encourage us."

There is also a statement from "Rika Rahma", a MAN 2 Lamongan student, when asked about the positive and negative impacts of peers, she explained:

"The positive impact is that they can motivate me towards good things and can also remind me when I am wrong, they encourage me to be enthusiastic in doing assignments, can provide interesting information etc.. While the negative impact is that if friends behave badly sometimes we are also affected."

However, the role of peers should not be ignored, because association with bad friends can have a negative impact on the formation of student morals. Therefore, choosing the right peers is very important to shape good character and behavior in students. "Mr. Jaelani" the religion teacher also said the same thing:

"The role of peers in shaping student morals is very important. Because peers are more connected or closer to students. peers play an important role in shaping student morals. It is important to choose peers who have good moral values and practice religion correctly. Peers can be a source of inspiration and give each other positive encouragement in practicing worship."

This research also highlights that students' moral formation is influenced by several factors, such as the family environment, religious education, and values received from religion or personal beliefs. In addition, association with peers is also an important factor affecting students' moral formation. Thus, the environment at home and at school must create a good atmosphere to support the formation of positive morals in students. The role of peers in moral formation can be related to the syair quoted by Shaykh Al-Zarnuji:

يَقْتَدِي بِالمُقَارِنِ القَرِيْنَ فَإِنَّ * قَرْنُهُ وَأَبْصِرْ تَسْأَلْ لآ المَرْءِ عَن
تَهْتَدِي فِقَرْنُهُ خَيْرٌ ذَا وَإِن كَانَ * سُرْعَةً فَجَبَّتْهُ دَاشِرٌ كَانَ فَإِنَّ

"Do not question a person, but look at who he is friends with. For indeed a person with his friend will follow or imitate. Do not ask about a person's behavior, but look at who his friends are. Because a person usually follows his friends. If your friends are bad, then stay away from them. If your friends are good, befriend them and you will be guided".

This syair emphasizes the importance of choosing good and quality friends because the surrounding environment, especially peers, can influence a person. By hanging out with friends who have good morals, individuals will be encouraged to emulate and follow the positive behavior. The assessment of a person is also influenced by their social environment. Peers who have bad behavior can affect a person's morals and morality. Therefore, it is advisable to stay away from bad friends so as not to be negatively affected. Instead, strengthen relationships with good friends who can provide the right guidance and direction. The selection of peers who have good morals is very important in shaping one's character and behavior.

This is in accordance with the hadith of the Prophet explaining the parable of friends, narrated by Imam Al-Bukhari (Book of slaughtering and hunting chapter of kasturi oil no. 5018 in fathul bari with the following series of hadith:

مُوسَى أَبِي عَنْ بُرْدَةَ أَبِي عَنْ بُرَيْدٍ عَنْ أُسَامَةَ أَبُو حَدَّثَنَا الْعَلَاءُ بْنُ مُحَمَّدٍ حَدَّثَنَا
وَاللسَّوَاءِ لِحِ الصَّالِحِ الْجَلِيسِ مَثَلُ قَالَ وَسَلَّمْ عَلَيْهِ اللهُ صَلَّى اللهُ النَّبِيِّ عَنْ عَنْهُ اللهُ رَضِيَ
أَنْ وَإِمَّا مِنْهُ تَبْتَاعَ أَنْ وَإِمَّا يُحْدِثُكَ أَنْ وَإِمَّا الْمَسْكِ فَحَامِلُ الْكَبِيرِ وَنَافِخِ الْمَسْكِ كَحَمَلِ
خَبِيئَةٍ رِيحًا تَجِدُ أَنْ وَإِمَّا ثِيَابَكَ يُحْرِقُ أَنْ وَإِمَّا الْكَبِيرِ وَنَافِخِ طَيِّبَةٍ رِيحًا مِنْهُ تَجِدُ

“Narrated [Muhammad ibn Al 'Ala`] Abu Usamah from Buraid from Abu Burdah from Abu Musa (may Allah be pleased with him) reported that the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said: ‘The example of a righteous friend and a bad friend is like that of a perfume seller and a blacksmith; either the perfume seller will gift you or you will buy from him or you will get the fragrance, while the blacksmith will only burn your clothes or you will get the bad smell.’

The hadith narrated by Imam Al-Bukhari illustrates the important role of peers in moral formation. Peers have a strong influence on a person, as described in the parable of the hadith. A righteous friend like a perfume seller can provide benefits and positive influences in the formation of our morals. However, a bad friend such as a blacksmith has a negative influence that is detrimental, such as damaging our morals and morality. Therefore, choosing good peers is very important for the development of one's character and morals.

Overall, peers have an important role in shaping the morals of students at MAN 2 Lamongan. In the context of socialization, choosing good peers is very influential in shaping student character and behavior. Therefore, it is important to remember to always choose peers with good morals and avoid bad associations in order to form positive morals and achieve piety.

Conclusion

Moral education at MAN 2 Lamongan can be said to be good because the various methods applied, such as exemplary, habituation, advice, persuasion, stories, as well as targhib and tarhib, succeed in shaping good student attitudes and behavior, strengthening relationships with religion, and increasing understanding of moral and ethical values. Madrasahs have succeeded in achieving the goals of moral education by forming human beings with noble character.

Peers play an important role in shaping students' morals. The choice of good and quality friends can have a positive effect on a person's character and behavior, while bad friends can have a negative impact. Therefore, it is important for individuals to choose peers who have good morals and stay away from friends

with bad morals. The right choice of friends can help improve moral quality and inspire goodness in everyday life.

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